

Ousted CIA Official Continues Criticism

By John Kendall

Los Angeles Times

SAN DIEGO—In 26 years of service as a public representative of the Central Intelligence Agency, Donald S. Jordan never came in from the cold of covert operations because he was never in it.

But the 57-year-old intelligence officer suddenly found himself in the chilling climate of the unemployed when he publicly criticized the agency and CIA Director Stansfield Turner. Jordan was summarily dismissed as chief of the CIA office here Dec. 5 on Turner's orders. He was forced into retirement without a hearing or, he says, an explanation.

On Dec. 5, three agency officials showed up. "I was told 'Look! The admiral's decided you're terminated,'" Jordan recalled. "Now, we have your retirement application here. If you want your retirement, you'll have to fill in these papers. Sign them."

They demanded his office key and ordered a change in the office safe combination. Jordan was through as a CIA man but not as a CIA critic.

In an interview he said that:

- Despite Watergate, despite Congress' investigation of the agency two years ago and despite media exposure of the CIA's drug experiments on unsuspecting persons and other viola-

tions of its charter, the organization remains essentially unchanged.

- No matter who is the CIA director, the agency is run like the military by "elitists" of civil service "super grades" GS-16, 17, and 18 and politically appointed professionals, most of whom are contemptuous of "idiots" in the unwashed general public and who are willing to lie to Congress, if necessary.

- The CIA's domestic collection division is inefficient in gathering intelligence, overstaffed by half and wasteful of taxpayers' money. It is a "paper mill" often gathering information that is not only inaccurate, misleading and useless, but also—in some instances—fabricated.

- Despite its vaunted national defense mission, the CIA is as much afflicted with empire-builders as the most mundane federal agency. Ranking bureaucrats playing a "numbers game" in collecting domestic intelligence, are more interested in quantity than quality of reports in order to justify hiring more employees to produce more reports, to expand their areas of responsibility.

- CIA "super grades" and high-level appointees maintain two sets of personnel files on employees who are thought to be "whistle blowers." One file is official, containing periodic fitness reports, and the other is secret, sometimes containing fabricated in-

formation. The clandestine "funny files" are used to control, harass and get rid of CIA employees who disagree or criticize their bosses.

Jordan's knowledge of the CIA's domestic operation comes from more than a quarter century of agency service in five Western cities. A Princeton University graduate, Jordan spent his CIA career publicly representing the agency in Los Angeles, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco and San Diego. He was deputy office chief in Denver, Seattle and San Francisco, and he had headed the San Diego office for more than three years and held a civil service rank of GS-14 when he was fired.

According to Jordan, the CIA's overt division for which he worked and the agency's covert group are "almost like two different organizations."

For half his career he says he considered himself a "whistle blower," who tried to correct perceived faults in the CIA's domestic operations. The effort, he feels, cost him advancement and finally got him fired.

After Jordan's ouster became public, an aide to Turner said Jordan had been fired because of insubordination and because he would not believe old files on employees had been destroyed and no new ones were being kept.

Furthermore, the aide maintained, Jordan had become obsessed with demands that the heads of two operating CIA divisions be fired and that Jordan's work had suffered because he was "too busy campaigning."

Jordan describes the CIA's contentions as "totally false." He characterizes the agency's position as a "continuation of the cover-up of wrongdoing and further damage to me for my opposition to wrongdoing."

His difficulties started, Jordan says, after he became appalled at what he considered abuses in the CIA's domestic operations and became a "whistle blower" to correct them with full realization that he was harming his career.

Under Executive Order 11905, signed

by President Ford in 1976, the CIA has authority to collect foreign intelligence from cooperating domestic sources.

Jordan thinks the mission of gathering information from U.S. citizens who travel abroad or have foreign connections is valid, but he adds there are "very few Americans who can make a real contribution."

Nevertheless, Jordan says, CIA bureaucrats in the domestic collection division waste citizens' time in a "numbers game" and keep score with a computer.

"The problem with the system basically is that we have a quantitative approach to collection. Rather than rating people upon the value of the product they provide or the information they collect, it's run basically on how many intelligence reports a guy can write. It's almost a quota system," he said.

