

Soviet, Citing C.I.A. Surveillance Reports, Charges That the U.S. Persecutes

Special to The New York Times
 MOSCOW, Jan. 5.—The Communist party newspaper Pravda today, cited the domestic surveillance scandal involving the Central Intelligence Agency in the United States in an effort to show Soviet readers that the United States was guilty of persecuting dissidents of its own.

"This the much hailed bourgeois democracy in practice turns out to be a system of total surveillance and espionage," asserted Tomas Kolesniko, a senior editor of Pravda, in the newspaper's weekly international review.

Up to now, the Soviet press has generally reported the scandal with a minimum of comment, since domestic surveillance is a routine activity of the Soviet Committee of State Security, generally known as the K.G.B. The K.C.B. seems to enjoy a free hand on matters it deems in the national security, both in and outside the Soviet Union.

The line taken in today's Pravda commentary suggested that the Kremlin, in capitalizing on the latest American scandal, was willing to put up with any comparisons at home as it attacked the C.I.A. for snooping against American citizens.

In so doing, Pravda clearly implied that the United States should look to its own affairs before criticizing the Soviet Union for its treatment of dissidents. The Soviet press has sharply sharpened its running criticism of American life in the wake of its disavowal of any emigration agreement in return for trade benefits from the United States and of Moscow's form bill approved by Congress on Dec. 20.

In reporting that President Ford was appointing a commission of inquiry into domestic spying activities, the official Pravda press agency Tass asserted that the C.I.A. "in recent years practiced large scale secret spying on thousands of Americans, thereby flouting their civil rights and freedom."

The weekly commentary in Pravda, which receives wide readership here, asserted that it was "precisely" in the United States that "accusations originate within America itself." In attacking one of the "fate against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries of 'persecutions of dissidents' and 'balance of democracy' and press, Pravda said that the Central Intelligence Agency had been "compiling dossiers on 'a new political scandal and indignation' in the United States." But it quoted unidentified American observers as saying that none of more than 200 pieces of legislation introduced in Congress to help control the C.I.A. had become law.