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WATERGATE SHOW BARRED BY U.S.I.A.

Facilities Denied to Foreign Broadcasters on Scandal

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 26 —

The United States Information Agency said today it was barring its facilities to foreign broadcasters sending feature programs abroad on the Watergate scandal since such programs "may be detrimental to United States interests."

The statement was prompted after the chief United States correspondent for the British Broadcasting Company reported last night that he had been refused permission to use the agency's studios for a television program on Watergate tonight.

Charles Wheeler said that although he had used the studios, near Capitol Hill, three previous times for Watergate stories he had been denied permission for a fourth television show by the agency's motion picture and television division.

Closest Facility Sought

The agency, in a statement today, said that in the past U.S.I.A. had provided facilities "as a courtesy to foreign broadcasters" when commercial outlets were not available, and "when such programs contribute to a mutuality of interests between the two countries."

Defending the denial to B.B.C., the agency said, "The television service determined it was not in the best interest of the United States to have its tax-supported facilities used for continued foreign television features on Watergate, especially since commercial facilities were available to the B.B.C."

The British corporation said that it usually used a commercial studio here, but had sought to use the U.S.I.A. facilities since they were closer to Capitol Hill. The program is a "call-in" in which British viewers telephone questions to the guest, in this case, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, a member of the Watergate committee. The program will be sent over commercial channels, the B.B.C. said.

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