

Pravda Cites CIA Scandal

Moscow

The Communist party newspaper Pravda yesterday cited the domestic surveillance scandal involving the Central Intelligence Agency to show Soviet readers that the United States is guilty of persecuting dissidents of its own.

"Thus the much hailed bourgeois democracy in practice turns out to be a system of total surveillance and espionage," asserted Tomas Kilesnichenko, a Pravda senior editor, in the newspaper's weekly international review.

Until now, the Soviet press

has generally reported the scandal with a minimum of comment, since internal surveillance is a routine activity of the Soviet Committee of State Security, or KGB as it is called by its Russian initials.

The KGB seems to enjoy a free hand on matters it deems in the national security, both within and outside the Soviet Union.

Pravda clearly implied that the U.S. should look to its own affairs before criticizing the Soviets for their treatment of dissidents.

New York Times