

CIA-Police Tie Kept Secret

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Two former Fairfax County executives and a County Board chairman who served during 1971 and 1972 said yesterday they were never told that the county police department prepared police credentials for use by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The credentials were issued by former Fairfax Police Chief William L. Durrer, according to a high county official who served during Durrer's tenure. Under Virginia law, the chief judge of the local Circuit Court appoints special police officers, while regular police officers are appointed by the police chief. Both get their credentials from the chief.

The Fairfax chief Circuit Court judge, Arthur W. Sinclair, said he could not recall appointing any CIA employees as Fairfax police officers.

"If they were from the CIA, I didn't know about it," Sinclair said.

Fairfax police officials said they were continuing yesterday to collect information about the issuance of the credentials, which one police source said the CIA requested for "national security reasons."

The CIA is forbidden by its charter from engaging in domestic activities, but sources have reported that representatives of the agency attended strategy sessions with D.C. police and other intelligence and law enforcement agencies at the time of the major antiwar demonstrations in Washington.

In addition, the Washington Star-News has quoted unnamed sources as saying that security officers of the agency used Fairfax police credentials to infiltrate crowds of demonstrators gathered at the CIA offices in Fairfax.

Fairfax County Executive Robert W. Wilson has said he will issue a report today on the county police involvement with the CIA. He has acknowledged issuance of the credentials in late 1971 or early 1972 but they "were never used and were returned."

Police Sgt. John Briggman, who was Durrer's administrative assistant and holds the same position for the current chief, Richard A. King, said he gave a report on the issuance of the credentials to the police department's internal affairs division yesterday. He declined further comment and said King would send his report to Wilson after another unnamed police officer tells the internal affairs unit what he knows about the CIA agents' police credentials.

Durrer, who retired from the police department last month, is reportedly traveling in the South on a vacation, Briggman said. He could not be reached for comment.

Former County executive Carlton C. Massey and George J. Kelley Jr. and former Board of Supervisors Chairman William S. Hoffnagle, all of whom served in the 1971-72 period, said Durrer had never told them about issuing the credentials.

Massey said that had he been asked for approval of the CIA credentials, he likely would have agreed because "what they said was gospel then."

Kelley said the only county business he had with the CIA "was trying to get them to pay their sewage bill."

The chief Circuit Court judge, through a judicial order, appoints special police officers and conservators of the peace. Sinclair said that unless such an order is issued by him, anyone other than a sworn police officer using county police credentials is "chargeable for impersonating a police officer."

The appointments are usually held by persons who act as guards or store detectives at college campuses, supermarkets, and buildings. A conservator of the peace appointment expires after one year while the special police officer appointment is for a four-year term. For both, however, a \$1,000 surety bond must be posted with the Circuit Court and applicants must undergo a background investigation by the county police.