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BOOKS

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'CIA Diary' on Sale

By Judith Martin

"Inside the Company: CIA Diary," the book by ex-agent Philip Agee that caused a furor in the Central Intelligence Agency by naming names, is on sale at Discount Book Shop and Sidney Kramer Books, as it is in other bookstores around the country.

The British and Canadian Penguin paperbacks, being snapped up at \$2.95, are marked "not for sale in the U.S.A." The fact that the book was not readily available here after its publication in England earlier this year has made it something of a collector's item. "They're just walking out the door," said David Tenney of Kramer's.

But widely discussed fear of CIA blocking action and libel suits had nothing to do with the laws against, with the laws against importing the book, for which an American publisher is now being negotiated by the author's agent. An 1891 copyright law, with a labor protection clause designed to

protect the interests of American book manufacturers, kept them out until several American booksellers decided to import them anyway.

It is illegal to import foreign-made books in English by American authors or foreigners living in the United States if copyright is claimed on the material, according to John Atwood, who heads the U.S. Customs Bureau's copyright section.

The Customs Bureau's experience with violators is mostly with American publishers who have contracted out the printing of books abroad, said Atwood. The penalty is forfeiture of the books. He added that he knew of no instance when "Inside the Company" had been found to be imported illegally.

Kramer's imported 200 copies from "London distributors whom we deal with regularly," and was advised by a lawyer that the law was sufficiently murky to make a case.