

EXOTIC LIFE AS AGENT

# Mystery Death Hides Student's Ties to CIA

BY STUART H. LOORY  
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Before S. Avrea Ingram Jr. of Talladega, Ala., died mysteriously in an out-of-the-way New York hotel room at the age of 30, he spent the exotic last four years of his life living where the action was—in domestic and international student politics.

Ingram was graduated from the ranks of the National Student Assn. to become an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency. He was, in fact, one of the two students who first permanently hitched the two organizations together—creating a relationship that went much deeper than one which merely created pro-American propaganda abroad.

Ingram's transition tells much about the beginnings of a relation-

This report on the CIA and its dealings with the National Student Assn. and other groups is based on research and interviews by members of The Times Washington Bureau. On Monday, The Times will look at foundations, some linked to the CIA, and their impact on American life.

ship that eventually wound "around every facet of American life that has any connection outside the United States," as Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) put it last week.

**Death Conceals Facts**

But Ingram's death conceals much about how the CIA originally got into the business of subsidizing the international programs of private groups from labor, students, women, secondary teachers, academics, and intellectuals.

The NSA-Ingram-CIA link is specific. Ingram was:

—International vice president of NSA for two terms from September, 1951, to September, 1953, during the period the CIA gave the first of its regular payments to support NSA's international program in the propaganda fight against international communism. The president of NSA that first year was William T. Dentzer, now head of the United States AID Mission to Peru.

—Associate secretary of the coordinating secretariat of the International Student Conference in Leiden, Holland, from 1953 to 1956.



S. Avrea Ingram Jr. (W) Wirephoto

The ISC also received CIA funds according to the disclosures of the past two weeks. In this job, Ingram succeeded Dentzer who left NSA after his presidency to join ISC.

**Helped Hungarian Refugees**

—An ISC field worker in Vienna during and just after the Hungarian uprising of October, 1956. His overt job was to help student-freedom fighters fleeing Hungary to resettle and resume their studies in the West. What else he may have been doing is not known.

Then, suddenly, Ingram was dead. He had returned to this country after Vienna and took up residence in the Irving Hotel at 26 Gramercy Park, New York.

At noon on Feb. 5, 1957, a maid opened the door to Room 19 in the hotel and found Ingram lying nude on the floor with a leather belt around his neck attached to the knob of a desk drawer.

The New York medical examiner called the death "asphyxia by hanging" and said the indications were suicide, some of his friends and his

Continued from 5th Page  
tion of Ingram's death certificate.

The certificate listed Ingram as a research consultant working for a David Davis of 431 E. 20th St., New York. David Davis served from 1952 to 1961 as executive director of the Foundation, which is now headed by Harry Lunn, another former NSA president.

By the testimony of all concerned, the CIA partnership with the American and anti-Communist international student movement started innocently enough.

The Avrea Ingrams and William Dentzers were students during the Korean war. They were liberal intellectuals who saw a need to support causes of social revolution both at home and abroad. NSA received condemnation as a Communist front from many quarters because of its liberal stands for civil rights for American Negroes, against the then rampaging Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, (R-Wis.), for academic freedom, against colonialism and, finally, against totalitarianism in any form, including communism.

**Money Problems**

It was not easy for the organization to raise money. Student dues from constituent student governments were certainly not enough to fight the well-organized, highly subsidized, Communist-run International Union of Students, headquartered in Prague. Private sources would not give to the liberal students.

American government sources have said they felt they could not give openly and still withstand the right-wing onslaughts of McCarthy and his supporters.

So the students, frustrated in their attempts to raise money from private sources and other government agencies, found themselves in touch with the CIA. There was sor precedent.

In 1950, NSA had to send a pro-Ar delegation to a congress in counter the Communist group of almost



William T. Dentzer (W) Wirephoto

as the delegates did not that CIA had financed the trip.

"It was all cleared up in about two weeks, and we got our passports back West said. "They had confused with the other (Communist-sympathizing) delegation."

Sixteen years later, West is clear on one point: CIA money did not in any way mean CIA control of his position nor was he compelled to make any report on his activities or associations to the CIA. However, State Department interrogators did ask him for information about fellow Americans which he refused to give.

In the early years Dentzer and Ingram initiated their permanent arrangement, the not intervene in

The year 19 the height of Washington concerned nationalist penet national scientist stud "Win' min' abr th s

Please Turn to Page 5, Sec. B