

Unaware Of CIA, MSU Says

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EAST LANSING, Mich., April 22 — President John A. Hannah said today no one ever associated with the Central Intelligence Agency was knowingly hired for a Michigan State University aid project in Vietnam.

Hannah told a news conference he still had no proof that five intelligence men hired to train the South Vietnamese in counter-subversion work were linked with the CIA.

Michigan State was hired by the State Department in the 1950s to run Civil Service and police training programs for the government of former President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam. Hannah said MSU hired various police veterans with specialties ranging from traffic control to counter-subversion.

"In the field of counter-subversion, these specialists were not available from American civil police organizations but could be recruited only from other Government agencies," Hannah said.

"Having accepted responsi-

bility in the entire civil police field as defined by the Vietnamese government, we employed on our staff individuals who had a background in intelligence work for the United States Government.

"None of these, at any time of employment, was known by the university or its representatives to have affiliations with the Central Intelligence Agency."

The controversy was sparked on a Ramparts magazine article saying the MSU mission was used as a front by the CIA with the knowledge of Hannah and other university officials.

Hannah said eventually "some of our people had their suspicions" that the intelligence men were doing undercover work. He said this was a factor in the university's decision to back out of the counter-subversion phase of training and turn it over to the Government.

[In Menlo Park Calif., Ramparts managing editor Warren Hinkle said every charge in the magazine article is accurate, the Associated Press reported.

[Hinkle said there is a "quasi-official history of the project, which openly documents the presence of a group of CIA agents in the project and, in fact, complains that the university could not effectively evaluate what the agents were doing because they were so secretive and would not file complete reports.]