

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Executive Registry

76-5726

DDO 76-8889

FROM:

Ken Knaus  
EO/DDO

EXTENSION

NO.

9203

DATE

24 November 1976

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

Mr. [REDACTED]

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3.

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Ken Knaus  
7E-26 HQS.

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

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15.

You asked the other day about public statements made by either Mr. Bush or Mr. Colby concerning Agency policy on assassinations. Attached is far more than I am sure you ever wanted to know about this subject. You will note however, among all this verbiage the only really explicit public statement against assassinations or at least the only one that the computer has recorded is the one made by Mr. Colby in his TV appearance in October 1975. Mr. Bush's only public reference is in an implicit rejection. Would you please return these statements if you have no need for them as I assume the subject will reoccur each time the new investigating committee turns the subject over.

Spec Int flc #8

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SR1

L1 WILLIAM E. COLBY TV APPEARANCE OCTOBER 5, 1975

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AND THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TIMES, IN THE 1950'S AND 1960'S, THERE WERE THINGS THAT WERE CONSIDERED QUITE APPROPRIATE AT THAT TIME WHICH ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. HERMAN: SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS THE BREAK-IN ON DR. ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST, THE PEOPLE WHO BROKE IN, WE KNOW FROM THEIR TESTIMONY, BELIEVED THEY WERE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT AND PROPER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. COLBY: AND I THINK THAT'S A QUESTION FOR A JURY TO DECIDE. I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM. IT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE. I'M EXPRESSING MY BELIEF. HERMAN: BUT DON'T YOU HAVE A FEELING ABOUT IT? COLBY: AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AS I KNOW IT, WE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY OF OUR EMPLOYEES ACTUALLY CONVICTED. WISE: MR. COLBY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE CIA SHOULD KILL THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES? AND HAVE THEY EVER DONE SO OR ATTEMPTED TO DO SO? COLBY: I HAVE MANY TIMES TURNED DOWN SUGGESTIONS TO THAT EFFECT. IN 1923, I ISSUED DIRECTIVES THAT I AM

~~HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DO WITH ASSASSINATIONS, WOULD NOT STIMULATE THEM, CONDONE THEM, SUPPORT THEM OR COMBODD THEM. THEREFORE, I THINK THAT THE ANSWER IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT~~

~~TO VERY CLEARLY, I DO NOT THINK THIS SUBJECT A GOOD ONE TO GO INTO PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS~~  
 OF FOR TWO REASONS. I THINK WE CAN SEAR INTO OUR NATIONAL HISTORY A VERY DAMAGING WOUND. AND I THINK, SECONDLY, THAT SOME OF THE FACTS OF THESE THINGS, BECAUSE OF THE WAYS THESE MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED AT THE TIMES, ARE VERY MURKY AS TO WHO WAS PART OF IT AND WHERE THE APPROVAL AND HOW DETAILED THE APPROVAL WAS. WISE: BUT YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT WAS A SUBJECT. COLBY: IT IS NOT A SUBJECT FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. WISE: ARE YOU SAYING THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT OR. COLBY: I AM SAYING THE SITUATION WAS VERY MURKY AND THAT I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS SUBJECT IS AN APPROPRIATE ONE FOR AN OFFICIAL TO BE TALKING ABOUT. WISE: BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THE FACTS ABOUT IT THEN? COLBY: WE HAVE REPORTED ALL THE FACTS TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE. THEY HAVE EXAMINED THE MATTER INDEPENDENTLY

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AS WELL. AND I THINK THEY CAN COME TO A CONCLUSION ON THE BASIS OF THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THEM. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION, BECAUSE I THINK WE CAN HURT OUR COUNTRY VERY SERIOUSLY. SCHORR: DOES THAT MEAN WHEN SENATOR MONDALE MENTIONS, AS HE DID IN A SPEECH THIS WEEK, THE EXISTENCE OF A GROUP CALLED THE EXECUTIVE ACTION GROUP FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS IN THE EARLY SIXTIES WHICH WAS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING PLANS, HYPOTHETICAL OR NOT, FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF VARIOUS PERSONS, THAT YOU'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT THIS? COLBY: WE HAVE REPORTED EVERYTHING ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT TO THE COMMITTEES. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT'S APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. SCHORR: YOU DON'T DISPUTE THE LITTLE THAT SENATOR MONDALE HAS TOLD ABOUT? COLBY: I DON'T SAY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. I JUST DON'T BELIEVE THE SUBJECT IS APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. PUBLIC DISCUSSION WHEN THE SENATE REPORT COMES OUT.

COLBY: THERE HAS BEEN QUITE A LOT OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION. SCHORR: THERE HAS BEEN. COLBY: BUT I DON'T THINK IT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO DISCUSS IT IN GREAT DETAIL. HERMAN: ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PROSPECTS FOR SECURITY OF WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD THE TWO COMMITTEES?

COLBY: I THINK OUR RECORD TO DATE HAS BEEN QUITE GOOD IN THE SENATE. HERMAN: NO, I'M TALKING ABOUT THEM, MR. COLBY. COLBY: YES. HERMAN: DO YOU THINK THAT THEY WILL KEEP SECURE THE THINGS THAT YOU WANT KEPT SECURE? COLBY: WELL, I THINK THE SENATE HAS KEPT ITS MATTERS QUITE CAREFUL. WE HAD A DISC

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SSION LAST WEEK, AS YOU KNOW, WITH THE HOUSE COMMITTEE AS TO THE DETAILS OF HOW WE WOULD DO THINGS. AND I THINK THAT IS AN ARRANGEMENT; IT'S A COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT, AND IT AFFORDS A VEHICLE FOR REASONABLE MEN TO COME TO GOOD CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE EXPOSED AND WHAT SHOULD BE KEPT QUIET. THERE MAY BE SOME INDIVIDUAL LEAKS. YOU JOURNALISTS ARE VERY ENERGETIC IN PROSECUTING THE POSSIBLE STATEMENTS OF ONE MAN AND COMPARING IT WITH ANOTHER AND ADDING UP TO AN OVERALL STORY. BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEES AND THEIR STAFFS WOULD BE AS GOOD AS THE DISCIPLINE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. AND NEITHER WILL BE PERFECT. NEITHER ARE PERFECT AT THE MOMENT. BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT WE AMERICANS, AS WE TRY TO MAKE INTELLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE, WE CAN BE RESPONSIBLE OURSELVES IN THE WAY WE DO IT. WISE: MR. COLBY, YOU SAID THAT ASSASSINATION IS NOT A GOOD SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSING PUBLICLY. BUT AT A HEARING ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, YOU DISPLAYED THAT POISON DART GUN AT THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HEARING IN THE SENATE. AND I WONDERED IF THAT GUN OR THAT TYPE OF WEAPON HAS BEEN USED AGAINST ANY FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURES. COLBY: THE GUN HAS NOT BEEN USED. THE GUN WAS BROUGHT UP THERE BECAUSE THE SENATE COMMITTEE RATHER INSISTED ON ITS BEING THERE. I DIDN'T VOLUNTEER IT, CERTAINLY, BUT IT WAS A PART OF THE EVIDENCE THAT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE. AND THERE WAS REALLY NO REASON TO SAY THAT IT WAS SO HIGHLY CLASSIFIED THAT IT COULD NOT BE EXPOSED. SCHORR: MR. COLBY, AS ONE GETS AROUND THIS COUNTRY, ONE FINDS THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WILL NOT GO AWAY IS THE POPULAR MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. I GUESS YOU'VE RUN INTO THAT. AND TIME AND TIME AGAIN, PEOPLE ASK ME, AND I GUESS THEY'VE ASKED YOU, -DID THE CIA DO IT?- I SAID -AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE CIA HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION OR ANY CONSPIRACY IN THIS COUNTRY AGAINST ANY AMERICAN PUBLIC FIGURE. - BUT.. COLBY: CORRECT

SCHORR: ONE OF THE REASONS THAT PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OR LACK OF ROLE OF THE CIA IS THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT THE CIA DID KNOW ABOUT TANGENTIALLY CONNECTED AND WHICH APPARENTLY DIDN'T COME OUT. I'M TALKING ABOUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SERIES OF CONSPIRACIES TO TRY TO KILL CASTRO, WHICH WAS NEVER COMMUNICATED TO THE WARREN COMMISSION. AS FAR AS I KNOW, JOHN MCCONE, AS DIRECTOR, HELMS, AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TESTIFIED AND DIDN'T TELL THE WARREN COMMISSION ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. WOULD YOU CARE, IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY, TO SAY THAT COVERING UP THINGS THAT DIDN'T MATTER LIKE THAT, DIDN'T MATTER THAT MUCH -- IT WAS A MISTAKE AND GETS THE CIA BLAMED FOR A LOT OF THINGS IT DIDN'T DO? COLBY: WELL, THE CIA IS SOMEWHAT ACCUSTOMED TO BEING BLAMED FOR A LOT OF THINGS. IN THAT CASE, CIA DID PROVIDE TO THE WARREN COMMISSION EVERYTHING IT KNEW ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION, ABOUT OSWALD AND SO FORTH. IT DID NOT APPARENTLY DISPLAY THIS MATTER. BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT MR. ALAN DULLES WAS A MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, AND HE CERTAINLY KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GENERAL SUBJECT. AND HE COULD HAVE BROUGHT THAT QUESTION IN VERY EASILY. SCHORR: CAN YOU SAY NOW THAT OTHER THAN ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH CASTRO AND THAT WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH WHAT WAS GOING ON IN OSWALD'S MIND, THAT THE CIA HAD NO CONNECTION WITH OSWALD -- NO CONNECTION -- IS NOT HIDING ANYTHING IN THE WAY THAT WE'RE FINDING OUT THE FBI DESTROYED CERTAIN DOCUMENTS, THAT THE CIA HAS NOTHING FURTHER TO REVEAL ABOUT THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION? COLBY: CERTAINLY NOT, NOT ABOUT MR. OSWALD OR ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION. WE PROVIDED ALL THE MATERIAL WE HAD THAT WAS IN ANY WAY RELEVANT TO THE MATTER TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION OF THE POSSIBLE STORIES ABOUT MR. CASTRO, WHICH I THINK WERE CONSIDERED AS NOT RELEVANT AT THE TIME. WISE: WOULDN'T THE CIA HAVE WANTED TO BRIEF

