

JUN 27 1975

An FBI 'Secret Army'

San Diego

The American Civil Liberties Union completed a report for Senate investigators yesterday alleging that the FBI recruited a band of right-wing terrorists and supplied them with money and weapons to attack young anti-war demonstrators.

The 5000-word account prepared for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence contains what ACLU lawyers described as "newly established evidence" purportedly linking the FBI to at least two assassination plots here.

The lawyers, H. Peter Young and Mark D. Rosenbaum of the ACLU Foundation to Southern California, said the allegations to be sent, probably today, to the Senate committee "document in detail" the FBI's sponsorship in 1971 and 1972 of a San Diego group calling itself "the Secret Army Organization."

Told of the ACLU assertions, a spokesman for the FBI said that the bureau had had "nothing to do" with the establishment of the so-called Secret Army Organization, "nor did we have anything to do with the

direction of its activities."

According to the ACLU report, the Secret Army Organization was set up "on instructions of F.B.I. officials" to serve as agents provocateurs, inciting disorders as a means of exposing "domestic radicals," particularly campus leaders of the New Left protesting the war in Southeast Asia.

The paramilitary extremist organization, consisting of about a dozen members locally with others scattered throughout southern California, was described by the ACLU as an outgrowth of an elaborate interagency espionage apparatus organized "at the direction of Richard M. Nixon" early in his administration to intimidate and silence domestic critics.

The group's acts of terrorism, allegedly carried out in San Diego on instructions from the FBI, range from espionage, vandalism and mail theft to bombings, assassination plots and shootings, according to the report.

The ACLU charges followed by two days the F.B.I.'s acknowledgement, in a 256-page document, that it conducted counterintelligence operations between

May, 1968, and April, 1971, under the code name, Coin-telpro. These were aimed at the New Left and designed to harass and discredit campus anti-war and leftist groups.

The ACLU maintained, however, that FBI sponsorship of the "Secret Army" terrorism continued into 1972.

The accusations contained in the report to the Senate committee go considerably beyond those of a \$10.6-million damage suit filed by ACLU attorneys in U.S. District Court here last January 6 on behalf of Peter G. Bohmer, a discharged economics professor at San Diego State University, and Paula Tharp, a companion.

Miss Tharp was wounded on Jan. 6, 1972, when shots were fired into Bohmer's Ocean Beach home here from an automobile carrying several members of the so-called Secret Army.

In subsequent court proceedings, it was brought out that Steven L. Christiansen, an FBI agent who was identified by court witnesses as the "control" for the Secret Army Organization, concealed in his home for nearly six months the automatic pistol used in the attack while the police were

searching for evidence to bring Miss Tharp's assailant to trial.

Bohmer, an avowed Marxist, and Miss Tharp, formerly employed by an underground newspaper twice wrecked in nighttime Secret Army raids, organized the San Diego convention coalition in mid-1971.

The coalition was formed to bring thousands of youthful demonstrators to San Diego to disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention before the convention site was switched to Miami Beach.

The ACLU report says that John Rasperry, whom it identified as an FBI informer, has admitted that, in the winter of 1971-1972, the bureau instructed him to assassinate Bohmer, but that the attempt was never carried out.

Rasperry is also quoted as saying that he was instructed to intercept and open Bohmer's mail and to plant several M-116 rifles in the former professor's possessions to facilitate his arrest.

In the \$10.6-million lawsuit pending in U.S. District Court here, former President Nixon's name heads a list of 58 defendants, including officials of the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Council and a half-dozen other Government Agencies, as well as most of the defendants in the Watergate case.

Mr. Nixon, according to Federal court records, accepted a summons at his home in San Clemente on January 14.

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