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Trans: Garm Jackson
Chabell Leahy
Lugar Baker
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10 June 1982

We should like to bring to your attention the urgent need for your support of the proposed revisions to the CIA Retirement and Disability System to be considered by the Select Committee on Intelligence at a hearing on 17 June 1982.

We are supported in our request by William Colby, former CIA Director, who is serving as our legal counsel. Should you be willing to discuss the matter with us, we should be happy to come to your office at your convenience.

As proposed, CIARDS would be modified to vest dependent spouses of CIA covert officers with rights in a proportionate share of retirement and survivor benefits, depending upon the years of marriage during the officer's career. A spouse would qualify for coverage by years served abroad, as does the officer. As proposed, State courts could modify these provisions if a spouse does not need the financial assistance or is undeserving.

We believe that these proposed modifications are fair, equitable, and necessary.

At present, CIA dependent spouses, who may have been many years married and many years overseas, can be left financially unprotected in their old age. Many have served in difficult--sometimes hazardous--circumstances. The countries of interest to Intelligence officers are frequently countries in political transition that can lead to civil unrest and violence. For reasons of secrecy, the foreign homes of CIA employees must be far from neighbors and outside the security of official compounds. Recent publications that make political statements by identifying CIA officers also frequently have given names of other family members. Thus the spouse of a CIA officer often is at more risk than a Foreign Service spouse. (Foreign Service spouses have already been vested with rights similar to those we are requesting by the Foreign Service Act of 1980.) The CIA spouse may face more hours of risk than the CIA officer himself, who spends many hours of his working day behind the protecting walls of government offices.

(CIA spouses, continued)

While in a foreign country, a CIA spouse provides essential service to the US Government by providing a secure environment for official business, by making and building friendships among foreign nationals that can lead to recruitments, to the officer's fulfilling his assignment with greater ease and effectiveness. A spouse often undertakes duties, assigned and volunteer, to support clandestine operations, to add validity to the cover assignment of the officer. By the lifestyle she achieves for her family, she demonstrates the success story of American democracy.

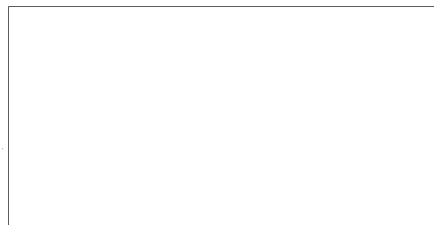
During her years of government service, the CIA spouse gives up her own career plans. Yet at the end of often invaluable careers, CIA spouses can find themselves without financial resources for the retirement years. In divorce court, they cannot explain their cases adequately or relate details of their life abroad, because they are bound by secrecy requirements, often self-imposed through loyalty. Even spouses generously provided for by alimony can be left without income at the death of the officer. Widows can find that their incomes do not keep pay with the inroads of inflation.

The proposed CIARDS amendment will take no new government funding. A spouse will be drawing from the retirement fund to which she herself has contributed, as evidenced by the joint income tax returns filed over the years of service, by the official government records that have identified her as beneficiary.

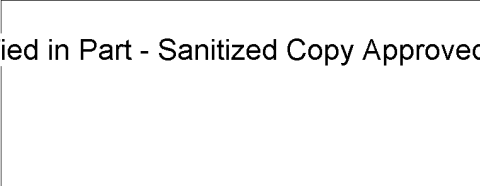
Your support of our proposal will demonstrate to the many CIA spouses now serving around the world that their Government, including the Agency they have served so long, and their country appreciate their loyal and worthwhile service.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby



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20 May 1982

The Honorable Barry Goldwater
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Goldwater:

For all wives of CIA officers may we express thanks for your support of our proposal that divorced and widowed CIA spouses be vested with a share of retirement and survivor benefits. Not only will the women benefit who receive this financial support but also the wives who--remaining married and continuing to go abroad on foreign tours--will see that they are recognized by the government and the agency they serve.

We appreciated your courtesy and generosity in giving your time to the lengthy hearing while matters of international importance were being discussed elsewhere--matters in which your leadership is well known and highly valued. For your attention and sympathetic questioning we are grateful.

We should like to say thank you, too, for encouraging the Committee's staff and for giving them time to assist us in preparing our presentation. Their courteous guidance and sympathetic interest helped immensely in our putting our request together. Dan Finn and General Counsel Vickie Toensing did yeoman service in providing encouragement while giving generously of their time and expert advice. Rob Simmons, too, was very helpful and kind. We are extremely grateful.

