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U.S. POLICE PROGRAM IS CALLED C.I.A. COVER

Charge of Intelligence Connection
in Training of Foreign Officers
Is Repeated in New Book

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 6—The United States is accused in a book to be published next month of using a program for training foreign policemen as a cover for Central Intelligence Agency activities and for encouraging the torture of political prisoners in Brazil and Uruguay.

The author, A. J. Langguth, also repeats charges that the C.I.A. and the United States Embassy were directly involved in the overthrow of Brazil's elected Government by the armed forces in 1964. His book, "Hidden Terrors," will be issued June 5 by Pantheon Books.

The account by Mr. Langguth, a former reporter for The New York Times, begins on Aug. 13, 1970, with the funeral in Richmond, Ind., of Dan A. Mitrione, an adviser in the police training program, who was kidnapped and killed by left-wing Uruguayan guerrillas known as Tupamaros. The book alternates episodes of Mr. Mitrione's 10-year career as police adviser in Brazil and Uruguay with accounts of Brazilian political events before and after the ouster of President João Goulart in 1964 and the alleged United States involvement in those events.

Although Mr. Langguth reports many allegations, most of them by exiled left-wing Brazilian and Uruguayan revolutionaries, that Mr. Mitrione encouraged the use of police torture, he also cites evidence to the contrary, and he rebuts the charge, widely circulated by leftist groups around the world, that Mr. Mitrione was a C.I.A. agent.

In particular Mr. Langguth dismisses the version of Mr. Mitrione's role portrayed in the motion picture "State of Siege," produced by the Greek filmmaker Costa-Gavras, who, he said, "included every undocumented rumor" about Mr. Mitrione because his aim was "a composite indictment of United States policy throughout Latin America."

Noting that after Mr. Mitrione was killed "male and female prisoners at Uruguay's jails traded stories about his participation in the torture," Mr. Langguth adds: "Usually those were second-hand accounts, repeated to convince a doubter that the Tupamaros had been justified in killing Mitrione." Because of the impact of "State of Siege" and the allegations of the former prisoners, "Mitrione acquired a reputation as his country's foremost expert in torture," Mr. Langguth says.

Report of Another Inquiry

Ernest W. Lefever, then a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, who did extensive research on the Mitrione case and a detailed two-year study of the police training program, is more emphatic in rejecting the allegations against both Mr. Mitrione and the program. "Mitrione never had anything to do with the C.I.A.," Mr. Lefever told a reporter recently. "He never taught or advocated methods of torture. In Montevideo, Mitrione never even entered the door of the special [secret] police. He dealt with the conventional police." The State Department denied similar charges in 1973.

Under the police program, carried out by the Agency for International Development from 1954 until it was terminated by Congress in 1975 because it invited partisan criticism, more than 10,700 policemen from 52 countries were trained in the United States.

The charges that the United States Ambassador to Brazil, Lincoln Gordon, his staff and the C.I.A. were directly involved in the overthrow of President Goulart have been made intermittently since the 1964 coup and regularly denied by the principals. Mr. Langguth implies in his book that by early 1964 Mr. Gordon, who had been Ambassador since October 1961, was "at the center of a plot to overthrow the Government of the fifth largest nation in the world."

'That's Simply Not True'

The author also says that the Brazilian generals plotting the coup "believed their assurances from Gordon and their other United States contacts: If they could hold São Paulo for 48 hours, Washington would recognize them as Brazil's legitimate government."

In a recent interview Mr. Gordon, now a senior fellow of Resources for the Future, a Washington-based research organization, said in reply to each charge, "That's simply not true," and he added that "no assurances were given." He first met Gen. Humberto Castelo Branco, who led the coup and subsequently became President, only six days before it took place, he said.

Mr. Gordon also denied a statement by Mr. Langguth that he concluded as early as 1962 that President Goulart was "the greatest danger to his country's democracy." It was more than a year later, Mr. Gordon said, that he became convinced that Mr. Goulart intended to stage his own coup against the constitutional system and try to emulate the authoritarian rule of his mentor, the late Getulio Vargas, or of Juan D. Peron in Argentina—a course Mr. Gordon believed would lead to Communist control of Brazil.

Mr. Gordon did concede that the C.I.A. poured money into Brazilian political fronts to support candidates in the 1962 election, though he said he would be amazed if the amount was anything like the \$20 million that Mr. Langguth mentions. "With hindsight, I thought it was a mistake," Mr. Gordon said of the political funds.

The former Ambassador also acknowledged that he recommended the formation of a United States Navy task force for limited intervention in Brazil in the event of a civil war in 1964. The rapid success of the coup against President Goulart made the operation unnecessary, so Mr. Gordon called it off while the task force, the formation of which was disclosed in United States documents declassified in 1976, was still "far from Brazilian waters."

Mr. Gordon said he would stand by assertions that the United States was not a participant in the action against Mr. Goulart, that it had no advance warning and that "even if we had opposed it we could not have prevented it."