

JARY 13, 1976

★ B1

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CIA Gave Area Police Training and Gear

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Washington-area police departments got special CIA training in the late 1960s and early 1970s in surveillance techniques, surreptitious entry, lockpicking and use of explosives and were lent CIA equipment, according to documents the agency has released.

Police in the District of Columbia and Alexandria as well as in Fairfax, Arlington, Prince George's and Montgomery counties apparently were given special access to CIA training and equipment because of "the need to combat the tangible threats posed by radical terrorist groups within their jurisdiction," according to one CIA document released to The Washington Post under a Freedom of Information Act request.

Although the agency, in various interoffice memorandums, said such activities were legal under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, the large-scale training of local police apparently was discontinued in 1973 because of widespread publicity surrounding its disclosures. However, under its charter, the CIA is prohibited from engaging in domestic law enforcement activities.

In a Sept. 7, 1972, memorandum to then-CIA Director Richard Helms, CIA security director Howard J. Osborn recommended discontinuing some of the police training until the Watergate issue had died down. "If you approve," the memo stated, "I would like to continue these courses (in covert photography and locks and picks) quietly and discreetly.

"All police representatives attending are given a strong briefing on the agency's passion for anonymity, and I know that you know that our friendly police departments have always respected this, and we have never had a leak of any kind.

"I have some reservations about offering them a basic course in audio surveillance at this time," Osborn said. "If you agree, we can defer his aspect of police training to some future date after the Watergate incident has been put to bed one way or another."

In December, 1972, The New York Times published an article outlining CIA training of members of the New York City police force. The Rockefeller commission report, released last June, disclosed that in addition to CIA training of police in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles,

San Francisco and Miami, the agency also had conducted classes and seminars for officers and officials of local Washington-area police departments.

The newly obtained documents, giving specific dates and circumstances surrounding training of local police, were initially requested six months ago by The Washington Star, which the last two days has published information contained in the documents. The identical documents were released yesterday to The Washington Post.

At least one local police official, Arlington Chief Roy C. McLaren, has been requested by the House Select Intelligence Committee to provide information concerning the relationship of his department with the CIA. In
See DOCUMENTS, B2, Col. 5

DOCUMENTS, From B1

an Aug. 21 letter to the committee, McLaren said that "Prior to 1973, the CIA gave several members of the department training in lock-picking, surveillance techniques, surreptitious entry, forced entry, explosives and photography."

All names of local police officials and officers, and most CIA names are deleted from the agency's documents.

The documents describe a series of CIA-run classes held at undisclosed locations, beginning in 1967 with a seminar attended by "high-ranking officials" of the D.C., Arlington and Fairfax police departments. The seminar presentations included "demonstrations of explosives and explosive devices, an exhibit of foreign weaponry, air operations and paramilitary displays, as well as a general tour of the two training sites."

In 1969, the documents said, the CIA "Division on Vietnam Moratorium Mobilization in Washington", provided D.C. police with a "mobile communications system...eight Radio cars and ...two agent personnel assigned to each vehicle." The presence of CIA personnel at the demonstrations, the document said, enabled the CIA to personally monitor demonstration activities that might be directed toward their own facilities in downtown Washington.

According to one memo, "the entire (moratorium) operation should be regarded as extremely successful and productive...the demonstrators rarely equated the POV's (privately owned vehicles) with the MPD (metropolitan police department) and, in most instances, took them to be news media vehicles."

The documents also outline the following police-CIA activities:

—In 1968-69, 18 D.C. police officers were given courses on locks and picks, photo surveillance and surreptitious

entry. The courses, which cost "approximately \$1,200, were paid for by the CIA.

—An undated memo described a conference held May 16-17, 1970, attended by police representatives from Boston, Washington, Fairfax, Montgomery and Arlington counties, on "the demonstration of current monitoring and alarm systems...display of counter-audio equipment and techniques."

—A telex, dated Feb. 12, 1971, calling for a CIA representative to meet former Fairfax Police Chief William L. Durrer in Puerto Rico, where he was vacationing, and provide him with a rental car paid for by the CIA. The incident was described in the Rockefeller report, but the police official involved was not named.

—In April, 1971, the CIA paid round-trip transportation for representatives from several cities throughout the country, as well as representatives of the D.C. police and Virginia State Police, to a two-day seminar here on explosives.

—Another memo dated April 9, 1971, authorizes a meeting between the CIA and representatives of the Montgomery County police to discuss problems "affecting the latter's covert audio operations."

—A request by the intelligence division of the D.C. police department for "construction of an audio transmitting device...identical to items previously supplied the requestor."

—A meeting in May, 1971, with Montgomery County Police Chief Kenneth W. Watkins to "discuss request for agency 'P- to provide additional audio surveillance transmitters."

—An Oct. 18, request by D.C. police for special training in telephone taps and disguise techniques.

—Discussion of a 1972 request by the Fairfax County police for two pairs of night-viewing binoculars.

—A May 19, 1972, discussion of a request by D.C. police to be "briefed on quick and 'messy' entry, such as door jacks, dent pullers, etc....surreptitious entry methods which other metro police groups have received."

—Discussion and confirmation of two five-day training courses in 1972 on photo surveillance and locksmithing to representatives from Montgomery, Prince George's, Fairfax and Arlington.

In all cases where the cost of such classes is outlined, the CIA apparently paid the expenses.

Although most former and

current metropolitan area police chiefs reached by The Post yesterday and Sunday recalled, if only vaguely, that they had sent officers to the CIA for training, some said they had never heard of such courses.

According to Montgomery Chief Watkins, "that training had been offered to us as having been techniques that had been developed overseas and were available to local law enforcement."

John B. Layton, who served as D.C. chief from 1964 through August, 1969, said he did not "have any recollections of training programs . . . or meetings with the CIA," but, he said, "I don't think it would be appropriate to go into the details."

James S. McAuliffe, chief in Montgomery County in the late 1960s, said that although he did not recall any specific training or borrowing of equipment, CIA "agents would drop in every once in a while to talk about anything in general. Police are pretty friendly with agents."

Most police officials said they did not request the training, but rather, accepted it when it was offered by the CIA.

In the documents, there is some confusion over whether the CIA or the local police initiated the training sessions.