

CIA Monitored Socialists 23 Years

7-17-75
By Stephen Green and Lawrence Meyer
Washington Post Staff Writers

The Central Intelligence Agency monitored the domestic activities of the Socialist Workers Party for 23 years in apparent violation of the CIA charter, according to documents released by the party yesterday.

The documents indicate the intelligence agency continued domestic surveillance in Washington for nearly two years after the Rockefeller Commission said such activities were supposed to have been stopped by the agency.

The documents show the CIA received reports in 1969 and 1970 on what four agents learned here about the Young Socialists Alliance, the

youth organization of the Socialist Workers Party.

Identified only as R-4, R-5, R-6 and R-7, the agents conducted surveillance of Young Socialists Alliance activities on D.C. college campuses, according to the documents.

The Socialist Workers Party obtained the documents from the CIA as the result of a court suit in New York, seeking them under the Freedom of Information Act.

According to the Rockefeller Commission report on the CIA, the agency's Office of Security infiltrated and monitored at least 17 Washington area antiwar and black activist groups in 1967 and 1968. These activities by the CIA, the commission concluded, were illegal because they did not come

under the agency's legal mandate to conduct intelligence activities outside the United States and to protect itself.

In December, 1968, the commission report said, the CIA relinquished its surveillance of Washington groups to the D.C. police department, which until 1972 relayed its findings to the intelligence agency.

Assistant D.C. Police Chief Theodore R. Zanders said yesterday that he "can't come up with anything" to show that agents R-4, R-5, R-6 and R-7 worked for the D.C. police.

The only CIA domestic surveillance in Washington after 1968 that was mentioned by the Rockefeller Commission report was the 1971 assignment of an agent to infiltrate the May Day antiwar protest organization.

See INTELLIGENCE, A8, Col. 1

INTELLIGENCE, From A1

President Ford created the Rockefeller Commission to investigate the functioning of the CIA after press disclosures that the agency had engaged in massive, illegal domestic spying. A Senate committee is now conducting its own investigation of these allegations.

The new revelation about CIA domestic surveillance is the second time in recent days in which information about CIA activities not contained in the Rockefeller Commission report was made public.

It was revealed last week

that the agency in 1953 gave doses of LSD to a small group of scientists without their knowledge. The commission had reported that only one scientist was given the drug. He since has been identified as biochemist Frank Olson, who two weeks after taking the drug in 1953 plunged to his death from the 10th floor of a New York City hotel room.

A CIA spokesman yesterday said he was not familiar with anybody working for the CIA given a code designation of "R." He added that "I cannot say one way or another" whether R-4, R-5, R-6 and R-7 were working for the CIA.

David Belen, who served as executive director of the Rockefeller Commission, said the four agents could have worked

A8 Thursday, July 17, 1975 THE WASHINGTON POST

for the CIA's Operation CHAOS, which monitored dissident groups around the country from 1967 to 1973. The agent assigned to infiltrate the May Day organization reported to CHAOS, according to the commission report.

According to the documents, the CIA's Office of Security received reports on the observations of agents R-4, R-5, R-6 and R-7 concerning four meetings held in D.C. between Aug. 10, 1969, and Dec. 6, 1969.

Three of these sessions were sponsored by the Young Socialists Alliance. The other was sponsored by the antiwar Student Mobilization Committee and featured a speaker from the Young Socialists Alliance.

In addition, the CIA Office of Security received pamphlets and other literature gathered by the agents at the meetings.

According to the documents, an unidentified "CIA employee" from an unidentified "CIA unit" sent a memo on Dec. 11, 1969, to the agency's "Deputy Director of Security" discussing surveillance of the Young Socialists Alliance.

Attached to the memo were "pamphlets and flyers" gathered a week earlier from a "Socialist Educational Confer-

ence sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance here in Washington."

The memo stated: "The YSA, as you know, is the youth vanguard of the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party as well as the controlling force behind the "mass movement" amalgam known as the Student Mobe (Student Mobilization Committee). Target Analysis Branch will be treating this topic in some depth in this week's Situation Information Report."

The memo said that since "the splintering of SDS last summer at Chicago" where the 1968 Democratic convention was held, "the YSA

(mostly via Student Mobe) is coming on strong and presently represents the best guess for leadership in the radical youth movement for the early 1970s."

The memo adds that "we will most definitely keep abreast of evolving developments in this Trotskyite old left/new left complex."

According to the documents, on Aug. 10, 1969, agent "R-7 checked a meeting held by the Student Mobilization Committee at 2030 hours at the Reiss Science Building at Georgetown University." In his report, R-7 stated that "about 50-60 people were present, 95 per cent of which were Cubans. The main speaker was Dan

Rosenshine, national committee member of the Young Socialist Alliance and guest of the Cuban government at the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Cuban revolution."

Agent R-7 reported that Rosenshine's speech "was very short but he showed film slides on Cuba." R-7 added that "no new literature was available at this meeting."

On Dec. 6, 1969, according to the documents, agents R-4, R-6 and R-7 attended YSA meetings at George Washington University.

R-4, the documents state, "made a cursory check" and reported that a "meeting headlined as the Socialist Educa-

tional Conference" was "attended by approximately 100 people, about three colored and the remainder college ippy type."

A separate YSA meeting at the college on the same date was attended by R-6 and R-7 who found "75-100 people were in attendance—about six colored, the remainder white college students mixed with hippy and regular type."

Agents R-5 and R-6 both attended a Sept. 16 meeting at George Washington sponsored by YSA. They reported, according to the documents that a "total of 11 people were in attendance. From that standpoint, the meeting was a failure."

According to the Rockefeller Commission, agents used by the CIA for surveillance of domestic activities in D.C. were volunteer unemployed housewives and manual laborers who were paid less than \$100 a month.

The documents show that as early as 1951, the CIA kept material relating to the Socialist Workers Party, which espouses the philosophy of the late Leon Trotsky, who preached worldwide social revolution. The party has run candidates in presidential elections and in local D.C. elections.

The documents show that an internal CIA memo about the SWP was written Aug. 6, 1951,

from "one CIA employee" to another "CIA employee." It traces the history of the party and notes that it had been cited as "subversive" by the Justice Department.

A 1953 CIA files memorandum cites a New York Times report that the party's 1952 presidential candidate polled 10,306 votes in seven states.

A March 11, 1959, memorandum notes that the agency obtained Young Socialists Alliance literature that had been "posted" on the campus of Columbia University in New York City.

A March, 1961, memo refers to YSA literature distributed in Harvard Square in Cambridge, Mass.

The CIA documents also included a copy of the 1968 New York State elections ballot containing the names of Socialist Labor Party candidates.

The documents acknowledge that the CIA also has other material on file about the SWP. The agency refused to make public much of this information, however, on the grounds that it was not required to do so by the Freedom of Information Act. The SWP is continuing court action in an effort to get the material.

The documents include a copy of a 1950 newspaper article about the party but give no indication when it was acquired by the CIA.