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CIA and Asia Foundation Are Linked

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) The prestigious Asia Foundation, a private group which spends more than \$4 million annually in strengthening U.S.-Far East relations, has acknowledged it received financial support through the Central Intelligence Agency.

But a spokesman for the foundation yesterday stressed that the funds "in no way affected" its policies and programs.

Listed among the foundation trustees are such dignitaries as Ellsworth Bunker, U.S. ambassador-designate to Saigon; Edwin O. Reischauer, former U.S. ambassador to Japan, and Stanford University president J. E. Wallace Sterling.

The spokesman, a member of the foundation staff, said he did not know how much money the group had received through CIA channels.

The foundation said it has received contributions and grants from corporations, foundations, individuals, state and local governments, colleges and publishing firms.

It also said, "The trustees wish to state that in the past they have also knowingly received contributions from private foundations and trusts which have been recently named as having transmitted Central Intelligence Agency funds to private American organizations."

The spokesman said the foundation spends between \$4 million and \$5 million a year.