

St. Clair's Partner Linked to the CIA



Jack Anderson

A LAW PARTNER of President Nixon's impeachment attorney, James St. Clair, was a front man until last year for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Paul F. Hellmuth, the managing partner of St. Clair's Boston law firm, has been associated over the past decade with an industrial security company called Anderson Security Consultants, Inc.

We have now established that the company was a CIA front until it was disbanded last year. Hellmuth was then listed officially as president of the firm.

We first learned of Anderson Security's CIA connections from confidential tape recordings of former presidential aide Charles Colson. He described the company as "wholly owned" by the CIA. Insiders at the CIA, he said, "call it an agency proprietary."

We located two former Anderson Security associates who completely confirmed Colson's charges.

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OSTENSIBLY, the firm distributed document shredders, conducted security sweeps and planned surveillance programs for industrial concerns. But behind this facade, Anderson Security also funneled money to support the CIA's clandestine operations.

The former associates told us that mysterious checks, written for large amounts, would frequently arrive at the office of the firm's secretary-treasurer, Virginia Attorney L. Lee Bean, who would deposit the money in a local bank and disperse it upon instructions.

The secret instructions often came, say our sources, from James St. Clair's quiet law partner.

Our sources say that the Anderson firm's industrial security business was also a front to hide another CIA activity. One of the firm's primary functions, the sources say, was to shred sensitive documents discarded by defense contractors "so the Russian wouldn't get them."

This is a clear violation of the law. The National Security Act, which established the CIA, specifically prohibits the agency from engaging in "internal security functions."

Yet for over a decade, Anderson Security employees regularly visited defense contractors to destroy classified papers.

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FORMER OFFICIALS of the Anderson firm insist it was disbanded over a year ago. But CIA expert John Marks, coauthor of the controversial book, "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," who helped us with our investigation, learned that the company had apparently transferred its operations from Springfield, Va., to the Boston area a year ago. We have been unable to trace it further.

We contacted Paul Hellmuth who refused to discuss Anderson Security's links with the CIA. But he insisted to my associate, Joe Spear, that James St. Clair didn't know "the first thing about" the security firm.

At this writing, St. Clair has not responded to our requests for comment. Attorney L. Lee Bean couldn't be reached.