

Colby Says He Rejected All Suggestions for C.I.A. Assassinations

WASHINGTON, June 19 (AP) — William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, said today that over the years foreigners had suggested assassinations to him and United States Government employees had discussed the possibility of assassinations with him, but that he had rejected the ideas every time.

The 55-year-old head of the United States spy agency declined to name the suggested or potential targets or the persons who had made the suggestions. Nor would he give the

dates or locations of these conversations.

Mr. Colby said that he opposed public disclosure of facts behind these or other alleged assassination schemes involving the C.I.A. because "I think there is positive harm to the reputation of the country to go into great detail on these things."

He said, "Our policies today are clear . . . I am opposed to assassinations because I think they're wrong and because I think they frequently bring about absolutely uncontrollable and unforeseeable results — usually worse results than by continuing to suffer the problem that you're facing."

During an interview of more than an hour in his seventh-floor office at C.I.A. headquarters in suburban Langley, Va., Mr. Colby discussed a wide range of issues raised during investigations of his agency by the news media, a Presidential commission and several Congressional committees.

These were among his major points in the first interview he has given since the Rockefeller Commission last week reported that it had found some "plainly unlawful" domestic activities by the agency.

He cannot envision that agency employees would again feel that the political climate in this country justified their violating the legal limits on the agency's domestic activity, nor can he say that in all instances he would advise a foreign government of a plot that came to his attention.

He does not believe that any C.I.A. employees will be prosecuted for illegal activities.

He cannot be certain that all the agency's illegal or improper activities have come to light, but argues that no Federal agency could give such an assurance about its operations.

It is up to the Congressional committees and the Justice Department to decide whether to make public the names of persons responsible for the agency's illegal activities.

He confirms that foreigners approached others in the agency with a plot to assassinate French President Charles de Gaulle, and that it was flatly rejected. He does not know whether the French Government was advised of that plot, nor can he say that in all instances he would advise a foreign government of a plot that came to his attention.

the Rockefeller Commission's recommendation that the agency's inspector general's office be enlarged but hopes that efforts to police the agency will not impair its intelligence-gathering mission.

He has not been asked to resign and intends to stay at his post so long as the President and he agree that he is useful.

He thinks that a career in intelligence should be neither a bar nor a requirement for the job of director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Colby said that the United States had the best intelligence service in the world and that he believed a major part of his role is to convince this country's citizens of that.

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