

Slain C.I.A. Agent Was Listed In 1968 in an East German Book

NYTimes

JAN 5 1976

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 — A book was published in East Germany in 1968 listing the names of scores of covert Central Intelligence Agency operatives, including that of the late Richard S. Welch, the C.I.A. chief of station in Athens who was murdered there last month.

The names appeared in a book by Julius Mader, an East Berlin resident and author, entitled "Who's Who in C.I.A.," that is generally believed within the American intelligence community to be a product of research by the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency.

The appearance of the book, which was available for a time in bookstores and on newsstands in this country, was recalled by several observers as a controversy welled up over the more recent disclosure of the identity of Mr. Welch and several dozen other C.I.A. chiefs of station by the Amer-

ican magazine Counter-Spy.

William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, has suggested along with spokesmen for President Ford that the naming of Mr. Welch in the current edition of Counter-Spy had been a factor contributing to his death.

The Athens Daily News, an English-language publication, identified Mr. Welch as the chief of the C.I.A. station there about a month before he was shot to death by masked gunmen on Dec. 23.

The Organizing Committee for a Fifth Estate, a small group here that publishes Counter-Spy as part of what it describes as an effort to reform American intelligence agencies, has conceded that the Greek newspaper might have obtained Mr. Welch's name from its publication but has denied any direct responsibility for his murder.