

Clippings on Welch will be filed CIA. (D)

SFChronicle DECEMBER 24 1975

# Chief of CIA in Greece Slain by Three Gunmen

Athens

Richard S. Welch, the station chief of the Central Intelligence Agency in Greece, was shot and killed last night by unidentified gunmen outside his home in an Athens suburb.

Welch, who was returning home from a Christmas party at the residence of American ambassador Jack B. Kubisch, had just stepped out of his car at about 10 p.m. when three masked gunmen fired three shots at him and sped away, according to a spokesman for the American Embassy. He was taken to a local hospital where he died several minutes later.

Welch's wife, who was with him when he was shot, was unhurt, the spokesman said.

Welch, 46, who was officially listed as a special assistant to the ambassador, arrived in Greece about five months ago. He was an amiable and unprepossessing man with a trim white mustache and the air of a tweedy college professor.

In Vail, Colo., President Ford said he was "shocked and horrified by the terrorist murder" of Welch.

In Washington, intelligence sources confirmed that Welch was

chief of all CIA operations in Greece.

An English language daily, the Athens News, recently printed a list of the top CIA officials in Greece, along with their addresses and phone numbers. Welch's name was on the list. The paper said it received the information from a group calling itself the Committee of Greeks and Greek Americans.

The Committee's statement  
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referred to the "destructive activities" and "evil work" of the CIA, and said it had collected its information partly by following and observing CIA officials in Athens.

The CIA has always had a large operation in Greece, which shares borders with three Communist countries and fought a civil war against Communist guerrillas in the late 1940s. It is the general practice for the station chief to have official cover as a diplomat, but his identity is usually well-known.

In recent years the CIA has been subject to strong criticism here, mainly from leftist political factions. The agency is widely blamed — without concrete proof — for helping to engineer the coup d'etat in 1967 that initiated more than seven years of military rule in Greece.

Many of the leaders of the coup, including George Papadopoulos, who later proclaimed himself president, served in Greek intelligence and reportedly had close ties to the CIA.

Critics also alleged the agency was somehow involved in the coup d'etat that temporarily deposed Archbishop Makarios, the president of Cyprus, in July, 1974.

New York Times