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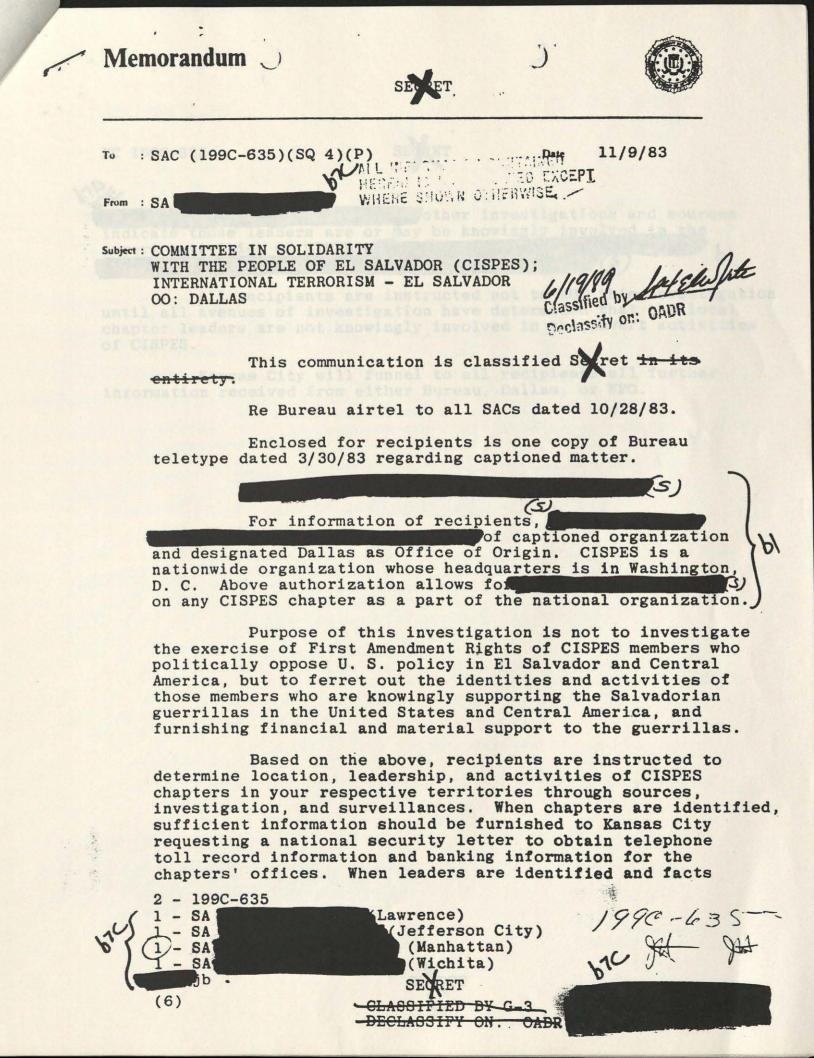
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# INVESTIGATION

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KC 199C-635



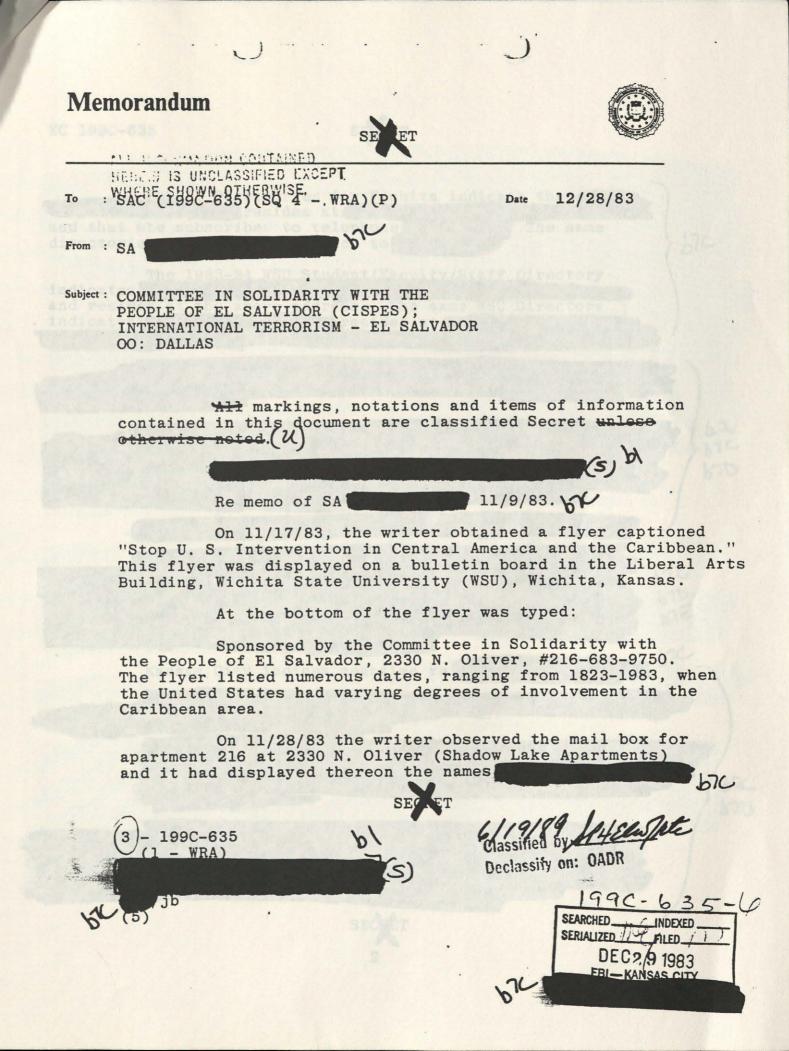
indicate those leaders are or may be knowingly involved in the

All recipients are instructed not to RUC this investigation until all avenues of investigation have determined that the local chapter leaders are not knowingly involved in the covert activities of CISPES.

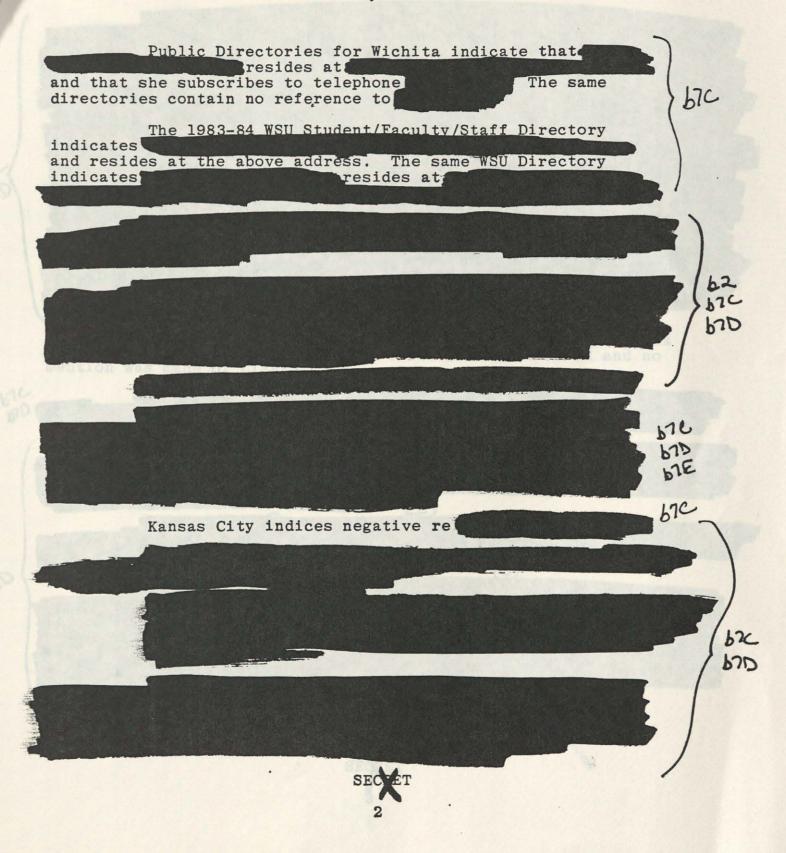
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Kansas City will funnel to all recipients all further information received from either Bureau, Dallas, or WFO.





