

The attempts of CIA officials, both current and retired, to link the death of CIA station chief in Athens, Greece to the Fifth Estate, ^{is} more than mere stretching of facts and coincidences. It is a blatant attempt to blatant those who have had the courage and conviction to oppose the CIA in its domestic and foreign operations.

Richard Welch, the dead CIA agent, was identified as a CIA station chief in Lima, Peru in the Spring/Summer issue of Counterspy the quarterly journal of the Fifth Estate. His subsequent move to Greece was unknown to us and we have had no contact with the Greek newspaper that identified him. Mr. Welch died as a direct result of the world-wide hostility that the CIA has helped generate against the U.S. As a CIA agent he knew that his role in coordinating CIA operations, be they in Peru or Greece, could some day lead to his death. It is a fact of life in such organizations.

If anyone is to blame for Mr. Welch's death, it is the CIA that sent him there to spy and perhaps even to intervene in the affairs of the Greek government. After the Athens News publicly identified him, there was no excuse for the CIA to keep him there. The blood of Mr. Welch is on the hands of the CIA and not on the pages of Counterspy. The political rationale for Mr. Welch's death should not be overlooked. For many Greeks the name of the CIA brings back horrid memories of U.S. supported tortures, imprisonment and death as well as intervention in the country of Cyprus. Such emotions based on political fact are felt by many throughout the world.

Counterspy's policy on publishing the names of CIA operatives in its CIA Around the World: We Thought You Would Like to Know feature is that any names published as CIA by a foreign press organ can and will be published. The CIA station and chief in most countries is usually well known both by governments and political parties abroad. Only those who live in the U.S. are denied that information. Our purpose in publishing names is to help identify the growth of CIA operations and stations around the world.

If the CIA continues to intervene in the affairs of other countries, similar events may occur. We are not the people responsible for those occurrences, however. The CIA with its murders and torturers has now added the blood of one of its own to the long list of victims ~~which~~ it has denied life.

24 Dec 75

Statement by W.E. Colby

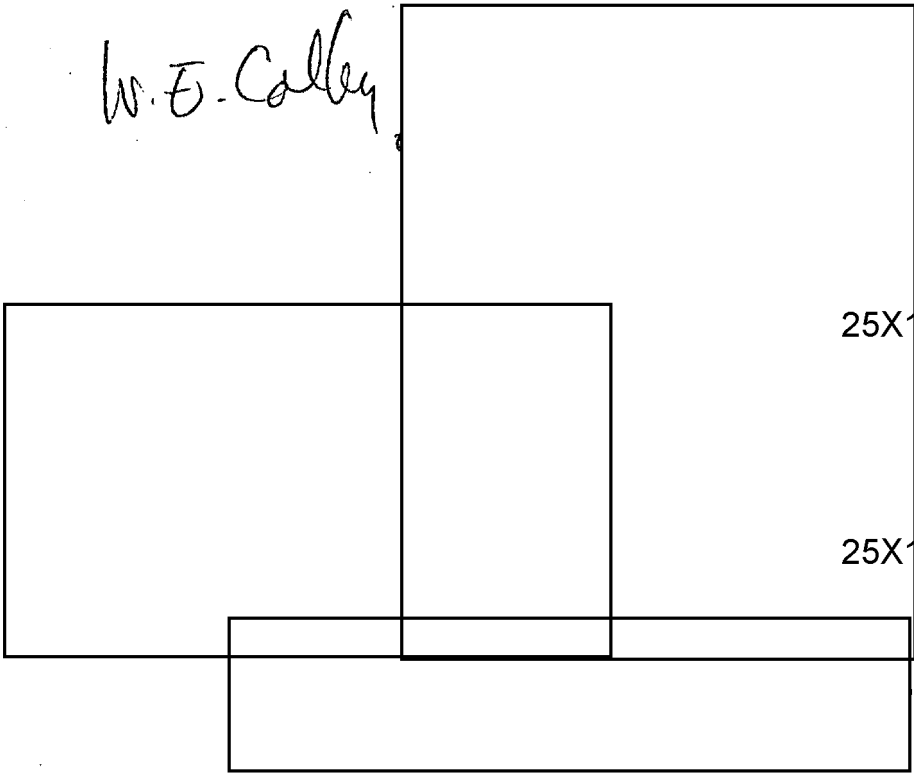
~~CIA~~

Soc 4.01.1 Counterspy
CIA.04 Welch, Richard

The so-called "Counterspy" of the Fifth Estate, without even an expression of human sympathy, has issued a statement which can only be called a shocking attempt to use the death of a dedicated American as fuel for its irresponsible and paranoiac attack on other Americans serving their country here and abroad. I am sure that true Americans will repudiate this cynical statement.

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W.E. Colby



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