

CIA spying 'ongoing since 1947'

Knight News Service

WASHINGTON — Representative Lucien Nedzi, chairman of the special House subcommittee on Intelligence, says the National Security Council — which reports directly to the President — “has been aware of some, perhaps all” of the questionable domestic spying operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Michigan Democrat said CIA activities within the U.S. had been going on almost since the agency's founding in 1947 and that he expected more disclosures of possibly illegal operations.

But because of loopholes in the National Security Act, Nedzi said, it is not clear if the law has been violated. And the CIA, he added, claims that much of its domestic spying has been necessary to protect its agents and sources of information here and abroad.

Although Nedzi refused to discuss specific incidents, a source familiar with intelligence activities here said the CIA often wiretapped and spied on its own agents here to protect them or to be sure they were loyal.

As far as he knows, Nedzi said, the domestic activities of the CIA have not been as extensive as was alleged in a New York Times story last weekend, but he acknowledged that CIA officials whom he has questioned may not have told him all.

“There is some indication that even the CIA directors may not have known what was going on in the compartments below them,” Nedzi said.

Nevertheless, he predicted that “as this unfolds, there will be more and more reports of incidents that are questionable. It is my judgment that some of the things done have gone beyond the bounds of impropriety.”

Early next year Nedzi's subcommittee will begin an investigation into the domestic activities of the CIA. And if Nedzi gets his way, some CIA operations, for the first time, will be made public, for he intends to hold open hearings.



MICHAEL HARRINGTON
Seeks CIA curbs

According to the New York Times report, the bulk of the CIA's domestic intelligence operations took place during the Nixon years and was aimed primarily at groups opposing the Vietnam war.

Congressman Michael Harrington (D. Mass.) who suspects that neither Secretary of State Henry Kissinger nor any congressional committee will get to the bottom of the CIA operations, filed suit Friday in an effort to persuade the courts to take action.

Harrington asked for the right to learn the details of CI involvement in the affairs of other nations and in domestic spying. And he asked the federal courts to prohibit the CIA from engaging in further domestic spying or interfering in the social, political and economic affairs of foreign powers.

Harrington, who is represented by the same law firm which successfully defended Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers case, charged that the CIA was violating the National Security Act, which created the agency.

The law says that the CIA “shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement powers or internal security functions,” Harrington's suit noted. And the agency's purpose is to coordinate the intelligence activities of various government departments.

(Another CIA story on Page 15.)