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Reward Posted In CIA Death

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ATHENS, Dec. 29—The Greek Government disclosed today that it will offer a \$175,000 reward for the capture of the assassins of Richard Welch, station chief for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in Greece.

A separate \$30,000 reward will be given to anyone offering information about the killers' identity.

The unusually high rewards offered by the government seem to suggest continued police inability to unearth any substantive clues about the murder.

Authoritative sources said that the police inquiry is also focusing on possible involvement of other intelligence agencies in the assassination. The sources would not discuss the nature of this inquiry or even speculate about which national espionage group may be involved.

They did point out, however, what was described as growing Soviet and East European activity in Greece since the restoration of democracy 18 months ago.

Welch, 46, was one of the seven CIA operatives here whose names, biographies, home addresses and phone numbers were published in the Athens press last month. He was killed by three gunmen in front of his house last Tuesday.

His body was flown from Athens this evening aboard a U.S. Air Force C-141 starlifter cargo plane following a simple ceremony at an American military base near Athens. American Ambassador Jack Kubisch and about 100 U.S. diplomats and officers were

visibly shaken when Welch's father, retired army Col. Patrick Welch, 75, broke into tears as six U.S. Marines carried the coffin aboard the aircraft.

Next to the elder Welch, who was brought in a wheelchair to witness the ceremony, was Marine Lt. Patrick Welch, 23, son of the assassinated American official, who later boarded the plane to accompany his father's body to Washington.

The aircraft is scheduled to arrive at Andrews Air Force Base at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday (Washington time) and Welch is expected to be buried Friday in Arlington National Cemetery.

Welch's widow, Maria Christina, was not present at the ceremony because she had been hospitalized Saturday and then flown to an American military hospital at Naples. American officials here said they expect Mrs. Welch to recover from an unspecified abdominal illness and to fly to Washington Thursday.

Greek officials here are now inclined to link the publication in the Greek press of Welch's name, along with those of the other 6 alleged CIA officials, to the assassination. Welch's name headed the list.

According to this line of thinking, the publication of the names was designed to give Welch advance visibility, since he was not listed in the diplomatic book. The assassins are believed to have wanted to expose their target publicly before killing him.

American diplomats are believed to be enforcing extra security precautions in the wake of the assassination.