

# One Embassy a Month

Longer version, NYT, filed  
CIA (d).

## New Report on

## FBI Break-Ins

### 'Black-Bag'

### Burglars

New York

FBI agents broke into an average of one embassy a month in recent years, and in one Arab mission they met Israeli agents already there, saluted and walked away, Newsweek reports.

The magazine says in its latest issue that the agents broke into the embassies of Arab states, Poland, Yugoslavia, France and Japan, stole a coding machine from the Czechoslovak mission and muzzled a New York City police probe of a break-in at the apartment of a Soviet diplomat to the United Nations.

The magazine quotes Justice Department sources and present and former FBI staff for its story.

It says the FBI conducted about 1500 break-ins of embassies and missions, gangster hideouts and the headquarters of extremist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and the American Communist party.

"Embassy break-ins, averaging one a month by one estimate, were usually staged to get information that could help the national security agency break foreign codes."

Newsweek says the FBI agents were put in groups known as "Black-Bag Teams" or "Black-Bag Boys."

They dressed in suits and ties but did not carry guns, badges or credentials. It quotes a former agent as saying they were told "if you get caught, you're on your own."

The teams consisted of a locksmith, lookout and one or two men to do the ransacking. Sometimes a slugger was sent along to intercept unexpected visitors, the magazine says.

It says two sources reported that agents posing as garbage collectors smuggled an entire coding machine and a truckload of files from the Czechoslovak embassy in Washington about 15 years ago — and were so excited they forgot to take the garbage also.

Reuters