KC 199C-635



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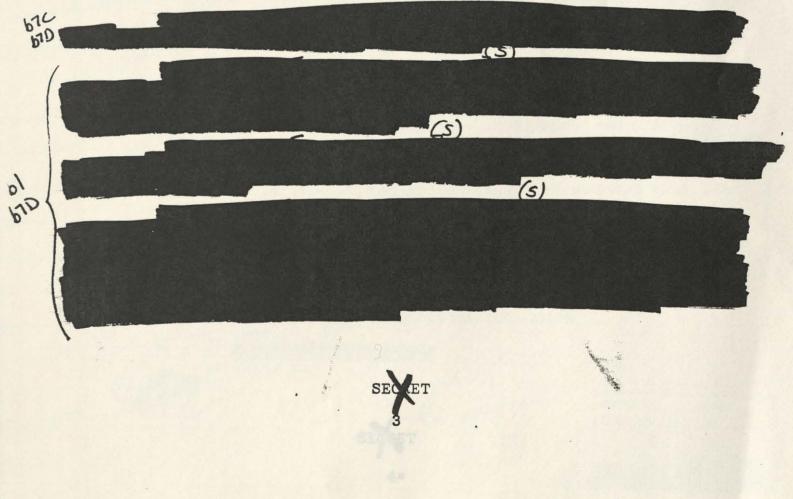
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On 11/30/83, copies of the <u>Sunflower</u>, a 3 day per week WSU newspaper, September - November, 1983, were reviewed and no mention was made of CISPES.



KC 199C-635



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Several spot checks of the address 2330 N. Oliver, Apartment 216, did not reveal an inordinate amount of people there which would indicate meetings.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY DIVISION:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI:

Correlate investigation.

AT WICHITA, KANSAS:

Continue investigation.



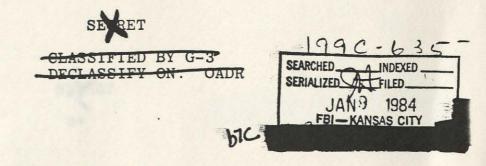
Memorandum SEC ALL PERMATION CONTAINED WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE. To . SAC (199C-635)(SQ 4)(P) Date 1/10/84 From : SA Subject : COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR (CISPES); INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM - EL SALVADOR OO: DALLAS This communication is classified Secret in its entirety. (s) bl Investigation at Headquarters City has had negative results in the attempt to locate a chapter of captioned organization within the greater Kansas City, Missouri area. Investigation within the areas of responsibility of the Jefferson City, Missouri RA has also proven negative. Investigation of the captioned organization within the area of responsibility of the Topeka, Kansas RA had negative results. However, investigation in Wichita was affirmative with a chapter of captioned organization located by SA In view of the above, it is recommended that this matter be reassigned to SA Classified by Declassify on: OADR CLASSIFIED BY G 3 DECLASSIFY ON . OADR KC 199C-635 67 - SA (Wichita RA) jb SEARCHED SERIALIZED 1984 Ull Each Land

Memorandum SF. TT To Date SAC (199C-635)(SQ 4 - MRA)(P)1/9/84 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERPIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT From : SA WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE. Subject : COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY 18hopte WITH THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR (CISPES) IT-EL SALVADOR **OO: DALLAS** Declassity oa. Califi AIT contents in this communication are classified Secret unless otherwise noted. 11/9/83. 22 Re memo Sa 671 67 On 11/16/83, a review of the newspaper morgues at the Columbia Daily Tribune and the Columbia Missourian failed to reveal any mention of the captioned organization. The inquiry at the Columbia Daily Tribune revealed the existence of an organization known as the Committee Against Intervention, located at 811 Cherry, 3rd Floor,

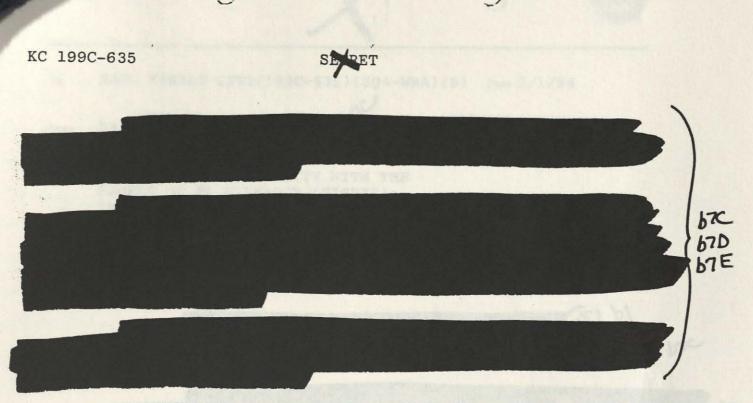
On 11/16/83, an examination of the list of occupants in the office building at 811 Cherry failed to reveal any listing for captioned organization, and Room 316 has a listing on the door of "Committee Against Intervention." The building directory listed "Columbia Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign" for Room 316.

Columbia, telephone 449-5433, described as an organization

opposed to U. S. intervention in Central America.



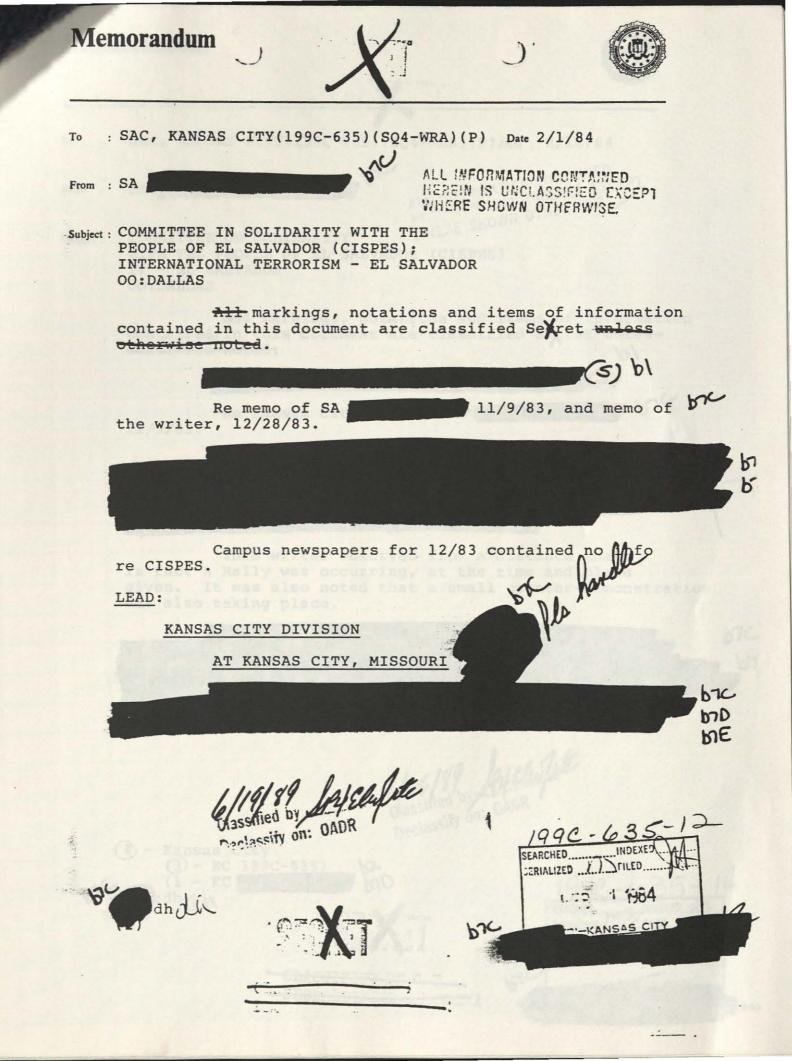
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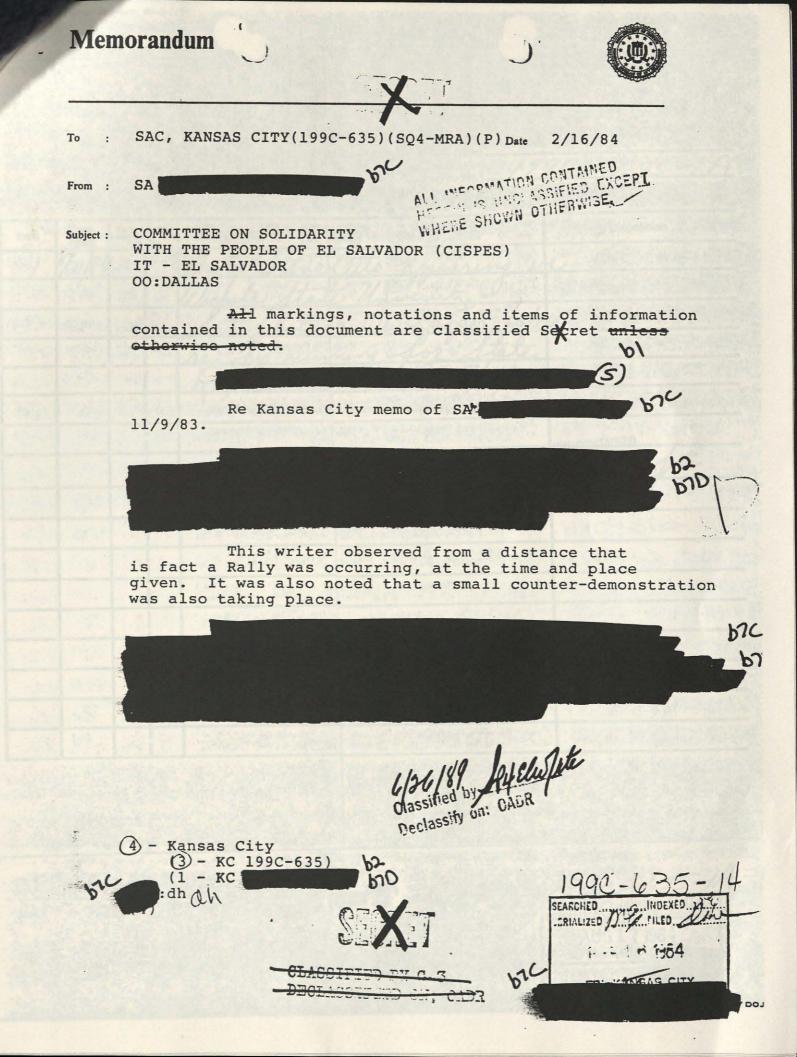


On 11/22/83, a review of the City Directory and telephone directory for Columbia failed to reveal any listing for captioned organization.

