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CIA:

HOW DEEP ITS TIES?

Hotel Room Death

Showed Student Link

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By STUART H. LOORY
Miami Herald-Los Angeles Times Wire
WASHINGTON Before
S. Avrea Ingram Jr. of Talladega, Ala., died mysteriously in an out-of-the-way New York hotel room at the age of 30, he spent the exotic last four years of his life living where the action was in domestic and international student politics.

Ingram graduated from the ranks of the National Student Association to become an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency. He was, in fact, one of the two people who first permanently hitched the two organizations together — creating a relationship that went much deeper than one which merely created pro-American propaganda abroad.

Ingram's transition tells much about the beginnings of a relationship that eventually wound "around every facet of American life that has any connection outside the United States," as Sen. Richard B. Russell (D., Ga.) put it last week.

But Ingram's death conceals much about how the CIA originally got into the business of subsidizing the international programs of private groups from labor, students, women, secondary teachers, academics and intellectuals.

The NSA-Ingram-CIA link is specific. Ingram was:

— **INTERNATIONAL** vice president of NSA for two terms, from September 1951 to September 1953 during the period that CIA gave the first of its regular payments to support NSA's international program in the propaganda fight against international communism. The president of NSA that first year was William T. Dentzer, now head of the U.S. aid mission to Peru.

— **ASSOCIATE** secretary of the coordinating secretariat of the International Student Conference in Leiden, Holland from 1953 to 1956. The ISC also received CIA funds according to the disclosures of the past two weeks. In this job, Ingram succeeded Dentzer who left NSA after his presidency to join ISC.

— **AN ISC FIELD** worker in Vienna during and just after the Hungarian uprising of October 1956. His overt job was to help escaping student-freedom fighters fleeing Hungary to resettle and resume their studies in the West. What else he may have been doing is not known.

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THEN, SUDDENLY, Avrea Ingram was dead. He had returned to this country after Vienna and took up residence in the Irving Hotel

York.

At noon on Feb. 5, 1967, a maid opened the door to Room 19 in the hotel and found Ingram lying nude on the floor with a leather belt around his neck attached to the knob of a desk drawer.

The New York medical examiner called the death "asphyxia by hanging" and said the indications were suicide. Some of his friends and his relatives were unable to accept that finding.

Why?

For one thing, suicide seemed out of character. Avrea Ingram was no morose worrier. He was remembered as "a man who never lost his cool," according to one former NSA officer.

He was a "real southern gentleman who loved the fine things in life; who was, as another former officer put it, "a bon vivant fond of good food and good times."

Secondly, there was the CIA relationship.

Right after the funeral, which he attended in Anniston, Ala., Avrea's old friend Bill Dentzer introduced himself to the Ingram family. He took Avrea Jr.'s father and his uncle, Stanton B. Ingram, back to his hotel room, swore them to secrecy and revealed himself as a CIA agent.

Then he said Avrea had also served his country well in intelligence work. Stanton Ingram recalls Dentzer saying:

"If the Communists wanted to kill for their own gain they would certainly want to kill Avrea Jr. He would be number one on their list."

* * *

INGRAM'S FATHER, a retired businessman, first refused to talk to a reporter about the death of his only child. Later, he said:

"I have been asked not to talk about this death by the government."

But all the recent revelations about the CIA and NSA have caused people to wonder. Carl M. Sapers, an NSA official in 1950-'52 and now a member of the Boston

law firm of Hill and Barlow, said in a recent letter to someone in Washington:

"I am now beginning to wonder whether there is not some relation between the CIA involvement and his (Ingram's) death."

For anyone wanting to check the CIA-NSA relationships that have been disclosed now ten years ago, all the links were there:

INGRAM and Dentzer to

Continued