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Records Show C.I.A. Trained Washington Area Police

The Washington Star

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The Central Intelligence Agency has trained officers from at least three Washington Metropolitan area police departments to crack safes, conduct burglaries and replaster walls damaged during surreptitious entries and bugging operations, according to agency documents obtained by The Washington Star.

The documents, released by the C.I.A. after a six-month review of a request under the Freedom of Information Act, also show that nearly every police department in the Washington area—many more than previously acknowledged—received agency training and assistance in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

Several memorandums indicate that the C.I.A. and local police officials wanted their unusual relationships to remain secret, despite inquiries from reporters and members of Congress.

Nearly a dozen police departments in California, mostly in the San Diego, San Clemente and Los Angeles area, also got C.I.A. training and equipment loans, the documents show.

Besides the disclosure of the extent of the agency's activity in local police departments, the chief significance of the assorted documents is that they pro-

vide many details about C.I.A. police relationships described without much elaboration in the report on C.I.A. activities released last June by a commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller.

C.I.A. officials "sanitized" the 189 documents before releasing them. Nearly every one contained some deletions, and some had entire paragraphs or pages missing. Another 47 documents requested were not released for security reasons. The newly obtained documents contain information not specifically mentioned in the Rockefeller report. They showed that officers from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax City and Falls Church, Va., and Baltimore and Prince Georges County, Md., also received training assistance.

The Rockefeller report discussed some training given to police officers here and elsewhere, but did not specifically describe the training in safe-cracking, burglary and wall-plastering. These and other techniques apparently were included under the category "clandestine collection methodology" in the report.

The documents show that the agency trained 24 safe-cracking students from the District, Fairfax and Arlington police departments.

A Feb 8, 1973, document

from a C.I.A. security office official to a deputy director of the agency discussed the 1968 and 1969 training given to the District police. It said, "It should be noted that the initial request for the above training originated with senior officials of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department and was basically predicated on the need to combat the tangible threats posed by radical terrorist groups within its jurisdiction."

The documents show that Richard M. Helms, Director of Central Intelligence, and his successor, William E. Colby, clearly knew about and approved of the activities with local police officials.

Mr. Helms, in testimony before a Senate committee in 1973, cited the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 as authority for agency assistance to local police. That act later was amended to exclude any C.I.A. training of local policemen.

The documents included testimonial letters praising the C.I.A. from several area police chiefs, notably the former D.C. chief, Jerry V. Wilson, who has repeatedly denied that he had any direct knowledge of C.I.A. involvement with his department.

In 1968 Mr. Helms was the host at a dinner for police chiefs held in the C.I.A. executive dining room during a "police liaison seminar."

In 1967, at an unidentified agency facility (believed to be Camp Peary, a C.I.A. training camp in southern Virginia), the C.I.A. held a similar affair for several police chiefs, including John B. Layton, former D.C. chief, William L. Durrer, former Fairfax chief, and William G. Lawver, former Arlington chief.

Also present were Howard R. Leary, then New York Police Commissioner; Edmund L. McNamara, then Boston Commissioner; James B. Conlisk Jr., then Chicago Police Superintendent, and several unnamed C.I.A. security officials.

Times Report in 1973

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The New York Times reported on Feb. 6, 1973, that the Central Intelligence Agency had acknowledged giving training on the handling of explosives, the detection of wiretaps and organization of intelligence files to 12 police departments, including that of New York. Other departments identified included those in Boston, Washington, Montgomery County, Md., and Fairfax County, Va.