

3 Groups ^{Post 4/8/67} Deny CIA Aid On Rights

Three civil rights organizations denied yesterday charges by columnist Drew Pearson that they had received Central Intelligence Agency funds to organize Negro voter registration drives in the South.

The Southern Regional Council, the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality and the Lawyers' Constitutional Defense Committee all issued statements denying the Pearson charge.

Pearson wrote that the three groups received CIA funds through two foundations. The Government's purpose, he said, was to combat publicity abroad about civil rights disturbances in the South.

Paul Anthony, executive director of the Southern Regional Council, said its voter education project had received no funds from the foundations Pearson mentioned, although it had received money from them for other activities.

The two foundations Pearson cited are the Aaron E. Norman Fund and the New World Foundation.

The Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee's executive director, Henry Schwarzschild, said, "We have never been given any money whatsoever either by the Government or one of the CIA's dummy foundations."

Marvin Rich of the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality said the Norman fund had assured him that "not one penny of its grants to SEDFRE came from the CIA."