

CIA (b)

Colby Oral Fill-In to Ford On Assassination Reported

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The Washington Star

WASHINGTON, March 4 — William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, reported orally to President Ford about several plans for assassinating foreigners in which the agency had been involved, rather than including the information in his written report to the President, informed sources said today.

The report was described by the sources as being an "oral addendum" to the 50-page report Mr. Colby submitted to Mr. Ford about illegal domestic activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. Two separate official sources have confirmed that the written report to Mr. Ford, sent to him at Vail, Colo., in late December by Mr. Colby via Secretary of State Kissinger, made no mention of assassinations.

But when Mr. Colby met with Mr. Ford and a small group of other officials at the White House on Jan. 3 to review the document, he disclosed to the President information about what were described as several unsuccessful assassination attempts that had been made overseas as far back as the early nineteen sixties.

But when Mr. Colby met with Mr. Ford and a small group of other officials at the White House Jan. 3 to review the document, he disclosed to the President information about what were described as several assassination plans, and apparently some attempts, overseas as far back as the early nineteen-sixties.

The names of the targets,

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the dates of the reported attempts and the degree of C.I.A. involvement could not be learned. In confirming the oral discussion of the assassination matter, the officials emphasized that either the plans had not been carried out or that the attempts had not succeeded.

The Star's sources insisted that no one had been killed, which was what Mr. Colby is said to have reported orally to the President.

White House and C.I.A. silence on Mr. Colby's report leaves unanswered the question of whether the agency had planned assassinations in the past, whether its agents had merely discussed such killings without going further or whether the agency had merely learned of the plans without being directly involved.

Admissions Reported

Mr. Colby's written report was said to contain damning admissions about other illegal C.I.A. activities. Those who have seen all or part of the report, and a separate summary of it, say that it admits the following:

☐ C.I.A. surveillance of United States newsmen.

☐ Illegal use of mail covers on a large scale to intercept letters to United States citizens.

☐ A widespread and almost routine surveillance of Cuban refugees in Miami.

This is the first disclosure that the C.I.A. assigned agents

to conduct surveillance of reporters inside the United States. Persons close to the current investigation of the C.I.A.'s activities suggest that the press surveillance may have been aimed at five individuals mentioned but not named by Mr. Colby in his testimony Jan. 15 before the Senate Appropriations Intelligence Subcommittee.

In that testimony, Mr. Colby acknowledged that the C.I.A. in 1971 and 1972 employed physical surveillance against five Americans after receiving "clear indications that they were receiving classified information without authorization. No details were given in his testimony, but sources close to the investigation said that the description of the surveillance fitted the admission of surveillance on newsmen in the report to the White House.

The program of opening mail addressed to American citizens, one intelligence official admitted, has been a major source of concern to the agency, because such mail interception is illegal.

Not Previously Disclosed

While the presence of C.I.A. agents in Miami has long been an open secret, Mr. Colby's acknowledgement of the agency's surveillance role in the Cuban colony had not previously been disclosed.

The C.I.A.'s legislative charter, executed in 1947, prohibits any domestic operations by the agency. The law, never changed, assigned C.I.A. exclusively to foreign operations. All domestic counterintelligence responsibility was assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Colby has publicly acknowledged that C.I.A. agents infiltrated the anti-war movement in the United States as part of a counterintelligence program that led to the accumulation of files on 10,000 United States citizens.

He also has acknowledged that 21 telephone taps were used against United States residents between 1951 and 1965. Most of this surveillance was directed against persons connected with the C.I.A. Three domestic break-ins were conducted, according to Mr. Colby's testimony, in connection with present or former C.I.A. employes.

A former C.I.A. director, James R. Schlesinger, has characterized the allegations of illegal C.I.A. activity as "overblown."