

McGovern Backers in Germany

New Army Spy Report

Washington

Military documents obtained by a Senate investigator show that the U.S. Army spied on American

civilians including supporters of Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern in West Germany during the 1972 campaign, Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. said yesterday.

The Connecticut Republican confirmed earlier reports that he had turned the evidence of these findings over to three Senate committees.

Senate sources had said earlier that an investigator on Weicker's staff, William E. Wickens, had traveled to Germany in June and found "evidence of improper activities on the part of the U.S. Army."

A Defense Department spokesman said there would be no immediate comment.

UNITS

The documents, the sources said, include classified official memoranda and photographs that show military intelligence units conducted surveillance on Concerned Americans in Berlin, an organization supporting the presidential candidacy of the South Dakota Democrat.

Army intelligence units used wiretaps, photographic surveillance, infiltration and the opening of mail in a widespread military surveillance program targeted against American civilians," the sources said.

They said American civilians who had contacts with German nationals were particular targets of the intelligence unit.

RIGHTS

Weicker said he had turned over materials on the matter to the Senate Armed

Services Committee, the Watergate committee and the Judiciary Committee's constitutional rights subcommittee.

Weicker, a member of the Watergate panel, said the political aspects of the reported spying are clearly within the investigatory mandate of the Watergate committee which is probing 1972 campaign activities.

But he said the surveillance was broader than spying solely on McGovern supporters and his information might be more useful to the other panels.

"Somebody ought to be watching the people who are supposed to be watching," Weicker said.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), chairman of both the Watergate committee and the constitutional rights subcommittee, said he would like the Watergate panel to look into the matter but doesn't believe that would be possible because the committee already has a heavy work load.

Ervin's subcommittee recently published a lengthy report about the widespread military intelligence gathering conducted inside the United States in the 1960s and introduced legislation to prohibit the military from spying on American civilians.

Former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced in December 1970 that military intelligence agencies no longer would conduct surveillance on American civilians. There was no indication that the order was limited to the United States.

Weicker's investigation appears to show, Ervin said, that "the same thing practiced in America at that time is being practiced now in Germany."

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