

Transit Authority Says No One Knew About C.I.A.'s Test

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A spokesman for the Transit Authority said yesterday that as far as could be determined, no one in that agency had any knowledge of a secret Central Intelligence Agency project in which the city's subways were used to test the vulnerability of subway systems to a biological warfare attack.

A C.I.A. memorandum made public during a hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in Washington on Tuesday said that the test "provided a means of assessing the threat of infection to subway passengers" and demonstrated how to use such an attack "offensively."

According to Congressional sources, C.I.A. officials had said that in the test the subways were flooded with a "harmless simulant" of a disease-carrying gas. No information was disclosed on when or how the test was conducted.

The Transit Authority spokesman said: "As far as we can determine at this time, no one here knew of the test. We cannot comment until we know more about what was supposed to have happened. We are looking into the matter."