

## Editor Quits Company Linked to CIA

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (AP)—Ken Gott has resigned as editor of Business International on grounds that the publication's management provided cover for four U.S. Central Intelligence Agency agents between 1955 and 1960.

"I want to disassociate myself from any involvement in CIA activities," Gott, 54, said in an interview Monday.

He said he wanted to make a public statement so his colleagues in Asia, where he worked for many years, would realize that he had never been involved in intelligence activities.

"This is a difficult position and I want to get things clear. I am not out to cause embarrassment to the management of Business International . . . but I wanted to get the record straight as to where I stand."

Business International, a weekly business information service that prints several regional publications, was identified in a New York Times article of Dec. 27, 1977, as a company that had connections

with the CIA. Gott said he had not been aware until the Times article was printed and the company acknowledged the report, that Business International ever had CIA connections.

Elliott Haynes, co-founder of Business International, said providing cover for the agents consisted of approving credentials on a stringer arrangement for four CIA operatives.

"The CIA approached us and asked permission if the four agents could be correspondents," Haynes said. "They were not employees, but served us on a stringer basis."

Company headquarters in New York declined to comment on Gott's resignation. A spokesman said, "It is not our policy to comment on the resignations of individual employees."

Gott, a native of Melbourne, Australia, had been a full-time employee of Business International for 12 years. He headed the Far East editorial operation before coming to New York 14 months ago to become editor.