OSWALD, DEBRIEF HIM WHEN HE CAME BACK FROM THE SOVIET UNION, ASK HIM ABOUT HIS TRAVELS IN THE SOVIET UNION? I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT THAT. COLBY: WELL, THERE WAS SOME CONSIDERATION OF THAT. BUT HE HAD OTHER CONNECTIONS, OTHER CONTACTS, AND ANY DEBRIEFING COULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED THROUGH THAT. WISE: I DON'T UNDERSTAND. COLBY: HE HAD SOME OTHER CONTACTS, AS I THINK HAS COME OUT IN THE RECORD, WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. AND ANY DEBRIEFING THAT WAS APPROPRIATE COULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED THROUGH THAT MANNER. WISE: ARE YOU SUGGESTING THE FBI MIGHT HAVE INTERVIEWED HIM? COLBY: I THINK THERE IS IN THE RECORD THE FACT THAT WAS SOME CONTACT EARLY ON WITH THE FBI. HERMAN: WHEN Y

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SR1

L1 MR. COLBY ON MEET THE PRESS

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S WAS INDIGENOUS OR WAS BEING STIMULATED AND SUPPORTED BY FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OR SECURITY SERVICES. MR. GELB: BUT OUR OWN STUDIES SHOWED THAT THESE WERE NOT CONNECTED WITH FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. MR. COLBY: AND IT'S BY STUDYING IT, WE FOUND THEY WERE NOT CONNECTED. IF WE HAD NOT STUDIED IT, WE COULD NOT MAKE THAT FINDING. MR. GELB: BUT YOU COULD MAKE THAT ARGUMENT BY SAYING YOU WOULD HAVE TO KEEP STUDYING SOMETHING FOREVER TO INSURE IT DIDN'T HAVE A FOREIGN CONNECTION. MR. COLBY: NO, I DON'T THINK YOU DO. YOU RESPOND TO A PRESENT NEED, A PRESENT PROBLEM, A PRESENT DANGER. WE TERMINATED THIS OPERATION A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, BECAUSE THE PROBLEM HAS GONE AWAY IN GREAT PART, AND CONSEQUENTLY THERE IS NOT A REASON FOR CONTINUING THAT KIND OF AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY FOREIGN LINKS TO AMERICAN DISSIDENT ORGANIZATIONS. MR. ROSS: SENATOR CHURCH SAYS THAT HIS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND EVIDENCE OF AN ORDER FROM ANY PRESIDENT TO THE CIA TO PLAN ASSASSINATIONS. DOES THAT MEAN THE CIA WAS ACTING ON ITS OWN IN THIS AREA? MR. COLBY:

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF ASSASSINATIONS. THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX SUBJECT. SOME OF THE FACTS ARE NOT WELL KNOWN OR NOT WELL RECORDED, AND SOME OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH VARIOUS PEOPLE WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE AGENCY WERE A PART OF ANY SUCH ACTIVITY IS NOT VERY CLEAR. WE HAVE REPORTED ON THIS FULLY TO THE COMMITTEES AND WE WILL DO SO, BUT I DO NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. MR. ROSS: LET ME TURN TO ANOTHER AREA THEN. THE CIA PLACED THE SHAH OF IRAN BACK ON HIS THRONE IN THE MID-FIFTIES. THE SHAH IS NOW ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS WHY WE ARE PAYING A GREAT DEAL MORE MONEY FOR OUR OIL. IN THIS INSTANCE, AS IN OTHERS, MIGHTN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO JUST ALLOW EVENTS TO TAKE THEIR NORMAL COURSE? MR. COLBY: AND ALLOW THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAN TO TAKE OVER THAT COUNTRY? I DOUBT THAT. I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED FROM THE OIL LONG BEFORE THIS. MR. ROSS: WOULD NOT OIL PROBABLY BE CHEAPER, BEING BOUGHT FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES? WE HAVE ENGAGED IN SOME SORT OF AN ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE

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OR NATURAL GAS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. MIGHTN'T THAT BE A CHEAPER PRICE THAN WE ARE PAYING OUT OF THE PERSIAN GULF RIGHT NOW? MR. COLBY: IN THE MID-FIFTIES, THE PROBLEM OF COMMUNIST EXPANSION WAS A VERY GREAT DANGER AROUND THE WORLD, AND WE DID A LOT OF THINGS TO PREVENT IT. IN THE SEVENTIES WE HAVE BEGUN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION WITH A COMMUNIST WORLD WHICH IS, ITSELF, DIVIDED IN THE SINO-SOVIET SPLIT. YOU HAVE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT STRATEGIC SITUATION WE ARE FACING TODAY THAN THE ONE WE FACED IN THE FIFTIES. MR. SPIVAK: THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE STORIES OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE FOREIGN LEADERS. DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RELEASE THE FULL AND TRUE STORY LEST RUMORS AND SPECULATIONS MAKE IT SEEM A LOT WORSE THAN IT IS? MR. COLBY: NO, MR. SPIVAK. THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE AGENCY ARE QUITE CLEAR, THAT THE AGENCY WILL NOT ENGAGE IN, SUPPORT OR STIMULATE OR CONDONE ASSASSINATION AT THIS TIME. THOSE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY THE AGENCY FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW. MR. SPIVAK: WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PAST THOUGH. MR. COLBY: I DO NOT THINK IT USEFUL TO OUR COUNTRY TO GO INTO A GREAT EXPOSURE OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES. AND I THINK THAT THAT SUBJECT HAD BEST BE SETTLED BY ADOPTING A FIRM POLICY AT THIS POINT NOT TO USE SUCH ACTIVITY AND LETTING THE PAST STAY QUIET. MR. SPIVAK: MAY I TAKE YOU TO ONE THING THAT IS HAPPENING NOW? RUMORS ARE BEING SPREAD THAT THE CIA IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTS TO GET RID OF PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI. CAN YOU CATEGORICALLY STATE THAT? MR. COLBY: I CATEGORICALLY DENY THAT. MR. SPIVAK: --IS CIA NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY? MR. COLBY: I CATEGORICALLY DENY THAT. MR. ROWAN: THE ROCKEFELLER REPORT SAID THAT ONE OF THE CIA'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS HAD INFORMATION ON 300,000 AMERICANS IN IT. YOU HAVE TESTIFIED THAT THE CIA MAINTAINS 40 TO 50 SUCH RECORD SYSTEMS. I AM WONDERING, CAN YOU TELL US HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE

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SR1

L1 NOVEMBER 26, 1975 10:00 PM, INTERVIEW SEGMENTS WITH COLBY BY DAN RATHER ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD

SR2

L2 PART 2, CBS REPORTS INQUIRY ON ASSASSINATIONS, WTOP TV CBS NETWORK, WASHINGTON, DC

SR3

L3 DAN RATHER: SOME CRITICS OF THE WARREN REPORT BELIEVE OSWALD WAS TRAINED AS A SPY WHILE IN THE MARINE CORPS AND WAS TAUGHT THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN ANTICIPATION OF BEING SENT TO RUSSIA. WILLIAM COLBY, THE PRESENT DIRECTOR OF THE CIA, SAYS THAT IS NOT TRUE.

