

Dissidence Unit Has Dossier on 14,000

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WASHINGTON, April 1 — A Department of Justice intelligence unit that has replaced an Army Intelligence detachment as the Government's main watchman of political dissidence has compiled computerized dossiers on nearly 14,000 Americans.

Officials in the department say that the Interdivisional Information Unit, known as I.D.I.U., concentrates on black militants, opponents of the war in Vietnam and New Left advocates of overthrow of the nation's political and economic system.

But it also maintains dossiers on elected political officials and moderates who are thought to condone or stimulate civil disobedience. One official says that "anybody like that, no matter what his politics are or what his position might be, would go into the file."

In addition, the unit collects information on those considered right wing extremists, such as members of the John Birch Society, the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party.

Names Withheld

The official declined to reveal the specific names on file other than those publicly identified as agitators, such as Renie Davis and David Lellinger, both American leftists.

The operations of I.D.I.U. which was set up by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark during the Johnson Administration in 1967, are another facet of the Government's increasingly pervasive collection of information about Americans.

Mr. Clark could not be reached for comment.

This controversial issue was recently explored by a Senate subcommittee under the direction of Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina.

During those hearings, a former Military Intelligence officer, Christopher H. Pyle, testified that I.D.I.U. had supplanted the Army in collecting information on political dissidence. But his testimony lacked details from official sources.

The primary purpose of I.D.I.U.'s data gathering, according to Robert Mardian, Assistant Attorney General in charge of internal security, is to permit the Government to make an "adequate, measured response to the civil disorders that may arise."

I.D.I.U. is particularly active

now in analyzing intelligence gathered on persons likely to be involved in a series of anti-war demonstrations scheduled throughout April and May. Plans for violence are receiving especially intensive scrutiny.

Operations Center

When a civil disorder is anticipated, or one begins unexpectedly, the intelligence unit becomes a 24-hour operations center to feed information to Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who is responsible for planning the Government's response.

The unit is headed by R. Richards Rolaap, 30 years old, a lawyer who worked with Richard G. Kleindienst, now the Deputy Attorney General, during President Nixon's 1968 election campaign. Mr. Rolaap was a special assistant to Mr. Kleindienst until several weeks ago.

IDIU gets about 90 per cent of its information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The rest comes from the news media and an occasional report from the Army, the Secret Service and other Federal agencies.

Documents stolen from the F. B. I. office in Media, Pa., show that the bureau obtains its information from paid and unwitting informers, local police departments, telephone company officials and operators, bank officers, postal officials and university registrars, plus direct F. B. I. agent observation and possibly by wiretapping and electronic listening devices.

That information is screened initially for pertinence and verified for accuracy by the F. B. I. before being passed on to the intelligence unit. Most of it is gathered on F. B. I. initiative and only occasionally on request from the unit.

Types of Information

The intelligence analysts in IDIU then review the F. B. I. reports and extract two types of information for entry into the computerized files. One pertains to persons, the other to incidents such as meetings, rallies or bombings and other acts of violence. Like the personal file, the incident file contains about 14,000 entries.

The analysts have no written guidelines to tell them what should go into the files but rely on their experience to make that judgment. Files are often opened on persons long before the extent of their dissenting activity becomes clear.

Both the personal and inci-

dent files, which are cross-indexed, are periodically reviewed to determine whether new patterns of dissent or disorder are discernable. One noticed recently is a nationwide increase in interracial fights in high schools, presumably the result of greater integration.

A Weekly Summary

The unit publishes a weekly summary of disorders or potential disturbances that goes to the Attorney General and other senior officers in the Justice Department. Copies also go to the White House, the Secret Service, the Army and the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington.

Beyond that, the unit prepares more sophisticated reports only for the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General. Those assessments try to predict the location and scale of forthcoming disturbances.

The unit's analysts draw on the information stored in the computer files to make their predictions. But the unit does not make policy recommendations on what police or Federal forces might be needed to quell an expected disorder. That judgment is made by the Attorney General and his staff.

They, in turn, pass the information on, on a need-to-know basis, to other Federal agencies or to local officials who are responsible for marshaling forces to control a disturbance.

Clark Memorandum

Originally an experiment initiated by Mr. Clark in the summer of 1966, I.D.I.U. started formal operations in December, 1967, after the racial disorders in Newark and Detroit that summer and the antiwar march on the Pentagon that fall.

Mr. Clark, in a memo made public by Mr. Mardian, said then that "it is imperative that the department seek to obtain the most comprehensive intelligence possible regarding organized or other purposeful stimulation of domestic dissension, civil disorders and riots."

"To carry out these responsibilities," Mr. Clark wrote, "we must make full use of and constantly endeavor to increase and refine the intelligence available to us, both from internal and external sources concerning organizations and individuals throughout the country who may play a role in either instigating or spreading disorders or in preventing or checking them."

The Justice Department and the F.B.I. maintained at that time, however, that they lacked the manpower and funds to

mount the intelligence operation on the scale ordered by Mr. Clark.

Therefore, according to Mr. Mardian in recent testimony before Senator Ervin's subcommittee, President Johnson instructed the Army to do the job. That resulted in the wide-ranging Continental United States Intelligence operation that blossomed in 1968.

During those days, I.D.I.U. got much of its information from the Army's Counterintelligence Analysis Detachment in the Pentagon. The rest came from the F.B.I. and the news media. The unit was interested primarily in black ghettos at first but widened its focus over the years to include the entire range of dissent.

Plea for Revision

In April, 1969, Robert Jordan, the Army's general counsel, urged Mr. Kleindienst, the Deputy Attorney General, to have the Justice Department and the F.B.I. take over the gathering of intelligence on civil disturbances.

Mr. Jordan was being pressed by Army generals who wanted Military Intelligence agents to return to their regular duties of running checks for security clearances and countering threats of espionage and sabotage aimed at military posts.

But Mr. Kleindienst refused, again arguing that the Justice Department did not have the resources to run a domestic intelligence operation the size of the Army's.

In 1970, however, the Army began to shut down its political surveillance after adverse publicity had generated Congressional criticism. In March, 1970, Mr. Jordan told Mr. Kleindienst that the Army was getting out of the domestic intelligence business and, in effect, that if Justice wanted the information, it would have to do the collecting itself.

Consequently I.D.I.U. doubled the size of its staff so that it now has 10 analysts. The F.B.I., which had been steadily adding manpower, increased its surveillance of dissident elements.

An Order From Hoover

The director of the F.B.I., J. Edgar Hoover, ordered on Nov. 4, for instance, an "increase in both quality and quantity of intelligence information on black student unions and similar groups which are targets for influence and control by violence-prone Black Panther party and other extremists."

"Advance information on disorders and violence is of prime importance," Mr. Hoover said. "We must target informants and sources to develop information regarding these groups on a continuing basis to fulfill our responsibilities and to develop such coverage where none exists."

During most of its life, I.D.I.U. was under the supervision of the Deputy Attorney General. About a month ago it was transferred to the administrative control of the Internal Security Division, but it still reports operationally to Mr. Kleindienst.