CIA

Closer Look at CIA Dope Link

Jack Anderson

THE CENTRAL Intelligence Agency has had an undercover relationship with both narcotics and customs agents.

This raises the question of whether the CIA has hidden its illegal domestic operations behind other federal agencies.

We recently reported, for example, that federal narcotics agents maintained secret, bugged apartments for the CIA in San Francisco and New York City during the early 1960s.

The CIA used these apartments, according to our sources, as sex traps to blackmail foreign diplomats into becoming informants.

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WE HAVE now dug deeper into the CIA narcotics connection. Here are our findings:

● Several years ago, the CIA trained 13 narcotics agents at its supersecret counterespionage school. Most of these agents are still working for the Drug Enforcement Agency.

● We have the names of 64 former CIA employees who now work for the DEA. About half are assigned to the Intelligence Unit at DEA's Washington headquarters. The others are scattered in seven foreign countries and nine U.S. cities.

● In another operation, the drug agency laundered payments through the CIA to an informant who travels abroad and picks up intelligence on narcotics. Because the man is still an active DEA informant, we won't identify him.

● William Hood, who retired shortly after press reports linked him to CIA domestic spying operations, was issued a set of federal narcotics credentials. We have established that he used them at least once in New York City.

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BOTH CIA and DEA spokesmen insist that the working relationship between the two agencies was part of the war against drugs.

When the DEA was reorganized in July 1973, CIA Chief William Colby reviewed the interagency cooperation with DEA boss John Bartels. They agreed to sever all domestic ties.

Bartels has also sent an internal memo to all former CIA agents now on the DEA payroll to ask whether they still have secret CIA links. All replies have been negative.

Footnote: Our associate Bob Owens also contacted many of the former CIA agents. All denied any continuing association with the spy agency.

(Written with Les Whitten)