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Highlights of the Report

Controls—There have been failures at all levels—executive, Congressional and within the agencies—to control adequately and direct covert activities and to make the best use of intelligence resources. Sweeping changes are urged to provide external control of the intelligence community.

Congress—Past Presidents made “excessive and at times self-defeating” use of covert operations. The Central Intelligence Agency mounted 900 major covert actions from 1961-75. Many were only marginally controlled, and their value is still subject to question. Congress should be informed in advance of all future covert operations.

Foreign Role—The C.I.A. was involved in several efforts to assassinate foreign leaders. New laws should ban United States involvement in such efforts as well as prohibitions subverting democratic governments or aiding foreign security forces violating human rights in their own countries.

Business Ventures—The C.I.A. conducted business ventures, intended for covering operations. These included an airline charter concern, a security agency and an insurance company that invested in American securities and returned a \$500,000 profit.

Academic Ties—Despite a 1967 Presidential directive intended to end C.I.A. secret financial support of American universities and private voluntary institutions, the agency has maintained ties to the academic community and now has covert ties with hundreds of scholars, dozens of whom are unaware they are working for the C.I.A.

Journalists—As of last February, about 50 American journalists or employees of domestic news-gathering organizations maintained covert links to the C.I.A. Even under new restrictive guidelines, half of these relationships will be continued.

Oversight—To improve Congressional oversight, changes in law and practice are needed that would, in effect, make the Congress a virtual partner with the Executive in overseeing intelligence operations.
