

ANNENBERG LETTER LINKED TO COLSON

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WASHINGTON, April 30—The State Department acknowledged today that Charles W. Colson secretly arranged for copies of a praiseful letter about President Nixon, over the signature of Walter Annenberg, the United States Ambassador to Britain, to be sent to American citizens at Government expense.

The department responded to a complaint from Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, about the unsolicited letters. The department said it had learned from Mr. Annenberg "that the initiative for his letter came from Mr. Charles Colson" and added, "Ambassador Annenberg further informs us that he signed one copy of the letter in question, and gave it to Mr. Colson."

The original letter was on official stationery. It was apparently reproduced in February by Mr. Colson, a former White House counsel, and copies were mailed along with copies of favorable editorials about the Nixon Administration from British newspapers.

In his initial response to the inquiry, Ambassador Annenberg did not mention Mr. Colson's role in the matter but did so after a repeated complaint from Senator Fulbright.