

CIA Accused Of Interfering in Japan Elections

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TOKYO — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is being accused of "massive intervention" in local elections, paying money to anti-Communist factions of the radical Zengakuren student organization and extending its shadowy hand into the dramatic arts.

Many of the claims are founded on half-truths, rumors and even phantasy. But some of them merit scrutiny if only because of their frequent repetition and wide circulation.

There are charges that the CIA is deeply involved in the upcoming Tokyo gubernatorial elections on April 15. Running for the post are three men, one backed by the left-wing Socialists, another by the pro-American ruling party, the Liberal Democrats, and a third sponsored by Soka Gakkai, the potent Buddhist society.

"Deal" Reported

And the usually reliable Sunday Mainichi published a report saying that CIA had approached the Soka Gakkai party, Komeito, to persuade it to enter into a "deal" with the ruling party at the April 15 polls.

Political affairs analyst Eisuke Nakasono, who says that CIA maintains in Tokyo its "most important branch in Asia," believes CIA funds are channeled to an anti-Communist faction of the militant Zengakuren (National Federation of Students' Self-Government Associations).

A similar charge was made in

the Tokyo University newspaper, Zengakuren, which figured prominently in the anti-Eisenhower demonstrations in 1960, is now split into three factions. Total membership of all factions is around 500,000.

Kozon Fukuda, director of the Modern Drama Association, admits his organization has received "shadow money" from the CIA but adds that the Soviet Union and Red China also use money to win the friendship of Japanese artists.

"Cannot Complain"

He says: "If the money comes openly from a government, we are controlled and cannot use the funds freely. But if it is 'shadow money,' then we can use the money in any way we choose and they cannot complain."

He said, however, that many Japanese actors have been shocked to learn that their organization was the recipient of CIA money.

The magazine Shukan Bunshun alleges that there are 1,000 Americans engaged directly or indirectly in CIA activities in Japan. It says that CIA here employs "thousands" of Japanese.

The two principal intelligence-gathering agencies in Japan, the Public Security Investigation Office of the National Police Agency, and the Cabinet Investigation Room (the so-called "Black Chamber"), both deny any knowledge of, or concern with, CIA.

Saburo Rikui, a left-wing writer on U.S. affairs, says that whenever a Japanese returns from Red China or North Vietnam the CIA approaches him and asks him to sell film or information. "I myself experienced this after I returned from a North Vietnam trip," he says.