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PROGRAM

ABC World News Tonight

STATION

WJLA TV ABC Network

DATE

August 27, 1981

7:00 PM

CITY

Washington, DC

SUBJECT

Wilson Denies Training Terrorists

FRANK REYNOLDS: Yesterday it was reported that a former Special Forces sergeant, a Green Beret, had been recruited to go to Libya in 1977 and train terrorists.

That man, Luke Thompson, who was on active duty at the time, says he thought it was a CIA operation to infiltrate Libyan intelligence. The CIA denies the agency was officially involved, though it admits two of its agents were fired after it was learned they were working with the alleged mastermind of the deal, Edwin Wilson, himself a former CIA agent.

ABC News has located Wilson. And for that story we go to our foreign desk in London and Peter Jennings.

PETER JENNINGS: Ed Wilson is an acknowledged fugitive from US justice. He's been indicted for conspiring to commit murder on behalf of the Libyans, being the Libyan government's agent without registering as such with the Justice Department, and illegally exporting explosives to Libya from the United States.

Wilson lives in Libya where he says he continues to legally conduct his import-export business. He agreed to be interviewed by ABC News. But, saying he didn't wish to be harassed by the public, he insisted he not be visibly indentifiable as he looks today. He sat down in Tripoli with ABC's Greg Dobbs.

GREG DOBBS: Ed Wilson does admit he has worked as a private contractor for the Libyan government, but says he is not guilty of the federal charges. He does acknowledge, as middleman for a commercial Swiss firm he prefers not to name,