

Ford Fund Denies Suggesting C.I.A. Train Police

By DAVID BURNHAM

New York Times (1857-Current file); Mar 16, 1973; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2001) pg. 35

Ford Fund Denies Suggesting C.I.A. Train Police

By DAVID BURNHAM

The president of the Ford Foundation has denied an assertion by the Central Intelligence Agency that New York City policemen were trained by the agency at the suggestion of the foundation.

The denial contradicted a "fact sheet" on the case prepared by the agency for Representative Chet Holifield, Democrat of California, chairman of the House Government Operations Committee.

In the sheet, the C.I.A. said that "at the suggestion of the foundation representative, the N. Y. C. police sought assistance from the agency as to the best system for analyzing data."

The denial of the agency's assertion came in a letter from McGeorge Bundy, president of

the Ford Foundation, to Representative Edward I. Koch, Democrat of Manhattan, who has charged that C.I.A. training of policemen from more than a dozen cities violated the law.

After Mr. Koch had complained to Mr. Holifield, James R. Schlesinger, the new Director of Central Intelligence, said in a letter made public on March 5 that because of the sensitive nature of such training, it would be "undertaken in the future only in the compelling circumstances and with my personal approval."

Mr. Bundy, responding to an inquiry from Mr. Koch, said that he had carefully examined the C.I.A. assertion and had concluded that "these inquiries disclose no evidence" that any suggestion for C.I.A. training of policemen was made "by any member of the Ford Foundation or the Police Foundation or any employe of the New

York City project funded by the Police Foundation."

The Police Foundation is an offshoot of the Ford Foundation.

Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy, who could not be reached for direct comment, was quoted yesterday by Deputy Police Commissioner Richard Kellerman and an official of the Ford Foundation as saying he believed the idea of going to the C.I.A. originated with Don R. Harris, a private consultant.

Federal Grant Used

Mr. Harris, a former C.I.A. intelligence analyst, was one of three consultants hired by the Police Department last year under a \$166,000 grant from the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to help the department reorganize its intelligence files.

In November of 1971, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a branch of the Justice Department, pub-

lished a 150-page manual, co-authored by Mr. Harris, which was designed to instruct state and local police agencies how to "apply intelligence to combat organized crime." The other author was E. Drexel Godfrey Jr., also a former C.I.A. employe.

Informed of Mr. Murphy's belief that Mr. Harris had originated the idea of sending 14 New York policemen for training with the C.I.A., an agency spokesman in Washington said the available information indicated the plan first was suggested by Wayne Kerstetter, one of six lawyers brought into the department in October, 1971, under a grant from the Police Foundation, the branch of the Ford Foundation.

Mr. Harris said tonight that he had made no recommendation for C.I.A. training of policemen. Mr. Kerstetter, who recently left New York for a law enforcement position in Illinois, could not be reached.