

N.Y. Police 'Spy' Unit Examined

By William Claiborne
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 NEW YORK, Sept. 29—The

infiltration of radical political organizations by the New York City police department's intelligence division—popularly known as the "Red Squad"—is being subjected to public examination again as the result of two controversial bills before the City Council.

The police division drew public attention in 1973, when officials announced that more than 1 million index cards on individuals and groups involved in political activities would be "purged."

The squad's purported ties to the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency and other federal intelligence groups are being questioned in the current debate.

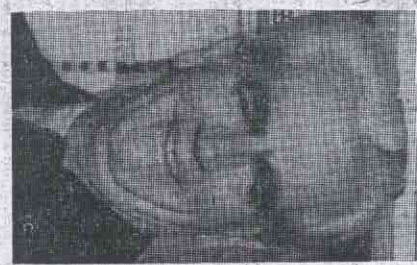
Even the economic propriety of maintaining a costly anti-radical intelligence network in the face of the city's fiscal crisis is undergoing scrutiny, with some of the bills' backers claiming that sharply reduced police funds could be better used against increased street crime.

The focus of the controversy is a pair of proposed city laws that would require the police to obtain court orders before infiltrating political groups, or before showing up at lawful demonstrations with cameras and tape recorders.

As public hearings on the bills opened in the council's Public Safety Committee today, council President Paul O'Dwyer charged that "unbridled snooping" by the police intelligence division not only is abusive to constitutional rights of New Yorkers, but is "incredibly wasteful in



MICHAEL J. CODD
 ... at odds on curbs on "Red Squad"



PAUL O'DWYER

this period of financial crunch."

O'Dwyer and other backers of the bills estimated that intelligence manpower might be cut in half if the two bills were passed.

Police officials declined to disclose how many of the department's 38,000 officers are assigned to intelligence work, nor would they say how much money the department spends annually. A spokesman for New York budget director Melvin Lechner said the intelligence division does not have its own category in the department's \$680 million budget, but instead is funded by hidden appropriations from other police divisions.

Although hearings on the two bills have just begun, City Council sources predicted that there will be formidable opposition before the measures come to a vote.

The bills are being opposed by Police Commissioner Mi-

chael J. Codd and Mayor Abraham D. Beame, who are said to feel that they are unnecessary and unworkable.

Sidney Baumgarten, special assistant to the mayor, said today that adoption of the bills would be "another step toward the enfeeblement of our police department and would undermine the domestic tranquility of our city."

Chief of Detectives Louis C. Cottle said that the bills would "cripple the legitimate criminal investigation function of the police department." Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau told the committee the bills would "hamstring the police in legitimate and necessary criminal investigations."

O'Dwyer said that despite promises by police two years ago to eliminate their file on political activists, the department still maintains 240,000 cards on file in the "active" category. The remainder, although withdrawn from the

file, have not been destroyed, O'Dwyer charged.

Organizations named in the active file, O'Dwyer said, include the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers Guild, the American Jewish Congress and the Attica Brothers Legal Defense Fund.

The police department, he said, regularly has infiltrated the Black Panther Party, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, CORE and Students for a Democratic Society.

O'Dwyer said the intelligence division consistently has refused to provide him with information about its activities, and that many of his conclusions were based on material obtained in discovery proceedings during a civil liberties case decided in state Supreme Court here last July.

Justice Peter J. McGinlian, in dismissing two conspiracy indictments against Black Panther Robert Steele Collier, denounced the intelligence division for mounting a "broad and penetrating" infiltration of several Lower East Side community groups for two years.

Collier was convicted 10 years ago of conspiring to bomb national monuments, including the Statue of Liberty. He served 21 months of a five-year sentence.

O'Dwyer, citing the discovery material and "other sources," said the intelligence division regularly sends information on political activists to 17 federal agencies, including the FBI, and to five New York State police agencies. Information and photographs obtained

at lawful demonstrations regularly have been forwarded to the U.S. Civil Service Commission for use in evaluation of prospective employees, O'Dwyer said.

The "Red Squad," the City Council president said, maintains a "desk system," with special desks assigned to youth groups, oriental groups, and black, white and Hispanic "extremist groups."

O'Dwyer also referred to reports from the Senate intelligence committee earlier this month, which, he said, illustrate a link between the intelligence division and the CIA.

A clandestine experiment involving the use of New York City's subway system to simulate methods of bacteriological or chemical warfare was revealed in the committee's hearings into CIA activities.

At the hearing, CIA Director William Colby reportedly said "stimulated conditions" were used in the subway tests, and a committee spokesman later said that "harmless simulants" were used to simulate poisonous gas during the experiments in 1966 or 1967.

O'Dwyer, noting that further inquiries about the tests were referred by the committee to the New York City police intelligence division, said today, "Any government agency coming in here will not do anything without the approval of the local authorities."

He said his staff had been unable to learn more details of the experiment from the intelligence division. O'Dwyer also cited the finding of the Rockefeller commission this summer that several U.S. cities, including New York, had worked closely with the CIA in domestic investigations.