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Willy Brandt Gets Carter's Regrets

Bonn

President Carter, in a letter made public here yesterday, described as "reckless allegations" reports in the U.S. press that former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt had a secret financial relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Responding to a letter from Brandt, Carter wrote that he, too, was "deeply disturbed and deplore the reckless allegations concerning you that are appearing in our press."

In an apparent reference to the resurfacing of earlier allegations about Brandt and the CIA, Carter wrote that, "I can well understand your outrage that this canard continues to reappear.

"Unfortunately, as a government," the President continued, "we have to resist the temptation to dignify every report of intelligence activities with a comment. I want to

express to you my personal regrets for any embarrassment that those press stories may have caused you."

The reference to Brandt came in a Washington Post story last Saturday, which reported that Brandt's name, along with those of several other government leaders in other countries, had been deleted by court order from a critical book on the CIA by two former U.S. intelligence officers.

The charges that Brandt or the Social Democratic Party, which he still heads, had at some point received money from the CIA have surfaced here and in the United States before and have always been denied by Brandt.

But the former chancellor, according to German sources, was said to be especially angered and agitated that the allegations had been reported again.

Washington Post