

19 July 1965

FACT SHEET ON NBC-TV's "SCIENCE OF SPYING"

PRODUCTION: The hour-long program was carried on NBC-TV at 10:00 P.M. EDT on 4 May 1965. The producer was Ted Yates and his assistant Robert Rogers. John Chancellor was the narrator, appearing for 13 minutes. Former DCI Allen Dulles appeared for 5 minutes, former DD/P Richard Bissell for 9 1/2 minutes, Senator Eugene McCarthy for 3 1/2 minutes, former Air Attache in Guatemala Fred Sherwood for 2 minutes, American "freebooter" in Central America Jerry Delarm for 1 minute, U.S. pilots on secret flights in Laos Len Cowper and Chuck Bade for 2 minutes, former Guatemala President Ydigoras Fuentes for 2 minutes, and Guatemala guerrilla leader Marco Antonio Yon Sosa for 9 minutes. The major sequences of the program dealt with operations in Guatemala, the Bay of Pigs, and the Far East.

CONTACTS: CIA first learned about plans for the show over a year before it was shown. No agreement could be reached on terms of reference for cooperation, however, and the Agency was not consulted nor did it have advance knowledge of the final content of the program. It is understood that NBC was also in contact with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the Soviet Embassy during the production.

SPONSORSHIP: The B.F. Goodrich Co. withdrew its sponsorship of the program the day before, explaining that "the telecast treats a controversial public issue in a way which may do harm to the Government of the United States."

ANALYSIS OF PRESENTATION: No significant new facts about CIA activities were revealed in the show; the damage lies not in security breaches but in the editorial slant and misrepresentations. The keynote of the program was the need for legislative control over CIA, based on the implication that CIA is involved in unethical and immoral practices. Senator McCarthy was presented as a kind of arbiter, his views dominating the presentation by giving them key placement at the end of a sequence, usually rebutting the statements by Messrs. Dulles and Bissell.

AUDIENCE REACTION: Letters sent to the White House, and subsequently referred to this Agency, were split in their comment: four asked the President to investigate CIA while four censured NBC for a disservice to national security. The Agency also received eight letters mentioning the program, one protesting against NBC's policy of producing it and the other seven merely referring to the program and asking for more information about the Agency's functions.

PRESS REACTION: Editorial comment and letters to the editor were also split, ranging from syndicated columnist David Lawrence's statement that the show "did a distinct disservice to the Central Intelligence Agency, the principal instrumentality of the United States in fighting the cold war" to the WASHINGTON POST's call for Congress to establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence.

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