

Ford Said to Fear Baring of C.I.A. Role in Assassinations Abroad

Special to The New York Times
 WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 —

President Ford was reported by CBS News tonight to have warned associates that if current investigations into the Central Intelligence Agency went too far, they could uncover "several" assassinations of foreign officials in which that agency was involved.

According to Daniel Schorr, a CBS reporter, at least three such assassinations are believed to have taken place in the nineteen-sixties or the late nineteen-fifties.

Mr. Schorr said that Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, a former Director of Central Intelligence, uncovered information about the alleged slayings in May, 1973, when he assertedly asked C.I.A. employees to report to him on any questionable activities of which they had knowledge.

Mr. Schlesinger, it was said, banned any further use of assassinations by the agency the following August.

A spokesman for the White House, in response to a query on the broadcast report, said "We have nothing to announce."

John W. Husten, assistant press secretary, declined to confirm or deny the report as and Congress.

A spokesman for the C.I.A. said, "We have nothing to say." Asked if he would deny or confirm, the reiterated, "We have nothing."

Secretary Schlesinger could not be reached for comment. Mr. Schorr said that President Ford was understood to have learned of the reported assassinations only after The New York Times carried a report last December on the C.I.A.'s domestic surveillance activities.

William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, was said to have told the President about the alleged C.I.A. assassinations in briefing him on the agency's domestic activities.

Mr. Schorr said that Mr. Ford was said to have been shocked by the information about assassinations and to have in turn mentioned them internally as a reason for extreme caution and security in the investigations of C.I.A. by the Administration.

Names of the supposed assassination victims were not mentioned by CBS, which said details of the killings were being closely held.

According to CBS, Mr. Ford reportedly indicated that the uncovering of such actions by current investigations would embarrass the Government and damage relations with at least one foreign country.

C.B.S. quoted "intelligence sources" as saying that Representative F. Edward Hébert, Democrat of Louisiana, who is chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, the acting chairman of the Senate Armed

Services Committee, had been informed of the reported killings in a series of briefings on "the improprieties" that Mr. Schlesinger had discovered.

But the network said it had reached Mr. Hébert and Mr. Symington and had been told that neither remembered anything of the kind.

"It's not the kind of thing I'd forget," Mr. Hébert was quoted as having said.