

The CIA in Britain

FRANK O'NEILL — prominently and prominently on Page One of the London Times — and the ever-busy U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has infiltrated 30 or 40 operatives into Britain's trade unions in its endless search and destroy pursuit of "subversive elements."

The Times quotes a former CIA agent to the effect that the agency suspects "sinister motives" behind the ongoing succession of British strikes and has therefore moved into the situation because British intelligence agencies are unable to act "really effectively."

The very intrusion of American agents into this situation is quite likely to inflame British resentments, and the supercilious excuse brought forward to justify it is certain to add insult to injury.

(Although the U.S. Embassy in London has denied the reports of the London Times, disclaimers of CIA activity are not universally believed.)

WITH THE POSSIBLE INTENT to soothe any such outpourings of animosity, the Times suggests that perhaps the CIA agents were dispatched to protect the United States from any Arab extremist attacks that might be hatching in the labor movement.

WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS any such justification, the reported intermeddling of a U.S. governmental agency in the internal affairs of another friendly country is deplorable, and the CIA would do well to get its men home.