

14 July 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 14 July 1980

The Director chaired the meeting; Mr. Carlucci was out of the city.

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McMahon said he has been requested to address the "U.S. Commission on a Proposal for a National Academy for Peace and Conflict Resolution" chaired by Senator Matsunaga and reportedly endorsed by the President. McMahon asked if perhaps it would be more appropriate for Mr. Carlucci or the Director to address this body. The Director noted his calendar is full and said he had no problem with Agency participation. Hitz said he would look into the event, which is to take place at the Rayburn Building in the middle of next week, and advise.

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Fitzwater reported four deaths over the past weekend:

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Fitzwater reminded attendees of the SIS promotion ceremony to be held in the auditorium today, noting it is one of the largest promotion lists ever.

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Fitzwater announced that a Handicap Advisory Board has been established to assist Agency management and handicapped employees re job placements. Also, a Family Liaison Service has been established to aid dependents who are going to or returning from overseas posts; the Director observed that both efforts seemed very worthwhile.

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In response to a query from the Director, Fitzwater said the recruitment backlog is being reduced to a manageable number of about prospective employees continually in process. Hineman noted the problem this is presenting to NFAC; he said job skill priorities, e.g., engineers, favor other directorates. Accordingly, some applicants for NFAC positions are being asked to apply again at a later time. Fitzwater explained how the improved processing system is being handled and requested a meeting with DD's to ensure balanced satisfaction of Agency needs. The Director supported Fitzwater's efforts to maintain a manageable and productive processing level despite the occasional loss of a prime candidate.

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TOP SECRET

Hetu called attention to the rule which prohibits foreign journalists from entering the Headquarters building has recently caused a member of the Washington Journalism Center to make this ruling a contentious issue (see attached). [redacted]

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Hetu called attention to George Lardner's column "An Identity Crisis" in today's Washington Post (attached) re the Agency's recent request that Snapp delete a true name from his latest manuscript--a name which has appeared in other publications we had approved. Silver explained the situation, and Briggs said the Agency does not have an adequate system for searching all names in manuscripts, etc., submitted for review. Hetu noted also today's New York Times editorial "Getting at the Spy Hunters" (attached) re Agee and Wolf; he said this editorial does little to help our cause in gaining Identities Legislation. Relatedly, the Director said he was approached during his recent trip to the West Coast by Tom Johnson, Los Angeles Times, seeking comment from the Director re two American correspondents who were detained temporarily by police in Isfahan, Iran, alleging that the correspondents were working for the CIA. The Director said he provided no comment. [redacted]

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Hitz said he is pleased the Director will be able to visit Senator Goldwater who is convalescing at the Andrews AFB Hospital and said, if desirable, he will be available to accompany the Director, who advised that it was not necessary. [redacted]

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The Director remarked briefly on the SIS promotion ceremony, noting [redacted] officers will enter SIS-1 today and that there have been [redacted] SIS promotions this fiscal year, due mainly to increased attrition. [redacted]

