A Young Reporter's Decision to Join C.I.A. L

In the summer of 1952 Donald A. Allan, a young reporter on the city staff of The New York Times, walked up to Frank Adams, the newspaper's crusty city editor, and told him that he was resigning.

He longed to go abroad, he said, and a job to his liking had become available in Spain. The city editor sighed; he had encountered such impatience in young men before. If Mr. Allan would only wait, he said, he could expect to be sent abroad by The Times. But the young reporter was insistent; he had made up his mind to wait no longer.

What Don Allan did not tell anyone at the newspaper was that a few days earlier he had joined the fledgling Central Intelligence Agency.

A Sound Impulse

No one at the agency, not the C.I.A. man who recruited him nor the young official named Richard Helms who interviewed him, had asked him to leave The Times. The decision had been his own, and as he rode through the streets of Manhattan in a taxicab Don Allan tried hard to convince himself that he had been right to choose the C.I.A. over the newspaper to which he had so long aspired.

He was never quite able to make himself believe that the choice he had made, which Mr. Allan now calls "the turning point of my life," had been the right one. But as he looks back over the last 25 years he is certain of the soundness of his impulse not to involve The Times in the life that lay before him.

Don Allan packed his few belongings and set out for Europe—not for Spain, as he had told Mr. Adams, but for Rome, where the C.I.A. had asked him to find an apartment and "blend in with the landscape."

Before he left the United States, Mr. Allan received some training in the craft of intelligence—conducting surveillances, writing with secret inks—from harried instructors in hotel rooms in New York and Washington, and he was eager to put his newfound knowledge into practice. But the C.I.A. was in less of a hurry to activate the untested agent.

On his own, he acquired a couple of reporting jobs, as a stringer for CBS News and a part-time employee of United Press, and as the months wore on he began to wonder if he had only imagined that he was working for the C.I.A.

"I sat around there for a long time and nothing ever happened," Mr. Allan said in a telephone interview the other day from Geneva where he now lives.

Then one day the C.I.A.'s Rome station decided that the young journalist had acquired sufficient "cover" and the long-awaited contact came. Mr. Allan was officially in operation.

Little Adventure in Spying

The work was far less adventurous than he had imagined. The C.I.A., Mr. Allan emphasized, had never told him what to report back to the United States, nor would he have entertained such a request. His career as a reporter was nothing more than a cover for his intelligence activities, and he managed, he said, to keep the two separate.

By day he was a journalist. By night he was a deep-cover C.I.A. agent, photographing political posters on the walls of the city, passing satchels of money around, interviewing Italian political figures for "feature articles" that ended up not in some magazine or newspaper but in the C.I.A.'s files in McLean, Va.

ed to Strain, Anger and Regret

After a time the job of Newsweek correspondent in Rome became open and Mr. Allan applied for the position along with a number of other bright, young American reporters who, he said, were as well qualified as himself. But Mr. Allan told his C.I.A. case officer that he had made the application and soon he received word from Newsweek that he had been hired. He got the impression, he said, that the agency had somehow intervened with the magazine, although no one ever told him.

The psychological stress of what Mr. Allan called his "double life" took its toll in a dramatic way. On an evening in 1956, Mr. Allan and his wife attended a masked ball given by Clare Boothe Luce, the American Ambassador to Rome.

Espionage Career Over

There was a quarrel, and Mr. Allan left early and went home. Some time later, his wife arrived in the company of an Italian journalist. Mr. Allan took a knife and rushed out to the car where he stabbed the Italian repeatedly. The victim was driven to a hospital and lived. Mr. Allan spent 10 months in a Roman jail.

Shortly after the stabbing the American consul paid Mr. Allan a visit in his cell. His message was a brief one: Mr. Allan should never again try to contact anyone at the C.I.A. "Don't think you're going to get any help," the consul told him, "because you won't. You're on your own."

The Italian court eventually ruled that the stabbing had been a crime of passion and Mr. Allan was released. He divorced, remarried and returned to the United States where he took a job writing news scripts for CBS.

He never saw anyone from the C.I.A. again and wishes, he says now, that he had resisted the agency's overtures in the first instance, not just because of the damage that was done to his personal life.

"I think it was a mistake," he said the other day. "I thought it was wrong even then."

VARYING TIES TO C. I. A. CONFIRMED IN INQUIRY

Intentional and Unwitting Links to C.I.A. by More Than 50 Persons Found in Investigation

As part of an inquiry into recurring reports that American journalists have in the past worked abroad as paid agents of the Central Intelligence Agency, The New York Times looked into the backgrounds of more than 200 present and former employees of American and foreign news organizations and into the histories of a nearly equal number of organizations.

More than 50 individuals were found to have had some links to the C.I.A. Some were agency staff officers posing as journalists abroad; others were legitimate journalists or non-editorial employees who had been employed by the C.I.A. as part-time agents, and some, while unpaid, were considered "assets"—valued sources of information or assistance—though they sometimes were unaware of their status or even of whom they were dealing with.

A score of these individuals have been identified in other articles in this series. A dozen were not identified in other articles in this series. A dozen were not identified, either because they provided information on a confidential basis, because of concern that their lives might be placed in jeopardy, or because their ties to the C.I.A. were tangential ones.

Those not identified include a foreign commercial representative of The New York Times who has no editorial respon-

The Reporter and the Spy

As a series of New York Times articles concluding today demonstrates, the American press has a piece of unfinished business with the Central Intelligence Agency that is also public business: the use of reporters as spies. With information that is more than 10 and 20 years old, but still hard to come by, the articles offer further evidence of what has been widely suspected and sketchily, sometimes wrongly, reported. The C.I.A. once used the credentials of American news organizations as "cover" for a dozen or more of its operatives around the world. It owned or subsidized more than 50 news organizations to create other cover and to spread pro-American views as well as propaganda and lies in ways that often made Americans and foreigners the victims of misinformation. It paid between 30 and 100 American journalists for various intelligence errands, mostly reportorial in nature, and it found some others "useful" without pay.

