

SCHOOL-C.I.A. LINK DENIED AT INQUIRY

Michigan State Head Says
There Is Still No Proof

LANSING, Mich., May 16 (AP)—Two magazine writers and officials of Michigan State University debated before seven state legislators today whether the school was a front for United States spies in Vietnam.

John Hannah, Michigan State president, testified that it still had not been proved that anyone connected with a university advisory mission to South Vietnam was an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency. There is only a suspicion, he said.

The school, he said, halted countersubversion training for Vietnamese police because "we were convinced a university shouldn't place itself under suspicion."

The school helped train Vietnamese policemen and other government employes under a Federal Government contract. Its advisers were in Vietnam from 1955 to 1962, although the size of the mission was reduced from 54 members to eight in 1959.

Warren J. Hinckle 3d, executive editor and associate publisher of Ramparts magazine, which ran an article last month that called Michigan State a "university on the make," stood behind charges that the school had served as a C.I.A. front.

"A university shouldn't become an extension of any government," Mr. Hinckle declared. "It should be a citadel of academic research."

"We [Ramparts] disapprove of their [the school's] work because it allowed a dictatorship to be established in Vietnam," he told the legislative committee. "They were the independent observers there."

Stanley K. Scheinbaum, one-time on-campus coordinator of the aid mission in Vietnam who wrote the Ramparts article, told the legislators that he was advised on taking his position that he should not expect to be made aware of the activities of the C.I.A. men in the mission.

Representative Jack Faxon, Democrat of Detroit, who is chairman of the committee, said the panel would try to issue a report in about six weeks—"and bring the conflicting statements into some kind of harmony."

Mr. Hinckle said members of

the university staff has contradicted Mr. Hannah, but Mr. Faxon said he believed the school president was "technically correct" that it was uncertain whether there ever were C.I.A. agents with the mission.

He said he planned to try to obtain concrete evidence "from an agency that actually knows." He has already written to Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Republican of Massachusetts, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, he said.

One object of the committee hearing, Mr. Faxon indicated, was to develop guidelines for overseas projects by Michigan universities.

"We want to be in a position where we won't get stuck with a Vietnam again," he told newsmen.

Mr. Hannah said Michigan State had already changed its procedure. The school now will limit its overseas projects to educational programs involving universities or education ministries overseas, he said.

"We have reorganized ourselves on the campus so decisions are made by the people who will have to live with and staff it," he said.

The school's decision in starting the technical aid mission in 1955 "at the time seemed to be wise," he declared.

The men hired to teach countersubversion, he said, were brought in because the university's Police Administration School had no specialists in countersubversion.

"I defy anybody to see anything in their records to show a connection with the C.I.A.," he said.

However, Mr. Hannah added, "Not long after the mission got started, our people became convinced these people had C.I.A. affiliations. We decided this was something we should get out of, that it was too tricky for a university to handle."