

Police Unit to Make Intelligence Rules

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D.C. Police Chief Maurice J. Cullinane yesterday named a seven-man committee of high police officials to develop written guidelines for the department's intelligence division, under public fire for amassing thousands of unevaluated files on political figures and organizations.

Cullinane's action follows a detailed report he issued last week acknowledging that the 33-member intelligence unit maintained individual files on several holders of public office, and borrowed electronic equipment and cars from the Central Intelligence Agency during the urban riots and anti-war demonstrations of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Chairman of the special committee is Assistant Chief Theodore Zanders, who is in charge of inspectional services and has already headed a general housecleaning of the intelligence division, including the shredding of thousands of old records and files.

Zanders said the committee would hold its first meeting late this week or early next week.

The intelligence division, created in 1967 to gather both criminal and political intelligence, has generally functioned without written guidelines.

Investigators have amassed a wide assortment of undifferentiated data ranging from newspaper clippings to sensitive covert source material with no comprehensive policy for evaluating and collating them, officials acknowledge.

Establishing firm, written guidelines "is not going to be easy," said Cullinane yesterday. There are no standardized procedures among other major police departments in the country, he said, and criteria are difficult to form.

The legal aspects of gathering and storing intelligence are simple, Cullinane said. "We know what's legal to do and what's illegal . . . but in terms of ethics, we haven't developed any firm idea of exactly what we need to have or what we should have."

As one guideline, however, Cullinane described as "unconscionable" information kept by the FBI indicating that the name of Jervis S. Finney, a candidate for U.S. attorney in Maryland, appeared in the client book of a woman involved with a Baltimore massage parlor some years ago. The information on Finney was published earlier this week following a routine background investigation into Finney's fitness as a possible nominee for the U.S. attorney post.

Cullinane also said firm guidelines would be set on how long to keep intelligence records and when to destroy them.

Other members of the Zanders committee are Vernon Gill, the police department's general counsel and highest ranking civilian; Insp. Robert Zink, current director of the intelligence division; Capt. Charles Light, acting director of the morals division; Deputy Chief Charles Monroe, director of planning and development; Deputy Chief Thomas Estes, commander of the patrol division, and Deputy Chief Robert Rabe, in charge of the special operations division.