

Agents of Death



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SOME of the world's most sinister secret police are operating in the United States with the blessing of the Central Intelligence Agency. There is evidence that these foreign agents have arranged murders, committed burglaries, attempted kidnappings and terrorized political opponents in violation of U.S. laws.

In past columns, we have reported that the CIA has a secret understanding with such notorious foreign intelligence agencies as Chile's DINA, Iran's SAVAK and South Korea's KCIA. Not only does the CIA work closely with these police agencies; the agents operate within one another's countries by mutual consent.

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NOW THE Senate Foreign Relations Committee has quietly started an investigation into the activities of foreign intelligence agencies in the United States. The committee is particularly curious about the CIA's role in these activities.

As far back as July 17, 1975, we published charges that the KCIA had terrorized Korean exiles, had set up illegal front groups to manipulate U.S. public opinion and had tried to buy off U.S. congressmen.

We also cited documents from SAVAK's files as evidence that the Iranian secret police were intimidating opponents of the Shah in this country. The documents included detailed instructions on how to burglarize homes and offices.

In our reports on the Chilean police, we warned on Nov. 16, 1975: "There is reason to believe that DINA has hired thugs to track down and assassinate prominent exiles." Ten months later, Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier was blown up in his car on Washington's embassy row. Investigators are now convinced that DINA hired Cuban killers to murder Letelier.

As additional evidence, we have now obtained an explosive document from DINA's own files. It is a memo, dated Sept. 16, 1975, from DINA chief Manuel Contreras Sepulveda to Chilean President Augusto Pinochet.

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THE MEMO requests "an additional allotment of \$600,000 for the (DINA) budget." Among four reasons for the extra money, this was the most fascinating: "Additional expenses for the neutralizing of the principal adversaries of the Government Junta in the exterior, especially in Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, the United States, France and Italy."

We hand-delivered a copy of the DINA memo to the Chilean embassy in Washington and waited a week while embassy officials examined it. A spokesman then denounced the document as "completely false."

A DINA defector now in asylum in the Italian embassy in Santiago, according to competent sources has confirmed the authenticity of the memo.