

Jack Anderson's Washington

Merry-go-round

BY JACK ANDERSON
With Les Whitten

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency not only has provided financial support to some of the world's most notorious secret police, but has condoned their operations within the United States.

Such brutal police agencies as South Korea's KCIA, Chile's DINA and Iran's SAVAK have terrorized exiles in this country. There is reason to believe that they have violated U.S. laws. The FBI has received reports that they have committed burglaries, attempted kidnappings and plotted murders.

An alarmed Rep. Donald Fraser, D-Minn., has asked the CIA to divulge the details of its agreements with foreign intelligence agencies, which allow the spies to operate within each other's countries. The CIA has stubbornly refused to cooperate.

The CIA has good reason to be sensitive. Over the years, it has developed cozy relationships with some of the most repressive foreign intelligence agencies in the world.

South Korea's KCIA even took its name from our spy agency. We cited evidence over a year ago that KCIA agents were threatening, intimidating and abusing Korean exiles in this country. A Korean embassy spokesman then called the charges "groundless" and said the KCIA was not active in the United States.

But now, South Korean Ambassador Pyong-Choon Kahm has admitted that KCIA agents have used "goon psychology and tactics" against Korean residents in this country. They were acting on their own and are now being ordered back to Seoul, he said.

A year ago, we also reported that Chile's DINA "has hired thugs to track down and assassinate prominent exiles." Last month, a prominent Chilean exile, ex-Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, was blown to pieces by a bomb that had been rigged beneath his car. DINA has been suspected of arranging the assassination.

But a strange thing has happened. The CIA, which is forbidden by statute from conducting investigations within the United States, has entered the case. Coincidentally, newspaper accounts, quoting "intelligence officials," have reported that Cuban, anti-Castro extremists were behind the Letelier killing.

This raises some questions. What business does the CIA have becoming involved in a domestic murder

investigation? Is the CIA trying to solve the murder or to protect its undercover relationship with DINA? Has the CIA been planting stories in the press to divert suspicion away from DINA?

The Iranian secret police force, SAVAK, was actually organized by the CIA in 1956. The ties between the two agencies have always been close. One intelligence source, whose reliability has been tested, told us that SAVAK agents hound and harass Iranians in the United States, with the full knowledge and sometimes the assistance of the CIA.

Answerable only to the shah of Iran, SAVAK has become one of the most feared secret police agencies in the world. It uses terror and torture to achieve its ends. Experts say that SAVAK has tighter control over the people of Iran than the KGB exercises over Soviet citizens.

Assistant State Secretary Alfred Atherton has acknowledged that SAVAK agents are loose in the United States. They seek information, he explained cautiously, about "potential terrorists who may be among students who would return to Iran."

Our intelligence sources say SAVAK's

U.S. operations are directed by Mansur Rafizadeh, who poses as an Iranian attache' at the United Nations. He works out of secret apartment hideouts in New York City. He supervises scores, some say hundreds, of SAVAK agents in this country. A number of them work under diplomatic cover at the Iranian embassy in Washington.

The SAVAK agents devote most of their time, apparently, to spying on the students who oppose the shah's imperial rule. SAVAK informants have infiltrated student groups so completely that no one knows whom to trust. When the students demonstrate, SAVAK agents, posing as newsmen, snap their photographs. This is why most Iranian demonstrators wear masks.

We have documentary evidence that SAVAK agents also commit burglaries, forgeries and other crimes in behalf of the shah. Dr. Richard Cottam, a political science professor at the University of Pittsburgh, told our associate Joe Spear that a trusted State Department source had warned him that Iranian hit squads

are on their way to the United States.

"I was told by someone I completely trust," alleged the professor, "that SAVAK had made the decision to send assassination squads into Europe and the United States. The guess within the government is that any executions will be disguised as muggings. The obvious targets would be Iranian dissidents."

Cottam immediately notified Rega Baraheni, an Iranian poet, who was once mercilessly tortured by SAVAK and now resides in the United States. Baraheni asked Attorney General Edward Levi for a "thorough investigation" and "guarantees for the security" of prominent Iranian dissidents. Levi did not respond.

Footnote: Mansur Rafizadeh told us he had nothing to do with SAVAK. "I deny that absolutely," he said. Other Iranian officials admitted only that there was a "token representation" of SAVAK agents in the United States for the purpose of "monitoring extremists who might cooperate with their counterparts in Iran."

Tuesday, October 26, 1976

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten CIA Seen Abetting Foreign Agents

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