

CIA and Lebanon War

Athens

Richard S. Welch, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency station chief here who was murdered December 23, spent much of his time activating the Lebanese Phalangists and rightist Palestinian groups, according to Winslow Peck, a self-described former U.S. intelligence officer.

"In other words," Peck said in an interview published here this weekend by the magazine *Anti*, part of Welch's job was "to kindle the war" in Lebanon.

Peck, who says he worked for the National Security Agency in Istanbul, Vietnam and Paris as well as in the United States, said in the interview that the CIA station in Athens is now working on the situation in Lebanon and that the agency uses American banks in Athens to finance the Phalangists.

The U.S. embassy here refused to comment on Peck's claims.

Peck said he has "defected" to the anti-CIA lobby and described the agency as a "secret criminal

police force" responsible for 25 coups between 1964 and 1973.

The Athens CIA station, Peck said, now has a staff of 170 and has taken over the role played earlier by stations in Cyprus, Beirut and Tel Aviv to become the agency's command post in the eastern Mediterranean.

Police investigations into Welch's murder have produced no leads so far.

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RICHARD S. WELCH
The slain CIA chief