

Top-Secret Directives for CIA Role Revealed

Orders From Security Council Permit Activities Not Authorized in 1947 Statute

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WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency, precluded by Congress 26 years ago from engaging in domestic operations, operates under a top-secret charter from the President's National Security Council that may directly conflict with its congressional mandate.

The secret charter, in the form of National Security Council Intelligence Directives, or "enskids," is known only to a few high-level operatives in the intelligence bureaucracy and fewer, if any, members of Congress.

The "enskids" take advantage of loopholes in Congress' 1947 National Security Act to permit CIA activities not authorized when the agency was created by that statute.

"The secret charter," said a congressional expert on CIA operations, "is a curse."

"We must have publicly confirmed what authority is given to the intelligence community in this country."

The controversial "enskids" apparently spell out in specific terms just what authority is granted for covert operations overseas and just what the CIA can do in the United States—even though the National Security Act specifies that the agency is not to be involved in intelligence activities at home.

New Concern

Disclosures in the Watergate scandal have resulted in new concern that Congress has failed to properly oversee CIA operations.

Publication of secret

White House documents last week revealed that a 1970 intelligence plan—approved by President Nixon, then canceled five days later—involved the CIA in discussions of a widespread scheme for spying on domestic targets.

Though memorandums written by White House aide Tom Charles Huston cited the cooperation of then CIA Director Richard Helms in putting together

the plan, some sources argue that the documents failed to show that the CIA had agreed to become involved in the White House operations for domestic spying.

Nevertheless, a former CIA analyst who is now an intelligence expert on Capitol Hill said, "Helms never should have participated in discussions like that, and when the subject was raised he should have walked out."

According to sources familiar with operations of the agency, the CIA's activities in the United States include recruitment of and assistance to students from "Third World" countries attending colleges and universities.

Such activities are termed "building future assets," establishing relations with students who stand to become figures in government in their home countries.

Into Peace Groups

It is also widely believed that the CIA infiltrates U.S. peace groups in order to gain access to countries like China, North Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba.

It is fairly common knowledge that the agency also operates a domestic contact service which interviews some Americans, mainly businessmen, who return from abroad with potentially useful information.

Several years ago, it was disclosed that the agency, through various foundations and front organizations, had funneled money into more than 200 domestic groups, chiefly the National Student Assn.

More recently, the CIA has been connected with giving training to a number of police departments.

Much of the domestic CIA activity is reported to be carried out from offices in downtown Washington, a block from the White House, rather than at the agency's headquarters at Langley, Va.

Disclosure that John D.

Please Turn to Pg. 3, Col. 3

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Continued from First Page

Ehrlichman, President Nixon's former domestic affairs adviser, had solicited CIA assistance for men plotting the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, triggered three congressional investigations of possible agency involvement in the "Watergate affair" and related matters.

Inquiries Ended

Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), chairman of an appropriations subcommittee, and Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), acting chairman of an armed services subcommittee on CIA oversight, have ended their inquiries for the time being while they consider their next step.

Closed-door hearings are still being conducted by a House armed services subcommittee headed by Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.).

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), who has recently renewed efforts to get disclosure of the CIA's secret budget, Tuesday launched a campaign to obtain release of the secret "enskids."

Prof. Harry Howe Ransom of Vanderbilt Univer-

sity, an authority on the CIA, Tuesday called for creation of a nongovernment commission to carry out a major investigation of the entire U.S. intelligence apparatus.

Calling the 1970 plan drawn up in the White House "scandalous," Ransom said in an interview that a major reorganization may be called for, including changes in the authority of the FBI and the CIA.

A seemingly major question related to the CIA and the 1970 White House intelligence plan is still open.

Outlining His Work

When asked about the plan last February, CIA's Helms told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "I do not recall whether we were asked, but we were not involved because it seemed to me, that was a clear violation of what our charter was."

The question was raised when the committee considered Helms' nomination to be U.S. Ambassador to Iran.

Yet last week, in the secret White House documents published by the New York Times, domestic security aide Huston, outlining his work on the White House domestic intelligence unit, said "I went into this exercise fearful that the CIA would refuse to cooperate. In fact, Dick Helms was most cooperative and helpful, and the only stumbling block was Mr. (J. Edgar) Hoover."

Development of a secret charter through the National Security Council directives, Prof. Ransom said, amounts to the council writing law, a situation which he partly blames on Congress for not exercising stronger oversight.

Ransom said he also believes that the time may have come when the CIA's plans division—the "department of dirty tricks"—should have some major surgery.

He said there are legit-

imate questions as to whether release of the "enskids" would jeopardize the national security.

"But we don't know what the basic structure of our national intelligence apparatus is. But the enemy probably knows, and in the long run, disclosure is the better risk. The worst thing is that the law is being violated in secret."

Oversight of the CIA has been made especially difficult because there are few staff members to support committees with the responsibility.

Over the years, communication between the CIA and a congressional

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