Practically as well as philosophically, this was wrong. American readers have a right to assurance that the journalists they trust for information are not in any sense accountable to unseen paymasters. And foreign sources of news and the international consumers of American news have a right to expect that governmental purposes do not influence the process of reporting and editing. American reporters in many places, notably the Communist nations, often have had a hard enough time dispelling suspicions that they were spies without having even a few of their colleagues turn out to have been in the pay of the C.I.A.

These are the reasons we have persistently badgered the C.I.A. to confront its past practices openly, to acknowledge whatever may have occurred in another time and to make clear that it will henceforth respect the independence of journalism.

To understand the collaborations of the past, it is useful to remember the context in which they developed. Some confidential contact between reporters and C.I.A. functionaries has always been mutually useful. Both groups trade in information and analysis and often instruct one another with fact and insight. For journalists, such contacts are no less proper than similar exchanges with diplomats or military officers of many nations.

As these contacts developed in the years of bitter Cold War hostilities, American journalists and officials often grew to feel that they were natural allies in a common struggle for freedom. And from that mood grew a few direct enlistments of reporters, sometimes with the knowledge of their editors. It may have been understandable at the time, and was rarely only mercenary, but the confusion of roles was wrong.

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The C.I.A. has now promised that it will not normally enter into any clandestine relationship with a full-time or part-time journalist, of any nationality, who is authorized to represent an American news organization. The agency has also ruled out any dealings with "non-journalist" employees of news organizations unless the organization approves. We welcome the new regulation because it suggests that the C.I.A. finally understands the benefits of its restraint in this area. Only the innocent will conclude, however, that the vigilance of the press can therefore be relaxed. We have two obligations here: One is to make certain that no one representing The Times is being paid or importuned to be an intelligence operative for any government. The other is to seek information wherever we can find it, whether from the C.I.A. or anyone else. We are confident that we know how to distinguish between pursuing the news and running errands for government.

sibilities and a former part-time European correspondent for The Times whom the C.I.A. considered an asset, but who said that he had never known that any of the American officials with whom he talked were working for the C.I.A.

Among the C.I.A.'s paid agents, intelligence sources said, were Karl Bachmeier, who during the early 1950's, while Far Eastern business manager and an occasional correspondent for Newsweek magazine in Tokyo, was a paid agent of the C.I.A.'s Tokyo station.

Mr. Bachmeier said that he had "never knowingly" taken any money from the C.I.A. and that whatever relationship he might have had with the agency, "I was never asked to use my news connections in any way."

The same intelligence sources also said that James H. Paige, Mr. Bachmeier's successor at Newsweek, had filed reports to the C.I.A., though they added that they could not be certain whether he had been paid. Mr. Paige would say only that he had had "a slight relationship" with the C.I.A.

Other sources said that two other employees of Newsweek's Tokyo office during the mid-1950's had been C.I.A. operatives, but they would not identify the two beyond saying that both were Japanese-Americans.

Other journalist-agents, the sources said, included the late Edward P. Kennedy, a one-time reporter for The Indianapolis Star who, while with the C.I.A., worked for the English-language Japan Times in Tokyo, the Okinawa Morning Star and The Bangkok Post; M. J. Gorman, the editor of The Caracas Daily Journal in the mid-1950's, and the late Oland D. Russell, a Far Eastern correspondent of the Scripps-Howard chain.

One American correspondent, Enno Hobbing, quit the Paris bureau of Time magazine in 1953 to join the C.I.A. and took part the following year in the agency's successful efforts to overthrow the Guatemalan Government. Mr. Hobbing said he quit the C.I.A. shortly afterward and took a job as a staff writer with Life magazine in New York, where he continued to work for the agency on a part-time basis.

Another C.I.A. operative, sources said, was Sal Ferrara, who covered demonstrations in Washington in the early 1970's for the Quicksilver Times, a now-defunct underground newspaper, and later, while a reporter in Paris for the College Press Service, was assigned to keep an eye on Philip Agee, the disillusioned C.I.A. officer who had quit the agency to write a book.

Ed Christopherson, a part-time correspondent for The New York Times in Missoula, Mont., was approached by a C.I.A. recruiter in the mid-1960's, according to his wife, Joan, who said her husband never told her whether he had taken the job that the agency offered.

Reporter Found Dead

Mr. Christopherson, who subsequently made frequent trips abroad as a writer of travel articles for The Times and others, died after being found three years ago with a broken neck on the Copacabana beach at Rio de Janeiro.

Other journalists who, it was said, had been agents of the C.I.A. include Seymour Freidin, a onetime correspondent and foreign news editor for The New York Herald Tribune and now a representative of Hearst newspapers in London. Mr. Freidin declined to discuss his C.I.A. relationship, saying that it had ended "a long time ago."

Still others, whom sources described as paid agents of the C.I.A. but would not otherwise identify, include a translator in the Hong Kong Bureau of United Press International in the late 1960's; an American correspondent for a business newsletter in Tokyo in the early 1960's who allowed the C.I.A. to operate out of his office, and a correspondent in Germany at about the same time who worked, according to one former C.I.A. official, for an organization "that would not normally have had a man there."

While not all of the journalists considered informational or operational assets by the C.I.A. were aware of their status, agency sources have said that one, the manager of an Asian bureau of The Associated Press, had for years been a key "contact for us," though he doubted the man had ever been paid.