

Mock Use Of Poisons Described

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A secret-weapons expert testified yesterday that a special Army unit carried out simulated poison and germ attacks on the New York subway system and government installations including the White House and Pentagon.

The purpose, he said, was to work out countermeasures against enemy use of such weapons against the United States.

The simulated attacks were described to the Senate intelligence committee by Charles Senseny, who worked with the Army's Special Operations Division at Ft. Detrick, Md., and who directed the operation involving New York's 6th and 8th Avenue subway lines in the mid 1960s.

Senseny said similar experiments were carried out at the Pentagon and the White House, although he could not give details because he did not take part.

But he said that in another simulated attack a dye was injected into the Food and Drug Administration's water supply—at the agency's request—to study how a poison might be distributed by an enemy using the same method.

Senseny, saying, "I was a phantom who went through the cars," described how he led a group of about 20 operatives who dropped phony light bulbs containing a harmless gas onto the subway tracks. He said monitoring equipment showed the gas spread through an area between 14th and 58th streets.

Weapons he helped develop, Senseny said, ranged from dart guns concealed in canes and umbrellas to exploding aerosol cans and the gas-filled light bulbs.

The CIA frequently borrowed such weapons but he did not know for what purpose, Senseny told the Senate panel, which is holding public hearings on the CIA's continued stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons in violation of a 1970 order by President Nixon.