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CIA (D)

WXPost Philip Agee on Exposing CIA Agents

The Washington Post's indignant accusation that I or others engaged in exposing the CIA were responsible for the death of Richard Welch suffers the inadequacies of many a first, emotional response.

There was no "invitation to kill him" nor was his death inevitable once he had been identified. In my view his identification, as well as all the others, should be taken as an invitation to return to Langley. No harm will occur there.

By what right does the CIA promote political repression and subvert the institutions of other countries in the first place? That personal accountability of government officials found so lacking during Vietnam and Watergate is no less required of CIA people. But as long as they operate with impunity under cover, their accountability will be restricted to bureaucratic channels subject to the same cover-ups that have dominated the Rockefeller Commission's report and the reports of the congressional committees.

No one can deny the family tragedy. But what about the other families whose members have been lost to the CIA-supported security services in South Korea, Indonesia, Iran, Brazil, Chile? Need Greece be mentioned?

The Post is concerned with "extra-legal punishment" of Welch who was "accused of no crime" but where is The Post's call for details of his work and others' that would provoke such violence? Did The Post call for "congressional processes of review" of the CIA's work in Greece? Does The Post for one minute think Congress or any other reviewing authority would dare investigate the CIA's work with the security services of these countries in the interests of "freedom, democracy and national security"?

The CIA is a secret political police that protects the interests of The Washington Post's owners and those of every other American company. The Agency's operations in Chile were necessary, as they were in Greece and many other countries, given the traditional definition of American national interests. Until fundamental change comes within the United States, political repression will continue to be the work of Mr. Welch's colleagues. We ought to know who they are.

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(See editorial)