DIRECTOR COLBY, DID THE CIA RECRUIT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WHEN HE WAS IN THE MARINES AND SEND HIM TO RUSSIA? COLBY: NO. WE HAD NO CONTACT WITH MR. OSWALD. RATHER: NO CONTACT BEFORE HE WENT TO THE SOVIET UNION? COLBY: NO CONTACT WITH HIM BEFORE HE WENT TO THE SOVIET UNION, NO CONTACT WITH HIM AFTER HE RETURNED FROM THE SOVIET UNION, NO CONTACT WITH HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE SOVIET UNION. RATHER: DID ANYONE WITH THE CIA DEBRIEF OSWALD WHEN HE RETURNED TO THIS COUNTRY? COLBY: NO, THE CIA DID NOT DEBRIEF HIM. I THINK THERE ARE SOME UNCLASSIFIED, OR DECLASSIFIED, REPORTS OF FBI DEBRIEFINGS, BUT THE CIA DID NOT DEBRIEF HIM. RATHER: I SAY TO YOU, AS I HAVE BEFORE, THAT THAT'S DIFFICULT FOR MANY PEOPLE, AND, IN ALL CANDOR, DIFFICULT FOR ME TO BELIEVE: THAT A YOUNG MAN IN THE MARINES GETS OUT OF THE MARINES, GOES TO THE SOVIET UNION, MARRIES A RUSSIAN WOMAN, MOVES BACK TO THIS COUNTRY, COMES BACK INTO THIS SOCIETY, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE CIA DID NOT, UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, DEBRIEF HIM. COLBY: RIGHT. WELL, I THINK -- I UNDERSTAND YOUR DOUBT ON THIS QUESTION. I THINK YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES. MR. OSWALD WAS WHAT CAN BE CALLED A DEFECTOR TO THE SOVIET UNION. WE DID HAVE A REPORT ON MR. OSWALD, WHICH THE FBI GAVE TO US, ABOUT IT. WE ALSO RECEIVED SOME MATERIAL FROM THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ABOUT MR. OSWALD, WHEN HE TRIED TO DISCLAIM HIS CITIZENSHIP. WE HAD A LITTLE FILE, THEREFORE, ON MR. OSWALD, WHICH CONSISTED OF THE TWO REPORTS FROM THE FBI, THE TWO REPORTS FROM THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, AND ONE REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NAVY -- THE MARINES, I THINK IT WAS -- INDICATING SOME EXCHANGE BETWEEN THEM. THAT'S ALL WE HAD UNTIL ROUGHLY OCTOBER OF 1963. RATHER: DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO IN SEPTEMBER 1963, YOU HAD OSWALD UNDER SURVEILLANCE AT BOTH THE RUSSIAN AND CUBAN EMBASSIES? COLBY: NO, NO, NO. WE DID NOT HAVE HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE. WE BECAME AWARE OF A CONTACT HE MADE WITH EACH OF THOSE EMBASSIES. RATHER: DID YOU MAKE VOICE RECORDINGS OF HIM? COLBY: I THINK THERE WERE, YES. RATHER: WHY WAS THE WARREN COMMISSION GIVEN A PHOTOGRAPH OF ANOTHER MAN AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY, WRONGLY IDENTIFIED AS LEE HARVEY OSWALD? COLBY: WELL, IT WASN'T WRONGLY IDENTIFIED AS LEE HARVEY OSWALD. WE KNEW THAT HE WAS IN THESE EMBASSIES AT A CERTAIN DAY, AND WE LOOKED AT THE CAPABILITY WE HAD TO PHOTOGRAPH CERTAIN THINGS IN THE CITY. AND WE LOOKED AT -- THROUGH THE PHOTOGRAPHS, HOPING THAT WE COULD FIND, PERHAPS, A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM AS HE CAME IN OR WENT OUT OF ONE OF THESE EMBASSIES. WE DID FOCUS ON ONE WHICH WE THOUGHT MIGHT BE HIM, AND THIS WAS FLOWN UP TO DALLA, LABELED -AN UNIDENTIFIED WHITE MALE. - THAT WAS THE IDENTIFICATION OF IT. BUT IT WAS FLOWN UP IN CASE IT COULD BE HELPFUL AT THAT TIME. BUT THERE WAS NOT A PHOTOGRAPH WRONGLY LABELED. IT TURNED OUT NOT TO BE MR. OSWALD, CLEARLY. AND WE, TO THIS DAY, DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS.

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L1 PRESS CONFERENCE 19 NOVEMBER 1975

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E OR EXTREMIST GROUPS, EITHER DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN, WHO MIGHT FEEL CALLED UPON TO TAKE SOME SUCH ACTION AGAINST THESE PEOPLE. I AM CONCERNED BECAUSE THE TESTIMONY GIVEN IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE WAS GIVEN WITH MY FULL ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT. WE WAIVED THE SECRECY AGREEMENTS THAT APPLIED TO OUR EMPLOYEES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE PROVIDED LARGE AMOUNTS OF DOCUMENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE SO THAT THEY WOULD BE FULLY INFORMED ON THESE EVENTS. THE PEOPLE WHO DID TESTIFY, I BELIEVE IN GOOD FAITH, ANTICIPATED THAT THEIR EXECUTIVE SESSION TESTIMONY WOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED BY THEIR EXPOSURE FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES. I AM CONCERNED THAT THERE BE SOME FEELING THAT THERE BE AN OBLIGATION TO REVEAL THESE ACTIVITIES BECAUSE THERE IS SOME DISAPPROVAL OF THEM. THIS DISAPPROVAL, OF COURSE, IS SHARED BY MANY OF US. THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED HIS CLEAR POLICY AGAINST ANY SUCH ACTIVITY. I HAVE ISSUED DIRECTIVES IN THIS AGENCY TWO YEARS AGO WHICH CLEARLY PROHIBIT ANY INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION ACTIVITY, SO THERE'S REALLY NO QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THIS IS GOOD OR BAD. IT IS BAD. THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER WE WILL IMPOSE AN EXTRA LEGAL RETALIATION ON PEOPLE WHO AT ONE TIME DID WHAT THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE COMMAND STRUCTURE AROUND THEM THOUGHT WAS APPROPRIATE AT THE TIME. I BELIEVE THAT, IF THERE IS DIAPPROVAL OF THESE ACTIVITIES, THERE ARE VEHICLES BY WHICH WE CAN TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT RECUR. THERE ARE ALSO VEHICLES BY WHICH ANY PARTICULAR PUNISHMENT COULD BE METED OUT ACCORDING TO THE LAW, BUT I THINK THAT THE EXTRA LEGAL, EX POST FACTO EXPOSURE OF OUR PEOPLE TO HOSTILE AND IRRATIONAL RETALIATION IS NOT WITHIN THE TRADITION OF OUR COUNTRY AND, CERTAINLY, IS TOO MUCH TO EXPECT OF PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTED THE LIMITATIONS OF LIVES OF ANONYMITY AND SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY IN THE INTELLIGENCE BUSINESS. I THINK ONE PARTICULAR THING THAT CONCERNS ME IS THE COMMITTEE RULE ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH SAYS THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO BELIEVES HIMSELF

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ES SHOULD BE INCLUDED. QUESTION: IRRESPONSIBLE? MR. COLBY: NO, I WOULDN'T CALL IT IRRESPONSIBLE. I THINK IT IS WRONG TO EXPOSE THESE NAMES, BUT I DON'T THINK I'D LIKE TO PUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF ADJECTIVES ON IT. QUESTION: MR. COLBY, DOES THE WHITE HOUSE KNOW THAT YOU ARE MAKING THIS APPEAL? MR. COLBY: YES. QUESTION: WHAT SORT OF ACTIONS ARE ATTACHED TO THESE NAMES? WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT--MURDER, OR...? MR. COLBY: I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT IT MYSELF. I HAVEN'T READ THE REPORT ITSELF. I WAS TOLD BY MY OFFICER THAT THEY WERE INCLUDED IN THERE IN A FASHION WHICH WOULD PUT THEM UNDER SOME THREAT. QUESTION: ARE THEY ASSOCIATED WITH SERIOUS CRIMES? MR. COLBY: THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES IN PAST YEARS, WHICH I THINK WE, MANY OF US, AND I, MYSELF, REJECT TODAY. QUESTION: MR. COLBY, DID THE WHITE HOUSE SUGGEST THAT YOU MAKE THIS APPEARANCE? MR. COLBY: NO, I DID. QUESTION: MR. COLBY, IN THE PAST WE'VE HAD SOME DIFFICULTY DRAWING YOU OUT ON THE SUBJECT OF ASSASSINATIONS. NOW IT APPEARS THAT THIS REPORT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. CAN I ASK YOU, IS IT YOUR POSITION IN ANY ACTIVITIES THAT THE CIA BECAME INVOLVED IN, THAT THEY WERE ACTING AT THE DIRECTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE? IS THAT YOUR POSITION--OR WILL YOU GIVE A POSITION? MR. COLBY: I REALLY AM NOT TOTALLY INFORMED ON THAT. THE COMMITTEE HAS CONDUCTED AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION IN WHICH THEY'VE LOOKED INTO A LOT OF THINGS OUTSIDE OF CIA, SO I'M SURE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHOLE PICTURE IS LARGER THAN THAT AVAILABLE TO ME, AND I BELIEVE THAT THE RECORD IN CIA IS, AT BEST, MURKY, AS TO EXACTLY WHO APPROVED WHAT, WHEN, AND THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS I'VE REFUSED TO GET INTO A DETAILED DISCUSSION ABOUT IT. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE REPORT WHEN IT DOES COME OUT, AS THE RESULT OF THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION INTO THIS. HOPEFULLY, WITHOUT THE NAMES. QUESTION: WHEN YOU TALKED WITH THE OFFICER WHO READ THE REPORT AND BRIEFED YOU, DID HE COMMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE QUESTION I'M ASKING REGARDING THE CONCLUSION

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SION OF THE COMMITTEE? MR. COLBY: NO, I DIDN'T ASK HIM THAT. I WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN SECURITY PROBLEMS THAT WERE INVOLVED. THAT'S WHAT WE WERE INVITED TO LOOK AT, THAT WAS THE PROBLEM THAT I FELT I WAS ASKED BY THE SENATE TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ABOUT, AND I DID. I WAS NOT ASKED TO REVIEW THE ACCURACY OR NONACCURACY OF THEIR CONCLUSIONS, OF THEIR ASSESSMENTS, OF THEIR DETAILED REPORTS. QUESTION: IF I COULD FOLLOW UP FOR JUST A SECOND... I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT WAS THE OFFICIAL PROCEDURE, BUT CAN I ASK YOU--WERE THERE NO COPIES WITHIN THIS ORGANIZATION? MR. COLBY: NO, HE READ IT UP THERE. HE DID NOT BRING ANY HOME. QUESTION: I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR COPY. MR. COLBY: I KNOW OF NO OTHER COPIES, AND I'M SURE THAT WE HAVE NO OTHER COPY. QUESTION: MR. COLBY, WOULD YOU CONSIDER SCHEDULING ANOTHER SUCH SESSION AS THIS AFTER THEY PROCEED WITH THE REPORT? MR. COLBY: WELL, I STILL STAND ON MY DISAPPROVAL OF A DISCUSSION OF ASSASSINATION. QUESTION: WOULD YOU DISAPPROVE OF ANY SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT SUBSEQUENT TO ITS PUBLICATION? MR. COLBY: WELL, I'D LIKE TO READ THE REPORT TO DETERMINE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. I REALLY DON'T KNOW. QUESTION: WILL THE CIA BE ASKED TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR THESE PEOPLE, IF, IN FACT, THEIR NAMES ARE PUBLISHED? MR. COLBY: WELL, THERE'S VERY LIMITED PROTECTION WE CAN GIVE THEM IN THIS COUNTRY. WE DO NOT HAVE A POLICE SERVICE HERE, OR ANY SUCH ACTIVITY. WE WOULD CERTAINLY HELP THEM TO THE DEGREE WE

COULD. QUESTION: EARLIER, WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HOSTILE GROUPS, YOU SAID VARIOUS OF US HAVE RECEIVED THREATENING PHONE CALLS AND MAIL. HAVE YOU PERSONALLY RECEIVED THREATS? MR. COLBY: CERTAINLY. QUESTION: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THEM? MR. COLBY: WELL, DIFFERENT KINDS OF PHONE CALLS AND CRANK MAIL AND THAT SORT OF THING. QUESTION: HAS THERE BEEN ANY EFFORT TO DO A TRACE, FIND OUT THEIR ORIGINS? MR. COLBY: IN CERTAIN CASES, YES... TO FIND OUT WHAT THE ORIGIN OF.