On 12/12/83, a review of the newspaper morgue for the <u>Jefferson City News Tribune</u>, Jefferson City, Missouri; a review of the organization directory for the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce; a review of the City Directory and telephone directory for Jefferson City; and inquiry of Joy Sweigert, Supervisor, Security Office, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, failed to reveal any information to indicate the existence of the captioned organization in Jefferson City.

In view of instructions in re memo with regard to legitimate dissent in exercise of First Amendment rights as regards U. S. policy in Central America, and failure to develop information in exact name of captioned organization, no further investigation being conducted regarding "Committee Against Intervention."





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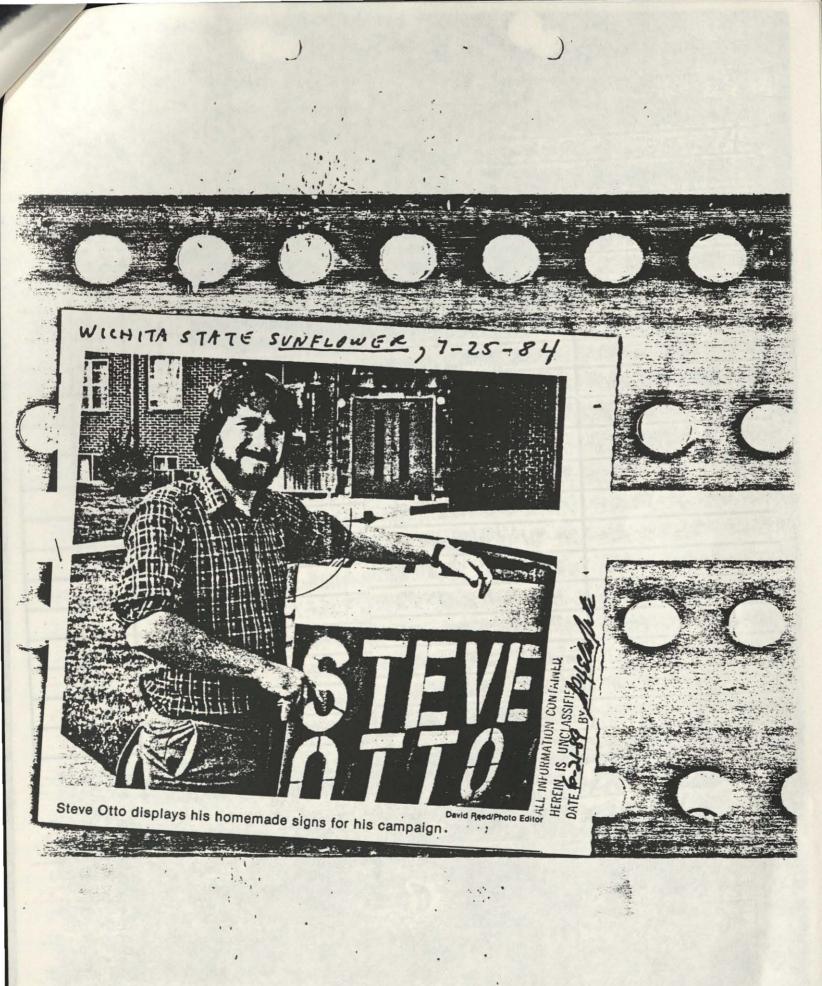
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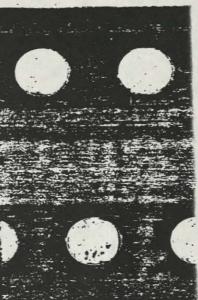


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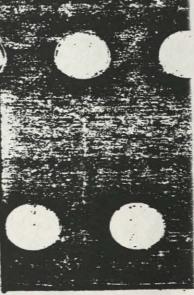
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Copy from ' The National Archives RG 65: Federal Bureau Kansas City 1990-635 Vol. 01



Washington, DC 20408

March 5, 1992

Mr. Clark H. Coan P.O. Box 442-043 Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mr. Coan:

This is in response to your letter of 20 February about Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) records relating to the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

The National Archives has accessioned all the records created by the FBI in its investigations of the various elements of CISPES. We checked the indexes for Headquarters and for the Kansas City Field Office, both in its capacity as the office of origin (an investigation was started by the Kansas City office) and as auxiliary office (Kansas City was requested to investigate leads provided by another field office or by headquarters.) We found only one entry for "Latin American Solidarity", a document that was withheld in its' entirety by the FBI in 1989.

We also checked the three-volume Kansas City Field Office file (approximately 800 pages) and found the above document along with fewer than ten documents that were originated by Kansas City. When the original records were transferred to the National Archives, we also received an excised copy. There are only 38 pages released in whole or in part in the excised Kansas City file. A majority of these pages are news clippings.

We can make the excised copy of the Kansas City file available to you or your representative in our Central Research Room. If you prefer, we can make paper copies of the 38 pages for 25 cents per page or a total of \$9.50. To order, please follow the instructions on the enclosed form.

If you can send us a copy of the letter that the Kansas City field office sent you or any additional names that might appear in the indexes, we would be pleased to search them again.

Sincerely,

DAVID G. PAYNTER Access Staff (202) 501-5638

National Archives and Records Administration

**U.S. Department of Justice** 



Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

> 300 United States Courthouse Kansas City, Missouri 64106

April 18, 1988

Mr. Clark H. Coan 643 Tennessee Street Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Mr. Coan:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act-Privacy Act request dated April 6, 1988, received in our office on April 18, 1988.

A search of the indices to the central records system of the Kansas City Office located one investigative file responsive to your request. Our records indicate this investigation was reported to FBI Headquarters in Washington, D. C.

To insure all records relative to this investigation at FBI Headquarters and the Kansas City Office are processed, your request is being referred to FBI Headquarters for appropriate handling. FBI Headquarters will determine whether or not a fee determination has been made, you will be advised of the approximate number of pages involved, both at FBI Headquarters and in the Kansas City Office. You will also be given an estimate of costs of duplication, if any.

In addition to the <u>main investigative</u> file described above, <u>eleven</u> "cross references" <u>consisting of nineteen pages</u>, were also located where your subject matter was indexed and will be processed here in Kansas City once FBI Headquarters has assessed duplication fees, if any, to be charged for this material.

Sincerely,

Robert 3. Davenport

ROBERT B. DAVENPORT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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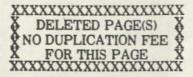
NATIONAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND BOARD



#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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-	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.
	Deleted under exemption(s) with no segregable material available for release to you.
	Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
	Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
	Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.
	Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).
8	Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): Duplicate of HQ 199-8848-1 previously processed at that location.
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12



Washington, DC 20408



March 30, 1992

Mr. Clark H. Coan P.O. Box 442-043 Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mr. Coan:

Enclosed are the copies that you ordered. Please note that we copied only those pages that were released in some form by the FBI-we did not copy the Bureau's "FOIPA Deleted Page Information Sheet", a sample of which is enclosed. These sheets make up the majority of the released files. If you wish us to copy these pages, please let us know.

Sincerely,

06 Paynter

DAVID G. PAYNTER Access Staff (202) 501-5638

### U. S. Bepartment of Justice

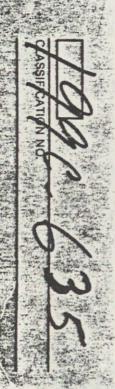
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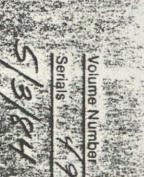
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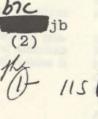


Memorandum U To : SAC, KC (199C-635)(SQ 4)(C) 7/3/85 Date brc From : SA Subject : COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR (CISPES)

All markings, notations, and items of information contained in this document are classified "Secret".

