

Liaison Service and Agent Reactions to Recent Publicity on the Agency

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

a. A long-time high ranking agent with unique access to intelligence information refused continued contact and collaboration because of fear of exposure of CIA material in the U.S.

b. Another agent, who had been a strong operational performer, quit for the same reasons.

c. One key agent expressed serious concern that U.S. Government and Agency influence would be weakened by the investigations and press leaks.

d. In an important country, a liaison contact told our representative that recent publicity on the CIA had aroused considerable suspicion of the Agency among his government and police circles.

e. We believe that recent publicity has affected operational climates

[Redacted]

It is likely that more local security services may begin putting pressure on the Agency. Restrictions implemented by a large country in January appear to have placed serious limitations on our stations' capabilities.

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(b)(3)

a. A recently recruited agent refused to sign a secrecy agreement;

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while he said he trusted his present case officer, he wondered what guarantee could be offered him that the next handler would not be another Agee.

b. Another agent recently refused to carry out an operational task, claiming he feared exposure similar to that of the "Angleton Affair"; as a result, the operation aborted and he was terminated.

c. A key agent expressed concern for his security as a result of publicity.

d. [redacted] who has provided solid information for years had shown a recent lack of candor in his reporting. (b)(3)

e. There is evidence that a recently recruited agent who had agreed to cooperation may decide to break off contact.

f. A trusted agent voiced deep concern, and pleaded with his case officer to destroy all traces of his true name in Agency files; while his fears were assuaged somewhat and he continued to be highly productive, further handling problems affecting his performance are expected.

g. A highly sensitive agent refused to continue to cooperate.

h. [redacted] commented adversely on press disclosures as directly affecting him. (b)(3)

i. A major service expressed serious concern that leaks from

the U. S. investigations of CIA might cause damage to the liaison relationship.



(b)(3)

a. A principal friendly liaison service has been very sensitive to press items, particularly the wide local press coverage which has been influenced by U.S. items. Proposed joint operations have been turned down as a result. In turn, the host service is having domestic problems which are in large part an outgrowth of CIA difficulties. Two other services remarked on their concern that material passed to the Agency might become public knowledge as the result of the investigations and possible leaks; the services made clear that they expected the Agency to protect such information. We note a curtailment of the passage of certain service materials on "security" grounds.

b. A key service apparently is considering local passage of intelligence in oral form only because of general distrust of our security.

c. A major service admitted that Agency publicity had resulted in some second thoughts that the Agency might use their service's information on a world trouble spot since such information might be leaked to the press during the current investigations of the Agency.

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d. A vital liaison tie, due to recent publicity, has instituted much tighter controls and limits on the passage of important intelligence.

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(b)(3)

At least six agents of considerable value have quit as a result of the recent spate of publicity and several development contacts have at least temporarily been lost. Additionally, a number of useful agents continue to cooperate only with reservations and misgivings, causing handling and intelligence production problems. Almost all services in contact with CIA have expressed some degree of concern on this matter.

In certain areas, the near hysterical suspicion of CIA's real or imagined activities in all realms, fanned by constant publicity, has caused internal political problems as well.

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Three valuable agents in diverse geographic areas expressed concern over disclosures as did several liaison services.

a.

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has commented that recent press items concerning the forthcoming publication of the Agee book had caused him to rethink "in more realistic terms" his relationship with CIA. The agent voiced his concern that the Agency might not be able to protect his security. He remains

in contact with us, but is still not entirely reconciled to maintaining a covert relationship.

b. Commenting on the wide press coverage of recent investigations of CIA activities, an asset expressed "grave concerns" about the effect these investigations could have on his personal security. He was specifically worried about the possibility that the investigations would result in subpoenas of information concerning foreign intelligence sources.

c. A third asset, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] commented that the current investigations of CIA made him very nervous.

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[REDACTED]

(b)(3)

A vital asset, whose information over the years has been invaluable, expressed serious concern over the future ability of CIA, and the USG to protect vital information affecting the security of agents. He feels that the continuing and expanding public revelations in the United States could result in the precipitous end of his service, and, while he will continue to cooperate, it will be only with growing reservation.

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In our counterintelligence program holdings, there were files on four members of Congress

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Of course, the Agency has other files on members of Congress or former members of Congress, some of whom were employed by the Agency, some of whom had an official relationship with the Agency or were used as references by persons applying for positions with the Agency.

In addition of course, our Office of Legislative Counsel maintains working files on its liaison contacts with members of Congress and their offices.

*and some of whom received clearances during prior employment.*