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YOU NOT SIMPLY TOLD THE SENATE COMMITTEE THEY CAN'T RELEASE INFORMATION THAT YOU HAVE CLASSIFIED UNTIL YOU LET THEM DO IT? MR. COLBY: BECAUSE I BELIEVE THE INFORMATION FROM THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION INVESTIGATION WAS SENT UP THERE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE HANDLED IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER BY THE SENATE. THERE WAS NOT A LEGAL POSITION TAKEN AT THAT TIME. QUESTION: SENATOR CHURCH MADE A POINT OF SAYING THIS MATERIAL WAS GIVEN TO THEM UNDER CLASSIFICATION, AND WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS, WHY YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN THE STERN LEGAL POSITION, EITHER YOU OR THE WHITE HOUSE, THAT YOU TOOK IN A SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCE OVER THE CLASSIFICATION--THE LAST NEWS CONFERENCE YOU HAD WAS OVER THE MATTER OF UNILATERAL DECLASSIFICATION. WHY IS THIS NOT AN ISSUE OF...? MR. COLBY: IN THAT CASE, IT WAS DECLASSIFIED AND I SAID IT WAS WRONG AT THE TIME, AND WE LATER WORKED OUT A RELATIONSHIP WHICH AVOIDED THAT KIND OF THING HAPPENING AGAIN. QUESTION: MR. COLBY, WHY SHOULD A REPORT ON ASSASSINATION PLOTS NOT BE MADE PUBLIC? MR. COLBY: BECAUSE I THINK IT CAN HARM OUR COUNTRY, AND I THINK THAT THE EVIDENCE IS NOT VERY CLEAR BECAUSE OF THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THAT KIND OF ACTIVITY MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE 50'S AND 60'S AND I SEE THAT NO BENEFIT TO OUR COUNTRY IS TO BE GAINED AND CONSIDERABLE LOSS TO OUR COUNTRY. CIA HAS HAD A VERY HARD TIME FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS AS A RESULT OF A STATEMENT OF MY TESTIMONY BEFORE ONE OF THE COMMITTEES, A STATEMENT OF TESTIMONY WHICH WAS INACCURATELY STATED AS CIA ENGAGING IN DESTABILIZATION. THAT WORD HAS BECOME A WORLDWIDE WORD, PUT IN MY MOUTH, ALTHOUGH I NEVER SAID IT, AND IT IS THAT PRECISE EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF THING THAT I THINK WE WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE AS HOSTILE SERVICES, HOSTILE COUNTRIES, HOSTILE POLITICAL GROUPS, DELVE THROUGH THE INDIVIDUAL ALLEGATIONS, QUOTATIONS AND MATERIAL THAT WILL SHOW IN A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WILL USE IT AGAINST OUR COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT NUMBER OF YEARS. QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT ALSO WRONG?

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AMERICANS TO KNOW THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DID ENGAGE IN PLOTTING ASSASSINATIONS? MR. COLBY: NO, I THINK WE SHOULD SHARE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN WITH OUR CITIZENS, AND I THINK THAT THE EXPRESSION OF OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE AS APPROPRIATE FOR A COMMITTEE. I'M REALLY ONLY ARGUING ABOUT THE DETAILS OF IT AND, PARTICULARLY, THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED. QUESTION: COULD WE HAVE THE BENEFIT OF YOUR VIEWS ON THE REPORT AFTER IT'S PUBLISHED? MR. COLBY: WELL, THAT IS AN ANSWER TO AN EARLIER QUESTION AS TO WHETHER I'D HAVE ANOTHER CONFERENCE AFTER IT'S PUBLISHED, AND I WOULD HAVE TO READ IT BEFORE I COULD ANSWER THAT QUESTION. QUESTION: COULD WE HAVE TELEPHONES IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE? MR. COLBY: WE CERTAINLY WILL TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU A LITTLE BIT SOONER THAN WE DID TODAY. QUESTION: NO, I MEAN TELEPHONES TO FILE ON? MR. COLBY: WE REALLY AREN'T PREPARED FOR A REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE SITUATION HERE. QUESTION: MR. COLBY, HOW MANY NAMES WERE REMOVED AT THE CIA'S REQUEST FROM THE REPORT? MR. COLBY: WELL,

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L1 JANUARY 21, 1976 DANIEL SCHORR INTERVIEWS WILLIAM E. COLBY  
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THERE HAS BEEN A NEED TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS OF BRINGING AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE CLEARLY UNDER AMERICA'S CONSTITUTION AND LEGAL SYSTEM. I THINK THE TRADITIONAL CONCEPT OF INTELLIGENCE WAS THAT SOMEHOW IT WAS OUTSIDE OF LAW, IT REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING MUCH TO DO WITH LAW, AND IT SOMEHOW WAS SOMETHING THAT NATIONS DID BUT DIDN'T TALK ABOUT. WELL, THAT'S NO GOOD FOR AMERICA. WE EXPECT OUR GOVERNMENT TO WORK UNDER THE LAWS AND UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, AND WE'VE BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF DEMONSTRATING THAT VERY CLEARLY TO US IN THE INTELLIGENCE PROFESSION, AS WELL AS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT LARGE. SCHORR: DID YOU THINK THAT IT COULD BE HANDLED AS AN INTERNAL REFORM PROCESS, WITHOUT ANY PUBLIC EXPLANATION OR PUBLIC RETRIBUTION? DIRECTOR COLBY: WELL, I THINK I WOULD PREFER ANKLY. BUT THEN WE WENT THROUGH SIX MONTHS OF EXCITEMENT WITH ALL SORTS OF ACCUSATIONS AND SENSATIONALISM, AND I THINK THE NORMAL CITIZEN IS INCLINED TO THINK THAT I SPEND MY DAY IN THIS OFFICE PLOTTING ASSASSINATIONS. WELL, THE ACTUAL FINDING OF THE COMMITTEE WAS REALLY QUITE REVEALING, BECAUSE IT INDICATED THAT THIS AGENCY, IN THE LAST 25 YEARS, DID GO OUT TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE LIFE OF TWO INDIVIDUALS, NEITHER OF WHOM DIED AS A RESULT OF THAT EFFORT. THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN KILLED IN THE PROCESS OF OPERATIONS, CERTAINLY; THERE ARE OUR OWN OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED, THERE ARE FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE COURSE OF REVOLUTIONS AND COUPS, THINGS OF THAT NATURE. BUT THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY ASSASSINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THIS AGENCY. SCHORR: BUT THEY TRIED. DIRECTOR COLBY: THERE WERE TWO SITUATIONS IN WHICH CLEARLY THIS PARTICULAR REPORT INDICATES THAT THERE WERE STEPS TAKEN HERE TO BRING THIS ABOUT. BUT THEY DIDN'T HAPPEN. AND, YOU KNOW, OVER 25 YEARS, TO SAY THAT THAT CHARACTERIZES THE WORK OF THE AGENCY I THINK IS JUST PLAIN WRONG. AND I THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SEE THROUGH THE SENSATIONAL TREATMENT TO THE REALITY THAT'S UNDERNEATH IT WHEN THEY GET A SERIOUS ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE FACTS ACTUALLY WERE. SCHORR: ARE THERE PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT YOU TO CLEAN UP YOUR SHOP BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE CHAIN REACTION WHICH MAY AFFECT THEIR CAREERS? DIRECTOR COLBY: OH, I DON'T -- I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY SUGGESTION TO THAT EFFECT, NO. NO, I THINK THAT ANY DIFFERENCES THAT MAY HAVE EXISTED IN HOW TO HANDLE THIS WHOLE INVESTIGATION SITUATION WERE GOOD-FAITH DIFFERENCES AS TO HOW TO ENABLE A VERY IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION AND AGENCY TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE COUNTRY IN

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THE BEST WAY IT CAN. SCHORR: YOU SAID THAT YOU NEVER ORDERED ANY ASSASSINATION AND THAT YOU WERE NEVER PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN ANY OF THOSE PLANS FOR ASSASSINATION. YET, ARE YOU SAYING THAT NONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED WAS ENOUGH TO OUTRAGE YOU? DIRECTOR COLBY: NO, I DON'T THINK SO -- THE ONES THAT I KNEW OF. I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE TWO CASES I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT AT THE TIME. I INDICATED THAT WHEN I DISCOVERED THEM, THEY WERE LONG IN THE PAST; THEY OBVIOUSLY HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DIRECTIVES THAT WE WOULD NOT DO THAT ANYMORE; AND I REALLY DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING PARTICULARLY ABOUT THEM AT THAT TIME. SCHORR: YEAH, BUT THERE WAS OPENING OF MAIL AND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE AND... DIRECTOR COLBY: WELL, THE OPENING OF THE MAIL, I THINK, IS A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEM WE HAVE. THE OPENING OF THE MAIL IS ILLEGAL; IT SAYS SO IN THE LAW. NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. AND ONCE WE DISCOVERED IT, WE STOPPED IT, IN 1973. SCHORR: TWENTY YEARS LATER. DIRECTOR COLBY: BUT LET'S LOOK AT WHEN IT STARTED AND WHAT IT WAS DEVOTED TO. IT WAS A READING THE MAIL BETWEEN THE UNITED

