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Prohibition against COMINT vs. US citizens

In September 1972 [redacted] Commo to conduct hearability tests of certain HF long-distance commercial telephone circuits between the US and South America. The circuits carried drug-related traffic. [redacted]

[redacted] The tests were successful. The activity was terminated on 30 Jan 73 following OGC determination that they were illegal.

We conduct an intercept operation in [redacted] targeted on radio telephone conversations [redacted]

[redacted] These intercepts contain a large number of unrelated conversations often involving US citizens.

Testing in the US of GRD-developed electronic collection systems occasionally result in the collection of domestic telephone conversations. When the tests are complete, the intercepted material is destroyed.

CIA [redacted] technicians conducted tests in the Miami area in August 1971 of DF gear intended for use against a Soviet agent in South Vietnam. While wholly innocuous, the tests prececed the holding of the conventions there and could be construed as being somehow related to them.

In February 1972 CIA asked an official of AT&T for copies of telephone call slips relating to US-China calls. The operation lasted for three or four months and then died up. OGC stated its belief that the collection of these slips did not violate the Communications Act since eavesdropping was not involved.

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Mail coverage

Since 1953, CIA has operated a mail intercept program of incoming and outgoing Russian mail and, at various times, other selected mail at Kennedy Airport in New York City. This program is now dormant pending decision on whether to continue or to abolish it.

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