

C.I.A.

C.I.A. Declines Specific Comment On Ties With Brooklyn Professor

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The Central Intelligence Agency said yesterday that it would "not deprive people from voluntarily offering information to their Government," but it declined specific comment on its involvement with a Brooklyn College faculty member.

Dr. John W. Kneller, the college's president, assigned Donald R. Reich, provost, to make an official inquiry into charges raised by the political science department late Wednesday that Michael Selzer, an assistant professor, had violated academic standards by what the department said was "agreement to engage in covert intelligence-gathering" for the C.I.A.

Professor Selzer has denied involvement in any "covert" program, telling newsmen he had agreed only to a request to pass on anything interesting he might by happenstance learn on trips abroad. He is currently on medical leave in Jerusalem, slated to return Feb. 3, and he said he would fight any disciplinary action—on which he is assured full due process.

C.I.A. Will 'Hear Out Any Citizen'

A spokesman for the C.I.A. said it "has a policy of refraining from comment on individual cases," but added:

"We have 30-odd offices of our domestic collection division which will hear out any citizen who would like to offer information to the Government. They have been in existence about 25 years, and they would not be around if there were not enough Americans willing to cooperate with their Government."

The spokesman suggested that most people would regard it wasteful to spend large sums otherwise for "extensive operations abroad to gather information which is overt and which is readily available from knowledgeable American citizens here at home."

The effort to discipline or even oust Professor Selzer may be the first based on alleged C.I.A. roles. George Bush, the C.I.A. director, last February ruled out any paid or contractual relationships with newsmen and churchmen, on the ground of their special status under the Constitution, but there is no policy against similar collaboration with members of other occupations.

The report by Brooklyn College's political science department cited policy statements, including a 1976 resolution by the American Association of University Professors, that intelligence agencies' exploitation of scholars "has risked undermining the credibility of published research and risked compromising the position of academics."

It also quoted a resolution last September by the council of the American Political Science Association opposing government involvement of scholars "in covert intelligence operations under the guise of academic research."

The council urged nonparticipation in any government intelligence activities "unless the sponsorship is fully disclosed" to colleagues, students and the individuals affected.

In Washington, the university professors' group said its resolution last June was based on the Senate investigation led by Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, which implied that the C.I.A. might have involved universities and faculty members in covert activities.

The Political Science Association's recommendations were virtually identical to the rest of the text of the professorial association's resolution, and followed its proposal that "specific professional groups adopt such policy statements."

Previous stories on Michael Selzer not clipped.