

Foreign Agents' Crimes Ignored

A startling, top-secret Senate report charges that foreign intelligence agents have been badgering, threatening and spying on U.S. residents with virtual impunity, their criminal activities deliberately winked at by the federal government.

The report is a preliminary study of "the operations conducted in the United States by six foreign countries' intelligence services directed at the harassment, intimidation and monitoring of United States residents."

Countries involved were Chile, the Philippines, the Republic of China (Taiwan), Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union and pre-revolutionary Iran. The activities of their agents included a wide range of covert crimes, from simple spying to assassinations.

At least three federal statutes were violated, constitutional rights were trampled on and treaties and "customary international law" were blithely ignored by the foreign agents and their hirelings, the report concluded.

The explosive, 150-page report was completed last January for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by its legal counsel, Michael Glennon. Despite elaborate security measures, our associate Dale Van Atta was able to obtain an unauthorized copy from a State Department source.

Four federal agencies should have been cracking down on this wholesale flouting of our laws but did little to stop it. The reasons ranged from self-protection to bureaucratic laziness and jurisdictional pettifoggery, the report concludes.

The Central Intelligence Agency was reluctant to take any action for fear of retaliation against its own agents over-

seas. The Glennon Report notes, for example, that "the government of Iran has, several times, threatened to retaliate against the CIA if actions were taken against its intelligence operatives in the United States."

The FBI has gathered very little information on the foreign agents' criminal activities and "makes no affirmative effort" to do so, the report states.

The National Security Council simply "does not collect significant amounts of intelligence" on the subject, the report says.

The State Department has adopted a "let George do it" attitude, relying on the CIA, the FBI and the NSC to give it what little information is obtained.

"Because the pieces are not put together," the report concludes, "assessment of the problem and the development of a solution have fallen through the cracks."

Noting that "available evidence indicates that certain residents of the United States have valid reason to fear abridgement of (their) rights and protections by members of foreign intelligence services," the report questions the wisdom of maintaining friendly relations with countries which ignore those rights.

Testy Testers—Educational Testing Service, (ETS) the private, non-profit institution which administers the enormously influential entrance examinations for colleges and graduate schools, has mounted an expensive and questionable lobbying campaign on Capitol Hill to protect the secrecy of its operations.

Hearings are scheduled tomorrow by the House Education Committee on a bill that would force ETS to make

public the questions and answers in past exams, as well as internal studies assessing the validity of the tests. New York State just enacted a similar "truth-in-testing" law despite an intense, well-financed lobbying campaign against it by ETS and its sister organization, the College Board.

Our investigation of that lobbying effort showed that ETS was not above misleading the educators and state legislators who were the targets of its propaganda. One "memo" circulated to state legislators, for example, indicated that the New York disclosure bill would make confidential information about students available to public scrutiny. This is simply not true.

Another lobbying memo claimed that many respected colleges and law schools opposed the disclosure bill. But in at least some cases this institutional support for ETS' position was no more than a letter from a friendly faculty member. ETS has also argued that the law would increase its expenses; a Ralph Nader study showed that the extra costs would be minimal.

An ETS spokesman denied that its lobbying effort had been improper and said its cost had been greatly exaggerated by opponents. "Everything we did was very professional," he said.

Footnote: Ironically, much of the "secret" information ETS is so determined to protect is already available to outsiders—for a price. Various "cram course" instructors use questions that are virtually identical to those on the ETS tests, so that a student who can afford such cram courses has an edge over those who can't.

Joe Spear and Gary Cohn contributed to this column.