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# CIA lied about Angola, former official says

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The United States lied about its covert operations in Angola in the mid-1970s, said John Stockwell, a tough-talking CIA turncoat, in a speech Tuesday night at Mesa College.

"We lied and we lied and we lied," Stockwell said. "I found that the Central Intelligence Agency lied about every aspect of this program to every one that it talked to."

Senate subcommittees, the press and the public all heard those lies, said Stockwell, a former Marine who spent 13 years in the CIA and served as chief of operations for the agency in Angola, working di-

rectly under Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and CIA Director William Colby.

In his book, "In Search of Enemies," which he wrote after quitting the CIA in 1977, Stockwell catalogues how U.S. undercover actions escalated the civil war in Angola, where the Cubans and Soviets were also involved. The U.S. involvement was built around a concern that Angola would fall under the sphere of communist influence.

Speaking to a crowd of more than 300 in Liff Auditorium, Stockwell explained how he was recruited by the CIA, why he joined and later quit and what kind of people are spys for the top-secret agency.

He talked about CIA destabilization efforts in China, Cuba and Chile, the recruitment of Soviet KGB double agents in Africa, the petty bickering of cabinet members over decisions about Angola, the CIA's condonation of gruesome torture in Vietnam and the ultimate result of continued CIA actions — nuclear holocaust.

"Covert action is what I was into most," Stockwell said. "Secret activities — often violent — to manipulate other peoples' affairs."

He said in its 35-year history, the CIA has engaged in several hundred covert actions a year, and been directly responsible for the death of a million people, not including the victims in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Covert actions include plots to assassinate leaders of foreign countries, the bombing of schools, the burning of crops and other techniques to disrupt the smooth operation of a society.

Stockwell attended the University of Texas on an ROTC scholarship during the 1950s. He joined the Marines, but never fought in a war.

He was contacted by the CIA in Denver in 1964. Along with 42 other recruits, he went through a year of training that included instruction on how to ingratiate himself to people and easily recruit them as informants.

"They taught us to assess what makes people tick" and play to their carnal, venal or religious natures, Stockwell said. "This technique works. It's a very, very powerful thing."

Stockwell's first assignment was Africa. During his years there, he said he came to realize that the CIA was a corrupting influence on the Third World.

In 1973, Stockwell, then a colonel in the CIA, was sent to Vietnam. He saw that the U.S. was losing the war yet lying to its citizens. He became disillusioned with the agency during the U.S. pullout because it callously abandoned its South Vietnamese allies to the Viet Cong.

He toyed with quitting after Vietnam, but the Angola post was offered to him. He took the job because it was a "career move."