

*With the CIA in Vietnam*

## Campus Cloaks a 'Spy' Operation, Raises a Dispute in the Midwest

In the months following the 1954 Geneva Agreement, splitting the Southeast Asian land of Vietnam in two, the United States rushed in with economic and military aid to help prop up the weak, fledgling South Vietnamese government. To train South Vietnam's police force, the Eisenhower Administration hired a team of officials from Michigan State University, in East Lansing.

More than a decade after its training team first set foot in South Vietnam, Michigan State last week became embroiled in a dispute over the presence of five Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents in its group. The University officials worried that the disclosure might hurt numerous university-run activities now under way in other programs.

The flap was touched off when Ramparts magazine, which has criticized U.S. policy in Vietnam and calls itself an "independent magazine of dissent," accused the university of hiring the CIA agents "to engage in counterespionage and counterintelligence." In an article in its April issue, the magazine said the agents were part of the school's 1955-1962 Government-financed training programs for South Vietnam's civilian police force, civil service, and government-training institute.

The university denied the accusation. "We did not knowingly hire any CIA men—and when we found out about their role, we dropped them," said James H. Denison, assistant to Dr. John A. Hannah, the university's president. The university said the CIA agents became involved in the project when the school hired retired police and military men to help train the South Vietnamese police force.

But Prof. Wesley Fishel of Michigan State, who headed the university's program in Saigon from 1956 to 1958, said "there was no secret" among university officials about the intelligence agents' presence on the project's payroll. He in-

sisted, however, that the agents performed "no cloak-and-dagger work" while working for Michigan State. "They were employed by the university," he explained, "simply to train the Vietnamese civil police in countersubversive activities."

Both Mr. Fishel and Mr. Denison denied any charge by Ramparts that the school's mission trained palace-guard personnel for the late President Ngo Dinh Diem had bought ammunition ranging from pistols to rocket launchers.

"This raises serious questions," declared Jack Faxon, a Democratic state legislator from Detroit who is chairman of the higher education subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. He said his committee might check to see if state funds are used in such university-run Federal projects abroad and study the relevance of the university's role in foreign-assistance programs.

Officials of Michigan State — which holds a broad range of U.S. contracts to assist other countries in agricultural planning, police administration, and education—said the South Vietnam project was financed solely by \$5,400,000 in Federal funds.