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# Meanwhile, the anti-CIA brigade turns on the heat

POLICE surrounded a seven-storey office block in central Washington on Friday after an anonymous telephone caller threatened to speed past in his car and spray the fourth floor with bullets.

His ambitious aim was to liquidate seven people working in Suite 403 for the Fifth Estate, an organisation active in America's growing "alternative" intelligence movement. The Fifth Estate is currently accused by the CIA of aiding and abetting the assassination of Richard Welch, the chief undercover agent in Athens, by publishing his name in their quarterly magazine Counterspy.

The caller did not appear, as was expected, and the Fifth Estate and the police logged the incident with a growing number of death threats made to it—and several liberal senators—since the CIA's accusations. But the event illustrates the extreme reaction now building up against the anti-intelligence groups, including Congressional committees, that have been nibbling away at the CIA.

Retired intelligence officers have formed an "old boys" association to promote and pro-

Peter Pringle reports  
from Washington

tect their still active colleagues. In Welch the association has its first martyr. President Ford will attend the burial in Arlington Cemetery on Tuesday.

The people prising open the CIA's dirty tricks bag have made the running so far against others who would keep it shut. The old boys association has made little impact since its formation in July. But in the wake of Welch's death and CIA Director William Colby's plea to Congress to help turn the heat off his men, the work of tiny groups like the Fifth Estate and its hitherto little-known publications (Counterspy has a circulation of only 3,000) are under inspection, too.

But who is the Fifth Estate and what did it do with Welch's name? It is a group of people of Left-wing views, some of whom used to work in intelligence and are now regarded by their former colleagues as, at best renegades, and at worst Russian spies. One of the group's mentors, for example, Philip Agee, an ex-agent in Latin America

who has written a book about his intelligence work called Inside the Company: CIA Diary, is seen by the old boys as an agent of Russia's KGB.

The group's aim is to foster a new force "capable of penetrating the excessive secrecy rampant in politics today," a phenomenon which they call "technofascism," covering any clandestine government or corporate action—by the White House, the army or the police. Since it was formed, three years ago, however, the group has concentrated on the more extreme activities of the CIA.

This is fully approved of by backers like the writer Norman Mailer. He says: "In this context the Fifth Estate is homeopathic medicine—one small drop for a large disease, but at least it is an instrument by which people interested in a participatory democracy may begin to create the possibility of centres of alternate intelligence staffed by citizens for the use of citizens."

In the spring issue of Counterspy, almost 100 people the Fifth Estate had deduced to be CIA

agents from their foreign service records were named, of whom 59 were in London. Richard Welch was listed at attaché in the US Embassy in Lima. It was the first 2nd last time Counterspy mentioned his name. The editors of the magazine did not know he had moved before the news broke that he had been gunned down in Athens.

In the winter issue of the magazine Philip Agee explains the policy behind naming the agents. "The most effective and important systematic efforts to combat CIA that can be undertaken right now are, I think, the identification, exposure and neutralisation of its people working abroad." Mr Agee was working on past experience. In October 1974 he revealed the names and addresses in Mexico City of 35 official (embassy) CIA agents and two non-embassy ones. Within a few days two of those named, the station chief and his deputy, were withdrawn.

An editorial in the magazine expresses regret over the focus on the CIA, particularly over the current wave of "myopic rage" about the agency. "We believe that the whole system,

not merely its most mystifying appendage is worthy of examination," it declared. But of the list of 150 station chiefs printed inside it said: "This is certainly information that the American public should have in order to understand how the CIA works."

The Fifth Estate says that it has not been difficult to compile these lists: one of the simplest ways is to note all those foreign service officers who have been attached to the "Office of Special Assistance to the Ambassador." That is diplomatic language for the CIA, it says. But spotting US "spooks" abroad is not a new pastime. A small volume entitled Who's Who in the CIA appeared in Germany in 1967, but no one took it very seriously.

Senator Frank Church, the champion CIA exposé of the Senate intelligence committee, was listed. So was Lyndon Johnson. But so was Richard Welch. Then in November 1974 in the Washington Monthly John Marks, a former State Department intelligence officer, wrote an article uncompromisingly entitled: How to Spot a Spook.



Richard Welch



Philip Agee



William Colby