

U.S. Citizens Spied On by CIA Abroad

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Some Americans living overseas have been targets of U.S.-approved break-ins and electronic surveillance, Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush said in a sworn statement made public yesterday.

Bush's disclosure is believed to be the first official acknowledgment of U.S. spying on Americans abroad.

His statement was contained in a two-part affidavit taken July 1 at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. It was filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in New York City in connection with a suit seeking \$37 million in damages filed by the Socialist Workers Party against the CIA, the FBI and other federal agencies.

In the suit, the party charges that in its pursuit of legitimate political activities it has been the target of illegal harassment by the federal government. It also is seeking a court order against government surveillance of the party.

Bush's sworn statement, given in response to questions from lawyers handling the party's suit, said:

"The files of the CIA do contain information indicating that certain of the individual plaintiffs . . . were overheard by means of electronic surveillance conducted abroad; and that certain other information, apart from the conversations that were overheard, was acquired as a result of several surreptitious entries that were made into premises abroad . . . which certain of the named plaintiffs had regular access [to] or [in which they] may have had a proprietary interest."

It was not clear from Bush's statement whether CIA agents themselves conducted the break-ins and eavesdropping. Nor was it clear whether the government has discontinued its

surveillance of Americans living abroad.

Bush said in the statement that the CIA files contained no information "indicating that the SWP . . . [or] any of the individual plaintiffs . . . have been the subject of electronic surveillance conducted by the CIA in the United States."

The CIA refused to com-

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ment yesterday on any aspect of the affidavit.

"I am not able, under any circumstances, to add to or subtract from an affidavit that is before the court . . . And I'm obviously not going to comment on any affidavit by the director of the Central Intelligence Agency," said Andrew Falkiewicz, an agency spokesman.

Specifics on the government's spying on Americans overseas were contained in a separate "top secret" sworn statement Bush gave to Assistant U.S. Attorney William S. Brandt in New York.

The CIA director said in a legal memorandum defending his separate statement that secrecy was needed to "protect the sources and methods of the CIA . . . because one of the CIA's principal purposes is to gather intelligence information."

He added: "Disclosure of covert operations would undermine the very operation which is assertedly taken in the national interest. Disclosure may endanger future relations [with foreign countries] as well as expose the participants to personal risks."

Bush's contentions were attacked by Cathy Perkins, an official of the New York-based Political Rights Defense Fund, which is financing the Socialist Workers Party suit.

"The CIA doesn't have the right to burglarize Americans overseas. . . We believe that Americans don't give up their rights when they cross the borders of the U.S.," she said.

Though Bush's public affidavit contained no specifics, CIA files released last January showed that the agency

kept track of virtually all the overseas movements of party leader Peter Camejo from about 1971 to 1974.

The files were released to Camejo under the Freedom of Information Act, which gives citizens the right of access—with certain exemptions—to government documents.

Camejo is the party's 1976 presidential candidate. The CIA said in the heavily censored files he received that the agency monitored his overseas meeting with other Socialist leaders and circulated information about his activities to one of its overseas stations.

A Socialist Workers Party spokesman said yesterday that since the 1960s, and continuing today, party officials "have traveled abroad and rented apartments, including in France and Belgium."