

NYTimes DEC 1 1973  
**40 Newsmen Reported Serving  
As Secret C.I.A. Informants**

The Washington Star-News

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 — The Central Intelligence Agency has about three dozen American journalists working abroad on its payroll as undercover informants, some of them as full-time agents.

After William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, ordered a review of the practice two months ago, agency officials found the names of some 40 full-time reporters, free-lance journalists and correspondents for trade publications in their files as regular undercover contacts who supplied information to agents in the field and who are regularly paid for their services.

Sources said that 25 of the group were free-lance magazine writers, part-time "stringers" for newspapers, news magazines and news services, and itinerant authors. Eight

others are writers for small, limited circulation specialty publications, the sources said, and no more than five are full-time staff correspondents with general circulation news organizations who function as undercover contacts for the agency and are paid on a contractual basis.

Sources refused to identify any of the reporters involved, but it is understood that none of the five agents with full-time news organizations are regular staff correspondents of major American daily newspapers with regular overseas bureaus.

The use of foreign correspondents by the C.I.A. has been suspected for years by reporters who have worked overseas. But the suspicion has never been verifiable until

Continued on Page 40, Column 3

NYTimes DEC 1 1973  
**3 Dozen American Journalists  
Are Said to Do Work for C.I.A.**

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

now. The facts were made known by an authoritative source.

The continuing extent of the practice and its wide scope, which is believed to have been scaled down since the cold war tensions of the 1950's, was apparently a surprise even to Mr. Colby, who last month ordered a significant cutback in the C.I.A. relationship with journalists connected with major news organizations.

**Some Being Phased Out**

No longer to remain on the agency payroll is the one category of journalist-agents whose continued existence could most seriously compromise the integrity of the American press in general and possibly cripple its ability to function overseas. This small group, the full-time staff correspondents with general circulation news organizations, is to be phased out.

It is understood that three of these agents have maintained their C.I.A. contacts without the knowledge of the news organizations involved . . . but that the agency sideline of two others is known to their civilian employers.

Mr. Colby has approved explicitly the continued maintenance of more than 30 other C.I.A. agents abroad who are not strictly newsmen but who rely on some kind of journalistic "cover" for their intelligence operations.

**'Stringers' to Continue**

Among those to be maintained is by far the largest category of journalist-agents: a group consisting of about 25 operatives scattered across the globe who appear to the world as free-lance magazine writers, "stringers" for newspapers, news-magazines and news services and itinerant authors. (A stringer is a journalist, usually self-employed, who offers news dispatches on a piece-work basis to news organizations that do not have regular staff members in the stringer's city.)

Agents in this category are not regularly identified with any single publication, and most of them are full-time informants who frankly use their writing or reporting as a cover for their presence in a foreign city. Most of them are United

States citizens.

Most are paid directly and regularly for services rendered, but a few of these semi-independent free-lance writers occasionally draw on C.I.A. funds to pay out-of-pocket expenses for trips in which the agency had an interest or for entertaining a useful contact.

A second group of overseas correspondents whom Mr. Colby intends to keep on the payroll consists of eight writers for small, limited-circulation specialty publications, such as certain types of trade journals or commercial newsletters. It is understood that most in this group operate as paid C.I.A. informants with the approval of their employers.

Mr. Colby also intends to keep up the quint, informal relationship the agency has built up over the years with many reporters working at home and abroad and editors who for their part maintain regular contact with the C.I.A. officials in the routine performance of their journalistic duties. No money changes hands under these relationships.

In such a relationship, the reporter is free to use the information he gained in a news story and occasionally the C.I.A. agent might make use of what he has learned from the reporter. Very likely, the agency official would report the gist of his conversations with the reporter to his superiors, orally or in a written memo.

In this group, sources indicated, the C.I.A. includes a Star-News reporter, Jeremiah O'Leary, whose name apparently found its way into agency files as a result of contacts of this professional type during an assignment overseas for The Star-News.

Star-News editors have discussed this matter with Mr. O'Leary and other sources and have found no evidence to suggest that either he or this newspaper has been compromised.

**No Times Involvement**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30—On Nov. 15, Mr. Colby, the C.I.A. director, assured The New York Times, in response to a question, that nobody connected with The Times was involved with the C.I.A.