

A Report on What CIA Looks For

The Central Intelligence Agency, since the early 1950s, has been employing seemingly private American firms to make personality studies of prospective and actual espionage agents, Rolling Stone Magazine reported yesterday.

The magazine, in its July 18 issue, discussed the CIA's financing of two organizations in particular, and said the agency first became involved in promoting outside psychological research about 20 years ago.

These activities began, the article maintained, when CIA personnel set up a New York foundation called the Human Ecology Fund. The fund's ostensible purpose was to promote academic research into human behavior, but a former employee charged it virtually was under a CIA "proprietary."

"What most interested the agency was behavior that could tip off the CIA that a foreigner might be induced into becoming a spy; behavior that could show that an already recruited agent was not telling the truth; or behavior that might be exploited in making sure that a spy stayed under firm CIA control," the article said.

Two former employees quoted in the story said the fund provided a legitimate

basis to approach anyone in the academic community anywhere in the world."

A number of American and foreign professors who received grants from the fund — including a European who did extensive studies on alcohol — were not informed their work was being financed by CIA funds, the article alleged.

The foundation was dissolved in the mid-1960s, but a 1/3 former employee, John W. Gittinger, and two other ex-CIA psychologists had by then already established another firm, Psychological Assessment Associates in Washington.

Gittinger denied that the firm was formed by the CIA, but did concede that CIA contracts have comprised the major parts of its financing.

We still have CIA contracts," Gittinger told the Associated Press in Washington, but won't have for long with all this publicity."