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TOP SECRET

WASH. POST, 13 July '80

RUDY MAXA'S

Front Page

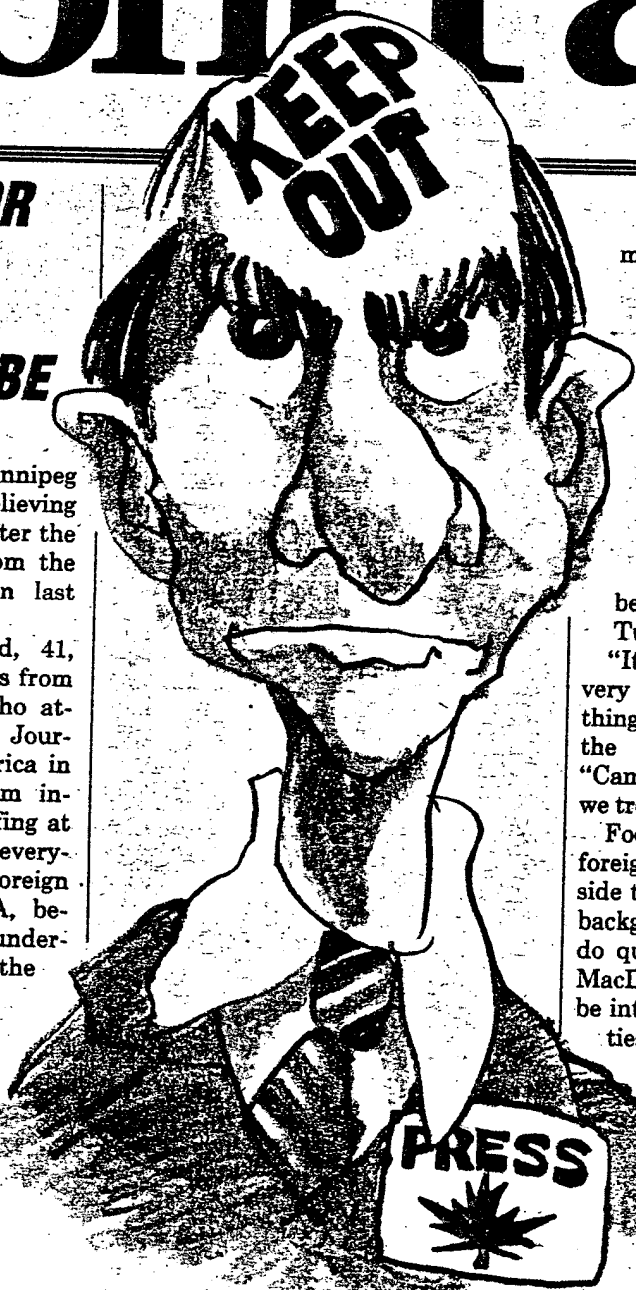
GIA SLAMS DOOR IN THE FACE OF A VISITING CANADIAN SCRIBE

An editorial writer for the Winnipeg Free Press had a hard time believing Canada was an American ally after the chilly reception he received from the CIA while visiting Washington last month.

Journalist David MacDonald, 41, was one of a handful of reporters from North American newspapers who attended a four-day Washington Journalism Center seminar on America in the 1980s. Part of the program included a short, unclassified briefing at CIA headquarters in Langley for everyone . . . except MacDonald. No foreign nationals invited, said the CIA, because someone might spot an undercover agent walking around the compound.

"I called and asked why a Canadian was being treated like an East German," MacDonald says. "I mentioned the fact that we were part of the Olympic and grain boycotts. I didn't mention the Tehran embassy thing. They told me it was just a security rule."

By William Coulter



MacDonald also happened to mention the affair to his mother-in-law, Sarah McClendon, the sassy Texas reporter who thinks nothing of lecturing presidents during national press conferences. A CIA director is hardly an awesome figure to McClendon, who picked up the telephone to give CIA chief Stansfield Turner a piece of her mind. Turner missed a McClendon tongue-lashing only because a security man answering Turner's phone hung up on her.

"It was stupid and asinine, and I'm very embarrassed about the whole thing," says McClendon, referring to the exclusion of her son-in-law. "Canada loves the United States, and we treat it like a dog half the time."

Footnote: A CIA spokeswoman says foreign nationals are not permitted inside the Langley headquarters because background checks are too difficult to do quickly. But in the case of David MacDonald, intelligence officers might be interested in his next night's activities. Along with McClendon, MacDonald attended a soiree for congressional figures at the White House. McClendon and MacDonald chatted with Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti and ran into Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. The president insisted the foursome pose for a picture.

THE WASHINGTON POST

A 11

Monday, July 14, 1980

An Identity Crisis

CIA to Snepp: Delete Name Of (Known) Agent in Novel

By George Lardner Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writer

The CIA insists it is no "big deal," but its reviewers stubbed their toes this month on a piece of fiction.

They demanded the deletion—from a novel—of the name of an operative whose cover had already been "blown" by the CIA itself.

The situation was disclosed yesterday by former CIA officer Frank Snepp, who had submitted the manuscript of a new book to the agency for prepublication review that the CIA demands of its alumni.

The CIA's censors found no legal problems with the book—a fictional account of President Kennedy's assassination in 1963—except for one thing. On July 3, they informed Snepp that the name of a CIA officer, whose real identity Snepp had chosen to use along with a number of others, "must be deleted."

"As you may be aware," CIA Assistant General Counsel John F. Peyton Jr. wrote Snepp in the July 3 letter, "you have used the correct name of an agency officer whose association with the agency remains classified."

Snepp was astounded. A CIA critic, he had been sensitized by a Supreme Court decision in February ordering him to relinquish \$140,000 in profits from his first book for failing to submit it to CIA review. This time, he said, he had been especially careful to tell no tales out of school. The name of the man in question, he said, had been plucked out of another book on the Kennedy assassination, "Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald," by Edward Jay Epstein.

