

Ex-Agent Says C.I.A. Screened Oil Staff

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BRUSSELS, Jan. 12—A former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency said here today that the Creole Petroleum Corporation, a subsidiary of the Exxon Corporation, used the C.I.A. in 1960 to screen employees in Venezuela.

The former agent, Philip Agee, who has begun a campaign to expose C.I.A. activities, made his statement before the Russell Tribunal II, a seven-day assembly of mainly left-wing intellectuals investigating charges of repression in Latin America.

Mr. Agee, who worked for the C.I.A. from 1957 to 1969, mostly in Latin America, said he had been involved in the screening operations for Creole while working for the C.I.A. in Washington.

It was his job, he said, to check if prospective employees of the company had left-wing connections, in which case they would not be hired.

Mr. Agee said he "guessed" that the C.I.A. was still doing similar work for Creole. He said such screening was a general service the agency performed for large American-owned firms in Latin America.

Vice President Rockefeller, whose family owns a large number of shares in Exxon and who is a former director of Creole, was named earlier this

month by President Ford to head a panel to investigate charges of illegal C.I.A. spying on American citizens inside the United States.

Ten days ago a book by Mr. Agee, "Inside the Company: C.I.A. Diary," was published in Britain. The book recounts in detail his daily activities while he was a member of the intelligence organization.

The Russell tribunal—named after the late British philosopher and pacifist, Bertrand Russell—also heard an appeal today from Isabella Allende, daughter of the late President of Chile, Salvador Allende-Gossens. Miss Allende asked for international aid in obtaining the release from a Chilean prison of Laura Allende, a sister of the President and a Socialist politician who was arrested last November by the Chilean police.

An earlier tribunal met in Stockholm in 1967 and heard allegations of American war crimes in Vietnam.

Exxon Cites Sabotage

James Marakis, a spokesman in New York for Exxon, said yesterday that he had reached officials of Creole in Caracas by telephone and that they had denied categorically having ever used the C.I.A. to investigate prospective employees or current employees.

Hugh Morrow, a spokesman for Vice President Rockefeller said after checking with Mr. Rockefeller yesterday that the Vice President had "never heard of any use of C.I.A. to check Creole employees."

Mr. Morrow said that Mr. Rockefeller had served as a director of Creole until 1958 when he resigned. That resignation took place when he became Governor.

Mr. Morrow added that the Vice President relinquished his stock in the company and had no connection with Creole now.