

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Welfare John W. Gardner said today it "was a mistake" for the Central Intelligence Agency to entangle itself in activities close to the field of education.

But Gardner added in a statement, "I don't know any sensible person who believes that this nation can afford to be without a secret intelligence agency."

A spokesman said Gardner issued his statement after being asked by The Associated Press for comment on disclosures that the CIA has financially supported international activities of the National Student Association.

GARDNER IS one of three government officials directed by President Lyndon B. Johnson last week to make "a careful review of any government activities that may endanger" the "integrity and independence" of the nation's educational institutions.

Acting Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach announced that Johnson had directed him, CIA chief Richard Helms and Gardner to draw up a policy to guide "government agencies in their relationship to the international activities of American educational organizations."

Gardner also said today he has "little respect for critics who give themselves airs of moral superiority in attacking an activity they know to be necessary."

"BUT IT WAS a mistake for the CIA ever to entangle itself in covert activities close to the field of education or scholarship or the universities.

"I have been opposed to that for years. I am still opposed to it."

"In short, I share President Johnson's view that the CIA's activities must never be allowed to endanger the independence and integrity of education."

MEANWHILE, THE CIA general counsel said the government is unlikely to prosecute the students who told of their relationship with the intelligence agency.

Lawrence R. Houston said "these boys were pushed into a corner" by disclosure that the CIA had financed international activities of the National Student Association.

He said intent to breach national security must be shown

before a prosecution can be achieved.

HOUSTON SAID in a telephone interview last night, however, that the students do not "have it carte blanche" to tell everything about their dealings with the CIA.

"But I can't conceive the government would prosecute any of them for what they have said so far," he said.

Some NSA board members said last week after the link was revealed that they had been threatened with jail sentences for breach of security oaths if they disclosed the CIA dealings.

ANOTHER allegation in the far-reaching case was made yesterday by The Nation magazine, which said grants from CIA-backed foundations went to Operations and Policy Research, Inc., a subsidiary of the U.S. Information Service (USIS).

A long list of foundations, and organizations ranging from the World Assembly of Youth in Brussels, Belgium, to the American Newspaper Guild, AFL-CIO in Washington have been named as involved with the CIA by sources and publications.

Some, such as the newspaper union, have denied the link.

TWO MORE senators said yesterday Congress should keep closer check on the CIA. Some congressmen have called for an investigation.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., said "things that should have been open were clandestine. You've put the public in the kind of doubt that should never

arise." He said President Johnson should have supervised the agency more closely and that Congress should apply "legislative oversight."

Sen. J.W. Fulbright, D-Ark., said the CIA should be required to report on its activities more regularly to an overseer such as a congressional committee.

HE, TOO, SAID government support to organizations such as NSA should be open.

Javits spoke on CBS' "Face the Nation," Fulbright on ABC's "Issues and Answers."

Sen. Gale McGee, D - Wyo., said, however, that the CIA's

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action in subsidizing student groups is an "ugly necessity for the realities of the times."

He said deception is "par for the course" in intelligence gathering, and said probably there still is to a large degree a need for such action now.

McGee spoke on a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. public affairs program in Toronto.

STATES-ITEM

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ADMITS SECRET AGENCY ESSENTIAL

Welfare Chief Raps CIA Entanglement in Education