

Agnew violated probation

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BALTIMORE (AP)—Spiro T. Agnew has committed at least one violation of his federal probation, but "no action" should be taken against him, according to a report released by the Justice Department.

The report, signed by Richard L. Thornburgh, the acting deputy attorney general who headed the department's criminal division in the Ford administration, said the violation occurred because Agnew did not turn over immediately to the State Department gifts he received abroad while vice president.

"Thus, although a violation of the terms of the (Foreign Gifts and Decorations) Act would seem to have been committed," the report said, it would not be appropriate to use the "quasicriminal sanction of probation revocation in this case."

The report was released here by U.S. District Judge Roszel C. Thomsen, who set a March 14 hearing on whether Agnew's probation should be revoked.

The report was ordered after Sam Polur, a Miami lawyer, filed a \$1 million civil suit against the former vice president. In the suit, Polur alleged that Agnew had used his Education for Democracy, Inc., organization to transmit pro-Arab propaganda here and national security interests to Arabs.

The former high official was placed on three years probation and fined \$10,000 after pleading no contest to one count of tax evasion in 1973. His probation expired last Oct. 10, but Thomsen continued jurisdiction over the case until 1978.

Following the release of the report, Polur charged the matter was becoming "a Republican whitewash of a former Republican vice president."

He said he'll urge the judge to turn down the report and order Agnew put under oath to testify about his activities with Education for Democracy.

"Mr. Agnew, as a former vice president, was privy to secrets and has no

right to deal with a foreign power," Polur said. "His shoddy background lends credence to my belief that he may be selling secrets, including atomic secrets, to foreign powers."

But the Justice Department report said that after reviewing the group's correspondence files, checkbooks and other financial records, "It was determined that there was no reason to believe that Mr. Agnew, through Education for Democracy, has acted on behalf of or in the interest of any foreign principal."

Thornburgh also denied that the report was a "Republican whitewash."

"There were no politics whatsoever involved. The matter was reviewed with the office of Atty. Gen. Griffin B. Bell prior to submission to the court, he said."

A spokesperson for the former vice president could not be reached for comment.