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NSA Claims CIA

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Intimidation

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Harassment by Agency Linked to Breakoff

Special to The News American

COLLEGE PARK, Aug. 14 — The National Student Association president said today NSA members were harassed, intimidated and threatened for ending a 15-year operation as a front group for the Central Intelligence Agency.

When Ramparts Magazine disclosed the CIA-NSA connection in February, the student organization immediately began severing its ties with the government agency. W. Eugene Groves, address- ing 1,500 delegates to the association's annual convention at the University of Maryland, outlined in eerie detail what he called a record of early-morning phone calls, threats of blackmail and fear by students of being "knocked off."

Groves claimed the harassing began last February when the NSA announced it was ending a 15-year association with the super-secret spy agency.

DURING THAT period, the NSA accepted more than \$3.3 million through CIA conduits, and in return, he said, recruited members who acted as "CIA agents and informers."

Following the break, Groves said, Richard G. Stearns, NSA vice president, "was awakened at 4 A. M. to be read out of future service in the U. S. government by a CIA agent over the phone."

Another NSA leader, Jim Johnson, "was frightened that he would be knocked off on the street corner that week in Washington."

GROVES SAID he had been told that Philip Sherburne, a former NSA president, "was threatened with fabrication of psychiatric records that would appropriately turn up at a future date to ruin his career or to open him to blackmail."

"There were difficulties and fear" during the February period, Groves said, but "physical fear we parried."

THE BREAK was completed when NSA acquired title to its Washington Headquarters building from the CIA, Groves said. In outlining fully the organization's involvement with the CIA, Groves said that at one point the spy agency was providing 91 percent of NSA's budget.

"It protected us from (Sen. Joseph) McCarthy, it helped some people get draft deferments, and it probably put in a good word to the Internal Revenue Service when NSA ap-

plied for tax-exempt status," Groves said.

"But the power lay (at CIA headquarters) in Langley. The first person to be dialed in time of trouble was the head of covert action N. O. 5," he added.

GROVES EXPLAINED that the principal CIA conduit was the Foundation for Youth and

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Student Affairs, which gave the NSA more than \$2.12 million during the 15-year period.

Other major sources of CIA money, he said, were the Robert E. Smith fund, \$473,815.20; the Independence Foundation, \$203,700.30; the Catherwood Foundation, \$43,947.55; the Sidney and Esther Rabb Charitable Fund, \$11,000, and others for lesser amounts.

The NSA president said records indicated that the CIA first began pouring funds into the organization in 1952, when \$55,494—or 79 percent of the NSA budget—came from CIA conduits.

CIA support rose steadily during the next 10 years, and reached a peak in 1962, when CIA conduits gave the NSA more than \$570,000, Groves said.

NSA overseas representatives "were chosen not on the basis of their familiarity with American student politics, or their commitment to NSA," Groves

said, "but on their ability in intelligence tasks."

"NSA WAS exploited because it was weak," Groves continued. "To the individuals involved, a generation of the most promising student leaders, the CIA taught that spying on fellow students overseas, and being dishonest to close friends and the constituents at home, was serving their country."

Meanwhile, pledging never to accept CIA money, Groves and Stearns will recommend that NSA abandon much of its present "cold war involvement" abroad and shift the organization's emphasis to student problems at home.

Running concurrently with the NSA Annual Congress is a

"counter Congress" being staged by the Students for a Democratic Society.

"The CIA may have left the NSA but policies which made NSA a CIA front still remain," and SDS spokesman said.

THREE PERSONS who were to have participated in a symposium on NSA-CIA involvement abruptly withdrew, refusing to speak under the SDS banner at the separate meeting.

They were identified as Andrew Kopkind, a former staff writer for the New Republic; Sol Stern, assistant managing editor of Ramparts Magazine; and Michael Wood, a former NSA staff member who disclosed to Ramparts the CIA-NSA connection.

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