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OF DISCLOSURE HAS PROBABLY ABOUT RUN ITS COURSE, AND YET THERE IS A RESIDUE OF QUESTIONS. SOME, LIKE CHARLES COLSON, CONTINUE SUGGESTING THAT THERE WAS A SORT OF A CONSPIRACY IN THE CIA AGAINST THE NIXON WHITE HOUSE, THAT THE CIA PLAYED SOME PART IN BRINGING DOWN NIXON. ANY TRUTH? DIRECTOR COLBY: ABSOLUTELY NOT. THIS AGENCY HAS, IF ANYTHING -- I THINK THE RECORD SHOWS VERY CLEARLY THAT, IF ANYTHING, IT'S TOO LOYAL AND TOO RESPONSIVE TO PAST PRESIDENTS, THAT IT IS PRECISELY RESPONSIVENESS TO PRESIDENTS THAT IN SOME CASES TODAY IS NOW CRITICIZED, WHERE WE HAVE REACTED. I THINK GIVING THE RED WIG TO MR. HUNT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF RESPONDING TO WHAT SEEMED TO BE A WHITE HOUSE, PRESIDENTIALLY-SPONSORED, REQUEST. AND WE SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT, AND LATER WE WITHDREW FROM IT, AS SOON AS WE SAW THE DEPTH TO WHICH IT SEEMED TO BE GOING. BUT ABSOLUTELY NOT, NO. THERE'S NO CONNECTION IN THIS AGENCY WITH ANY CONSPIRACY AGAINST MR. NIXON. WE ABSOLUTELY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. I THINK THAT, IN A WAY, THE CIA HAS BEEN, INDEED, THE SCAPEGOAT OF MANY THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED. AND I THINK, STATISTICALLY, YOU CAN FIND THAT THE ABUSES BY THE CIA FREQUENTLY LEAD THE HEADLINE, AND THEN LATER WE FIND THAT THERE ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE OF THAT THIS WAS REALLY A SMALL PORTION. SCHORR: IF YOU HAD TO PROJECT, WHAT WOULD YOU SEE THIS AGENCY, OR UNDER WHATEVER NAME IT IS, LOOKING LIKE, SAY, 10 YEARS FROM NOW? DIRECTOR COLBY: TEN YEARS FROM NOW, I THINK THAT -- THE THING I THINK WE WILL SEE, THE MOST EXCITING CHANGES, WILL BE THE INCREASE IN INFORMATION AND THE INCREASE IN OUR ABILITY TO PERCEIVE THE SUBTLETIES THAT EXIST IN THE WORLD BETWEEN DIFFERENT SOCIETIES, BETWEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES, BETWEEN DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLES. IN A WAY, YOU KNOW, THE OLD IDEA USED TO BE TH



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L1 FEBRUARY 2, 1976 CHICAGO TRIBUNE BOB WIEDRICH INTERVIEWS WILLIAM E. COLBY  
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F STRATEGIC SERVICES, SAID HE HAD HOPED CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES WOULD PRESENT A BALANCED PORTRAIT OF CIA OPERATIONS. QUOTE I HOPED THEY WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR MISTAKES OF THE PAST 28 YEARS, BUT ALSO BRING OUT THAT WE HAD TAKEN CORRECTIVE ACTIONS THROUGH A SERIES OF DIRECTIVES IN 1973. UNQUOTE COLBY TOLD US. INCIDENTALLY, THAT WAS THE YEAR COLBY BECAME THE CIA DIRECTOR. QUOTE I ALSO HOPED THE INVESTIGATIONS WOULD DESCRIBE WHAT INTELLIGENCE WORK IS ALL ABOUT, UNQUOTE HE CONTINUED. QUOTE UNFORTUNATELY, THE SENSATIONAL QUALITIES OF OUR WORK IS WHAT SOME OF THE PRESS AND CONGRESS PICKED UP ON. UNQUOTE FOR EXAMPLE, COLBY CITED NEWS PHOTOS OF SEN. FRANK CHURCH, THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT FROM IDAHO WHO SERVED AS SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, HOLDING A DART GUN DESIGNED BY CIA WEAPONS TECHNICIANS. QUOTE THE GUN WAS NEVER USED, UNQUOTE COLBY DECLARED. QUOTE YET, THAT WAS THE END RESULT OF A SIX-MONTH INVESTIGATION. THE SAME APPLIED TO ALL THE TALES OF ASSASSINATION PLOTS. THERE WERE ACTUALLY ONLY TWO TARGETS AND NOBODY DIED. TAKE THE STORIES OF ALLEGEDLY MASSIVE DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE BY THE CIA. THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION CONDUCTED A FOUR-MONTH INVESTIGATION. AND IT FOUND THAT MOST OF THE THINGS WE DID WERE PERFECTLY PROPER. SOME OF THE THINGS WE DID BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT TOLD US TO. THERE WAS A QUESTIONABLE GRAY AREA. AND SOME OF THE THINGS WE DID WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE OPENED MAIL. BUT REMEMBER, THAT PROGRAM WAS STARTED IN 1953 IN THE MIDST OF THE COLD WAR, WHEN RUSSIA WAS A CLEARLY DEFINED THREAT AND WE MONITORED MAIL TO AND FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THOSE THINGS HAVE BEEN SENSATIONALIZED AND THEY HAVE OBSCURED THE REAL NATURE OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE. IT IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD. IT OPERATES UNDER THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION. IT HAS REVOLUTIONARIZED THE PROFESSION OF INTELLIGENCE BY UTILIZING OPENLY AND CLANDESTINELY ACQUIRED INFORMATION. OUR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY HAS CHANGED THE WHOLE FRAME OF REFERENCE. WE USED TO ESTIMATE

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THE NUMBER OF MISSILES THE RUSSIANS MIGHT HAVE. TODAY, WE COUNT THEM AND MEASURE THEM BY TECHNICAL MEANS - AN EYE IN THE SKY (SATELLITES), PHOTOGRAPHY, AND ELECTRONICS. AND WE HAVE DEvised NEW WAYS TO ANALYZE THE INFORMATION, TO MAKE IT MORE METHODOICAL AND PRECISE. SO THAT IS THE REALITY. NOT THE DART GUN. NOT THE ASSASSINATION PLOTS. THE CIA DOES HAVE A JOB OF CONDUCTING SECRET, EVEN PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD. WE DO VERY LITTLE OF THIS. ONLY ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF THE CIA BUDGET IS DEVOTED TO THIS. IN THE 1950S AND 1960S, THE FIGURE WAS MUCH HIGHER. IN THE EARLY 1950S, SUCH OPERATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET, A REFLECTION OF THE TIMES AND THE THREATS WE FACED. BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IMPRESSION. THESE ARE PRIMARILY JUST GIVING HELP TO SOME GROUP IN SOME COUNTRY THAT WANTS TO ACT IN OUR BEST INTERESTS AND AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. NOW, WE ARE FACED WITH THE SOVIETS PUSHING AGAIN. WE HAVE PROBLEMS THEY DO NOT HAVE. OUR PROBLEM IS TO GET INFORMATION. THE SOVIET PROBLEM IS TO UNDERSTAND INFORMATION. WE HAVE TO GET WHAT IS KEPT SECRET FROM US. THEY GET SO MUCH INFORMATION THEY MUST SEPARATE THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF. A PERSON IS FOOLISH TO SPY ON AMERICA. YOU CAN READ MOST OF IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS. I WISH I COULD READ AS FREELY IN THE PAPERS ABOUT THE MILITARY POSTURE STATEMENT AND APPROPRI

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L1 FEBRUARY 6, 1976 PANORAMA INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM COLBY

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SOME PEOPLE, SOME OF THE CRITICS, FOR INSTANCE, OF THE CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS WOULD SAY, QUOTE WE HAVE TOLD TOO MUCH. WILLIAM COLBY HAS TOLD TOO MUCH. WE HAVE LOST THE EDGE. UNQUOTE COLBY: WELL, I THINK THE ANSWER TO THAT IS THAT THE CRITICS SAY THAT FORMERLY WE TOLD TOO LITTLE, WHICH MAY BE PARTLY RIGHT. AND TODAY I THINK THAT AT THE MOMENT WE ARE SAYING TOO MUCH. I'M WAITING FOR THE PENDULUM TO GET BACK INTO THE CENTER. POVICH: WHEN YOU WERE SUBJECTED TO THE INVESTIGATIONS BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE, ONE OF YOUR FIRST STATEMENTS WAS, IN A 30-PAGE DOCUMENT THAT YOU PRESENTED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE, QUOTE THERE WERE A FEW MISSTEPS BY THE AGENCY. UNQUOTE WOULD YOU HOLD YOURSELF TO THAT DESCRIPTION, OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE IT NOW? COLBY: NO. I THINK THAT WAS DEAD RIGHT AND I THINK THAT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY TWO OF THE -- OR, THREE OF THE REPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE THAT TIME: THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION REPORT, THE SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT ON ASSASSINATIONS, AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT ON CHILE. I SAID THAT THERE WERE A FEW MISSTEPS IN OUR 28-YEAR HISTORY, AND MISDEEDS -- I THINK I USED ALSO THE PHRASE. THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION REPORT SAYS THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR ACTIVITY WAS PERFECTLY PROPER AND WITHIN OUR CHARTER, THAT CERTAIN THINGS WE DID WERE UNPROPER, SOME DONE AT THE SPECIFIC DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, SOME DONE BECAUSE THERE WAS A GRAY AREA AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AND WHAT SHOULD NOT BE DONE, AND SOME DONE BECAUSE OF AN EXCESS OF ACTIVITY, AND I THINK, HONESTLY, AT A PERIOD WHEN THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER WE WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT ALL -- AT THE TIME. THE OPENING OF THE MAIL, FOR INSTANCE, BEGAN IN 1953, OPENING MAIL TO AND FROM THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH WAS RUNNING SPIES IN AMERICA. IT WAS IMPROPER; WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE IT, BUT I THINK THE CONTEXT OF IT (UNINTELLIGIBLE). AS FOR THE MASSIVE DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY, I THINK IF YOU'LL LOOK THROUGH THE REPORTS, YOU