What's more, Snepp said, the man had also been named in several other books, including one that had been cleared by the CIA. Snepp refused, for the sake of good form, to identify that tome, but he said it was written by David A. Phillips, former CIA station chief in Mexico City and currently chairman of the pro-CIA Association of Former Intelligence Officers. He wrote "The Night Watch," an account of his years with the agency that the CIA cleared several years ago.

Belatedly apprised of all this, Peyton told Snepp's lawyer Mark Lynch in a July 8 telephone call that the CIA was withdrawing its demand. But Peyton, Snepp said, told Lynch that "the name was still so sensitive they were going to ask me to delete it voluntarily."

"That gives you an idea of how good the clearance process is," Snepp protested. "They'd allowed one of their 'good old boys' [Phillips] to release a name and now they were trying to get me to help squeeze the toothpaste back in the tube."

At a meeting with Snepp and Lynch Friday, Peyton emphasized the request in person. "He said the name in question had to do with certain operations directed at the Soviet Union and with very important liaison operations with foreign intelligence services that the CIA considers crucial," Snepp said yesterday.

Snepp agreed to use a pseudonym, although not without a certain sense of satisfaction. "In all my writings and speaking engagements," he told Peyton in a letter mailed Saturday, "I have gone to great lengths to avoid exposing a secret, a name or an intelligence source whose confidentiality is crucial to the effective functioning of our intelligence services. Although your own review staff has shown itself to be somewhat less diligent, I will not violate my own moral responsibility."

CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu confirmed yesterday afternoon that the name of the CIA man in question, although he has "retired under cover," has been publicized before. He said he did not know what representations Peyton might have made in seeking anonymity now. "We just don't want to call attention to his name again needlessly," Hetu declared. "It wasn't a big deal."

NEW YORK TIMES, 14 JULY 1980

Getting at the Spy Hunters

Phillip Agee and Louis Wolf call themselves journalists, but the only thing they have done for journalism is to create and corner a most ghoulish part of the market. They are in the business of identifying American undercover intelligence agents and publishing their names in books and bulletins. Their purpose is to destroy the nation's covert intelligence operations. Endangering the lives of the secret agents may not be their main purpose, but that is one result of their labor, a result about which they express indifference.

Because of that indifference, it is fair to tax this enterprise with some responsibility for the assassination in 1975 of Richard Welch, the C.I.A. station chief in Athens. The armed attack 10 days ago on the home of an American embassy official in Jamaica followed soon after Mr. Wolf described that official as the C.I.A.'s station chief in Kingston. Mr. Wolf suggests without proof that the agency itself might have committed the violence, but the important thing is that he doesn't care. As he told Phillip Taubman of *The Times*, he has no qualms about the fate of individuals. "C.I.A. covert activities are inseparable from C.I.A. people," he said.

This attitude, like the project itself, mocks the First Amendment guarantee of free speech and American respect for dissent. It invites retribution against responsible as well as reckless critics of intelligence operations. It sorely tempts society to curb these individuals in ways that curtail the liberties of all. One such excessive response was the State Department's lawless revocation of Mr. Agee's passport, an action already struck down by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington.

We cannot match our outrage with a satisfying

solution. It should be easier to deal with Mr. Agee, a former C.I.A. agent, than with Mr. Wolf, a private citizen educated by Mr. Agee in methods of detecting agents and their covers. Present and former Government employees can be punished for misusing information they acquired in official jobs; perhaps the law can even presume that a misused secret was one derived from Government employment.

But it is not a crime, nor should it be, for a private citizen to gather and to publish information from public sources, however offensive to the Government and society. A law that would punish Mr. Wolf for publishing secret names in his *Covert Action Information Bulletin* could also punish a newspaper that identified an agent in the the valid and necessary reporting of events or in the course of a legitimate study of the C.I.A.

The United States needs spies abroad; every country employs them. Congress is reaffirming the need for intelligence and counterintelligence even as it strives to write a legislative charter to curb the past abuses of the C.I.A. Anyone is free to disagree with that commitment to spying and to agitate against it. But the Agee-Wolf publications exceed the bounds of dissent.

Threatening the safety of individuals ought to be distinguishable from challenging a national policy. So Congress is right to try to draw the distinction in law. But we are not yet persuaded that it can be done without jeopardizing the most precious liberties of speech and press. This is not the first attempt to use the defense of civil liberties as a shield, even for the most contemptible scoundrels. Let us look at laws that might get at them, but let us not in the process compound the damage they do.