

After FBI Got Dominican Role

CIA Texas Book Collection Is Called An Aid in Understanding President

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The CIA's Rare Book Cap-
er in Texas last spring was
carried off with the distinc-
tive flare that often adds to
the mystery of that cloak-
and-dagger institution.

The date was May 26, just

24 hours after it had been
reported that the White
House was sending FBI
agents into the Dominican
Republic. Their presumed
mission was to double-check
the CIA's version of events
there, although that has
never been confirmed.

In any event, on May 26
calls went out from the CIA
to out-of-the way bookshops
in Austin, Texas. The agen-
cy was seeking, the booksel-
lers were informed, various
items of Texas history and
lore to "help us understand
the President", who had
grown up in that territory.

One book on the agency's
reading list was "Texas His-
tory Carved In Stone," an
illustrated volume about
Texas tombstones and mon-
uments, published in 1958
by the Firm Foundation
Publishing House in Austin.
Another was "A Guide to
the Hill Country of Texas",

a popular seller around Aus-
tin.

In one bookshop, a clerk
suggested that CIA might
want to acquire "The Super
Americans," which had first
appeared as a series of New
Yorker essays. That sugges-
tion was declined and a
search was begun for the
tombstone volume. By
nightfall it had been located
by The Bookman shop in
Austin, was sent off to the
agency and, in due course,
was paid for with a \$7 CIA
check.

Today, both the tomb-
stone book and the hill
country guide are on the
shelves of the CIA library.

Did they add to the agen-
cy's understanding of the
White House occupant?

They were, said the CIA,
merely routine library ac-
quisitions, intended only to
fill an information gap.

End of caper.