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LL FIND THAT WE ESSENTIALLY HAD THREE AGENTS WHO DID THINGS THAT THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE. WELL, THAT'S HARDLY A MASSIVE ACTIVITY. THE ASSASSINATION REPORT: AFTER SIX MONTHS OF INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION, THE SENATE COMMITTEE DISCOVERED THAT WE DIDN'T ASSASSINATE ANYBODY. THERE WERE TWO ATTEMPTS MADE AGAINST TWO INDIVIDUALS -- THERE WERE TWO INDIVIDUALS THAT WE TRIED TO KILL; NEITHER OF WHOM ... POVICH: TWO HEADS OF STATE. COLBY: NOT HEADS OF STATE IN BOTH CASES, BUT NEITHER OF WHOM DIED AS A RESULT. NOW, THAT'S HARDLY A GRAND PROGRAM OF ASSASSINATION, SUCH AS WE WERE ALLEGED TO BE DOING. AND WITH RESPECT TO CHILE, I THINK IT SHOWS THAT OUR EFFORTS THERE, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, WERE AIMED AT SUPPORTING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND FORCES IN CHILE. POVICH: WHEN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THAT RECORD, COUPLED WITH THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, FRANK CHURCH, YESTERDAY. -- AND BY THE WAY, I HAVE TALKED TO SENATOR CHURCH ON MANY OCCASIONS, AND HE HAS GIVEN YOU NOTHING BUT THE UTMOST ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY YOU AND HE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER ... COLBY: HE'S BEEN VERY KIND. POVICH: ... IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. BUT HE SAYS (THAT) IF THOSE MISSTEPS AND MISDEEDS, IF THEY WERE INDEED THAT, THERE IS ENOUGH THERE FOR CRIMINAL ACTION, AND HE HAS CALLED FOR A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, MAYBE ENLARGING THE WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S AUTHORITY, TO LOOK INTO THIS. THAT, TO ME, IS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, THE PROSPECT OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, THE POSSIBILITY OF IT, AND HE WANTS IT INVESTIGATED. TO ME, THAT'S MORE THAN MISSTEP AND MI

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L1 DECEMBER 13, 1975 10:45 PM, W. E. COLBY REBUTTAL TO GRANADA TELEVISIONS' THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CIA

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E HAS? THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAS GONE BEYOND THE FINDINGS OF THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION AND HAS FOUND MANY MORE EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY THE CIA. IT FOUND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE CIA, IN AT LEAST TWO INSTANCES, REALLY SET OUT TO KILL FOREIGN LEADERS: FIDEL CASTRO AND PATRICE LUMUMBA OF THE CONGO. SO, AREN'T YOU CITING A REPORT WHICH, BY AND LARGE, IS MORE FAVORABLE TO YOU THAN THE LATER FINDINGS? DIRECTOR COLBY: NO, I'M MERELY CITING A REPORT THAT WAS WRITTEN TO COVER CIA'S DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES, WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF ITS INQUIRY AND WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF SENSATIONAL CHARGES ABOUT A YEAR AGO, WHICH GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT CIA WAS ENGAGED IN MASSIVE ILLEGAL DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY. I THINK THE FACTS OF THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION REPORT WERE THAT IT WASN'T MASSIVE AND IT WASN'T ILLEGAL, THAT SOME OF THE THINGS WERE WRONG, SOME FEW OF THEM, BUT IT CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE CHARACTERIZED IN THAT FASHION. DUKE: WASN'T... COLBY: THE SUBJECT OF ASSASSINATION, OF COURSE, WAS CONSIDERED A BIT THERE, BUT THEN WAS PASSED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR ITS FURTHER INVESTIGATION. AND IN THE SENATE'S FULL INVESTIGATION -- AND WE COOPERATED 100 PER CENT WITH THEM ON THIS. I THINK IF YOU'LL READ THAT REPORT ALSO, YOU WILL FIND THAT WHAT THEY FOUND AFTER SIX MONTHS OF VERY INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT CIA DID, THAT THEY FIND FIVE CASES, WHICH THEY MENTIONED. TWO CASES IN WHICH CIA, THEY SAY, DID MAKE SOME STEPS TOWARD THE KILLING OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, NEITHER OF WHOM DIED AS A RESULT OF THOSE STEPS. THERE WERE SOME OTHER STEPS -- THERE WERE SOME OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE KILLED ELSEWHERE AS A PART OF ACTIVITY THAT OTHER PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES REPORTED ON, AND WAS NOT A RESULT OF CIA'S PLOTTING AGAINST THEM. AND THAT'S THE SUM TOTAL OF THE SIX-MONTH'S INVESTIGATION. THIS DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE IMPRESSION OF AN AGENCY WHICH HAS SPENT THE LAST 25 YEARS ASSASSINATING PEOPLE. DUKE: MR. COLBY, YOU SAID ON CBS NOT LONG AGO -- AND I'D LIKE TO QUOTE YOU

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OUR PRECISE WORDS -- THERE WERE THINGS THAT WERE DONE WRONG, BUT THEY WERE DONE EITHER BECAUSE THEY WERE BELIEVED TO BE RIGHT OR WITHIN THE COLOR OF THE LAW. THERE IS A JUSTIFICATION FOR WHAT THEY DID. -- DO YOU BELIEVE THAT MURDER WAS JUSTIFIED? DIRECTOR COLBY: I BELIEVE THAT ASSASSINATION IS NOT JUSTIFIED, AND I'VE ISSUED DIRECTIVES AGAINST IT, AND I'VE TURNED DOWN SUGGESTIONS FROM HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE PAST THAT THAT BE DONE. I HAVE NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. CERTAINLY IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE, EXCEPT IN TIME OF WAR, OF COURSE, WHICH -- WAR IS A FORM OF KILLING PEOPLE. DUKE: SENATOR CHURCH SAID THE OTHER DAY THAT THE CIA HAS HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE SITTING AROUND, DREAMING UP SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. AND AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO QUOTE WHAT HE SAID: -THESE ARE THE TYPES YOU ACTUALLY WOULD EXPECT TO FIND, THE DARE-DOER TYPES, THE ADVENTURESOME TYPES, THE PEOPLE WHO FIND THEIR EXPRESSION IN EXCITING ACTIVITIES. AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING? THEY'RE SITTING AROUND, THINKING OF SCHEMES FOR FEW INTERVENTIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD. -- IS THAT AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF CIA PEOPLE? DIRECTOR COLBY: I DON'T THINK SO. I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT I'VE HAD AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE IN VARIOUS THINGS, BUT I DON'T SIT AROUND SCHEMING FOR MORE ADVENTURES. I HAVE PLENTY OF ADVENTURES HERE IN WASHINGTON ANSWERING C

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L1 INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM E. COLBY, 19 JANUARY 1976

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TRACTED. IT WASN'T UNTIL 1967 THAT WE REALLY BEGAN TO WORK SERIOUSLY ON THE PEOPLE'S WAR. UNTIL THEN, NOBODY HAD DONE ANYTHING ABOUT WINNING THE WAR IN THE VILLAGES. AMERICA GOT INTO VIET NAM AND THEN DECIDED THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE CAN'T DO. WELL, I THINK WE DIDN'T DO IT RIGHT. BUT I THINK WE COULD HAVE DONE IT. Q. THE WAR ENDED IN DEFEAT FOR THE U.S. IN YOUR OPINION, WAS THERE ANY SENSE IN WHICH THE U.S. SUCCEEDED IN VIET NAM? A. THE MILITARY EQUATION DIDN'T WORK. BUT WE WON THE PEOPLE'S WAR. BY 1972 AND 1975 THERE WEREN'T ANY TRUE GUERRILLAS IN VIET NAM. THE PEOPLE WERE ALL ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SIDE. THE COMMUNIST VICTORY IN VIET NAM WAS NO MORE A RESULT OF A GUERRILLA WAR THAN WAS THE NAZI VICTORY IN FRANCE OR NORWAY. Q. BOTH HERE AND ABROAD, MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER THE CIA AN INTERNATIONAL MURDER INCORPORATED. HOW MUCH KILLING HAVE YOU SEEN IN YOUR CAREER? A. IT'S MADDENING AND FRUSTRATING THAT SO MANY PEOPLE ASSOCIATE THE CIA WITH DART GUNS AND TOXIN AND ASSASSINATIONS. JUST LOOK AT THE ASSASSINATION REPORT BY SENATOR CHURCH'S COMMITTEE, A SIX-MONTH STUDY, AND YOU'LL FIND THAT OVER A 25-YEAR PERIOD WE TRIED TO GET RID OF TWO PEOPLE, CASTRO AND THE BELGIAN CONGO'S PATRICE LUMUMBA, AND WE DIDN'T ASSASSINATE EITHER OF THEM. THE DART GUN WASN'T USED. AS FOR THE PHOENIX OPERATION IN VIET NAM, A CONTROVERSIAL COUNTERTERRORIST OPERATION COLBY RAN, THE FIGURE OF 20,000 PEOPLE KILLED IS OFTEN USED. WELL, THAT'S MY FIGURE, AND I'M THE ONE WHO PUT IT OUT. BUT THAT WAS PART OF WAR. Q. WHAT WORRIES YOU ABOUT THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER CIA OPERATIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL? A. I'M CONCERNED THAT THE PRESENT PERIOD HAS STRONG SIMILARITIES TO THE 1920'S AND EARLY 1930'S. JUST AS EVENTS IN MANCHURIA IN THE EARLY 1930'S SEEMED VERY FAR AWAY THEN, THERE ARE SOME THAT SEEM FAR AWAY NOW. THERE'S A REVULSION AGAINST INVOLVEMENT OVERSEAS BECAUSE OF THE MISTAKES OF OUR LATEST WAR. THIS KIND OF TURNING AWAY IS DANGEROUS, I THINK. I'M NOT SAYING THINGS ARE GOING TO FALL APART. I'M FUNDAMENTALLY O