Re Bureau teletype to all field offices, 6/18/85.

It is to be noted that the referenced communication reflected that all investigative matters concerning CISPES should be closed. In view of Bureau's directive in this matter, Kansas City is closing this case.



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# FBI inquiry extended to KU, Wichita State

#### By Michael Martinez

LAWRENCE — Documents released by the Center for Constitutional Rights show that the University of Kansas in Lawrence and Wichita State University were among several college campuses where the FBI investigated groups opposed to U.S. policies in Central America.

The FBI surveillance and infiltration of U.S. groups began with an investigation of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El

Salvador, known as CISPES, but was expanded to include a range of political and religious organizations.

The Center for Constitutional Rights obtained FBI documents under the Freedom of Information Act. They listed KU and Wichita State among the campuses where surveillance took place.

Although one Latin American specialist at Wichita State said the campus and the city seemed relatively inactive on Central American issues, the University of Kansas is very active in that area.

KU's Center of Latin American Studies is one of 10 university centers financed by the U.S. Department of Education to study Latin America. The university center in Lawrence emphasizes Central America, which it has been interested in for 30 years, said Charles L. Stansifer, the center's director.

Stansifer is also chairman of a 17member commission of the Latin American Studies Association, a national group of 2,500 scholars. He and other commission members visited parts of Central America earlier this month to study compliance with the region's peace accord. The commission is scheduled to release its preliminary findings to Congress today.

However, Stansifer said he had not heard of a CISPES chapter at KU, although a year and a half ago he and others on campus had discussed a national television report on CISPES' problems with the FBI. Stansifer, faculty adviser to Latin

Stansifer, faculty adviser to Latin American Solidarity, KU's most active student group examining the region, said he had not heard of any FBI surveillance of the group's Late page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page A-6, "KANSAS CITY TIMES", KCMO Date: 1/28/88 Edition: morning

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weekly meetings, which have involved controversial speakers at "rice and beans" dinners.

The speakers have included Nicaragua's Vice President Sergio Ramirez; Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams, who has been a leader in formulating Reagan administration policy on Central America; and Robert E. White, former ambassador to Nicaragua who was ousted by President Reagan in a dispute over policy toward Nicaragua. Three years ago, a Sandinista, Mariano Fiallos, was a guest professor at KU. Fiallos is now president of Nicaragua's Electoral Council, Stansifer said.

At Wichita State, a CISPES student group was recognized and funded in fall 1983 for the 1983-84 school year, a student government spokesman said Wednesday.

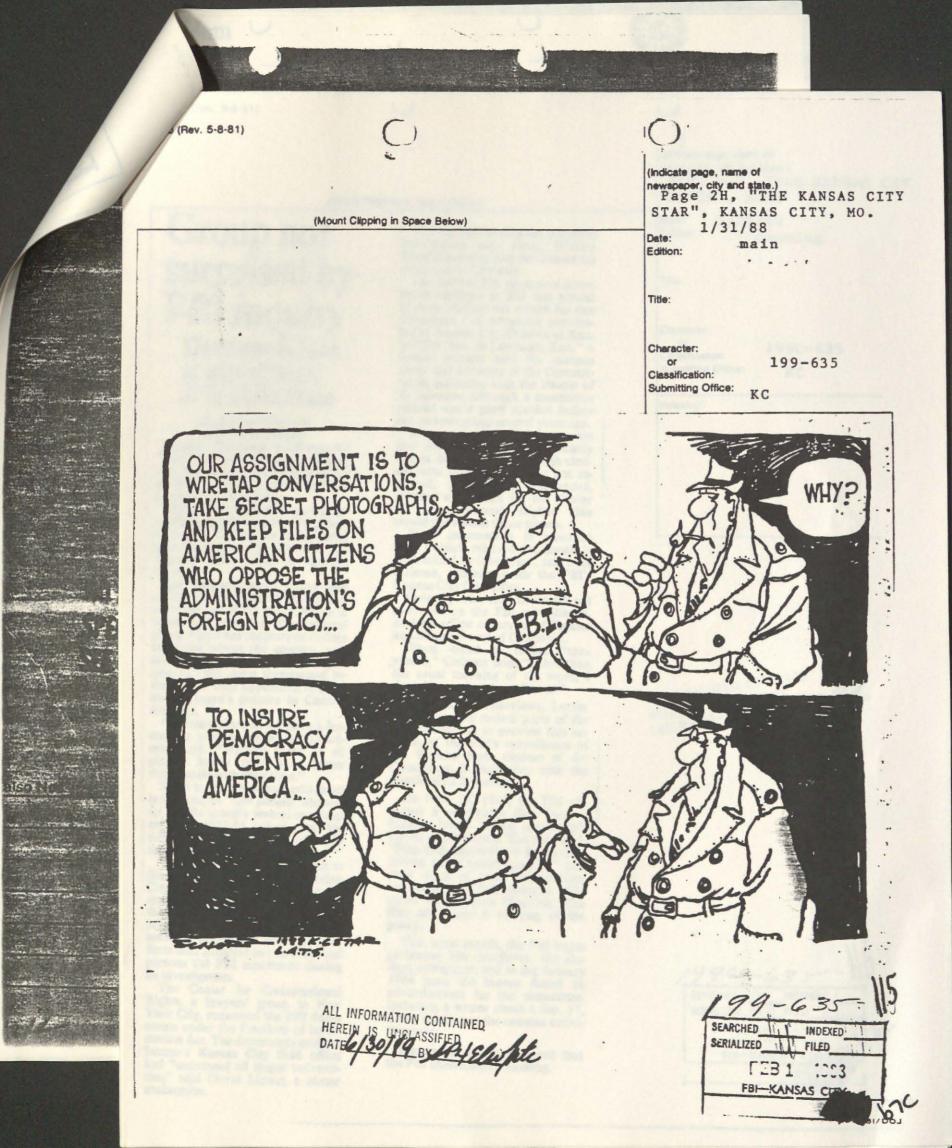
However, information on the former officers of the chapter was not available Wednesday, said Stan Longhofer, treasurer of the Student Government Association.

Myrne Roe, a spokesman for Wichita State, said the college was not aware of any FBI surveillance there.

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## Group not surprised by FBI inquiry Documents hint at surveillance at Wichita State

#### By Michael Martinez Of the Mid-America Staff

Alison Goodman, a 28-year-old Wichita State University student, says she thought all along that her extracurricular activities could have come under FBI scrutiny.

She said it comes with the territory when one is a member of a group, such as the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, that opposes U.S. policy in Central America.

She, husband Marc Rutter and another student formed the university's chapter of the group, which is based in Washington. The national group, which has chapters on college campuses across the country, was among several groups that, beginning in 1981, were investigated by the FBI for their opposition to President Reagan's policies in Central America.

"Actually Marc and I have a humorous attitude about it," Goodman said. "Wichita State of all places! Surely they have better things to do with their time."

What makes Goodman grin more is that maybe "five people" showed up for the group's several meetings over the 1983-84 school year, the only year the group was officially recognized on campus.

The chapter's student president at the time, Steve Otto of Junction City, could not be reached for comment. FBI documents released to the Center for Constitutional Rights identified a Wichita State student, a senior in liberal arts, and a Wichita State staff librarian as two of several persons the FBI monitored during its investigation.

The Center for Constitutional Rights, a lawyers' group in New York City, requested the FBI documents under the Freedom of Information Act. The documents said the bureau's Kansas City field office had "canvassed all major universi-ties," said David Liener, a center spokesman.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

But the FBI documents provided information only about Wichita State University and the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

An undated FBI document about its surveillance at KU was almost entirely blacked out except for one statement: "Investigation continu-ing in Kansas City division at Kansas City, Mo., in Lawrence, Kan." A former student said the campus never had a chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, although a committee official was a guest speaker before her campus group several years ago. Many parts of the FBI documents

had been blacked out, especially names, but apparently through clerical error some names were not removed, said Alicia Fernandez, another spokesman for the Center for Constitutional Rights. She would not release those names.

What information is removed from publicly released documents is determined by federal law, said Max Geimaa, spokesman for the FBI's Kansas City field office.

Geiman, who said he could not comment on the FBI surveillance, said his office covers all of Kansas and Missouri west of Columbia.

When asked to define "can-yassed," Geiman said, "Other than the usual meaning of the word, I don't know what that refers to."

In telephone interviews, Lerner and Fernandez recited parts of the FBI documents to provide this account of the FBI's surveillance of the Wichita State chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador:

On Nov. 17, 1983, the FBI ob-tained a committee flier from a bulletin board in the university's liberal arts building. The flier said, "Stop U.S. intervention in the Caribbean and Central America" and gave dates of such 'intervention, beginning with El Salvador in 1823 under the Monroe Doctrine. The flier advertised a meeting of the group.

