

CIA Asks New Probe Over Slain Agent

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency has asked the Justice Department to determine whether federal laws were violated in connection with the publication of the true identity of Richard Welch, the CIA's station chief in Athens who was murdered there last month.

A CIA spokesman, who was asked about the agency's request, said only that "we have submitted the entire matter to the Department of Justice for its consideration."

Justice Department sources said the department's Criminal and Civil Rights divisions have been studying since late last week the possibility that criminal statutes were violated by the Organizing Committee for the Fifth Estate, the group that publishes Counter-spy magazine here.

In a recent issue, the magazine identified Welch and several dozen other persons as CIA station chiefs.

Sources said the department is also studying the possibility that in addition to violating the law by making the disclosures, the group had violated Welch's civil rights.

New York Times

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