

C.I.A. Gets Pledge Of Secrecy for List Of Aides Abroad

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 14— At the insistence of the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department's biographic register is going to acquire an air of secrecy.

The book is a who's who guide to American officials engaged in international operations. It has been a valuable information source for diplomats, hostesses, Congressmen, librarians, newsmen and, the C.I.A. thinks, spies.

To hide some of its spies in embassies abroad, the agency had to list them in the book. But that has made them vulnerable to discovery by attentive readers. Hence the problem and a prolonged argument about the future of the Register.

The debate prevented publication in 196 and delayed the edition for 1966 until the C.I.A. won assurance that it would no longer be distributed outside the Government or sold to the public. It is believed that the next volume, due in July, will be kept under lock in Government offices, for "limited official use only."

The Biographic Register first appeared under its present title in 1951. The last issue, dated 1966, and about the size and shape of a Bronx telephone book, is available from the Government Printing Office for \$3.50.

Its 576 pages list about 14,000 employees of the State Department, Agency for International Development, Peace Corps, Arm Control and Disarmament Agency, United States Information Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service—and, inter alia, the C.I.A.

Many of the agency's foreign operatives work under the cover of an embassy position. In friendly countries, they are known to the local government and maintain open contact with local security agencies, but use the embassy listing to avoid embarrassment.

Elsewhere, the embassy listing is intended to hide their presence.

Secrecy Dropped on Listing Diplomats

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 15 — High officials of the State Department overruled their subordinates and the Central Intelligence Agency today and ordered that the Biographic Register, a listing of diplomatic employees and some from intelligence be published as a public document.

A State Department spokesman announced that the next edition of the Register "will be published unclassified as has been the custom in the past."

The Register amounts to a who's who of Americans engaged in international operations. Most of the short biographies are of Foreign Service officers but some Central Intelligence officials assigned to

American diplomatic posts are listed.

Well informed readers of the biographies can sometimes determine which of the employees belong to the C.I.A. — a fact that prompted the intelligence agency to suggest to the State Department that future editions of the Register be issued under the security classification of "for official use only."

The department's Bureau of Administration had decided to go along with the C.I.A.'s request. But the decision had not been approved by the bureau's superiors, and the high-ranking officials had second thoughts today after newspaper reports about the future classification of the document had appeared. Another factor entering into

the high-level review of the decision was the intervention of Representative John E. Moss, Democrat of California, who is chairman of the House Government Information subcommittee. Mr. Moss deplored the proposed secrecy as "incredibly stupid," and said he would call a public hearing if the State Department went ahead with the secrecy.