

CIA Severing Media Ties

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency said yesterday it will no longer have any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time reporters accredited to any U.S. news media, and will "as soon as feasible" end existing arrangements.

No names of any journalists who are now CIA associates or who have ever cooperated with the CIA will ever be made public, the agency said. The same will apply to any American clergyman or missionary who has helped the agency.

The CIA, apparently bowing to pressure from Congress, the public and the news media, said in an unexpected statement:

"Effective immediately, CIA will not enter into any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network or station.

"As soon as feasible, the agency will bring existing relationships with individuals in these groups into conformity with this new policy.

"CIA has no secret paid or

contractual relationship with any American clergyman or missionary. This practice will be continued as a matter of policy."

The statement, brought by messenger late yesterday to news media offices in Washington, said the agency "will continue to welcome information volunteered by such individuals."

It said the agency acted because of "genuine concern recently expressed about CIA relations with newsmen and churchmen."

"Over the years," the statement said, "the CIA has had relationships with individuals in many walks of American life. These relationships, many of a voluntary and unpaid nature, have reflected the desire of Americans to help their country. Such relationships have been conducted by the agency with the clear intent of furthering its foreign intelligence mission and have not been aimed at influencing or improperly acting on any American institution.

"The agency does not believe there has been any impropriety on its part in the limited use made of persons connected in some way with American media, church and missionary organizations. Nonetheless, CIA recognizes the special

status afforded these institutions under our Constitution and in order to avoid any appearance of improper use by the agency, the director of central intelligence (George Bush) has decided to a revised policy to govern agency with these groups."

But names will never be revealed, it said.

"It is agency policy not to divulge the names of cooperating Americans," the statement said. "In this regard CIA will not make public, now or in the future, the names of any cooperating journalists or churchmen."

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