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P-Rodgers, WALT

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(Craig Under Prouty)

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AN INTERVIEW WITH COL. PROUTY

JOHN WILLIS: Tonight, Channel 5 News presents the first in a five part series on the Central Intelligence Agency, its mission and its operations. This insider's look comes from a man who was intimately associated with the CIA for many years.

Walt Rodgers has the report.

WALT RODGERS: For fourteen years, Colonel Fletcher Prouty did the Central Intelligence Agency's bidding for them at the Pentagon. If a spy needed a special radio or a special camera, Prouty scoured the Defense Department's inventories and usually came up with it. If the CIA needed a special airplane to pick up an agent stranded behind the Iron Curtain, Prouty got them their airplane. He was, in fact, the procurement officer at the Pentagon that the CIA tapped whenever they needed help. So he had a better overview of the agency's overall operations than perhaps many of the high level spooks themselves.

Colonel Prouty has jotted down some of the CIA's exploits in a new book he's written called, "The Secret ^{Team} Scene." In it, he says he tried to separate some of the myths from the realities about the Central Intelligence Agency. So in discussing the book, I asked him, first, does the CIA really have a dirty tricks department.

COLONEL FLETCHER PROUTY: They certainly do. The agency's divided very distinctly between its intelligence function and the other side of the house. It's a complete, total -- they don't even -- people in either branch don't even know each other. They know of each other's existence, but they don't work together. And so the dirty tricks shop, as you call it, Acme plumbers, as the people in the business call it, they do anything that they need in furtherance of their own goal.

RODGERS: For example, could you give us an example of dirty tricks that the CIA would do?

COLONEL PROUTY: Well, in the old days the defector business was very important. And they thought that if they could get people to defect with a Soviet airplane or a Soviet built airplane, this was important, you know. Now we call it hijacking, skyjacking. But when it's coming this way, it wasn't skyjacking. We paid the man to do it. Now when it's going the other way, Approved For Release 2005/01/13 : CIA-RDP88-01350R000200460021-1 and that