Officer: 2 tried to see police file on radicals

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — An aide to a New Jersey congressman and a Cuban exile publisher tried to examine secret police files on suspected radicals, an intelligence officer testified Thursday.

Enio Serrano of the Police Intelligence Division told the government's Civil Rights Commission that Christopher Harmon, an aide to Rep. Jim Courter, R-N.J., and Antonio de la Cova, publisher of La Cronica magazine, tried to examine police files on alleged radicals in February or March.

Serrano said his superiors denied de la Cova and Harmon access to the files.

De la Cova is suspected of leaking in June a list of names allegedly taken from the Intelligence Division files, sparking an uproar over police surveillance of citizens and prompting the Civil Rights Commission to hold investigative hearings.