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CIA Asked 500 Troops For Guards

By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence Agency asked for 500 federal troops to be stationed at its Langley headquarters to protect the building during a 1971 antiwar demonstration, according to documents filed yesterday in U.S. District Court.

The request came after a CIA employee "observed one of (protest leader) Rennie Davis' men taking notes near the CIA headquarters building," according to the documents.

The request was made at a meeting with Justice Department officials on April 8, 1971. The document reflects only the request and does not state whether the troops were supplied. However, lawyers familiar with the case said troops were never stationed at the CIA during the antiwar protests.

The document was among summaries of planning sessions held by various government officials between the time period of April and May, 1971, when hundreds of thousands of protesters came here to demonstrate against the Vietnam war.

Filed in one of the pending lawsuits that grew out of protests during the first week of May, the material reflects the wide range of government agencies involved in planning the government's response to the protests.

The Justice Department compiled a list of the agencies at the request of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) in 1973, which also was among the materials filed yesterday. It does not include the CIA among the government agencies involved in the planning sessions despite the CIA participation in at least one session.

Justice Department officials were unable to explain the omission last night.

The Central Intelligence Agency assigned at least one agent to infiltrate Mayday demonstrations according to the report on CIA's domestic activities requested by the President earlier this year. The CIA also has disclosed that it supplied drivers and technical equipment to D.C. police for the protests.

The document filed yesterday is the first public disclosure that the CIA feared for the safety of its massive Virginia headquarters and other CIA buildings in the Washington area.

The meeting occurred in the offices of Justice Department official Harlington Wood on April 8, 1971, at 10 a.m. Participating were two U.S. marshals, two CIA representatives, and four Justice Department representatives, according to the summary.

A CIA official told the group the agency "anticipates problems at CIA headquarters between April 24 and May 26," according to the summary. "On April 26, intelligence is that a group intends to enter the building. In May, demonstrators plan to disrupt traffic near CIA building."

The CIA felt its "various buildings" in the District of Columbia were well-protected, but that it was concerned about CIA buildings in Rosslyn and Langley, according to the summary.

A CIA representative asked that U.S. marshals be stationed at CIA buildings in Rosslyn. Justice Department official Wood then said "marshals will start to study the CIA buildings in order to plan for protection."

The CIA then asked whether troops could be used at the headquarters building, the document shows.

In response to questions about how many troops might be needed to protect the headquarters building, a CIA representative said "about 500" would do the job.

No major protest ever materialized at CIA headquarters during the April-May, 1971, period.