

# CIA Firm On Fund Secrecy

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Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby said yesterday that he remains opposed to any inroads on the secrecy surrounding the spy agency's multi-million-dollar budget.

Indicating his disagreement with one of the key recommendations of the Rockefeller commission, Colby maintained that making public even the CIA's overall spending would inevitably lead to disclosure of some of its secret activities.

"There are certain things, of course, in our clandestine activity that must be kept from public exposure and even the risk of public exposure," Colby said in an interview on the television program, "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRCA).

In its report earlier this month, the Rockefeller commission recommended that congress carefully consider making the CIA budget public "at least to some extent." The commission suggested that this ought to be done in light of the Constitution's requirement that "a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time."

The CIA budget, which reportedly totals some \$750 million a year, has been hidden in recent years in the Defense Department's appropriations bill.

To illustrate the slippage he feared, Colby said that in 1967 the Atomic Energy Commission's weapons expenditures were made public as only a "one-line item," but last year consisted of 15 pages of detailed explanation.

"I think it is inevitable that if you expose the single figure, you will immediately get a debate as to what it includes, what it does not include, why did it go up, why did it go down, and you will very shortly get into a description of the details of our activity," Colby said.

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Touching on other issues raised by the current investigation of the CIA and other intelligence agencies, Colby:

- Refused to say whether the even larger National Security Agency regularly monitors telephone calls between

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## Colby Opposes Disclosure Of Any CIA Budget Figures

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Americans and citizens in foreign countries. The CIA director would say only that the NSA's work includes "the following of foreign communications."

- Said that the Forty Committee, an arm of the National Security Council which is supposed to review high-risk covert operations abroad, meets only infrequently because "that activity has dwindled to almost nothing" in recent years and constitutes "a very small percentage of our budget at the moment."

- Said that many of the details concerning the CIA's involvement in assassination plots were "not well recorded" and indicated it may be impossible to determine whether the CIA was acting on its own in such undertakings or

whether presidential approval was obtained. He said CIA policy is clearly opposed to assassination efforts "at this time" and contended it would not be "useful to our country to go into a great exposure of things that happened in the '50s and the '60s."

- Declared that he "thought it best to let the misdeeds of the past sit quietly" in 1973 when the CIA's inspector general compiled a report detailing various illegal and improper activities and said he did not see "anything serious enough in there to warrant prosecution against any individual."

Colby told The Washington Post in an earlier interview that in retrospect, he now feels he should have reported the activities to the Justice Department.

He categorically denied ru-



WILLIAM E. COLBY  
... fears slippage

mors that the CIA might somehow be involved in attempts to oust Indira Gandhi as prime minister of India.