

Informers For Police Exposed

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By Paul W. Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writer

Recent disclosures by an activist community newspaper of police informant activities within Washington's once-flourishing antiwar movement have jeopardized political intelligence gathering operations, D.C. police officials said yesterday.

The disclosures, part of an ongoing campaign by the anti-establishment Daily Rag newspaper, are "definitely a threat to our operations," acknowledged Capt. George Sutter, acting director of the police department's intelligence division.

Sutter confirmed the identification of two one-time informants named in front-page stories in the last two issues of the Daily Reg.

The first story named Ann Kolego, 20, also known as "Crazy Annie," as a paid police informant who infiltrated the D.C. offices of the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) and National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC) from early 1971 to June 25 of this year.

Sutter rated her as an "excellent" intelligence source.

The second named Earl Robert Merritt Jr., known to police as "Butch," who worked as a paid informant for about five months around the time of the massive Mayday disruptions here in the spring of 1971.

Merritt was quoted in the Rag as saying he later did informant work for the FBI. FBI press spokesman Jack Herrington would not comment on that claim, but another source close to the FBI confirmed that Merritt performed "voluntary" work for the agency and may have been paid for it.

Daily Rag staff workers say they are considering additional disclosures of activities by other informants.

Merritt came directly to the paper with his acknowledgment of spy work after being

"turned off" by the job, according to Rag staff worker Chris Simpson.

The disclosure of Miss Kolego as an informant was leaked to the Rag by a Washington-based organization called the Committee for Action/Research on the Intelligence Community (CARIC).

CARIC spokesman Winslow Peck said his organization is "working on a couple of other people now," and their names should be revealed soon.

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Asked how CARIC is able to discover and identify informants, Peck said, "We have contacts within the metropolitan police department and other intelligence groups in the city."

Capt. Sutter of the police intelligence division said he does not think the information is being leaked from his own organization, but is not overlooking the possibility.

Staffers at the Daily Rag, which despite its name is a weekly paper located at 2416 18th St. NW in the Adams-Morgan section of the city, have questioned the legality and authorization for some of the informant work done by Merritt and Miss Kolego.

They note, for example, that Miss Kolego made frequent out-of-town trips to assorted antiwar conclaves and questioned her authority to go beyond D.C. police jurisdiction at public expense.

Vernon S. Gill, police department general counsel, said he knows of no law prohibiting such activity "in an investigation of legitimate matters concerning the metropolitan police department."

Sutter said she made the out-of-town trips both to "maintain her cover" and to obtain information on possible illegal actions planned by antiwar groups in Washington.

Miss Kolego could not be reached for comment. Merritt also could not be reached.