

NYTimes

C.I.A. DISCHARGES LONG-TIME AGENT

Tofte Was at Odds With His Superiors Over Publicity

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (AP)—The Central Intelligence Agency served a one-month dismissal notice today on Hans V. Tofte, a long-time agent who has been at odds with his superiors.

In keeping with the agency's policy, a spokesman declined to go beyond this announcement:

"A letter is going out today notifying Mr. Tofte of termination of his contract within 30 days."

Mr. Tofte, a 55-year-old Danish-born agent who began his intelligence career in the anti-Nazi underground in World War II, called the action arbitrary and asserted that if it was allowed to stand unchallenged "we are indeed in danger from an invisible government."

Mr. Tofte said in a statement that the law setting up the agency denied its domestic law enforcement or police powers and continued:

"If this agency is permitted to operate in this arbitrary fashion within the continental limits of the United States, the rights of all American citizens are in jeopardy."

Mr. Tofte told a reporter he will seek advice of counsel to determine what action he can take in regard to the dismissal and allied matters such as pension eligibility.

Mr. Tofte got into trouble with his superiors over a July 23-24 weekend incident. He was suspended with pay from his \$25,000-a-year post pending an inquiry.

Mr. Tofte put his side of the case to reporters during the inquiry, and it was understood that one reason the board recommended his dismissal was that it was felt the publicity had reduced his value as an undercover agent.

Mr. Tofte's northwest Washington house was up for rental or sale and on that July weekend one of those coming to the premises was an agency man.

Agency Gives View

The agency's version was that the employe went to Mr. Tofte's home as a would-be renter, that he saw some secret material there in violation of regulations, and that he thereafter returned with another agent to pick up the material.

Mr. Tofte was not at home at the time. He said he would have let the men in to get the documents if they wanted, but he contended they entered his household under false pretenses and violated his constitutional rights as a citizen.

In addition, Mr. Tofte's wife reported after the visit that some \$20,000 worth of jewelry had disappeared. Washington police and insurance investigators have been looking for the valuables.

According to Mr. Tofte, his World War II operations took him to the Orient, the Middle East and southern Europe. During the Korean War he worked on guerrilla activities.

It was reported from other sources that Mr. Tofte had been with the C.I.A. and predecessor intelligence agencies intermittently for many years, and was working on a contract basis rather than as a regularly salaried employe. Thus his dismissal was in the form of "termination of contract."

Mr. Tofte's statement also said:

"The CIA has operated in a manner that is beyond the law of the land, it has answered none of my questions relative to these highly questionable operations. In my particular case, there has been no real cooperation with police on the theft of my wife's jewels.

"The question of security that served as the cover for the amateurish raid on my private residence are absurd in the light of agency practices and the contents of the classified papers—and the highest official within CIA know it."