

Army Still Has Files on Civilians

Washington

The Army said yesterday it found 9200 documents on activities of American civilians in its intelligence files more than four years after the records were supposed to have been purged.

Secretary of the Army Howard Callaway first disclosed the presence of such information last January but did not use any figures at the time.

In a memorandum to Congress made public yesterday, Callaway reviewed the situation and steps being taken to remedy it.

He said that "consideration is being given to whether any administrative action should be taken against any of the officials whose oversight or misunderstanding of the requirements" helped produce the problem.

The Army statement said actions have been underway to eliminate all such documents from the files, but the Army is holding the

material at the request of Congress while congressional investigations continue.

In addition, Callaway said, the Army has issued a new regulation laying out more stringent annual file review procedures "which should prevent this kind of inadvertent problem from recurring."

At the same time, Callaway said the Army is committed to a policy that "it is not the Army's business to know what American citizens are doing except when their activities appear to pose a criminal threat to the security of our armed forces or when the President has ordered out the Army to deal with a civil disturbance."

Callaway's memorandum, which went to Congress last month, said that 6900 of these documents pertain to activities of persons within the United States and 2300 overseas.

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