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(170) POWELL - CIA

WASHINGTON, MAY 3 (AP)-A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE NATION'S COLLEGES WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY REP. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, D-N.Y.

POWELL SAID HE WAS DISTURBED BY RECENT REPORTS THAT CIA AGENTS TOOK PART IN A MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY PROJECT IN SOUTH VIET NAM SEVERAL YEARS AGO. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS HAVE DENIED THEY KNOWINGLY HIRED ANY CIA OPERATIVES TO WORK ON THE GOVERNMENT-FINANCED PROJECT, AS A FORMER EMPLOYEE HAD CHARGED.

POWELL SAID THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE, WHICH HE HEADS, WILL LOOK INTO THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION CIRCLES.

THE COMMITTEE HAS HELPED EXPAND GREATLY THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION AND JUST YESTERDAY WON PASSAGE OF A BILL AUTHORIZING \$2.95 BILLION FOR COLLEGE ACADEMIC CONSTRUCTION DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

"CONGRESS HAS NOT APPROPRIATED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR THE NATION'S UNIVERSITIES TO HAVE THEM USED AS A COVER BY THE CIA," POWELL SAID.

NO DATE WAS ANNOUNCED FOR THE INVESTIGATION. THE COMMITTEE HAS A HEAVY LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE BEFORE IT NOW AND WOULD PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO TAKE ON ANY NEW BURDEN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

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