"So, what happens when your quota is a little low . . . The CIA guy will call up someone and say: 'Now, I understand you went to Cuba. Gee! we think you could provide some real valuable information on Cuba. Can I come out and see you?'"

"And actually the CIA man could know in advance that the chance of his learning anything of value is almost nil. That makes no difference. He'll go out and run through a lot of questions and write down the information regardless of whether it has any value or not because he has to have a report."

Sometimes, according to Jordan, an agent intent on meeting a quota may embellish an unproductive interview so much that it is really a fabrication.

"I've been just appalled at how indifferent some high-level officers are to this fabrication. OK, so some of it is made up, so what? There are lots of other reports that will correct it, maybe. So it really doesn't hurt. It is making us more reports. It will increase our budget. We'll get a few more people."

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Mr. Jerry Cohen
Newsroom
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Los Angeles, Ca.

Dear Jerry,

The WxPost of 1/2/78 carried your syndicate's story by John Kendall on the ousting of the CIA San Diego agent Donald S. Jordan.

Some of the quotes are relevant in a Freedom of Information case I now have an appeal. The judge accepted the untested, unquestionable false representations of the CIA in that case as in so many other cases.

I have made out rather well on FOIA appeals. One contributed to the 1974 amending of the Act.

And I now regard what I have been able to do in strengthening the Act and in laying a basis for deterring further official negating of it as the first priority in my work.

I would like to be able to ask Jordan if he would consider providing an affidavit for use in court. I write to ask if you'd be kind enough to get and give me his address.

Your people, unlike the Post and NYTimes, have not used me as a source on either assassination or FOIA matters. If they have any concerns about the current FBI releases please tell them to feel free to phone. And if they want an evaluation of whether or not I can help them I'm sure George Gardner of the Post will provide it. There are real problems for even the most diligent reporters when they are confronted with pressing deadlines and 40,000 pages. Most of what the press went for last month was neither new nor truthful.

On the latter opinion you might be interested in asking the FBI for its records relating to you and your paper when you tried to help it in the King case. I have learned something about this. Quick paraphrase: enemies not friends of the FBI, the bottom line always with the press. Your source was not for real but what rational person can believe it was other than correct if not necessary to report such information when the cities were aflame?

I have some of this and in time will be glad to provide it. Perhaps this requires some explanation.

First, credentials since we were last in touch. The Department of Justice has told two different federal judges that I know more about the JFK and King assassinations and their official investigations than anyone in the FBI. As a result I am now saddled with an incredible responsibility: I'm the Department's hired consultant in its defense of a suit I have against it. If this is quite wrong under FOIA as a practical matter there is nothing I can do about it except carry a separate appeal forward. This would further the government's aim, to withhold all it can for as long as it can. And I suspect delay my writing based on what I have obtained. As one result I have no spare time. I must spend all the time I can find working for my in-court opponent.

I am further limited by circulatory problems that were first diagnosed in 10/75. These are in both arteries and veins. One consequence is difficulty in filing and in retrieving what I have filed, depending on the location of the files. When I came across what I thought would interest you if not your paper I did make extra copies of some, intending to send them when I had all I could hope for. And when I was able to force the supplying of what was withheld from those records. Unfortunately the only file space I had was what I'd already emptied because of its inconvenience, bottom drawers.

It may also interest you to know that there was an investigation of your Raul Esquivel lead, the one I used in Frame-Up. It is more of a non-investigation. There is still withholding on this.

The FOIA suit in which a Jordan affidavit might be helpful is for those executive sessions of the Warren Commission that are still withheld. I've forced the yielding of all but two full transcripts and parts of two others. As I've obtained them I've given them to the press prior to my own use. I've printed the last two in facsimile, they are of that nature and content. If I prevail in this litigation I'll again give these away so they can be available as widely as possible.

I'm nearing 65 and my medical condition is not conducive to longevity. I also do not lack writing materials.

Two of these transcripts deal with defectors. One deals with Nosenko, a KGB type.

Jordan again: those the CIA is separating seem to be extraordinarily bitter. He was in the domestic end. The full nature of the CIA illicit domestic activities has not even been indicated in the papers. You'd have quite a story if you could turn him on and if he was privy to the nastier activities, especially the anti-First Amendment ones.

Thanks for anything you can do and

best wishes,

Harold Weisberg