

WXPost FEB. 16 1975

Soviets Said Target Of CIA Infiltration

By Nicholas Daniloff

United Press International

The CIA infiltrated the U.S. antiwar movement in an effort to get its own men—masquerading as radicals—recruited by Soviet intelligence, a former deputy CIA director said yesterday.

Describing the double-agent gambit as "an error in judgment," Ray S. Cline said the agency did it because Presidents Johnson and Nixon were "absolutely obsessed" with the belief that the Soviets were manipulating the Vietnam protests.

The CIA apparently was never able to establish a "Russian connection" within the U.S. dissident movement. It is now under investigation itself, to determine whether it broke the law by spying on Americans.

Cline, a CIA employee for 27 years and a deputy director from 1962 to 1966, disclosed details of the agency's infiltration operations in an interview that expanded on information already made public by CIA director William E. Colby.

Cline said the counterspy operation—in which one intelligence agency puts out an agent as "bait" to be recruited by a rival agency—appeared at the time to be "a classical counter-espionage operation." Now, he said, he considers it "an error in judgment."

"Since it involved penetration of an American organization, its purpose was ambiguous and therefore subject to criticism," he said.

But he added, "I know from my own recollection that both Presidents Johnson and Nixon were absolutely obsessed with the subject and pressed all

government agencies to find this vital connection of foreign activation."

If the penetration effort had been fruitful, he said, "these young men would have had nothing to do with the dissident movement, really. They were fakes."

"They would have gone abroad to work for a Soviet agent, and then probably would have been sent back to the United States under an assumed name to do some work."

CIA Staff Is Told Prosecution Possible

Reuter

CHICAGO, Feb. 15—The CIA has warned employees that they may be prosecuted for past agency practices and has reminded them of their "constitutional rights to remain silent" if questioned by the Justice Department, the Chicago Tribune said today.

The newspaper said the agency had issued an inter-office memorandum advising employees to retain private counsel and had implied that in case of prosecution, they would be on their own.

The memorandum, dated Feb. 6, was signed by David Blee, deputy director of the agency's Clandestine Operations Division, which has been accused of carrying out illegal spying in the United States, the Tribune said.

Under its charter, the agency is confined to spying overseas, but it has been accused of spying on Americans during the Nixon administration.