

Ex-Envoys Clash on Reporters' Loyalty

Washington

An American reporter's first loyalty abroad is to the U.S. government, not the newspaper that pays him, veteran former U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter testified yesterday.

Two other former ambassadors disagreed with Porter, suggesting that reporters and the government should remain at arm's length.

Porter, 63, a veteran of 41 years in the foreign service and former ambassador to South Korea, Canada and Saudi Arabia, and the two other veteran diplomats appeared on the third day of a House intelligence subcommittee hearing into the Central Intelligence Agency's involvement with journalists.

Les Aspin (Dem-Wis.), the subcommittee chairman, asked the ambassadors, "What is the first obligation of a newsmen (abroad)? To the government or his newspaper?"

"I say the government," answered Porter.

Porter said he also disagrees with a new order of CIA Director Stansfield Turner forbidding overseas agents to have any intelligence relationships with American reporters.

"I think it (the directive) is dead wrong," Porter said.

"I believe in the CIA, but not a hamstrung CIA," he said. "I am absolutely against putting the CIA at any disadvantage in carrying out its work ... I am particularly adverse to pushing apart the CIA and our press because it leaves the field to foreign intelligence."

L. Dean Brown, former ambassador to Jordan, and William C. Trueheart, former ambassador to Nigeria, voiced disagreement.

Trueheart said reporters and the CIA should have an

"arm's length" relationship.

"I don't mean a reporter can't volunteer information," Trueheart said. "But any sort of paid relationship or assignment is not arm's length. And I don't see why a reporter can't try to get information from the CIA."

"His first responsibility is as a reporter," said Brown. "But there is a responsibility to the government — we're talking about voluntary information, not paid."

All three agreed the foreign press and its reporters are acceptable targets for the CIA, although they expressed doubts about the reliability of foreign journalists.

"I find foreign journalists tend to a political view," said Brown, adding, "out in the Middle East, we don't buy them. We rent them, and everybody uses them."

The subcommittee adjourned until next Wednesday.

United Press

Soviet Planes in U.S. Defense Zone

Hampton, Va.

Two Soviet reconnaissance planes penetrated the U.S. air defense zone off the Virginia-North Carolina coast this month and were placed under surveillance by fighter planes from Langley Air Force Base here, the Air Force said yesterday.

The Soviet aircraft were followed by Air Force and Navy planes for two hours after they first were spotted by radar about 10 a.m. December 14, an Air Force spokesman said.

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