The hearing itself was impressive--that our country's elected representatives took the time to listen so carefully to our request. We know that because it was closed, the hearing will receive little publicity. But the image of men of stature facing their peers to discuss the needs of a small group of US citizens in a quiet hearing room of our nation's capitol building will be a proud and long-held memory for all the CIA wives there.

We thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby



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20 May 1982

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senatore Inouye

For all wives of CIA officers may we express thanks for your support of our proposal that divorced and widowed CIA spouses be vested with a share of retirement and survivor benefits. Not only will the women benefit who receive this financial support but also the wives who--remaining married and continuing to go abroad on foreign tours--will see that they are recognized by the government and the agency they serve.

We should like to say thank you, too, for encouraging the Committee's staff to assist us in preparing our presentation. We believe that the leadership given by Dan Finn was outstanding--and essential to our presentation. General Counsel Fickie Toensing was marvelously supportive in providing encouragement while giving generously of her time and expert advice. Rob Simmons, too, was very helpful and kind. We are extremely grateful.

We appreciated your perceptive questioning, which quickly brought perspective, pointed up accuracies or fallacies, and filled in omissions in the testimony being presented. Thank you for your compassion and perceptivity.

The hearing itself was impressive--that our country's elected representatives took the time to listen so carefully to our request. We know that because it was closed, the hearing will receive little publicity. But the image of men of stature facing their peers to discuss the needs of a small group of US citizens in a quiet hearing room of our nation's capitol building will be a proud and long-held memory for all the CIA wives there.

We thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby



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20 May 1982

Ms. Vickie Toensing, General Counsel
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C.

Dear Vickie:

Many thanks for your warm encouragement and sincere interest during the processing of our proposal to the subcommittee. Your expert advice was exactly what we needed. The words we put in--and the words we took out--on your advice sharpened what could have been a fuzzy, amateurish presentation.

The spin-off of the hearing--the task force on women's concerns--may prove to be of even greater importance and worth to the CIA mission. In talking with wives during the research period of the Family Employee Liaison Office project, members of the Federal Women's Program Board found many loyal, enthusiastic wives who sought to do the best possible job as CIA wives. They were proud and happy to be part of the CIA team but were frequently confused as to what their role should be, how best to support the CIA mission abroad. The wives of the busiest and most enthusiastic officers seemed to be the least informed; their husbands were too involved at work to seek answers to the queries the wives found important. That the questions of these women had no outlet demonstrated a real need for what the task force can provide--a two-way channel of communications.

Vickie, it's been an exciting experience for us to work with you. We believe we are lucky to have had your support at this time of crucial importance to so many CIA women.

We thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby



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20 May 1982

Mr. Rob Simmons
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C.

Dear Rob:

Thank you very much for your support during the processing of our proposal. Your very capable staff took great care of us.

We were all warmed by the courtesy and interest shown by Daniel Finn and Vicki Toensing. Both were very generous with their time and expert advice.

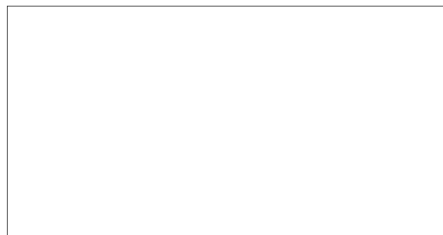
We were pleased with the interest in, and empathy with, our cause as demonstrated by the presence of your wife at our first meeting. Her smiles and nods of encouragement gave us confidence when we very much needed it.

The hearing itself was an exciting, impressive experience. Every American can be proud that citizens are listened to so fairly by Congress--by its elected representatives, its supporting staffs.

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and that of all wives of CIA covert officers. In all their names, we send our thanks.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby



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20 May 1982

Mr. Daniel Finn
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dan:

Thank you very much for your support and encouragement during the processing of our proposal to the sub-committee. With your advice and guidance, what could have been a stressful and confusing procedure turned out to be exciting and extremely hopeful.

Senator Inouye was very kind to let you spend so much time with us and in processing our request. The words in the Congressional Record reflect not only long and careful work but also legal expertness and empathy with what we are trying to do--all your contribution. We think Senator Inouye is fortunate--as are his constituents--to have you on his staff.

Th hearing itself was an exciting impressive experience. Every American can be proud that citizens are listened to so fairly by Congress--by its elected representatives, its supporting staffs.

For all wives of CIA covert officers, we want to say thank you from all our hearts.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby



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