That same month, the FBI began seviewing The-Sunflower, the student newspaper, and in the January 1984 issue the bureau found an advertisement for the committee, including a notice about a Jan. 17, 1984, meeting at the campus activity center.

Fernandez said it appeared that the FBI attended that meeting.

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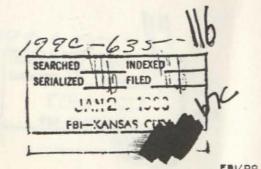
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## **Big FBI brothers**

No doubt there are abuses by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its surveillance of possible terrorists, saboteurs and foreign agents. Real terrorists, saboteurs and foreign agents exist. They do not wear badges of identification. They often place themselves in groups which legitimately oppose U.S. foreign policy. It's doubtful that many of them are in the ranks of those who are in a constant tizzy against contra aid.

The issue arises frequently. It cannot be settled satisfactorily in a democracy. There are cynical manipulators of naive organizations and there will be inevitable excesses by government agencies that try to identify them.

But in a country such as the United States, any error by government ought to be on the side of caution and restraint.

The damage done by a spy or "mole" can be devastating. The wreckage created by Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Kim Philby and Anthony Blunt in Great Britain continues to this day with the breeding of official paranoia. The Hiss and Rosenberg cases in this country were similar. On the other tide, the depredations of the Dyproduct, McCarthyism, are doubly destructive. First, they genuinely damage freedom. Second, They create a climate of revulsion

o doubt there are abuses by in which genuine traitors and their the Féderal Bureau of Investigation in its surveilof possible terrorists, saboliberty they would destroy.

An agency engaged in coun-termeasures against espionage can't win. If it fails to penetrate terrorist groups, then it is roundly denounced when the explosions begin. If it does not uncover such an outfit as the Walker family which sold naval secrets to the Soviets in wholesale lots, then Congress wonders what kind of dolts are in counterintelligence. Yet the FBI and its counterparts obviously are far from perfect instruments. The outrages committed in the days of J. Edgar Hoover and the recent treatment of a black FBI agent by racist colleagues are proof enough of stupidity or willful evil. Such acts wipe out public trust.

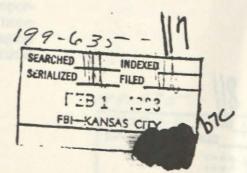
When an act of surveillance begins, an agency cannot know where it will lead.' Most often, probably nowhere. But government must set a tone of caution, and that must come from the top down. Opposition to foreign policy certainly is no definition of espionage. It is a fundamental of democratic government to understand the difference between treason and dissent. If there is reasonable doubt, then government should do nothing. (Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 12A, "THE KANSAS CITY STAR", KANSAS CITY, MO. Date: 1/29/88 Edition: evening

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### What on earth is FBI up to?

ET no one but the Federal Bureau of Investigation knew what a hotbed of radical student activism Wichita State University was in 1983 and 1984. Ah, yes, those were the good old days - when as many as 10 people attended meetings of the WSU chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), exercising their First Amendment rights by discussing the deeper implications of U.S. foreign policy in Central America. Their numbers alone must have galvanized the FBI into action, knowing what a threat the now-defunct group and its individual members could be to national security.

The FBI's surveillance activities at Wichita State four or five years ago indicates the Reagan administration's paranoia. There was no room - perhaps there still isn't - for publicly stated opposition to the Reagan administration's U.S. foreign policy initiatives in Central America. If the privacy of individuals had to be compromised, so be it. If such activity violated their constitutionally protected rights of free speech and assembly, so be it. If the investigation yielded no information of benefit to the national security interests of the United States and foolishly wasted

millions of dollars in the process - well, so be it.

The absurdity of the situation is even more apparent. Why would the FBI be interested in spying on a student group of microscopic proportions, who conducted meetings and attended classes at an urban commuter campus in the solidly Republican Midwest? Was the Reagan administration afraid this disorganized band of pacifists could whip the masses into an opposition frenzy? Leaders of the best-represented student organizations at Wichita State know what a headache it is attempting even to reach 17,000 people who cut across so many demographic strata. The idea of WSU's CISPES chapter threatening national security is absolutely laughable.

Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., was right about this investigation at WSU — it's reminiscent of McCarthyism and the FBI investigations conducted against private citizens for decades under J. Edgar Hoover. He's right, too, that these kinds of investigations undermine FBI credibility on important, legitimate matters. Let us hope someone at the FBI in Washington learns a lesson from this political embarrassment. 99-635 SEARCHED INDEXE SERIALIZED FEB 1 FBI-KANSAS CI

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By Gardner Selby and John Janks

Staff writers Federal investigators spied on a Wichita State University senior and his fiancee in 1983 and 1984 is part of a probe into a campus group opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America, according to focuments released Wednesday.

That probe included FBI summaries of political radio programs be KMUW-FM 831, having informants attend spring 1994 incetings of the campus group and FBI scrutiny of the student newspaper, the documents indicate.

THE COUPLE, Steven Otto and Camillia Gentry, were not named in the text of a February 1984 report from the Kansas City office of the FBI that was obtained recently by a New York Jegal group, the Center for Constitutional Rights, through the Freedom of Information Act. The center has received 1,200 pages about the FBI campaign of surveillance and infiltration of U.S. groups but still is seeking 1,000 more pages, a spokeswoman mid.

But the heavily censored report — large portions had been blacked out by the FBI before release to the center — did describe two Wichita residents watched by the FBI as a WSU staff librarian and a senior student in liberal arts, center spokesworden Marylou Grahamm said. In 1984, Otto was a liberal arts senior and Gentry was a campus staff librarian. During 1983 and 1984, Otto also was president of the WSU chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

THE FBI targeted that group, known as CISPES, on hundreds of campuses from 1981 through 1984, documents obtained by the center show.

Otto, who married Gentry in June 1984 and now lives with her in Junction City, said he was "pretty shocked" about the surveillance of his old Oliver Street apartment, particularly because of the public

nature of the CISPES chapter and its tiny size — running from a high of 20 members in the early 1980s to fewer than 10 during his presidency.

He said he never held a CISPES meeting in the apartment.

Gentry, who was not a member of CISPES, said: "It's ludicrous to imagine how much money our government spent to investigate a group of five people who never did anything."

Otto said he never noticed federal agents, but recalled that one night, "we thought there was something wrong with our lightbulb; we saw flashes from the parking lot. We thought it was kind of strange. It's kind of an absurd thing to de — shoot pictures at night."

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Grahamm said the documents also mentioned the CISPES chapter at the University of Kansas without elaboration.

SHE SAID that the documents did not indicate whether local police assisted or were aware of the -FBI inquiry. Local authorities and FBI spokesmen on Wednesday refused comment or denied knowledge of the probe.

An FBI spokeswoman in Washington, Kathle Bradford, refused to comment on specifics, but said in a prepared statement that such investigations took place to determine "alleged criminal activity rather than the motives and beliefs of those being investigated. The FBI is sensitive to the constitutional rights of the American public, and the bureau has no interest in interfering with the exercise of those rights."

Jim Frier, the FBI agent in charge of the Wichita office from 1982 to 1986, said: "Off the top of my head, I'm not only not able to comment on it, but I don't even recall it. I can't even recall that group."

Frier, now assistant station chief in Milwaukee, refused to discuss political surveillance, saying that it fell under the category of national security.

But Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., chairman of the House subcom-

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mittee on civil and constitutional rights, criticized the FBI's conduct. "We want the FBI to catch spies, terrorists and crooks and put them in jail, not keep political groups under surveillance, even ones that disagree with the president," Edwards said. HE SAID Wednesday that FBI

headquarters officials had assured him that they had good reason for starting the investigation of the group several years ago. Edwards said FBI officials also had assured him that the bureau no longer was investigating the group.

"But when they found no crimisal activity and when they found this organization was engaging in constitutionally protected action, they should have stopped, which they didn't do," Edwards said. The investigation "took on a life of its own, with every field office involved and millions of dollars in taxpayers' money spent."

Rep. Dan Glickman, a Democrat from Wichita, noted that a House Judiciary subcommittee had been investigating the FBI activities for more than a year.

Glickman, a member of the judiciary committee, said: "I think that this is the kind of thing that "the FBI shouldn't do, because it absolutely destroys their credibility to do important things .... It's an outrage, and reminds me both , of the McCarthy-era activities, as well as what used to happen in the

Steven Otto and Camillia Gentry were subjects of an FBI probe in 1983 and 1984 while he was a senior at Wichita State University and she was a campus librarian. They said Wednesday that the surveillance was absurd.

