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Front Edit Other
Page Page Page

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EDITORIALS

CIA Probe Overdue

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew is fighting mad about the American Central Intelligence Agency's attempt to buy intelligence from a senior Singapore police officer, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

He isn't alone in charging the CIA with meddling in his country's affairs. Prince Sihanouk, of Cambodia, President Sukarno of Indonesia, and Gen. No Win of Burma all contend the CIA has made a nuisance out of itself, too.

In Singapore, the CIA was caught red-handed. Lee made the facts public in circumstances calculated to underline CIA obtuseness.

"American embarrassment was compounded by an initial denial from Washington, then an abject admission that Mr. Lee's version was

correct and that Secretary of State Dean Rusk had in fact written a personal letter of apology," the Monitor said. "By now this story of the CIA's attempt to buy intelligence is well known. It is particularly well known throughout Asia where in many Asian eyes the CIA—justly or unjustly—is seen as the root of all American evil."

Sen. Stephen Young, D-Ohio, has had the courage to call for an investigation of the CIA's operations. He wants to trim this agency down to size, and put the brakes on its free-handed spending.

Disclosures about the CIA's international bungling, and questionable methods point up the need for just such a deep-spade probe. The public has a right to know what the CIA is up to.