WASHINGTON POST
3 AUG 1974

ILLEGIB

Approved For Release 2004/10/13 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000300330009-7

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Questionable Means of Interrogation

By Jack Anderson

Students at the International Police Academy, a school run by the State Department to train foreign policemen, have developed some chilling views about torture tactics.

After a lengthy investigation, we have found no evidence that the academy actually advocates third-degree methods. But we have read several student papers which discuss the use of torture to break suspects.

"As a last resort . . ." wrote a Nepalese inspector, torture is "practical and necessary."

A South Vietnamese policeman wrote that "threats and force can put out any truth in a minimum time."

A Zaire officer agreed "force or threats" will expedite an investigation but warned: "This tactic must not be known by the public."

Another student from Nepal told how "carelessness" by interrogators had caused death, thereby creating "another trouble."

The State Department-run academy has been accused of teaching torture tactics. The movie "State of Siege," for example, showed the school's graduates torturing political prisoners.

An investigator for Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) told us he had seen a number of theses written by the academy's students in support of torture tactics. The papers were written in English, Spanish and French, he said, and were kept in locked, steel cabinets.

My associate Joe Spear, accompanied by Spanish and French translators, paid a call upon the police academy, which is located in an old streetcar garage called the "Car Barn" in Georgetown.

They were shown evidence, selected by the school's administrators, which tended to prove the school doesn't teach torture tactics. Their own documents, however, reveal an ambivalent attitude toward torture.

For example, the lesson plan includes instruction in "Interviews and Interrogations." This teaches foreign policemen to question suspects in soundproof, windowless rooms with "bare walls."

They are instructed to use such interrogation techniques as "emotional appeals," "exaggerating fears," and psychological "jolts." They are taught to observe the "physical state of the subject" for "sweating," "color changes," "dry mouth" and rapid pulse and breathing.

The lesson plan also states, however, that "so-called third degree tactics" should not be used. It is argued that these techniques lower the interrogator's "self-respect," impair "police efficiency," lower "the esteem of the police in the public eye," and lead to "false confessions and miscarriages of justice."

The foreign policemen, who come to the academy from such repressive governments as Brazil, Chile, Pakistan, South Vietnam and Uruguay, are told "a prisoner must be treated according to legal and humanitarian principles."

But our examination of the student papers showed many students graduate without showing much effect of their "humanitarian" training. Here are a few excerpts:

Tdan Dinh Vol, South Vietnam—"Based on experience, we are convinced there is just one sure way to save time and suppress stubborn criminal suspects—that is the proper use of threats and force."

Lam Van Huu, South Vietnam—"What do we mean by 'force and threat?' Physical force—beating, slapping, electrocuting. Threats—physical, shaking a fist in the face of the subject; verbal, saying 'Listen, I'm going to break your neck if you don't confess.' "

Inspector Madhav Bickrum Rana, Nepal—"Many a times police officers have gained valuable clues by the use of (drugs)... The water torture is a simple and ancient method of letting a tap to drip on a man's head at a certain interval. This is very effective in breaking a tough man and can make a raving lunatic of any human being after an hour ..."

Gonzalo Wilches Sanchez, Colombia—"It is undeniable that in innumerable cases the interrogator is forced to use systems of moral or physical coercion to obtain truth that the person knows."

Bemonate Mpanga, Zaire—"The use of force or threats during an interrogation can be seen as one of our police tactics to be used for the expedition of an investigation ... Above all, the press ... should not have the slightest information about our methods of procedure."

Footnote: Abourezk has introduced legislation that would eliminate the State Department's Office of Public Safety, which runs the International Police Academy.

Washington Whirl—Army Secretary Howard Callaway has frozen the reserve promotion of former Nixon campaign lawyer Paul O'Brien, who was implicated in the Watergate hush money case. A Pentagon spokesman told us Callaway discovered O'Brien had been promoted to brigadier general, froze him in his rank pending and is now giving the case "further evaluation" . . . Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) feel they are too well-known to bother with name tags. At a recent testimonial dinner, both were scorned name tags claiming that "everyone knows me."

©1974, United Feature Syndicate

ILLEGIB

Approved For Release 2004/10/13 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000300330009-7