\*60s.\*\* Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the revelations by the Center for Constitutional Rights were serious, and "we should look into it." A spokeswoman for the center said it was considering filing a lawsuit to stop the FBI from conducting similar investigations in the future.

Wichita activists said Wednes day that the CISPES group at WSU had been defunct for two years. During the time of the surveillance, the FBI probe apparently involved sending informants to meetings of the CISPES chapter on campus.

ONE DOCUMENT in the FBI file states that an agent noticed a Jan. 17, 1984, announcement of a CISPES meeting in the student newspaper, The Sunflower. The rest of that document was abruptly censored by the bureau, suggesting that federal informants attended CISPES meetings on campus that semester, according to Ann Marie Buitrago, director of FOIA Inc., a New York public in-terest group that helped obtain the material.

Buitrago said. "All of this information was disseminated to FBI headquarters and to other field offices for further investigation."

Buitrage said the documents also indicated that when political programs were aired on KMUW,

the political views of the speakers were summarized by FBI agents or informants.

"It's kind of funny they would send agents down to spy on people who were really not doing very much," said Otto, 33, former publisher of an alternative newspaper, the Wichita Public Voice, and a one-time candidate for the Kansas House.

Noting the chapter's small membership, Otto said: "Most of us had known each other a year or more. We had no way of knowing if any of us were spies."

ACCORDING TO the FBI report, the probe at WSU began as federal agents joined a national survey of campus CISPES groups during the fall of 1983. On Nov. 17, 1983, the report states, a federal informant or agent took down a flyer posted in the WSU Liberal Arts Building that said, in part, "Stop U.S. Intervention in the Carribbean and Central America." An FBI agent or agents working from the mention of CISPES on the leaflet apparently tracked down Otto's home address through the WSU and Wichita telephone directories, Grahamm said.

The FBI, then visited Otto's apartment complex, talked to neighbors and tried to determine whether CISPES meetings were taking place there, the documents state.

In November 1983, agents also reviewed three months of Sunflower newspapers, but found no mention of the CISPES group, the documents state.

One FBI document concluded: "Kansas City will continue to monttor activities of CISPES at Wichita State University." But the bureau has told Congress that the investigation of CISPES ended in 1985.

In part of the continuing reaction to the disclosures of the FBI records, the American Federation of Teachers said Wednesday that it had no ties to CISPES and actually encouraged its members not to support the group. The federation had been identified in one of the FBI documents as a group associated with CISPES.

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## Issue could involve all Kansas colleges

By Christine Doll Staff Writer and Erwin Seba Government Editor

Federal Bureau of Investigation surveillance of organizations opposed to the Reagan administration's policies in Central America may have included K-State groups, according to the faculty adviser of Students in Solidarity with Central America.

John Exdell, associate professor of philosophy and SISCA adviser, said Thursday that documents released Wednesday by the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York indicate surveillance of student groups extended to every college campus in Kansas.

News reports have mentioned surveillance at the University of Kansas and The Wichita State University.

The Center told Exdell that, based on documents it received as part of a lawsuit settlement, "all universities in Kansas have been subject to investigation."

WSU and KU are the only two universities in Kansas for which details of the FBI surveillance are available.

Exdell said the surveillance, combined with revelations coming from the congressional hearings held this summer into the Iran-Contra affair, is disturbing.

This summer's hearings revealed that the Reagan administration planned to suspend the U.S. Constitution if the United States invaded a foreign country.

"When you look at that secret plan, which I believe involved making mass arrests, it is most disturbing," Exdell said.

Exdell said he plans to make a Freedom of Information Act request for documents relating to the surveillance campaign.

News reports Thursday said the FBI surveillance began in 1981 and lasted five years. No group under investigation appears to have been prosecuted based on information gained in the surveillance.

According to the documents, the FBI's surveillance began because of an allegation against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. The allegation claimed the organization had provided illegal military assistance to the leftist rebels in El Salvador.

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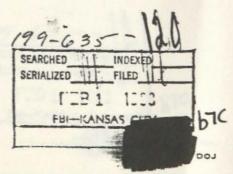
The FBI investigation expanded to include other political organizations opposed to Reagan Administration policies.

The Center for Constitutional Rights obtained the documents as part of a lawsuit it handled for CIS-PES against the FBI.

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By Christine Doll Staff Writer and Erwin Seba Government Editor

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How Steven Otto gave the Federal Bureau of Investigation the impression he was part of a gun-running operation to leftist rebels in El Salvador is known only to the bureau.

Soft-spoken and idealistic, Otto is bewildered by reports that he was under FBI surveillance when he was president of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador at The Wichita State University.

"Why they decided to focus on me, the president, at a time when we had lost most of our members .... It was almost to the point where they were investigating a non-group," Otto said in an interview at his Junction City home.

FBI documents, dating from 1981 to 1986, released Wednesday by the New York-based lawyers group, Center for Constitutional Rights, revealed that CISPES was the focus of a nationwide surveillance operation.

In those documents is a surveillance report containing a description of a man who was a WSU senior in 1984, according to a story in Thursday's Wichita Eagle-Beacon.

In 1984, Otto was a senior in liberal arts and president of CISPES at WSU.

According to the documents, CISPES was investigated because of an allegation that it was supplying arms to opposition guerrillas in El Salvador to overthrow the U.S.-backed government

Outo, whose father is an employee with security clearance at the Boeing Co. in Wichita, said he was not surprised the WSU group was watched as part of a nationwide investigation of CISPES. What does surprise him, however, are the tactics he thinks the FBI employed. Looking back, the unexplained now becomes understandable to him. "What surprised me was when I found out

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Local man

subject of FBI

surveillance

they were out in the parking lot taking pictures of our friends coming and leaving," he piaz.

Not only did FBI agents take pictures of the parking lot, but inside his apartment as well, he said.

"There were a couple of times when we saw flashes coming from the parking lot. We couldn't figure out what it was," he said.

He said he could not imagine why the FBI would want to watch him at home. It was almost as unexplainable as when a man, at a CISPES meeting, asked if the group was sending guns to El Salvador.

"We thought it was a pretty strange question at the time," he said.

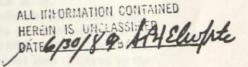
Although the FBI was suspicious of Otto, his former employer, Phil Vega, editor of the Junction City Daily Union, trusted him enough to let him cover the city and county government as a reporter.

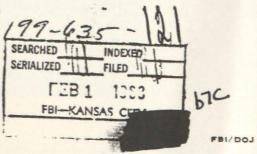
"It's kind of ridicalous," Vega said. The Daily Union was one of the papers Otto worked for after graduating with a degree in journalism and a minor in political science.

Even if Otto was inclined to be a part of a weapons-smuggling operation, he said there was little he could do in Wichita.

"I can't imagine what they thought a terrorist cell in Wichita was going to do," he said.

The CISPES organization at WSU received \$50 one year from the Student





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bers watched films, such as a documentary featuring actor Ed Asner, and invited speakers who had visited Central America.

Not only did Otto say he lacked the money to give to the cause, he also lacked the motivating ideology.

"I'm obviously to the left," said Ouo, who worked for the Jesse Jackson campaign in 1984. "But, I work within the system.

"If I were to work outside the system, it would be stuff like civil disobedience and not shooting people and running around in terrorist cells."

Now he must work within the system if he wants to find out what the FBI wrote in the 3,000 pages of information it compiled about the nation-

wide organization.

That requires filing a Freedom of Information Act request, which will take at least 10 days to process. Then he must wait until the documents break the red tape and make their way to his home.

If and when he does receive them, there is no guarantee he will know any more after reading them. Much of the text has been censored by the FBI.

"If you ask them (about what they blacked out), they'll tell you 'Well, this is all classified stuff that's sensitive to national security," he said. "But when you look at what they

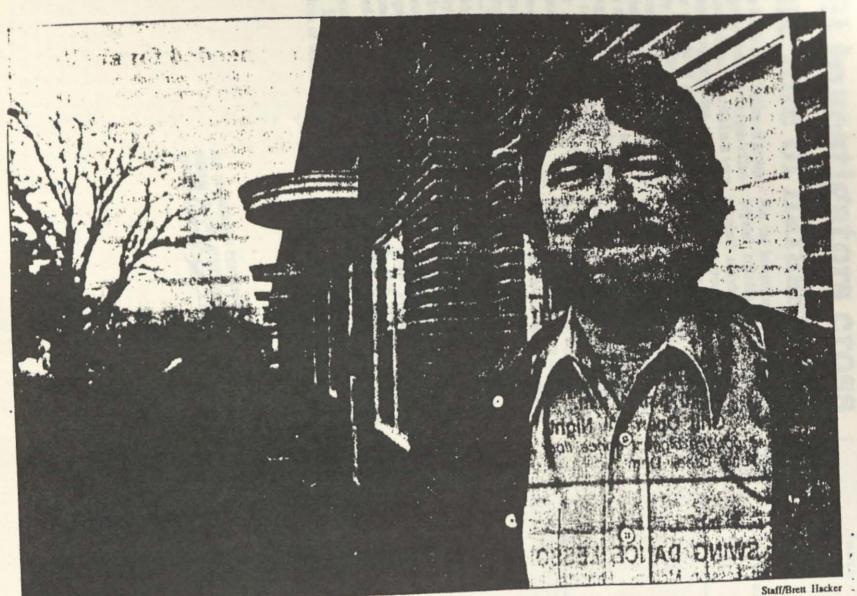
did, you know - the whole operation - it's obviously just embarrassment to them."

