

Many groups targets of police spying

F-Post 1/21/75
BALTIMORE (AP)—Baltimore Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau has told both Gov. Marvin Mandel and a state senate committee that intelligence activities by the department were designed to prevent "potential disorder, revolution and strife."

But the Baltimore Evening Sun reports it has documents indicating many groups with no history of violence were the target of police spying.

A city police spokesman had no immediate comment on the article.

The newspaper reported Monday that police documents show that the Inspectional Services Division's spy squad focused in the late 1960's and early 1970's on such groups as religious alliances, tenant associations and Baltimore's official anti-poverty agency.

The documents indicate about 125 organizations ranging from the Klu Klux Klan to the NAACP to the Black Panthers to the pacifist American Friends Service Committee came under surveillance, according to the newspaper.

A former ISD member who provided the newspaper with the list of organizations said manila folders containing police field reports, newspaper stories and sometimes photographs on organizations.

"The Peace Action Committee (a local anti-war group) had a very large file—two maybe three manila folders" the former ISD member said.

Files of a similar size were maintained on the Black Panthers and a number of

other organizations, the former member said.

Police officials, including Pomerleau, have admitted that files were kept on organizations and individuals considered to be threats to police and to the general public.

At a hearing last week, Pomerleau testified at an unreleased appendix to a report on the ISD listed 60 organizations and 120 individuals still under surveillance.

It is unclear if those organizations are included in the documents obtained by the Evening Sun.

Pomerleau last week insisted that there was a connection between violent and peaceful groups and said the department's solution would be to but both under surveillance.