Kurds Say CIA Betrayed Them

By Joseph Fitchett

London—Secretary of State Henry A. 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Covert Arms Aid Defended

Central Intelligence Agency director William E. Colby yesterday defended Covert arms shipments in peacetime as an entirely legal activity for the CIA.

Colby made the remarks at a breakfast session with reporters in response to a question about the reported CIA shipment of millions of dollars in Soviet and Chinese weapons several years ago to Kurdish rebels in Iraq.

The CIA director declined comment on those reports, but defended covert arms shipments in general and described them as the type of activity that the CIA is "still engaged in."

Colby said the practice could be traced all the way back to Benjamin Franklin, who, the CIA director said, operated what might be called a "proprietary" in Paris through which French arms could be shipped here during the American Revolution.

Hurriedly fired this month and then asked by President Ford to stay on the job until current Congressional investigations wane, Colby said he has long recognized that "a new face" would be needed at the CIA when the inquiries are over.

The CIA director acknowledged that he and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had occasionally disagreed over how much to disclose to congressional investigators. But Colby, whom Kissinger apparently considered too open, said he doubted a harder line would have saved his job.

Colby said he turned down President Ford's offer of the NATO ambassadorship primarily because of the hullaballoo about the CIA's new face, "would be needed at the CIA when the inquiries are over."

He said he felt this would have invited demonstrations and adverse reactions from people in other countries.
Falcons, a CIA Gift Fit for a Sheikh

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Falcons, a CIA Gift Fit for a Sheikh

The Central Intelligence Agency has trapped rare falcons in Alaska and has presented them to Arab sheikhs. A prize falcon is one of the most valuable gifts the CIA can offer an Arab potentate who has everything.

In some sheikhdoms, an agreement is cemented with the gift of a falcon. It is more binding than a handshake or a signature.

Middle East monarchs reportedly will pay up to $25,000 for a fine falcon. The most magnificent are peregrine falcons and gyrfalcons. But because they are an endangered species, it is against U.S. law to export them without a permit.

Arab falcon fanciers routinely are denied permits. But for a favored sheikh, the CIA can arrange an occasional falcon. Inside sources tell us that the CIA has wangled secret permits to export both peregrine falcons and gyrfalcons to the Middle East for bargaining purposes.

For someone without the right CIA connections, however, trafficking in falcons can be risky. A wealthy Chicago businessman, Anthony G. Angeles, hoped to entice Sheikh Zayid of Abu Dhabi into a business deal by presenting him a pair of falcons. Unable to get a permit, Angeles sought ways to get falcons out of the United States.

The sheikh, a swashbuckling desert chiefman who heads the oil-saturated United Arab Emirates, is an avid hunter. His proudest possession is a flock of 50 prize falcons. When he gets bored with the affairs of state, he takes off for Pakistan with his falcons for several weeks of hunting.

The enterprising Angeles recently began making discreet inquiries about obtaining a couple of contraband falcons. But the word got back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which assigned agent Larry Hood to the case.

Posing as a falcon trafficker, he agreed to sell two peregrines to Angeles for $500. The businessman explained that friends at the United Arab Emirates embassy would help him get the rare birds out of the country.

Agent Hood delivered the two carefully packaged peregrines to the Baltimore airport. Angeles' courier was supposed to drive them to New York City where another courier would fly them to the waiting Angeles in Athens.

But once the money changed hands, the courier was arrested. The United Arab Emirates embassy immediately pulled strings with the State Department, which tried to hush up the falcon scandal. Last week, Angeles quietly pleaded guilty to violating the migratory bird treaty.

An embassy spokesman, with a straight face, said the hunting falcons were intended merely as a gift for the Abu Dhabi zoo. The embassy had no idea, he said, that it was illegal to export the birds. At the State Department, a spokesman denied trying to suppress the story of the falcon thievery. In fact, he said, the department had refused, in writing, to intervene on Angeles' behalf.

Free Loans—James E. Smith, the feisty comptroller of the currency, has used official comptroller's funds to grant interest-free loans to his subordinates. They regulate national banks, which have never been known to grant interest-free loans to anyone.

Last fall, Smith gave his deputy director, William Suman, a $14,000 interest-free loan. Smith has also approved interest-free loans for at least four other officials who work for him.

A spokesman explained that the comptroller authorized the interest-free loans to subordinates who had large relocation expenses when they moved to Washington.

The spokesman pointed out that the officials are prohibited from accepting loans from the national banks they regulate. Official funds were made available, therefore, to avoid a conflict of interest, he said.
INTELLIGENCE WORK

A new book, "Arab Intelligence Services," by Ya'acov Caroz, is causing a stir in the diplomatic and intelligence circles of the Mideast.

Caroz, a former senior Israeli intelligence agent, asserts that the CIA has had a man in Cairo with the blessings of the Egyptian authorities for the past 10 years. He alleges, too, that the Americans have been training the Egyptians in intelligence work.

Caroz says the Soviets provided similar instruction when they gained a hold in the Mideast. He maintains that the Soviets supplied the Arabs with intelligence on Israel "in a selective way when it suited Soviet interests." He alleges that the French are now helping Egyptian intelligence by providing sophisticated electronics.

"The standard of Arab intelligence," he writes, "is not very high. It is directed primarily to keep the ruling junta in power rather than to gather information about Israel."

Caroz's book was published in Israel, and one of its most interesting chapters deals with a young American woman who obtained information about a new Soviet naval base and was arrested in Cairo only to be released by Kermit "Kim" Roosevelt, a former CIA agent, who pulled the proper Egyptian strings.