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Senate, he said. Most of the money was spent on a single advertisement to recruit new members at the beginning of that year. The organization's financial situation was so bad it could not pay chapter dues in 1984 and dropped to an affiliate status.

Fund-raising activities included selling brownies and Nicaraguan coffee at the student union - not a usual way to support gun running, he said.

The group's objective was to educate its members about U.S. policies in Central America. Ouo said mem-



Steven Otto stands outside his Junction City apartment. Otto was kept under FBI surveillance while he was president of the Committee in Soli-CISPES was suspected of supplying arms to El Salvadoran rebels.

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### FBI investigators cross fine line of harassment

The FBI's investigation of groups that oppose President Reagan's Central American policies walks a very fine and dangerous line.

The thought of any government agency surveilling a specific group because of its political beliefs is very disquieting. One of the fundamental rights that we in America enjoy is voicing our political opinions even when those opinions are in direct opposition to that of the government.

However, political beliefs are not an excuse for illegal actions. It is the legitimate job of the FBI to investigate — via legal means — groups or individuals suspected of criminal activity. But the line where a legitimate investigation turns into harassing surveillance, that begins to infringe upon people's tights, 18-a fine one. And one that the FBI has crossed over in this case.

Documents obtained by a New York lawyers' group, under the Freedom of Information Act, show that the investigation had gone far beyond checking allegations of criminal activity by one specific opposition group — in this case the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador. The documents show that the investigation was expanded to include over 100 other organizations.

Some of the many organizations included were the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a hospital workers union in Philadelphia, the United Auto Workers in Cleveland and all the college campuses in Kansas. These are not groups that one would consider hotbeds of radical activism. Since the investigation began in 1981, there has been no proof of criminal action uncovered. Yes, there is a need for investiga-

Yes, there is a field for investigation into other inal activity. But, especially where political groups are involved, care must be taken to ensure that people's rights are not being violated and that criminal investigations do not turn into harassment.

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The center, a public interest lawyers' group, represented Cispes in a lawsuit seeking the FBI documents. The documents made available Wednesday were released as part of a settlement.

Rep. Don Edwards, a California Democrat who is a frequent critic ofthe FBI, said the bureau's investigation "got out of hand." He added, "This investigation has an odor of harassment about it."

One of the documents released Wednesday showed that the bureau office in Dallas planned in 1983 to "introduce" an undercover agent into the Dallas office of Cispes, which has raised money for humanitarian aid to El Salvador while protesting American policy there.

In another document, a teletype to the FBI's headquarters near Washington, an agent in the bureau's New Orleans office said it was "imperative at this time to formulate some plan of attack against Cispes."

One document from the bureau's Houston office described surveillance of a 1985 peace rally. The report said that FBI agents took more than 100 photographs of the

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Abuses by FBI alleged Papers indicate surveillance of liberal groups

(Rev 5-8-81)

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Documents made public Wednesday show that for more than five years the FBI conducted extensive surveillance of hundreds of American citizens and groups opposed to the Reagan administration's policies in Central America.

The documents, which were obtained by a New York lawyers'

group under the Freedom of Information Act, indicate that the campaign began in 1981 and included the use of undercover agents, informers and surveillance of peace demonstrations around the country.

Groups at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and Wichita State University were among the targets.

At one rally, the documents show, FBI agents took photographs of marchers and recorded their automobile license numbers. Agents were also authorized to begin surveillance of students at Florida State University, the documents show.

The lawyers' group, the Center for Constitutional Rights, charged that the bureau's activities violated the civil rights of opponents of the Reagan administration's foreign policy.

But the FBI, acknowledging that it had conducted a surveillance campaign, said its investigations were legal and were based on reports of "alleged criminal activity." The bureau would not be more specific, citing an internal inquiry into the matter.

Even if the agents' actions did not

constitute an illegal infringement of individual rights, disclosure of the extensive campaign seems certain to raise new concern about the surveillance of domestic groups involved in what appears to be legitimate political protest.

Some of the documents provided to reporters Wednesday, 50 pages of about 1,200 the center obtained from the bureau, demonstrate a hostility or cynicism toward the protesters. In one document, an agent in the bureau's Chicago office described the demonstrators as "made up, to a large extent, of the 60s activist type who is often described as 'a rebel looking for a cause.' "

Law enforcement officials had previously acknowledged an FBI investigation of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, or Cispes, a liberal group that is opposed to President Reagan's foreign policy.

But it was not clear until Wednesday that the inquiry had been so broad and involved so many other liberal groups. A government official with knowledge of the docu-

ments said Wednesday that the investigation began in 1981 after allegations, never proved, that members of Cispes had provided illegal military assistance to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

According to the Center for Constitutional Rights, the investigation originally targeted Cispes but then expanded to more than 100 other groups, including the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Roman Catholic Maryknoll Sisters in Chicago and the United Auto Workers in Cleveland.

Two law-enforcement officials said Wednesday that they understood that investigations had not resulted in any prosecutions. It is not clear whether any of the FBI investigations are still under way.

Ann Mari Buitrago, a spokesman for the Center for Constitutional Rights, said the documents demonstrated a revival of the discredited policics of J. Edgar Hoover, the former FBI director whose illegal surveillance efforts directed against liberal groups were exposed in the 1970s.

"Something is terribly wrong at the FBI," Buitrago said. protesters, recorded the license plate numbers from some of their automobiles, and then shared the information with other bureau of-

In its prepared statement, the bureau said, "The predication for and focus of these investigations is alleged criminal activity rather than the motives and beliefs of those being investigated.

"The FBI is sensitive to the constitutional rights of the American public, and the bureau has no interest in interfering with the exercise of these rights."

Government officials who have studied the documents said it was not immediately clear that the FBI had violated the law by its surveillance of the groups.

The law does permit undercover investigations of political organizations if there is legitimate concern that federal law has been violated.

"There may have been a proper basis for the investigation initially," said Edwards, whose House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights oversees the FBI. "But it just got out of hand. What troubles us is the scope of the

investigation."

The Center for Constitutional Rights said Wednesday that the FBI began its investigation in 1981 after allegations that Cispes was an illegal agent of a foreign government.

The investigation was later broadened, the center said, to determine whether Cispes members might be tied to terrorists in El Salvador and elsewhere. "Needless to say, the FBI never had nor ever found any information to support that premise," the center said in a written statement.

groups affiliated with Cispes came under scrutiny. The Center for Constitutional Rights, after studying the files, said it had determined that more than 10C organizations were mentioned in the bureau files,

In a document released Wednesday, an agent in the bureau's Philadelphia office provided FBI headquarters with a list of the names of a dozen groups "actively involved in demonstrations, seminars, marches, etc., regarding the U.S. intervention in Central America." Among them was a hospital As the investigation grew, other workers' union in Philadelphia.

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## FBI surveillance to be studied

8-81)

The New York Times WASHINGTON - President Reagan has ordered an internal review of the FBI's surveillance of domestic groups opposed to his Central American policy, the White House said Friday.

"He is concerned because there should be no investigations of Americans for their political be-liefs," said Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman.

Fitzwater said no one in the White House or the National Security Council knew about the fiveyear surveillance campaign in which the former FBI director, William H. Webster, authorized the use of undercover agents and informers to gather information about the groups.

The bureau has said its investigations were legal.

The campaign came to light this

week with the release of about 1,200 pages of internal bureau files ob-tained under the Freedom of Information Act by the Center for Constitutional Rights. The documents show that more than 100 groups came under scrutiny beginning in 1981 because of ties to critics of the administration's foreign policy.

The White House said Reagan had asked the bureau's new director, William S. Sessions, to investigate the activities authorized by Webster, now the director of central intelligence.

"My understanding is that Judge Sessions will be reviewing the matter, providing a report to the attorney general and ultimately to the president," he said.

He said he did know whether Webster would be involved in the review.

Webster's chief spokesman, Bill

Baker, said Webster had authorized the investigations because of credible evidence of criminal wrongdoing. He would not be more specific, saying this evidence was classified.

