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E (260) PRECEDE NEW YORK FBI

WASHINGTON, OCT. 25 (AP)-THE FBI HAS AGENTS SERVING IN VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES AS EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHES, BUT BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE FBI REFUSED TO SAY TODAY WHETHER THEIR ROLE IS ALSO COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE DATA.

REPORTS THAT FBI AGENTS WERE SERVING ABROAD FIRST CAME UP EARLIER THIS YEAR DURING THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TROUBLES.

IT IS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT THE FBI HAS MEN AT U.S. EMBASSIES AS LEGAL ATTACHES IN SUCH PLACES AS LONDON, ROME, MEXICO CITY, BUENOS AIRES AND TOKYO.

THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE SAID TODAY THAT NORMALLY THE FIELD OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IS THE JEALOUSLY GUARDED DOMAIN OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA). IT ADDED THAT SOURCES HERE CONFIRM THAT JOHNSON HAS DIRECTED THE FBI INTO AT LEAST EIGHT KEY LATIN AMERICAN CITIES WHERE IT HAD NOT OPERATED SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

ONE OF THE FBI'S PRIME RESPONSIBILITIES IS MAINTENANCE OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES. IN LINE WITH THAT, IT IS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT IT HAS MEN ABROAD ON LIAISON WORK WITH U.S. FEDERAL AGENCIES AND POLICE AGENCIES WITHIN THOSE COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SCOTLAND YARD IN ENGLAND.

THE FUNCTION OF THE FBI MEN ABROAD IS PRIMARILY LIAISON. AS FAR AS IT IS KNOWN, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE FBI TO WORK IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN ITS LIAISON CAPACITY AND ALSO TO WORK AT TIMES WITH THE CIA IN ORDER TO GET A JOB DONE.

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WHEN THE MATTER OF FBI AGENTS ABROAD CAME UP LAST MAY, THE WASHINGTON POST SAID THAT JOHNSON HAD ORDERED FBI AGENTS INTO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO INVESTIGATE THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE REVOLT THERE.

ASKED ABOUT THE REPORT, GEORGE REEDY, THEN WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY, REPLIED, "THE ONLY THING I AM GOING TO SAY ON THIS IS THAT THE FBI AND THE CIA ARE WORKING JOINTLY AS THEY CUSTOMARILY DO ON ACTIVITIES THAT ARE CONNECTED WITH THE WELFARE OF OUR OWN COUNTRY."

"THE HERALD TRIBUNE," ETC., 4TH GRAF A83 UNDER NEW YORK DATELINE.

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ADVANCE FOR 6 A.M. EST (CORRECT) TODAY

(ADVANCE) NEW YORK, OCT. 25 (AP)-THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE SAID TODAY IT HAS LEARNED THAT UNDER ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON, THE BUSINESS OF INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION IN LATIN AMERICA-- AND PERHAPS THE REST OF THE WORLD AS WELL--IS GOING TO BE "AUGMENTED" BY FBI AGENTS.

NORMALLY, A STORY FROM WASHINGTON ADDED, THE FIELD OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IS THE JEALOUSLY GUARDED DOMAIN OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA).

BUT SOURCES IN WASHINGTON, THE STORY SAID, CONFIRM THAT JOHNSON HAS DIRECTED THE FBI INTO AT LEAST EIGHT KEY LATIN AMERICAN CITIES WHERE IT HAD NOT OPERATED SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

THE HERALD TRIBUNE STORY ALSO SAID IN PART:

THE FBI WOULD ACT--AND IN SOME CASES IS ALREADY ACTING-- TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT "AN INDEPENDENT NEW SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE DATA" ON MATTERS RELATING TO U.S. SECURITY.

THE CIA WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE MORE OR LESS AS IT HAS IN THE PAST IN MOST COUNTRIES, SOURCES SAID AND THE FBI AGENTS, WHO WOULD WORK IN A FAR LESS CLOAK-AND-DAGGER WAY, WILL CONCENTRATE ALMOST TOTALLY ON GATHERING INTELLIGENCE.

THE FBI, EXCEPT UNDER THE RAREST CIRCUMSTANCES, WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO CARRY OUT COVERT OPERATIONS--INVASIONS, ARMED INFILTRATION, SECRET SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION TO REGIMES AND OTHER OO7-TYPE PROJECTS--AS DOES THE CIA.

ONLY "TWO OR THREE MEN AND A SMALL STAFF" WILL MAKE UP THE FBI TEAM IN ANY COUNTRY, THE SOURCES SAID. THE EXCEPTION TO DATE, HOWEVER, IS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WHERE MORE THAN A SCORE OF FBI AGENTS WERE ORDERED INTO SANTO DOMINGO BY JOHNSON DURING THE CRISIS LAST MAY.

IT IS KNOWN, DESPITE ADMINISTRATION PROTESTS TO THE CONTRARY, THAT JOHNSON WAS SORELY DISMAYED BY THE WORK OF THE CIA DURING THE DOMINICAN CRISIS.

HIS DISPATCH OF THE FBI TO SANTO DOMINGO IS WIDELY REGARDED AS BOTH A REPUDIATION AND PUNISHMENT FOR THE CIA.

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