

Envoy Davies' Killers Known to U.S.

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U.S. intelligence officials learned the identity of the assassins of the American ambassador to Cyprus, Rodger P. Davies, within an hour after he was shot in Nicosia on August 19, 1974, it was learned yesterday.

The ambassador's killers are still serving in the Cypriot government security forces even though the assassination was recorded on commercial television news film and the identity of the killers was reported to high Cypriot officials according to intelligence sources.

An allusion to the Davies episode is made in a footnote

to the still-secret report of the House intelligence committee, which will be discussed at a closed session of that panel today.

Intelligence sources said that shortly after the shooting, during an anti-American demonstration by primarily leftist Greek Cypriot demonstrators, hard information on the identity and affiliation of the assassins was being relayed through intelligence channels to Washington.

The investigation, based on eyewitnesses and later corroborated by ABC news film never shown publicly, indicated that the murder of Davies was carefully planned and executed by elements of

the right-wing EOKA-B terrorist organization associated with Nicos Sampson, who was installed briefly as Cyprus president after the overthrow on July 15, 1974 of Archbishop Makarios.

Some members of the House intelligence panel want to know why the U.S. government did not insist on punishment of Davies' murderers. Officials who served on the embassy staff in Nicosia also were angered by the refusal of the administration to take stronger action in the episode.

There is no evidence that the Cypriot government itself, which was then headed by House Speaker Glafkos Clerides in the enforced ab-

sence of Makarios, played any role in the assassination.

Clerides was a personal friend of Davies and interrupted a news conference to rush to the scene of the demonstration building around the embassy in an effort to avert violence.

In a press conference following the assassination, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in Washington made no allusion to the fact that the assassins were known to the U.S. and Cypriot governments.

"We had film and we knew the material witnesses. We also knew that there were Cypriot police officers who

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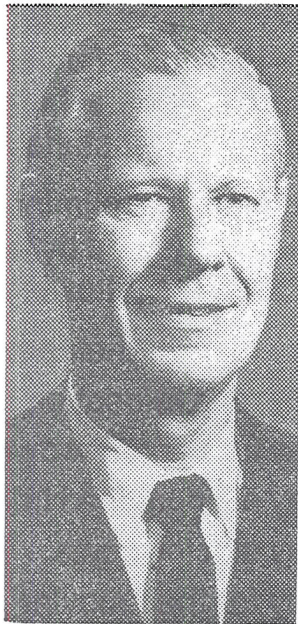
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were scared to death about what would happen if they talked," said one knowledgeable U.S. official who was serving in the embassy at the time. "There was a tendency at the highest official level to sweep the thing under the rug," he said.

The official administration reaction to the Davies murder contrasted sharply with the response to the slaying last month of CIA station chief Richard Welch in Athens, who served in Nicosia during the early 1960s.

At the time of the Davies assassination Kissinger was trying by negotiation tactics to damp the fires of the Greek-Turkish conflict over Cyprus then aggravated by a just-completed Turkish military drive to take over nearly half the island. The U.S. government was, therefore, trying to assume the role of peace maker.

In the case of the Welch assassination the President and other top U.S. officials focused blame on those who published the name of Welch and his CIA affiliation. The



RODGER P. DAVIES
... slain in Nicosia

intelligence officer's name and home address in Athens were published in the English-language Athens Daily News a month before the assassination and in a Washington-based publication, Counter-Spy, a year ago.

The draft report of the

House intelligence committee is sharply critical of Kissinger's role on a variety of other fronts, including his management of strategic arms information; covert CIA operations in Angola and Italy as well as involvement in the Kurdish insurgency and the administration's response to warnings of a coup in Cyprus.