

'It'll be cold in hell' before spy data given police chief tells panel

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WASHINGTON — The tough-talking police chief of Los Angeles has taken a poke at the U.S. Senate committee investigating the Central Intelligence Agency and the intelligence-gathering operations of local police departments across the United States.

"It will be a cold day in hell when I provide you with the information you have requested," Edward Davis told the committee's chief counsel in response to a letter seeking, among other things, "the names of all individuals who engaged in intelligence-gathering activities" for the Los Angeles police department since 1965.

The committee, which since February has been investigating the intelligence activities of such government agencies as the CIA and FBI, has now expanded its inquiry into the world of local police forces.

In his letter to Davis, dated July 30, committee counsel Frederick Schwarz said the committee "is in the process of investigating the relationships between federal agencies and local police departments throughout the United States."

He said the panel "is especially interested in studying the funding, training, information-sharing and co-operation between federal agencies or personnel and the intelligence and command units of your department."

"Your request for information . . . is incredible!" Davis wrote on Aug. 5. "I would suggest that you stick your nose back in your own tent. I think that the elected politicians in Washington . . . are doing a pretty good job of raping the FBI, the CIA and the DEA," the latter a reference to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

He cited his department's intelligence operations as "one of the prime reasons" that the crime rate in the city went down almost 5 per cent between 1970 and 1974 while the national crime rate went up 26 per cent.

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