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UNDERCOVER STORIES

As former CIA director William Colby tells it, Nelson Rockefeller once asked him to stonewall the then Vice President's own Rockefeller Commission investigation of the CIA's domestic spying. In his forthcoming book "Honorable Men," Colby writes that Rockefeller took him aside after a 1975 commission hearing "and said in his most charming manner, 'Bill, do you really have



Former CIA men Colby and Angleton

to present all this material to us? We realize that there are secrets that you fellows need to keep ...'" Says Colby: "I got the message quite unmistakably, and I didn't like it." Colby also says he decided to fire CIA counterintelligence chief James Angleton several days before a 1974 New York Times domestic-spying exposé widely assumed to be the reason for Angleton's ouster. "I did not suspect Angleton and his staff of engaging in improper activities," writes Colby. "I just could not figure out what they were doing at all."

file

MYSTERIOUS MICHAEL TOWNLEY

The CIA acknowledges having had "contact"—but nothing more—with Michael Townley, an American expatriate in Chile who may be the "Juan Williams Rose" wanted by the U.S. for questioning in the car-bomb murder of former Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier in Washington in 1976. Townley's parents, who live in Florida, looked at a passport photo of "Williams," an alleged Chilean secret agent, and told the FBI that the man in the photo is their son. As for Townley's CIA connection, a CIA source says: "He had contact with us. He volunteered things to us. We did not seek him out. We never hired him. He was a walk-in, one of those guys that keeps coming in and wants to play with the big boys. We listened, but we didn't take him on."