

NYTimes
**Ex-Agent Said to Assert
C.I.A. Killed Some Aides**

7-9-74

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 8—A former undercover agent for the Central Intelligence Agency in Latin America has written what his associates describe as a major exposé of the agency's Latin-American activities in the 1960's, including an assertion that the agency participated in the murder of some of its employees.

The new book, sources said, was recently completed in London by the former agent, Philip B. F. Agee, who served from 1956 until 1969 with the C.I.A. in, among other places, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay.

The as yet unnamed book by Mr. Agee is expected to be published by Penguin Book Publishers of London this fall. Mr. Agee, now seeking an American publisher for the 220,000-word manuscript, has retained Melvin L. Wulf, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, in anticipation of protests by the C.I.A.

Mr. Wulf, who represented Victor Marchetti, a former C.I.A. official, in his recent dispute with the agency, confirmed in a telephone interview that the A.C.L.U., "if needed, will certainly come to Mr. Agee's defense."

3 Trips to Cuba

Mr. Agee's decision to publish his book, said to be in diary form, and the fact that he made three trips to Cuba since 1971 have been of intense concern to the C.I.A. That concern, in turn, sources said, was the cryptic "WH flap" mentioned in the Watergate-C.I.A. report released last week by Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee.

Mr. Baker, vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, has been known to be deeply suspicious of the agency's possible advance knowledge of both the 1971 "plumbers" burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist and the 1972 Watergate break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

Both operations involved E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former C.I.A. official who joined a Washington-based public relations firm, Robert R. Mullen & Company, after his retirement in 1971.

Mr. Baker's report officially disclosed that overseas offices of the Mullen Company had been serving as "cover" offices for C.I.A. employees. The report

also noted that a Mullen office in the Far East had been shut down by the C.I.A. in fear that Mr. Agee might have compromised that and other "cover" operations during his Cuba visits.

Connection Denied

Agency officials have denied that there was any connection between the closing of the Mullen offices in the Far East and elsewhere, including an office in Mexico City, and the Watergate investigations.

President Nixon has publicly said he asked his top White House aides, John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, to intervene in a Federal Bureau of Investigation inquiry into "money-laundering" operations in Mexico City after the Watergate break-in because of his concern that the F.B.I. might inadvertently expose covert C.I.A. operations in Mexico.

One well-informed legislator, who said he had received full briefings on the Agee affair, emphatically declared today that there was no evidence linking Mr. Nixon's concern about the F.B.I. inquiry in Mexico to Mr. Agee.

The legislator also said that he believed the C.I.A. was overreacting to the dangers posed by Mr. Agee's revelations.

"The whole operation is so compartmentalized that I personally don't think any single person can compromise it that badly," he said, adding: "He went sour and so they've shuffled things about."

An informed source acknowledged today that the C.I.A. had been unable to learn how much if anything—Mr. Agee told the Cuban Government during his visits, although there was an official "presumption" that he "was very forthcoming in Havana and Havana was very forthcoming with Moscow."

Because of Mr. Agee's acknowledged threat to "cover" offices and methods of operation throughout Latin America, the official added, some operations were terminated and others modified. Throughout part of his clandestine Latin-American career, Mr. Agee's official cover was as an employe of the American Institute for Free Labor Development, an arm of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

A spokesman for the institute, a nonprofit organization set up in 1962 to work with Latin-American labor organizations, said records there showed no indication that Mr. Agee had ever been carried on its payroll.

High agency officials said they would have no comment on Mr. Agee's decision to publish in his book, although they did confirm that he had served in Latin America for the agency.

Listed As Staff Aide

The State Department's Foreign Service List for 1968 lists Mr. Agee as a staff aide in the executive section of the United States Embassy in Mexico City.

The official biographical register for the State Department shows that he was born in 1935 in Maryland, was a 1956 graduate of Notre Dame University, and depicts him as being an Air Force and State Department official for the next 12 years, one of his cover assignments, as listed in the register, was as a "laundry manager" for the Air Force in 1956-57.

In an interview today with The Associate Press, Mr. Agee, on vacation in Cornwall, England, said his book would tell "what we did in Latin America, why we did it, why I quit and why I decided to write about it."

He added, according to The Associated Press, that "what we did in Latin America and what we do in so many other countries of the third world is similar to what the United States did in Vietnam." The result, he was quoted as saying, is the strengthening of minority governments "which perpetuate great wealth for a few and widespread poverty."

Reports Assassinations

Mr. Agee, whose wife and children are now living in Florida, has told associates that he has firsthand knowledge of many previously unrevealed C.I.A. operations—some of them against Cuba—and that he also was involved in the assassination of locally employed C.I.A. agents, known in the agency as contract employees.

Highly reliable sources said that in discussions with friends, he has declared that the assassinations were not official policy of the C.I.A., but instead were local options taken in the field.

At least one such killing, Mr. Agee is known to have related, involved the use of a truck to run over a recently utilized local C.I.A. operative whose mission had been completed.

Such allegations about the C.I.A.'s operations in Latin America and elsewhere have been widely rumored for years, but—pending Mr. Agee's to-be-published account, there has been no firsthand description of such incidents.