

May 29, 1980

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—Extensions of Remarks

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM  
AIRS ANTI-CIA PROPAGANDA:  
PART I

HON. LARRY McDONALD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 1980

● Mr. McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, in the battle over the proposed intelligence charter for the Central Intelligence Agency, the lobby of CIA antagonists has concentrated their efforts on a significant issue, that is whether the CIA shall be permitted to engage in covert actions against subversion, terrorism, and other destabilization operations instigated by the Communist totalitarian regimes headed by the Soviet Union and often carried out through their empire of surrogate and satellite regimes, parties, and fronts. All are willing to permit the CIA to have as many surveillance satellites as possible, to look at photographs, to read Pravda, to monitor radio broadcasts, and so forth.

But the CIA's antagonists do not want the United States of America and its principal foreign intelligence agency to have a capacity for covert actions against Soviet-backed destabilization and aggression in the Third World which is, of course, the principal arena of conflict now between the Communists and the free world.

During this month, the Public Broadcasting System aired in successive weeks a three-part anti-CIA film entitled "On Company Business." The film's coproducer and director has boasted that he made it "as a political weapon" which is scarcely surprising since it featured a number of anti-CIA defectors who had participated in the Cuban Government's 1978 people's tribunal held in conjunction with the 11th World Youth Festival which exoriated the U.S. intelligence agencies for opposing Soviet-backed Marxist-Leninist insurgencies. These defectors included John Stockwell, responsible for "blowing" the covert actions against the MPLA in Angola; Jesse Leaf; and Jim and Elsie Wilcott. Also featured was Victor Marchetti, a former CIA official like Stockwell associated with the institute for Policy Studies, a Marxist think tank with ties to Soviet and Cuban intelligence. Although Marchetti has also obtained some small notoriety for his 1978 effort to influence the Norwegian elections by naming names, the film's principal adviser, and indeed apparently originally a 20 percent partner in this film, "On Company Business," Philip Agee provided a constant com-

mentary to amplify charges made by other ex-CIA agents.

Although it is obvious and a part of the public record that a substantial number of the CIA defectors used in the film have links with Cuba or other hostile Communist intelligence services, Agee is outstanding in this regard. Agee openly thanked agencies of the Cuban Government and representatives of the Communist Party of Cuba for providing him with information for his first CIA exposé book, "Inside the Company," and according to CIA officials Agee made at least five clandestine trips to Havana during the process of writing that book. Just prior to his efforts in 1977 in Jamaica, Agee was sighted in Moscow, a curious place to do research on alleged CIA operations in the Caribbean. And according to columnist Robert Moss, writing in the London Daily Telegraph, Agee met with the Cuban DGI station chief in London on at least 30 occasions before being expelled from that country. Agee is currently living in Hamburg, West Germany, after being expelled from four European countries on account of his continuing intimate relationship with Cuban intelligence personnel.

It should be noted that a number of veteran CIA officials appear briefly in the film shown over the Public Broadcasting System. In most instances, these individuals were filmed during or immediately after various public speaking appearances and were not aware of the Marxist-left backgrounds of the producers of this film.

I would also point out that since the publication this month of a roman a clef entitled "The Spike," coauthored by Arnaud deBorchgrave and Robert Moss, there has been a growing awareness of Soviet disinformation operations to plant stories in the Western media from which they can be picked up and requoted to legitimize Communist propaganda themes. One of the more well known disinformation stories that appears in "On Company Business" is the article by Seymour Hersh published by the New York Times that incorrectly alleged the CIA supported a truckers strike in Chile during Allende's regime. As the Church committee reports eventually showed, this was not true; however, the filmmakers use that Times story and then follow it with an identical allegation by Agee to reinforce in the viewers mind this false charge.

I do not use this example to single out Mr. Hersh for criticism. Anyone familiar with the profession of journalism is aware of the dependence of investigative journalists on their sources. The Soviet strategists are also

aware of that fact and there is a considerable body of evidence, much of it provided by defectors from the KGB and other Communist secret services, indicating that the KGB's disinformation department is directing more than 1,000 disinformation operations each year in the free world press and that they are utilizing people under their control or influence in government, academia, and the media to leak disinformation stories to reporters. The technique is simple: They feed a reporter several true scoops before giving him the phony one.

An excellent background report on the film, its producers, and its origins with the U.S. Castroite left has been published in the Information Digest, the authoritative newsletter on U.S. political and social movements, subversion, and terrorism which is published by John Rees. The article follows:

## ON COMPANY BUSINESS

The taxpayer-funded Public Broadcasting System (PBS) on May 9 and 16, 1980, aired the first two hour-long segments of an anti-CIA documentary, On Company Business, with part three to be broadcast on May 23. On Company Business has been described by PBS as "perhaps the most important film we've ever shown"; while its director and co-producer, Allan Francovich, was quoted in an editorial page article in the Oakland Tribune (4/25/80) by former Ramparts magazine staffer Marina Hirsch as saying, "I made this film as both a political weapon and an educational tool. Everything the CIA does is secret for a very specific reason. If the American people knew what was really going on, they wouldn't stand for it."

In a PBS interview, Howard Dratch, co-producer and production manager of the film, emphasized that "Part of what we were trying to show in the film is that covert action has been continuing; there's been no change from the time of the Church Committee; that these covert actions continue and they continue to be very dangerous . . ." Francovich has emphasized, "You have to realize that . . . the CIA is not the problem. The problem is the foreign policy of this country." And the problem, specifically, as indicated by the film and by writings and statements of its producers, is U.S. intervention against Soviet-sponsored aggression.

Although the documentary was rushed through to completion last year thanks to a \$60,000 grant via the TV Laboratory at WNET-TV in New York from the Film Fund, a grant from the Independent Documentary Fund supported by the Unitarian Northshore Veatch Project which also has heavily financed the Center for National Security Studies (CNSS); the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; FDM Production, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization; and the Ford Foundation; its producers are reticent about its initial financing.

This is of particular interest because media sources have reported that in 1978, a proposal to complete "On Company Business" subheaded "A Feature-Length Docu-

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by the Member on the floor.