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Spies vie
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opinion

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WASHINGTON — Intelligence agencies of five foreign governments have conducted systematic campaigns inside the United States to spy on, harass and in some cases plan assassinations of their opponents, U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials have disclosed to Senate investigators.

A principal target of the campaigns by four of the five countries — Iran, the Philippines, Taiwan and Chile — appears to have been American public opinion. Spies were set loose on critics whose speaking out might have disturbed the traditionally close relations between each of the four authoritarian regimes and Washington.

Methods ranged from the reported sending of "hit teams" from Iran and Chile to the United States to the tedious business of monitoring and cataloguing student political discussions here by each of the four countries, according to a secret Senate staff study of foreign intelligence operations inside the United States. Independent accounts obtained by The Washington Post tend to confirm or expand many of the study's disclosures.

Each service developed its own special wrinkles. Preparing to go totally "underground" when Washington established relations with Peking, Taiwan's National Security Bureau drew up plans to recruit Chinese-Americans to travel to China and spy for Taiwan. Chile hoped to establish a Miami branch office of an international consortium of intelligence agencies it had helped set up.

But the four spy outfits had an important common feature. They all had intelligence liaison agreements with the Central Intelligence Agency, and they operated with a relatively free hand here.

The report strongly suggests that

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Foreign spies in U.S. tried to change public opinion

SAVAK, the now-disbanded Iranian espionage organization, also had a spy working relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation during 15 years of "significant police security and non-diplomatic political activity" in the United States by SAVAK.

The Senate study also investigates the covert activities of two Communist nations, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Accounts gathered by the FBI and CIA from Croatian and Serbian emigres depict Yugoslav agents posing as diplomats routinely threatening dissidents here with death and then boasting that the U.S. government would not take any action against them.

Unlike the other five spy services, the Soviet Union's KGB is reported by the FBI to concentrate almost exclusively on classical espionage efforts rather than on combating anti-Soviet views. The one known exception cited by the Senate study involved an unsuccessful Soviet effort to get a Russian Jewish emigre to write anti-Israeli propaganda.

The staff report was based on 45 interviews with intelligence and law enforcement officials completed last January, before the overthrow of the shah and also before the Justice Department's indictment of Chilean intelligence officials in the 1976 Washington assassination of former Chilean ambassador to the United States Orlando Letelier and an American citizen, Romme Moffitt.

The disclosures in the report were labelled "preliminary findings rather than final conclusions." Its purpose was described as being to determine whether more extensive investigation was warranted.

Taiwan spy agency turns hostile

whom were naturalized U.S. citizens, of constitutional rights to freedom of speech, assembly and association that are guaranteed to all U.S. residents. Moreover, the evidence collected strongly suggests that the pattern of intelligence activities may have prevented U.S. officials and citizens from getting accurate information about emigre and student attitudes toward stability and human rights in their home countries.

While President Carter was praising the shah's Iran in January 1978 as "an island of stability," the shah's agents in the United States were intensifying their campaign to silence dissident students who sought to get across a different message, according to intelligence community sources and legal documents filed in Chicago court cases involving the students.

Six months earlier, Taiwan's secret service had organized and paid for an anti-Peking demonstration attended by 1,000 persons in Washington to protest a visit by Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance to China, the Senate staff report states.

SAVAK, disbanded after the fall of the shah's government in February, and Taiwan's National Security Bureau established the most extensive and active anti-dissident networks inside the United States of the countries studied.

Iran and Taiwan reportedly set up case officers with diplomatic cover who ran dozens if not hundreds of agents who infiltrated campus life and student organizations across the country. Each also reportedly planned large-scale propaganda campaigns to be orchestrated through front organizations, according to statements of senior U.S. officials quoted in the study.

Intelligence reports on a meeting in Taipei in September 1971 of the three main Taiwanese intelligence organizations disclose that Taiwan began plotting a strategy to delay or, if possible, undermine the normalization of relations between Washington and Peking, in part by actively countering pro-Peking groups and individuals as they emerged here.

Considered and rejected at the 1971 meeting was a plan to send letter bombs to Peking's newly established liaison office in Washington. The frequency of alleged wrongdoing. The study's virtual lack of any reporting on the Soviet Union suggests that it may have been included for ideological balance.

Omitted from the study were other countries with liaison agreements with the CIA and or possessing clear targets for persuasion efforts inside the United States. No explanation is given of the omission of those countries, which would include South Africa, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and others. South Korea was deliberately left out of the study, which was started in April 1977 because of separate congressional investigations then underway of the "Koreagate" scandals.

The six countries investigated by the Senate subcommittee staff were chosen because of their "intelligence capabilities, likely motivation and the

that letters would have also been sent to Americans supporting Peking. At least 45 Taiwanese intelligence officers were present in the United States at the beginning of this year. Ten to 25 of them are believed to be on U.S. college campuses, where they engage in infiltration, surveillance and the organization of anti-Peking demonstrations. Four "well-known Sino-American professors have reportedly been put on the payroll of the Intelligence Bureau of the Ministry of National Defense in Taipei.