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FBI Says Soviet Front Groups Involved in Nuclear Freeze March

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WASHINGTON (AP) - THE FBI TESTIFIED LAST SUMMER THAT SOVIET-FRONT GROUPS WERE "ACTIVELY INVOLVED" IN PLANNING THE JUNE 12 NUCLEAR FREEZE MARCH IN NEW YORK; BUT DID NOT FIND EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT SOVIET INFLUENCE.

THE CLASSIFIED FBI TESTIMONY, RELEASED THURSDAY BY THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, APPEARED TO LEND SOME SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CLAIM LAST MONTH OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT "IN THE ORGANIZATION OF SOME OF THE BIG DEMONSTRATIONS."

BUT IN A STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING RELEASE OF THE TESTIMONY, REP. EDWARD P. BOLAND, D-MASS, INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SAID THE FBI PROVIDED "NO EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS DIRECT, MANAGE OR MANIPULATE THE NUCLEAR FREEZE MOVEMENT."

BOLAND ADDED: "ON THE BASIS OF MY OWN REVIEW OF THE MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY THE FBI, IT IS MY PERSONAL ASSESSMENT THAT SOVIET AGENTS HAVE HAD NO SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE NUCLEAR FREEZE MOVEMENT." THE FBI TESTIMONY, GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE JULY 14, HAS BEEN CITED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AS SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CONTENTION THAT "FOREIGN AGENTS ... WERE SENT TO HELP INSTIGATE AND HELP CREATE AND KEEP SUCH A MOVEMENT GOING."

IN TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE, EDWARD O'MALLEY, FBI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE, DID NOT SAY SOVIET AGENTS WERE DISPATCHED, BUT SAID THE U.S. COMMUNIST PARTY, THE U.S. PEACE COUNCIL AND THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, WHICH HE CALLED SOVIET FRONT GROUPS, "WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUNE 12 DEMONSTRATION."

SANDY POLLACK, A COORDINATOR OF THE U.S. PEACE COUNCIL, CALLED THE FBI DESCRIPTION OF THE THE GROUP AS A SOVIET FRONT "A FANTASY." "THERE'S NOT ANY FACTUAL EVIDENCE TO THIS EFFECT," SHE SAID. "WE LOOK AT THIS AS JUST A WAY OF TRYING TO REDUCE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT."

THE COMMITTEE ALSO RELEASED TESTIMONY GIVEN JULY 13 BY CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR JOHN McMAHON, WHO SAID "THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON THE PEACE MOVEMENT THAT IS BOTH HERE IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS OVERSEAS IN EUROPE."