

Post 31673

CIA to Stop Giving Aid to Local Police

The Central Intelligence Agency has agreed with the chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations to drop its technical assistance to local police agencies except in "compelling circumstances."

Chairman Chet Holifield (D-Calif.) made the CIA's decision public yesterday.

CIA assistance to about a dozen local police agencies across the nation included specialized training in street "surveillance" to Montgomery County police and training for District and Fairfax police.

Police from Arlington and Alexandria attended a demonstration at CIA headquarters in McLean of a substance used for detecting whether a person has handled a metal object, such as a gun.

Holifield urged CIA Director James R. Schlesinger Jr. to discontinue CIA training of local police because the practice could create problems in both training - intelligence agency resources and involving the CIA in "domestic-type activities contrary to the agency's basic mission."

"Compelling circumstances" under which the training would be allowed might include investigations of international crime and drug trafficking, a spokesman for the Government Operations Committee said.