

# The 'Friendly' Spies Worry Washington

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Activity in Washington by "friendly" intelligence services is a relatively new phenomenon, but one that is causing growing concern. Allied services have always been present in the capital in a liaison capacity.

There is a joint Anglo-American intelligence group operating at the British Embassy. The United States regularly exchanges intelligence information with its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies. None of this causes any problems.

Entering an elegant hotel restaurant on Massachusetts avenue one evening, James Angleton remarked off-handedly to a friend that "this is where the French intelligence hangs out." It was routine.

Israel, too, is highly active in intelligence gathering, but again, it is—for the most part—a cooperative venture. It was through a connection with Angleton's counterintelligence staff that Israel received in the 1960s the special technology it needed to develop nuclear weapons.

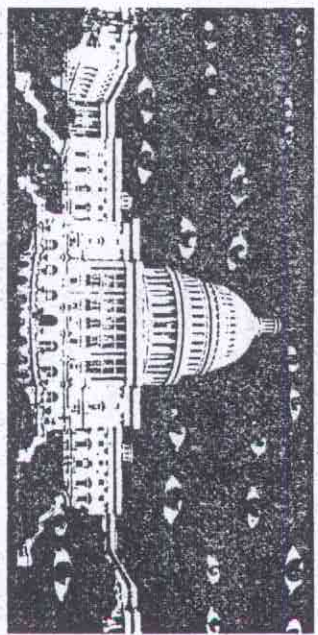
What worries Washington is the kind of activity that the South Korean CIA (KCIA) and the Chilean DINA have made famous and the fact that, until

recently, the U.S. government has done nothing about it.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has already produced a special report on the operations of the KCIA in the United States, including the alleged bribing of congressmen, noting with some amazement that the U.S. government never set as an intelligence priority the question of whether "friendly" foreign intelligence services were conducting activities directed at officials or other residents of the United States.

Shortly afterward, the Justice Department was able to come up with hard evidence that the bombing assassination on Washington's Embassy Row in September, 1975, of former Chilean foreign minister Orlando Letelier and an American associate, was the work of DINA, the intelligence agency of Chile's military dictatorship. Letelier was the chief of the junta opposition abroad. DINA's boss, an army general, had been a close friend of the CIA station chief in Santiago when the leftist Allende regime was overthrown in 1973.

There is no suggestion of CIA involvement in the Letelier murder, but DINA's crimes were an illustration of how "friendly" services took it for granted that they could get away with any-



thing in Washington.

In the case of the KCIA, its operations—aside from its efforts in the Congress—concentrated on the enemies of the Seoul regime in the United States. Exiled South Koreans, many of them naturalized American citizens, were for years subject to blackmail and strong-arming by KCIA thugs, often working under the cover of consular officials.

Pressures were put on South Korean businessmen, for example, not to advertise in American publications run by anti-Seoul activists. If nothing else, the KCIA had been systematically violating the civil rights of American citizens of Korean origin and legal U.S. residents.

The Chilean DINA and military intelligence services of half a dozen Latin American dictatorships had been monitoring Washington activities of exiled foes of their regimes, sometimes with the aid of United States agents.

Iran's SAVAK, dealing with thousands of anti-shah students in the United States, has excelled in this form of espionage. This is why when Iranian students hold anti-shah demonstrations here they cover their faces with paper masks—a pathetic

attempt to conceal their identities.

In most of the cases involving operations by "friendly" services, often in violation of U.S. law, the lame excuse provided by officials is that "we are dealing with friendly governments." The clincher is that if the United States interferes with their intelligence capers in Washington, they may retaliate by closing down CIA operations in their countries.

In short, Washington has become the world's leading intelligence and espionage battlefield. Everybody seems to be playing the game with fewer and fewer constraints. No place in the world is so richly endowed with knowledge and information, and nowhere is it so accessible. The "unfriendlies" use it as one of the principal arenas for the East-West conflict, and the United States reciprocates in kind. The "friendly" feel free to settle their scores with opponents exiled in Washington.

The spying is massive, pervasive and unceasing. And all signs are that there is more to come in increasingly inventive, imaginative and sophisticated ways. Espionage in Washington is, indeed, the latest growth industry.

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