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HUMAN EVENTS
29 December 1983

Will Anti-Intelligence Get Key ACLU Post?

The American Civil Liberties Union has a personnel problem with national security implications. The director of its national office in Washington, John H. F. Shattuck, has resigned to accept an administrative post at Harvard. The ACLU's search for a replacement—which began in June—has been complicated by the facts that (a) the group has a self-imposed affirmative action requirement that it search for a minority replacement before considering appointment of a white successor to Shattuck, and (b) the ACLU leadership from which a successor would most naturally be chosen is lily-white.

In mid-September, with only two applications for the job filed, both from whites, Executive Director Ira Glasser said up to 10 minority candidates would be asked to apply and, if none had been chosen by the time of an October 20 board meeting, the board would be asked to drop the affirmative action rule. This, according to the *Washington Post*, would virtually pave the way for the selection of Morton Halperin, "highly regarded by virtually all of the ACLU hierarchy," as successor to Shattuck. October 20 came and went, however, with no decision made.

Will a minority person be found to fill the post? Or will Halperin, waiting expectantly in the wings, get the nod? More importantly, would Halperin's appointment be good or bad news?

It would appear to be good news. In the extensive publicity Halperin has received in recent years, he has usually been identified as a deputy assistant secretary of defense in the Johnson Administration and key aide to National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger; as a senior staff member of the National Security Council (NSC), in the early days of the Nixon Administration.

Additionally, Halperin has made numerous congressional and court appearances as a reputed expert on the classification of sensitive government documents, intelligence, and other national security issues.

In one of his many appearances before the House Intelligence Committee, Halperin said in 1978 that "in the spirit of full disclosure," he wanted to make three statements for the record:

- As a graduate student, he had applied for a job with the CIA.
- As a freelance journalist, he had used the CIA as an information source.
- As a lecturer, he had appeared at CIA headquarters on invitation of the agency and had been paid for his services.

Seemingly, more good news. Not at all a typical ACLU type. But Halperin then proceeded to attack the CIA for, among other things, its handling of the news about the December 1975 murder of Richard Welch, CIA station chief in Athens, after *CounterSpy* had identified Welch as a CIA intelligence officer.

Halperin accused the agency of waging a "disinformation" campaign against the American public by ascribing guilt for the killing to renegade CIA officer Philip Agee and the magazine *CounterSpy*, then Agee's principal weapon in his continuing campaign to expose covert U.S. intelligence personnel, particularly those serving in foreign lands.

He also tried to absolve Agee, the self-proclaimed "revolutionary Socialist," of all blame in the killing by saying he did not think *CounterSpy's* exposure played "any role" in Welch's assassination and by asserting of all those

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