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DES MOINES, IOWA, FEB. 18 (AP)--THE OFFICIAL WHO HEADS THE GOVERNMENT'S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SAID HERE TODAY HE DOUBTS THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) ACTED PROPERLY IN PROVIDING SECRET FINANCING FOR THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION.

RAMSEY CLARK, ACTING U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, MADE THE COMMENT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE WHILE IN DES MOINES FOR A SPEECH.

HE SAID THE AMERICAN PEOPLE "DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE GOVERNMENT INFLUENCING STUDENTS THROUGH MEANS THAT ARE OTHER THAN DIRECT OR OPEN."

CLARK EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS DEPARTMENT IS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE CIA AND HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE STUDENT ORGANIZATION AND FOUNDATIONS UNTIL HE READ ABOUT IT LAST WEEK.

"I THINK WE NEED TO OBTAIN ALL THE FACTS BEFORE WE MAKE A JUDGMENT," CLARK SAID. "BUT I ASSUME THAT THE CIA WAS TRYING TO ADVANCE THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES."

HE ADDED THAT HE IS NOT SURE THAT SUCH OPERATIONS ARE A PROPER FUNCTION OF THE CIA.

CLARK CAME HERE TO ADDRESS THE ANNUAL DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW ALUMNI DINNER.

CLAR, WHOSE FATHER IS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE TOM CLARK, WAS ASKED IF PRESIDENT JOHNSON MIGHT APPOINT HIM AS ATTORNEY GENERAL TO SUCCEED NICHOLAS KATZENBACH, WHO RESIGNED LAST OCTOBER. HE SAID IT WAS UP TO THE PRESIDENT.

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