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Ex-agent calls NYC main CIA target

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NEW YORK — A former agent for the Central Intelligence Agency said New York City was a main target of the CIA's domestic spying operations during the late 1960s because it was considered a training ground for radical activities, the New York Times reported today.

The agent, who said he spent four years during the late 60's and early 70s spying on local radicals, told the Times more than 26 agents operated at Columbia University and at other locations.

He said the agents were strictly supervised by senior officials in the New York office of the Domestic Operations Division, set up in 1964 by the CIA in more than 12 cities.

The division's function then was legal: To coordinate with American corporations which were supplying cover for agents abroad, and to help interrogate American citizens returning from foreign countries.

The information from the unidentified agent came during interviews last week after publication in last Sun-

day's Times of accounts alleging massive illegal domestic spying.

The agent said CIA activities included telephone wiretaps and break-ins in efforts to monitor the activities of New York radicals. He recalled that the agency supplied him with more than 40 psychological assessments of radical leaders.