

CIA Agents' Pose as Journalists Reported

Longer version, by Walter Pincus,
Washington filed CIA/d. knew them to be CIA agents.

The Central Intelligence Agency had 11 full-time agents working overseas last year posing as journalists for American and foreign organizations, according to the draft report of the House Intelligence Committee.

The report says 15 television, radio, newspaper and magazine companies are cooperating with the agency in arrangements whereby the CIA agents "write nothing at all," although five of them are supposed to be representation organizations of "major general news impact."

The committee report does not list the news organizations involved.

In its introduction to a five-page section entitled, "Manipulation of the Media," the report says, "The free flow of information, vital to a responsible and credible press, has been threatened as a result of CIA's use of the world media for cover and for clandestine information-gathering."

The report charges that CIA employment of American freelance writers and part-time journalists working for U.S. news organizations "is usually without the knowledge or agreement of the employers back home."

In fact, the committee report says "Publishers have been unable, despite strenuous effort, to learn from the agency which, if any, of their employees have had a clandestine intelligence functions."

Some CIA information, the report said, "Move from one bona fide press position to another without ever making employes aware of their past or present CIA status."

These contrast to the 11 full-time journalists whose employers

The part-time journalists, the report says, "Are often directed to insert agency-composed 'news' articles into foreign publications and wire services."

Although, according to the report, the "CIA does not intentionally propagandize in this country, CIA insensitivity to the possibility of its adulterating news digested by Americans is indicated by its frequent manipulation of Reuters wire service dispatches — which regularly appear in U.S. media."

Reuters is a British international news wire whose dispatches are carried in many American newspapers.

A spokesman for Reuters in New York said yesterday there would be no comment on the committee's allegation until Reuters officials have "had time to study it."

The committee report noted that agency use of American journalists and U.S.-controlled news organizations as cover for the CIA "has been tightened somewhat" since 1973 when regulations were changed to require high administration approval for any new arrangements.

The committee said, however, that "foreign nationals" in journalism still "can be used without" getting such approval.

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