

ER

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

20 January 1984

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR

1. During our conversation on your airplane last week, I mentioned an old article by Art Buchwald which compared the CIA and the Department of Agriculture. You requested that I try to obtain a copy for your possible use in introducing Mr. Buchwald during his visit to CIA. Clare Rice and his highly efficient staff found a copy of the article reprinted in a book and repeated in a 1975 newspaper.

2. I am told by OCR that they have identified other articles by Buchwald on the CIA in case you're interested.

Julian C. Nall
NIO for Science and Technology

Attachment

NIO/S&T:JNall:lm (20 Jan 84)

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HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?

by ART BUCHWALD



G. P. Putnam's Sons
New York

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chairwoman of the Entertainment Committee; and a Congressman from Texas, who did card tricks.

Two weeks later, thanks to Riggs Bank, I paid off all our personal debts.

I forgot all about the gala until one night I said to my wife, "Oh, by the way, how much money did you people make for the Indigent Football Coaches Home in Rock Creek Park?"

"I think it was thirty-nine dollars and fifty cents," my wife said hesitatingly. "It seems the decorations cost us much more than anyone thought they would."

THE TRUE SECRET SERVICE

The CIA has been getting so much publicity that one starts to wonder how secret our secret service really is. *Esquire* magazine devoted an entire issue to the CIA, the *New York Times* had a five-part series on it, and the CIA is defending an Estonian in a slander suit in Baltimore. In another case coming to court soon, a man who says he worked for the CIA is being tried for smuggling arms destined for Angola and Mozambique. You can't pick up a newspaper or magazine these days without reading about the organization.

Many people are bewildered over the amount of publicity the CIA is getting, but I can put their minds at ease. The reason the CIA is getting all the publicity is that it is *not* our major secret service organization. It is, in fact, a cover to detract from our *real* central intelligence agency, which is the Department of Agriculture.

Yes, the Department of Agriculture is the real intelligence organization, operating without fanfare, rarely getting its name in the papers and maintaining a discreet silence worthy of the greatest intelligence operation in the free world.

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reason than to keep people from prying into the affairs of the Agriculture Department.

The \$46,000,000 CIA headquarters at Langley, with its 16,000 employees, the far-flung spy network, the gathering of information from around the world are all a ruse that, up until now, has worked beyond the Department of Agriculture's wildest dreams.

The CIA has been blamed for the U-2 incident, the foul-up in the Dominican Republic, and the setting up of the Diem government in South Vietnam. What few people realize is that this is exactly the way Orville L. Freeman, the Secretary of Agriculture, wants it, because the more things the CIA gets blamed for, the less chance there is of discovering who was really behind these operations.

Whenever someone starts getting inquisitive about what the Department of Agriculture is up to, the CIA immediately leaks a story to the press of some momentous blunder the CIA committed, and everyone, including the Russians, thinks we goofed again.

The reason the Department of Agriculture was chosen to be our intelligence arm is that no one really cares what the Agriculture people do. They have an inexhaustible supply of funds that they are supposed to pay out to the farmers for not growing crops.

Using this as a pretext, the department can siphon off large amounts of money to its agents in the form of farm subsidies, and no one is the wiser.

Besides this, the department has crop-dusting aircraft, which are really used for spying operations, and all the storage facilities which are supposed to be holding surplus commodities are, in fact, filled with the latest and most sophisticated spy equipment.

The only time the Department of Agriculture was even remotely in the limelight was during the Billie Sol Estes swindle. But just when the heat was on, the CIA pulled off the Bay of Pigs caper, and everyone forgot about Estes.

The CIA angrily denied the charges that they were a front for the Department of Agriculture when I called them. But the evidence is so overwhelming that their protestations just added to, rather than detracted from, my theory.

No organization that gets in the papers as much as the CIA could possibly be part of our secret service, and no organization that gets in the papers as little as the Department of Agriculture could be anything but a worldwide intelligence network.

Let this be a lesson to those who believe the United States government does not know what it's doing.

MEETING OF THE MINDS

The longer I live in Washington, the more impressed I am with how smoothly the government runs.

Not long ago I was in a government office, waiting to take a friend to lunch. He had just come out of a meeting and seemed pleased with how well it had gone.

"What was the meeting about?" I asked.

"I'm not sure what you mean," he said.

"Why did you have the meeting?"

"What a stupid question. What do you think we do in the government, just sit around and twiddle our thumbs?"

"I didn't mean that. What subject did you discuss at the meeting?"

"We discussed whether we should hold a conference or not."

"You had a meeting to discuss holding a conference?"

"Of course. And the consensus was that we should hold off on the conference until we meet again."

"Which, of course, will mean another meeting?"

"Now you've got it," he said. "I don't mind telling you I was pretty scared, because Agnew had called a meeting for ten o'clock, and Evans had called another meeting for ten thirty.

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Okay, Swords and Plowshares, But CIA's Top-Secret Soybeans?

Many years ago Mr. Buchwald broke a story revealing the true role of the CIA. People laughed at the time—but they aren't laughing any more.

By Art Buchwald

The CIA has been getting so much publicity that one starts to wonder how secret our Secret Service really is. Esquire magazine's December issue (and the New York Times had a five-part series on it, and the CIA is defending an Estonian in a slander suit in Baltimore in another case coming to court soon, a man who says he worked for the CIA in being tried for smuggling arms destined for Angola and Mozambique. You can't pick up a newspaper or magazine these days with-

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Capitol Punishment

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