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L1 MEET THE PRESS, GEORGE BUSH FEBRUARY 22, 1976

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TO BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE. BUT TO THE DEGREE SOME SAY, SHOULD WE HAVE COVERT AT ALL, OR NOT? I SAY, YES, THIS COUNTRY MUST RETAIN A FLEXIBLE AND A STRONG COVERT CAPABILITY. LEWIS: MR. BUSH, A FEW MOMENTS AGO YOU SAID THAT WE HAVE TO RELY FOR CONTROLLING ABUSES NOT ON LAW, IN EFFECT, BUT ON BETTER OVERSIGHT BY THE EXECUTIVE ITSELF OR CONGRESS. NOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPOSED SOMETHING CALLED AN OVERSIGHT BOARD OF THREE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMEN, WITHOUT BEING UNKIND, I WANT TO SAY THAT THEY'RE RATHER ELDERLY, THAT THEY'RE PART-TIME. AND I JUST WONDER WHETHER YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT SUCH CIVILIANS CAN KEEP ABREAST OF ALL THE THINGS THAT MAY GO WRONG OR THAT, YOU JUST TOLD US A LITTLE EARLIER, DID GO WRONG? BUSH: WELL, LET ME GO BACK AND SAY THAT I DON'T I HOPE I DIDN'T COME DOWN SAYING I DON'T THINK YOU NEED ANY LAW. I HOPE THAT THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER AND THEN THE REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATION THAT HAVE GONE FORWARD FROM THE PRESIDENT, SAY IN THE FIELD OF ASSASSINATION, I HOPE THAT WILL BE PASSED. SO YES, WE NEED LAW. BUT CERTAINLY YOU NEED, INSIDE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, SOME MACHINERY. I CAN'T ACCEPT, IN THIS DAY OF DISCRIMINATION, THIS AGE DISCRIMINATION, CAUSE A FELLOW LIKE MR. MURPHY IS A VERY ABLE PERSON, AND I DON'T THINK YOU INTENDED THAT. BUT I WOULD SAY THAT THIS MACHINERY, WHERE THE INSPECTORS GENERAL AND THE GENERAL COUNSEL AND INDIVIDUALS ARE ENCOURAGED, WITHOUT GOING TO THE DIRECTOR, SAY -- SOMEONE IN THE CIA, INSPECTOR GENERAL -- TO GO DIRECT TO THE OVERSIGHT BOARD, IS A GOOD KIND OF MACHINERY TO HAVE AVAILABLE. AND YOU COUPLE THAT WITH MORE OVERSIGHT FROM THE CONGRESS, AND WE'RE MOVING TOWARDS RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PART OF PEOPLE LIKE OURSELVES, THE CIA. LEWIS: MR. BUSH, ON LAW, YOU MENTIONED THE ONE EXAMPLE WHERE THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPOSED A LAW TO LIMIT COVERT ACTIONS, THAT'S ON ASSASSINATIONS. I WONDER WHETHER YOU WOULD FAVOR ANY OTHER LIMIT. FOR EXAMPLE, ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1970, PRESIDENT NIXON INSTRUCTED ONE OF YOUR PREDECESSORS TO ENCOURAGE A MILITARY COUP AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, CHILE. IF SOMEONE SAID THAT TO YOU NOW, ORDERED YOU TO DO THAT, WOULD YOU DO IT? HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT? BUSH: I WOULDN'T DO IT. I'LL TELL YOU WHY I WOULDN'T SAY IT, I SAY BECAUSE UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S OWN ORDER, THIS DOUBLE-TRACKING, THAT THAT BECAME REFERRED TO, IS ELIMINATED BY A MUCH MORE FORMALIZED ACTION OF THE OLD 40 COMMITTEE, THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE NOW. NOBODY CAN SAY, OH, I WASN'T THERE, OR, I GOT A PHONE CALL. EVERYBODY SITS AROUND AND MAKE A DECISION OF THIS -- OF THIS NATURE. BUT -- AND THE ASSASSINATION THING HAS BEEN RULED OUT BY LAW. SO, I WOULD HOPE -- AND ALSO, MR. LEWIS, YOU COME BACK, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, TO JUDGMENT, TO INTEGRITY, AND YOU CAN'T REALLY DEFINE IN A CODE OF LAW EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING TO GUARANTEE PERFECT ION. AND I RESPECT THE ATTEMPT THAT'S BEEN MADE TO TRY TO ELIMINATE ABUSE. AND YET IF YOU SAY, ARE YOU GUARANTEEING THERE WILL BE NO ABUSE? I COULDN'T SAY IT IN THIS FIELD OR ANY OTHER FIELD BY LAW. NOYES: MR. BUSH, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CHANCES ARE THAT CONGRESS WILL ENACT SOME KIND OF LEGISLATION THAT SUBJECTS ITSELF TO CRIMINAL SANCTIONS IN THE CASE OF DIVULGING OFFICIAL SECRETS? BUSH: I THINK THERE ARE TWO CHANCES: SLIM AND NONE. NOYES: IN THAT CASE, HOW EFFECTIVE DO YOU THINK THESE... BUSH: I'M NOT SURE THEY SHOULD, INCIDENTALLY. I'M NOT SURE THEY SHOULD, UNDER THE SPEECH-AND-DEBATE CALUSE. BUT THOSE ARE THE TWO CHANCES I SEE. NOYES: WELL, IN THE CASE THAT WE ARE UP AGAINST NOW, THE SANCTIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO A VERY FEW PEOPLE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH O



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L1 LOS ANGELES TIMES, 22 FEBRUARY 1976, W. E. COLBY, BY GAYLORD SHAW  
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L3 IS THE CIA, AS ITS SUPPORTERS CONTEND, A WELL-CONTROLLED AGENCY DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM EVERYWHERE? OR IS IT AS ITS CRITICS CONTEND, A RECKLESS ROGUE TRAMPLING INTO FORBIDDEN FIELDS, MAKING AMERICA THE BOGEYMAN OF THE WORLD? WHERE DOES THE TRUTH LIE? WILLIAM E. COLBY STARED INTO THE WINTER MORNING OUTSIDE HIS LIVING ROOM WINDOW AND, LIKE A SPY IN FROM THE COLD, TALKED WISTFULLY OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. - I HAD SORT OF HOPED, - HE SAID, -THAT THESE SKELETONS MIGHT REMAIN IN THE FAMILY CLOSET. - THEY HADN'T. ONE BY ONE, SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, THE SKELETONS WERE DRAGGED FROM THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S CLOSET DURING COLBY'S THREE YEARS AS DIRECTOR. ASSASSINATIONS PLOTS. BURGLARIES. MAIL OPENINGS. DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE. SECRET ARMIES. UNDERCOVER CASH FOR FOREIGN POLITICIANS. COVERT ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW OTHER GOVERNMENTS. LAST MONTH, THE REVELATIONS ENDED COLBY'S QUARTER-CENTURY CAREER WITH THE CIA. HE HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH MOST OF THE MISDEEDS, BUT HE DISPLAYS NO VISIBLE BITTERNESS ABOUT HIS OUSTER. TURNING FROM THE WINDOW TO LEAN BACK ON A GOLD-COLORED SOFA, COLBY ARGUED IN QUIET TONES THAT THE CIA'S SINS WERE PARADED BEFORE AN AMERICAN PUBLIC ILL-PREPARED FOR THE DISCLOSURES BECAUSE IT HAD NO FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR INTELLIGENCE, EXCEPT SPY NOVELS - SO, RETIRED TO A MODEST AND UNGUARDED SUBURBAN HOME, HE IS WRITING A BOOK--NOT A SPY NOVEL, BUT A SERIOUS BOOK HE HOPES WILL PLACE THE AGENCY'S OPERATIONS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE TOO MUCH OF THE DEBATE RAGING AROUND THE AGENCY, HE SAID, HAS CENTERED ON -DIDDLEY LITTLE THINGS- SUCH AS A -MINUSCULE NUMBER- OF BURGLARIES COMMITTED IN THE UNITED STATES BY CIA OPERATIVES. INSTEAD THE DEBATE SHOULD TAKE

