

Ex-Army Agent Says He Briefed C.I.A. in '67 on Radicals in U.S.

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By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 10—A Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina.

former Army domestic intelligence agent said today that he gave a secret briefing on radical activities to the Central Intelligence Agency in late 1967 and realized then that the agency had been involved extensively in collecting intelligence inside the United States.

Ralph Stein of New York, who served as a military counterintelligence analyst from 1965 to 1968, said in a telephone interview that the briefing "convinced me that they [the C.I.A.] had extensive information on domestic personalities and organizations."

At the time of the briefing, students and other groups were increasingly vocal in their opposition to the Vietnam war policies of the Johnson Administration, and the Army had already mounted its own domestic intelligence operation. The military's spying program was ended in 1970 after Congressional protests.

In a related development, the White House said today that Erwin N. Griswold, the former Solicitor General, had explained to President Ford his involvement last year in the investigation by the Watergate special prosecutor's office in the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation case.

Mr. Griswold did so, according to the White House, before his appointment by the President to the "blue-ribbon" panel on allegations of C.I.A. domestic spying was announced last Sunday.

Law School Graduate

Mr. Stein, a recent graduate of Hofstra Law School, said that his briefing for the C.I.A. had been arranged by the agency's liaison officer assigned to the Army counter-intelligence offices.

The session was limited to three or four elderly C.I.A. men, Mr. Stein said, "who asked a lot of questions that indicated that they had already carefully examined some of the underground publications in question—such as The Berkeley Barb and S.D.S. [Students for a Democratic Society] manuals."

"They also seemed to have investigated the personalities," he said.

Mr. Stein said that the experience had disturbed him and, after leaving the Army, he informed at least one Senator to no avail of his suspicions about C.I.A. domestic activities.

On Feb. 24, 1971, he joined other former counter-intelligence men in testifying about the Army's spying program before a Senate subcommittee on constitutional rights, under the chairmanship of Senator Sam J.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that according to reliable sources, Mr. Griswold had been told by the special prosecutor last year that he was under investigation for possible perjury in his Senate and subsequent grand jury testimony in connection with the prosecutor's inquiry into the I.T.T. case. He was not indicted.

Dispute Explained

The I.T.T. dispute revolved around the Nixon Administration's decision in 1971 to stop antitrust action against the corporation and reach an out-of-court settlement that critics said favored I.T.T.

The Times's article noted that Ron Nessen, the White House Press secretary, was unable to say whether Mr. Griswold had fully informed the President of his involvement before accepting the job.

Mr. Nessen announced this afternoon, however, that Mr. Griswold had "explained" the matter to the President shortly before accepting the post. Mr. Nessen said that Mr. Ford had concluded that there was nothing to disqualify Mr. Griswold.

In a subsequent telephone conversation this evening, Mr. Nessen further said that White House aides had also discussed the matter with officials in the special prosecutor's office and then "went ahead" with the appointment.

Army Has Some Files

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 (UPI)

—The Army announced today that it still had some files on civilians that it had earlier told Congress had been destroyed.

The Army said that the microfilm file in Washington was screened in 1971, and that fact was reported to Congress. A more recent check, however, disclosed that not all the forbidden information on civilians had been purged.

The material was mixed in with information on foreign intelligence services, foreign terrorist groups and the like, the Army said.

It said that Army Secretary Howard H. Callaway had ordered that no one be allowed access to the files until they had been rescreened and purged.

He also ordered an investigation to determine why the previous orders had not been carried out.

The Army spied on civilians in the late nineteen-sixties as part of a program begun under the Johnson Administration to keep track of militants. Such surveillance was banned in 1971, and existing records were to be destroyed.