

Free Times, Cleveland
Thursday, January 26, 2006

SPIES LIKE US ...

Call it division of labor, but the Department of Defense isn't supposed to spy on U.S. citizens. At a press conference Tuesday, the American Civil Liberties Union announced an investigation into two incidents of exactly that, right here in Northeast Ohio.

The New York Times originally broke news of a DOD database listing occasions of domestic spying, including a Northeast Ohio Antiwar Coalition planning meeting in November '04 and a peace march last March. The DOD database categorized both events as "threats." The case of the peace march is listed as "open/unresolved."

Greg Coleridge of the American Friends Services Committee called it "chilling, intimidating, and outrageous."

The ACLU has requested whatever information the feds and police departments in Cleveland and Akron have on eight people, including Coleridge, involved in peace activities in Northeast Ohio.

Meanwhile, the Northeast Ohio Antiwar Coalition has announced a "Spy-In" to take place at 7:30 a.m. Monday in front of the Federal Building at 1240 E. 9th St. in Cleveland. Participants are encouraged to "spy back" at the feds, and come dressed in trenchcoats, sunglasses, etc.

— Michael Gill