

Police Confirm CIA Aid

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Officers from at least two Washington area police departments have received training from Central Intelligence Agency specialists in such fields as visual surveillance, bomb disposal and records filing, department spokesmen said yesterday.

John M. Maury, legislative counsel of the CIA, recently acknowledged in a letter to Rep. Edward I. Koch, (D.-N.Y.) that the CIA has provided training to "less than 50" policemen from "about a dozen" city and county police forces."

Koch raised the question after reading reports of CIA training of New York City police. He has called for a congressional investigation to determine if the CIA has violated the National Security Act that prohibits the agency from playing a domestic law enforcement role.

Maury told Koch however that the CIA regards its briefing of police officers as "consistent" with the Safet Streets Act, which provides for federal assistance to local law enforcement agencies.

A spokesman for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, an arm of the Justice Department, said the act is "silent" on the CIA, and that there is no interagency agreement usch as those LEAA has with other agencies providing assistance to local police departments.

In his letter to Koch, Maury asked the congressman not to release the names of departments given CIA training because the agency and police officials had decided "by mutual agreement" to keep their relationships "confidential."

Yesterday, however, police officials from all the metropolitan area jurisdictions readily discussed their relationship, if any, with the foreign intelligence-gathering agency.

Col. Kenneth Watkins, chief of police in Montgomery, said some county policemen had

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requested and received "specialized training in street surveillance" as part of a continuing county effort to combat crime.

"The . . . department receives training from many federal agencies," Watkins said. "Since the CIA is continuously developing investigative techniques abroad, some of which are applicable to local police forces in the U.S., we avail ourselves of this resource."

Spokesmen for the police departments in Washington and Fairfax County said small numbers of officers from their departments had received training from CIA experts.

Arlington and Alexandria police officials said representatives of their departments recently attended a demonstration at CIA headquarters in McLean. The agency, they said, was making available a substance it developed for detecting whether an individual had recently handled metallic objects, such as firearms.

Alexandria Police Chief John Hollhan also said he has "a hazy recollection" that one or more of his officers attended another CIA training session.

A Prince George's County police spokesman said no officers from the county department had received CIA training.

Both Washington and Fairfax police spokesmen said no effort was made to conceal the CIA training sessions.

Maury said in his letter that the CIA experts continue to give requested briefings to police officers. In a telephone interview yesterday, CIA administrative aide Angus Thuermer said:

"We're just trying to do a public service, but it looks like your public servants in McLean are going to get hit on the head again."