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TURN THE WHOLE CONTINENT HOSTILE TO THE UNITED STATES THERE WAS A SERIOUS ASSESSMENT THAT THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY. - -SO WE PUT TOGETHER A PROGRAM, WHICH WAS A POLITICAL PROGRAM THROUGH THE OAS, ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS. - -THERE WAS SOME MILITARY AID, AND THERE WAS SOME CIA WORK BOTH IN INTELLIGENCE IN SUPPORT OF SOME OF THE FORCES TO PREVENT THE RISE IN TERRORISM AND GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. -AT THE END OF THE PERIOD, IN 1975, LATIN AMERICAN IS NO GARDEN, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN TURNED TOTALLY HOSTILE TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER CUBAN LEADERSHIP... -YOU CAN'T SAY IT WAS THE CIA ALONE, BUT THE CIA, I THINK, MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. IT'S BEEN WORTHWHILE. - -SOMEHOW, - HE OBSERVED, -THE CONTRADICTION WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BUT HOW? PRESIDENT FORD OFFERED HIS ANSWER LAST WEEK, PROPOSING A SET OF REFORMS SUCH AS A NEW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, A LEGISLATIVE BAN ON PEACETIME ASSASSINATION OF FOREIGN LEADERS AND ON DOMESTIC SNOOPING, AND TOUGHER LAWS AGAINST LEAKING OFFICIAL SECRETS. THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SEN. FRANK CHURCH, WILL MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS NEXT MONTH, PROBABLY CALLING FOR MUCH TIGHTER CONTROLS OF THE INTELLIGENCE ESTABLISHMENT. TIGHTENED CONTROLS WERE URGED BY THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HEADED BY REP. OTIS G. PIKE, D. N. Y., BEFORE IT DIED THIS MONTH IN A BLAZE OF CONTROVERSY OVER WHO LEAKED ITS YET-TO-BE-FORMALLY RELEASED FINAL REPORT. DEBATE ON INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR MONTHS, PERHAPS YEARS. AS IT DOES, A STUDY OF THE STILL-UNFOLDING SAGA OF THE CIA OFFERS CLUES TO HOW THE AGENCY BECAME SUCH AN ENIGMA. HARRY S. TRUMAN WAS UNHAPPY AND IN A HURRY. HIS 90-YEAR-OLD MOTHER WAS LINGERING NEAR DEATH IN MISSOURI, BUT HE WAS STUCK AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT, WAITING FOR AIDES TO BRING HIM JUST PASSED LEGISLATION HE WANTED TO SIGN BEFORE TAKE-OFF. MINUTES TICKED BY THAT SULTRY, 80-DEGREE JULY AFTERNOON. FINALLY

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ZMAN. U. S. ARMS AND A CIA-SUPPLIED AIR FORCE BROUGHT COL. CARLOS CASTILLO ARMAS TO POWER IN INDONESIA--IN 1958, ANOTHER CIA-SPONSORED AIR FORCE BASED IN THE PHILIPPINES SUPPORTED REBELS IN THE CELEBES WHO WERE TRYING TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT SUKARNO. CONGO--IN 1960, THE CIA PLOTTED TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT PATRICE LUMUMBA, EVEN SENDING POISONS TO THE CONGO. A FEW MONTHS LATER, LUMUMBA WAS KILLED BY CONGOLESE RIVALS, AND THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CIA WAS INVOLVED IN HIS DEATH. BUT THE CIA REMAINED ACTIVE IN THE REGION, AND IN 1964, PROVIDED PLANES TO HELP SUPPRESS A REVOLT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONGO, NOW KNOWN AS ZAIRE. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC--DURING 1960 AND 1961, THE CIA SUPPORTED DISSIDENTS WHO ON MAY 31, 1961, ASSASSINATED DICTATOR RAFAEL TRUJILLO. SOME U. S. AGENTS KNEW OF THE MURDER PLANS, AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS FURNISHED THE DISSIDENTS WITH THREE PISTOLS, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THEY WERE USED IN THE ASSASSINATION. CUBA--FROM 1960 THROUGH 1965, CIA WAS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL PLOTS TO ASSASSINATE PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO, AT ONE POINT ENLISTING THE AID OF MAFIA LEADERS. AND IN 1961, A BRIGADE OF CUBAN EXILES TRAINED AND SUPPORTED BY THE CIA LANDED AT THE BAY OF PIGS IN AN ILL-FOUNDED ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW CASTRO. MOST OF THE INVADERS WERE CAPTURED OR KILLED, AND FOUR U. S. PILOTS FLYING FOR THE CIA DIED IN THE EPISODE, THE AGENCY'S BEST-KNOWN DISASTER. BRAZIL--IN 1962, THE CIA SPENT A REPORTED \$20 MILLION TO SUPPORT HUNDREDS OF GUBERNATORIAL, CONGRESSIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL CANDIDATES IN AN ATTEMPT TO DENY LEFTIST PRESIDENT JOAO GOULART CONTROL OF THE BRAZILIAN C

CONGRESS. VIETNAM--IN 1963, THE CIA HAD SECRET CONTACTS WITH A GROUP OF GENERALS WHO STAGED A COUP IN WHICH PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM WAS KILLED. LATER, AS U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM DEEPENED, SO DID THE CIA'S ROLE. AMONG THE ACTIVITIES WAS THE PHOENIX PROGRAM, DESIGNED TO NEUTRALIZE THE VIET CONG. COLBY, WHO HEADED IT, LATER TOLD CONGRESS TH

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L1 DAVID BRUDNOY, INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE BUSH, JULY 19, 1976

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NDER FOR ABUSES THAT CANNOT BE SUBSTANTIATED, BUT MUCH MORE CRITICAL IN MY VIEW CRIMINAL THAN THAT IS, THIS TENDENCY TO PUBLISH NAMES OF LOYAL AMERICANS SERVING ABROAD AND I THINK IT IS DISGRACEFUL, I THINK IT'S THE WORST WORD TO USE ON IT BUT IT IS THE WAY I FEEL AND THOSE THAT DO IT, I WISH WE HAD STRONGER LAWS TO PROSECUTE THEM, BUT WE DON'T. THE CONGRESS ISN'T IN THE MOOD TO DO THAT AND I JUST THINK IT'S DISGRACEFUL. BRUDNOY: I DO TOO. I THINK THE WORST WORD IS ONE WE CAN'T USE OVER THE AIR, BUT I'M SURE YOU HAVE FRIENDS HERE BOTH ON THIS END OF THE MICROPHONE AND LISTENING OUT THERE, I KNOW YOU HAVE TO GO QUICKLY, SO I WANT TO ASK YOU, IF I MIGHT JUST ONE OR TWO MORE BRIEF QUESTIONS. YOU HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO STAY WITH US THIS LONG. I DON'T WANT TO ASK ANYTHING THAT WOULD PROVOKE FROM YOU A -NO COMMENT- BECAUSE IT'S A SECURITY QUESTION AND SO I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO ANY SPECIFICS, BUT WE HAVE HEARD SO MANY PARANOID STORIES ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATIONS IN VARIOUS OF OUR LEADERS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. WHEN YOU CAME INTO THE OFFICE PARTLY AS A CLEANING UP OPERATION BECAUSE YOU CAME IN WITH AN UNSULLIED REPUTATION WHICH UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR PREDECESSOR, THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS OWN, DID NOT HAVE. DID YOU FIND ANY HINT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE CIA HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY FORM OF ASSASSINATION ANYWHERE OTHER THAN OF OTHER ENEMY AGENTS, WHICH I KNOW GOES ON IN ALL ESPIONAGE AGENCIES. BUSH: WELL, THE ONLY THING I'VE FOUND IS WHAT'S BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN AN ASSASSINATION OF THIS NATURE, CERTAINLY THAT I KNOW OF. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PLOTTING THAT HAS COME OUT AND VERY, VERY LIMITED AND I WOULD SIMPLY SAY THAT THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IS NO. BUT I WOULD REFER YOUR LISTENERS TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT, AND THERE SOME ASSASSINATION IS DISCUSSED THERE AND THEY WILL SEE IF THEY READ IT AND READ IT OPENLY AND HONESTLY THAT ALL THESE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE CIA INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF FOREIGN LEADERS IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. THERE WAS SOME ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF PLOTTING BUT TO MY KNOWLEDGE THERE WAS NOT ANY ASSASSINATION THAT'S BEEN LAYED AT THE DOORSTEP OF THE CIA. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH IT, SO I THINK WE ARE IN BETTER SHAPE ON THAT THAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD HAVE PEOPLE BELIEVE. BRUDNOY: I THINK SO TOO, I WAS WONDERING IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CONFIRMATION IN CIA INFORMATION OF THE STORY PUT FORWARD BY FRANK STURGIS THAT JACK RUBY HAD MET WITH FIDEL CASTRO AND TALKED ABOUT KILLING KENNEDY. THIS WOULD NOT HAVE IMPLIED A CIA ACTIVITY, BUT IN CIA INVESTIGATIONS. BUSH: NO, THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION OR I HAVEN'T FRANKLY LOOKED INTO THAT SO I HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF IT. I DO NOTE THAT IT WAS CARRIED THAT STURGIS WAS CIA AGENT AND THIS SIMPLY IS NOT TRUE AND THE STORY IS REPEATED AND REPEATED AND REPEATED AND IT'S NOT TRUE. BRUDNOY: TWO MORE QUESTIONS, ONE DIPLOMATIC AND ONE PERSONAL. IS IT TRUE THAT THERE IS SOME SAFEGUARD, SOME FAILSAFE DEVICE TO STOP A CRAZED PRESIDENT? WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY I DON'T BELIEVE EVEN THE ONE WHO LEFT IN DISGRACE. BUT A CRAZED PRESIDENT IN ORDERING THE CIA TO DO SOMETHING

AT INTELLIGENCE WOULD TELL YOU A SECRET, SO THAT YOU WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO MOVE THE TROOPS TO THE RIGHT OF THE FIELD AND DEFEAT THE ENEMY. WE'RE FAR BEYOND THAT TODAY. THE MOST E