

Soviet, Citing C.I.A. Surveillance Reports, Charges

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 Kolesnik, 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 distinctly sharpened its running criticism of American life in the wake of its disclaimer of any emigration agreement in return for trade benefits from the United States and of Moscow's displeasure with the trade reform bill approved by Congress on Dec. 20.

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

The weekly commentary in Pravda, which receives wide readership here, asserted that it was "precisely" in the United States that "accusations originate against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries of 'absence of democracy' and 'persecutions of dissidents' and so on."

"As for the U.S.A. itself,"

That the U.S. Persecutes Its Dissidents

the commentary said, "the authors of these inventions of course consider that American society is the height of democracy."

"However, the develations of persecutions of dissidents in the United States appear one after another," Pravda contended. "This time, the talk is about exposure of the spying activities of the C.I.A. even within America itself."

In attacking one of the favorite scapegoats of the Soviet press, Pravda said that the control Intelligence Agency had been "compiling dossiers on tens of thousands of people in the United States" and went on to tell of eavesdropping devices used against Americans. Russians here say that the K.G.B. engages in such practices domestically.

Pravda reported that the C.I.A.'s illegal actions had caused "a new political scandal and indignation in the United States." But it quoted unidentified American observers as saying that none of more than 300 pieces of legislation introduced in Congress to help control the C.I.A. had become law.

Petunia Patch in a Square Found to Have Marijuana

MARION, Ill. (UPI)—Police Chief L. B. Hunter has foiled an apparent effort to establish a "pot" plot in a petunia patch on the town square.

Chief Hunter said he believed the effort was made as a joke

by a marijuana-user who apparently dropped a few seeds among the petunias.

The seedlings were four to six inches high when they were noticed, and weeded out. Chief Hunter took a sample to the Illinois Bureau of Investigation to confirm it was marijuana.