
Part IV

***Significant Areas of
Investigation***

Introduction

This Commission was charged with determining whether any activities of the CIA within the United States exceeded its statutory authority. We have, therefore, extensively inquired into the CIA's domestic activities and related matters over the years.

The next 11 Chapters of this Report detail our findings and analyze those activities that bear special scrutiny.

The Commission met weekly, beginning on January 13, 1975, to hear testimony from witnesses familiar with CIA domestic activities. The Commission heard 51 witnesses, including the four living former Directors of Central Intelligence, the current Director, 28 other current and former CIA employees, the Director of the FBI, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, former Secretary of State Dean Rusk; three former Presidential Advisers for National Security Affairs, McGeorge Bundy, Walt W. Rostow and Gordon Gray; and five experts on individual liberties and privacy. A transcript of all testimony by these witnesses was made. More than 2,900 pages of sworn testimony were collected.

In addition to testimony before the Commission, many additional witnesses were questioned under oath by the Commission staff, or signed sworn affidavits.

The staff was divided into four teams for purposes of the investigation. Three two-man teams conducted the factual investigation. The fourth team researched the legislative history and other Constitutional and statutory limitations on the CIA and investigated its internal and external controls.

These four teams presented the most important evidence through witnesses who appeared before the Commission. They also made available to the Commission summaries of all interviews and documentary evidence that they discovered.

The Commission's investigation attempted, within the limits of time and personnel, to discover all pertinent witnesses and documents disclosing the nature of the CIA's domestic activities.

Members of the staff spent weeks at the CIA and elsewhere interviewing personnel, and reviewing files, computer systems and written memoranda on activities within the United States.

The Commission was given access to all CIA files that the Commission ascertained could be pertinent to a full investigation. Some files were reviewed in their entirety; others were sampled at random. The documentary holdings of the CIA were much too large for an investigation or examination of all papers. Nevertheless, we believe that this investigation covered all areas of the CIA likely to have been involved in domestic activities, and examined closely those witnesses and documents most likely to contain pertinent information on such activities.