Other administration officials have said the bureau had information indicating that U.S. citizens were aiding rebel groups involved in terrorist activities in El Salvador. Baker said congressional oversight committees were kept informed about the investigations.

Fitzwater said that Howard H. Baker Jr., Reagan's chief of staff; Attorney General Edwin Meese III; and Sessions met Thursday at the White House to review the disclosures about the surveillance effort and the case of Donald Rochon, a black FBI agent who was the victim of a campaign of racial harassment.

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#### Surveillance at KU listed

The director of Kansas University's Center of Latin American Studies says he wasn't aware of any FBI investigations here of people opposed to U.S. policies in Central America, but he condemned such surveillance by any governmental agency.

And Rhonda Neugebauer, a member of KU's Latin American Solidarity, a group which has opposed U.S. policies, said, "I can't say that I'm surprised but I'm outraged, because I assumed this tactic would have been stopped."

They commented in light of documents released Wednesday by the Center of Constitutional Rights which showed that KU and Wichita State University were among several college campuses at which the FBI investigated groups opposed to U.S. policies in Central America. CHARLES Stansifer, director of the Latin studies center and a KU history professor, said, "I don't like the idea at all of the FBI or any other government agency investigating the political activities of students, faculty members or private citizens."

However, he said, "It wouldn't surprise me at all that any group that any had sympathies with the Sandinistas would be under surveillance."

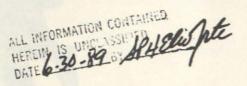
Reports say the FBI's investigation and infiltration of U.S. groups began with surveillance of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, known as CISPES. But the investigation was expanded to include a range of political and religious activities.

Stansifer said "I personally do not know of any instance in which I or any of my colleagues in Latin America have been tailed by the FBI," but he wouldn't be surprised if the FBI was watching KU because of its numerous contacts in Central America.

"THE POINT is the Center of Latin American Studies has more contacts in Central America than any other university in this particular region," Stansifer said. "We have lots of people going back and forth, we have Sandinistas visiting us, we have Sandinistan visiting professors and visiting lecturers.

"The ambassador to Nicaragua has been here, the vice president of Nicaragua has been here. And so, if they, the FBI, were looking for shall we say people who sympathize with the Nicaraguan government, they'd be easy to find on this campus."

Neugebauer said past surveillance activities, uncovered by Congress, "made us believe that we could always be under scrutiny too."



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KU grad works for rights center in N.Y. By WAYNE PRICE

J-W Staff Writer

quiring about this."

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Some KU references

'blacked out' by FBI

who works for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York says FBI documents that revealed a surveillance campaign against critics of U.S. policy in Central America offer few details about what the FBI checked on at KU.

And that's not necessarily good, said Ann Mari Buitrago, Freedom of Information Act coordinator for the center.

There are some expanded references mentioning FBI in-vestigations at KU but they are blacked out in documents the center released this week, Buitrago said.

The Center for Constitutional Rights, a New York-based lawyers group, was successful in obtaining FBI records on domestic surveillance through the federal Freedom of Information Act. The center received about 1,300 pages of documents about the FBI surveillance activities but many passages are blacked out, or heavily censored, Buitrago said.

... the material that isn't there has got to be worse than the material that is there," said Buitrago.

"It's possible there's an alter-native explanation," she said. "I think there's grounds to start in-

BUTTRAGO, WHO received a A Kansas University graduate master's degree in political ho works for the Center for Con-science from KU in 1955, said the documents indicate that the FBI's Kansas City, Mo., office received leads regarding activities at KU from its Denver bureau.

Quoting from an FBI document dated May 1984, Buitrago said the mention of KU was this: "Kansas City field office investigation is continuing at Kansas City, Mo., and Lawrence, Kans., (University of Kansas.)"

The report said an FBI agent was supposed to follow up on leads at KU.

"It's all blacked out what they want him to do," Buitrago said.

A SPOKESMAN in the FBI's Kansas City office told the Journal-World he could only say he wasn't aware of an agent specially assigned to Lawrence at the time mentioned in the report. He noted that there are agents who conduct investigations in the region.

"I really don't have much knowledge of it directly," said Mike Kortan, FBI special agent.

Buitrago said the center is attempting to get the FBI to release 1,800 more pages of FBI documents.

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She said the documents showed the FBI investigated hundreds of organizations and individuals opposed to the U.S. policy in Central America.

THE DOCUMENTS also revealed that federal investigators conducted surveillance on a Wichita State University senior and his fiance in 1963 and 1964. The student, Steven Otto, who now lives in Junction City, was president of the WSU chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, or CISPES.

Officials at KU have said they weren't aware of a CISPES chapter at KU or any surveillance activities here. But Dwaine Hemphill, a second-year law student at KU and member of Latin American Solidarity, a campusbased organization generally critical of President Reagan's Central American policies, said its possible that CISPES representatives may have been at KU at one time or distributed literature here.

"It's a loose informational network," Hemphill said of the groups opposed to the administration's Central America policies.

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**FBI** watch list of

# protesters included two KU men

#### By Jeff Moberg Kansan staff writer

Two men affiliated with the Unimeraity of Kansas were among hunfreds of people tader FBI surveilince for their opposition is the Reagan administration's policies in Central America during the early 1980s, documents released Wednesiny show.

A New York lawyers' group, the Center for Constitutional Rights, obtained the documents from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act. The documents reveal that undercover agents, informers and the monitoring of peace protosts throughout the country were part of the FBI's operations beginning in 1981.

Bernice Crane, a spokesman for the center, said that two man con-

nected with the University appeared on the FBI's list. She would not say whether the men were students or University employees. She said they were both U.S. childrent

The FBI investigation began when the burned thread its eyes on the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, known as CISPES but then widened its view to include all kinds of political and religious groups. The FBI suspected that CISPES had ties with leftist guerrillas in El Salvador. Those suspicions were never proved, and no arrests were made.

<sup>7</sup> David Ambler, vice chancellor of student affairs, said yesterday that he was not aware that FBI agents were conducting surveillance operations on campus. If they were, he said, they certainly would not notify anyone within the administration of their activities. FBI officials refused to comment. Chancellor Gene A. Budig was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment. Executive Vice Chanceller Judith Barrelar, Mar

at want to comment.

\*I suspect if anyone would have known, I would have known," Ambler said. He said that he could not understand why the FBI would want

te spy on anyone exercising his rights.

"I cannot for the life of me understand why they would want to take prveillance of student organizations

that are parsuing a lawful act or course even if it's a group differing in opinion with government," Ambler said. (Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 1, "THE UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN", Lawrence, Ks. Date: 1/29/88 Edition: main

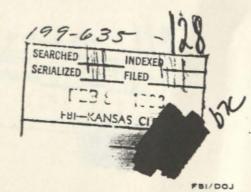
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## **Slattery offers warning to FBI**

#### By Jeff Moberg Kansan staff writer

The FBI overstepped its authority in conducting surveillance on U.S. citizens in the early 1980s, Rep. Jim Slattery, D-Kan., said yesterday.

In a telephone interview from his Topeka office, Slattery offered a stern warning to the new FBI director, William Sessions, who was sworn

in Nov. 2. "He needs to be very, very careful," Slattery said. "If you're going to get involved in monitoring U.S. citizens, you'd better have some darn hard evidence."

hard evidence. Documents released Wednesday indicated that the FBI investigated hundreds of U.S. citizens beginning in 1981, apparently because they were opposed to the Reagan administration's policies in Central America. Two men affiliated with KU were under surveillance.

Slattery said he wished the FBI would find something better to do with its time than to monitor citizens exercising their freedom of speech. "Candidly, I was a little bit sur-

"Candidly, I was a little on more prised, and I want to learn more about what they're doing," Slattery

said. "There is a very fine line the FBI needs to walk when they monitor Americans, and I think they crossed that line. With their limited resources, I would rather see the FBI monitor the wide drug trafficking in this country."

Slattery said he was concerned about the investigation and he would like authorities in Washington to delve into the FBI's operation further. U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III said Thursday that he would order a review of FBI activi-

ties. Slattery said, "I hope the appropriate committees will look into this and get to the bottom of it."

get to the bottom of it. The Center for Constitutional Rights in New York obtained the documents from the FBI under the Freedom Of Information Act. According to the documents, the FBI investigated many major Universities throughout the country, including KU and Wichita State University. Bernice Crane, a spokesman for the lawyers' group, said almost all the information pertaining to surveillance at KU had been blacked out, including dates and names.

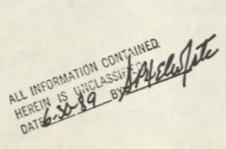


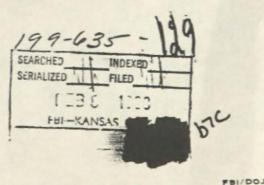
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