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PROGRAM Jack Anderson Confidential

STATION WJLA TV  
Syndicated

DATE November 6, 1982 7:30 PM

CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Spies

JACK ANDERSON: Some of our spies have come in from the cold. They've spoken out in a profession that prizes loyalty and silence above all else. Disgruntled former agents have written books about alleged CIA abuses. Others have named agents who are still under cover. Well, this has caused an uproar in the intelligence community.

A few days ago, there was a confrontation in Washington between former CIA agents and their critics. My associate Jack Mitchell was there and picked up this barbed exchange.

JOHN STOCKWELL: I submit that you're working for the enemies of the United States, for the simple reason that people like you defending the CIA are the people that have discredited this country with murder, with activities that are worse than anything any other intelligence people have done.

MAN: I see. And you agree with Mr. Agee on....

ANDERSON: This man, John Stockwell, is a CIA outcast. He hardly looks the part. And he's as rugged as he looks, with a record to match. He served first in the Marines, then in the CIA. He conducted highly classified covert operations in dangerous areas of Africa where life is cheap. But six years ago, Stockwell became sickened at some of the CIA tactics. He made up his mind to quit the agency.

STOCKWELL: I had concluded after Vietnam, after three tours in Africa before that, and particularly after the CIA's Angola program, of which I was the task force commander, that the CIA's operations were profoundly wrong on two counts. One of

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them is that they were morally wrong, what we were doing. And, two, they were not advancing the national security interests of this country in any positive way.

ANDERSON: Did you complain through channels while you were in the CIA?

STOCKWELL: Yes, I did, indeed. I talked to my bosses about it. I talked to them about my complaints in the Angola program, of the illegal operations, alliance with South Africa, the hiring of mercenaries, manipulation of U. S. press, lying to the Senate.

ANDERSON: Stockwell's claim that he submitted his protest to his superiors is disputed by one of his superiors, former CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

STANSFIELD TURNER: I have a standing rule that any employee who wanted to see me or write to me privately had direct access. A sealed envelope or a knock on the door and he could get an appointment. Stockwell never tried that. What he did instead was write a letter to me and publish it in The Washington Post before I got it.

ANDERSON: John Stockwell told me that he went through some anguished soul-searching before he made his complaints public.

STOCKWELL: They have put in jeopardy this noble country's moral right to leadership in the world of nations. We've killed -- the CIA has killed more people than the PLO, the Baader-Meinhof, the Red Brigade and the Israeli Army put together.

ANDERSON: There has been anguish on both sides of the issue.

David Atlee Phillips is also a former CIA agent. Like Stockwell, Phillips has had his share of dangerous assignments. He formerly directed covert operations in Latin America. Phillips has often defended the CIA. But Phillips, too, has gone through family trauma because of his CIA connections.

DAVID ATLEE PHILLIPS: There's a myth that intelligence officers don't tell their families what they do. But they must tell their families, within reason, even teenage children. And it was a very positive experience when I went through my first four experiences telling teenagers that I really worked for the CIA.

But in 1975 when I told my fifth child, a 15 year old

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girl, that I really worked for the CIA, her response was "But that's dirty."

ANDERSON: Do you agree with what's called dirty tricks as practiced by the CIA?

PHILLIPS: Well, using dirty tricks is the category for covert action, meddling around in other people's affairs. There's some question in my mind whether we should be doing that at this time in history.

Quite frankly, one of the reasons is that if you are going to engage in that kind of operation, don't do it unless it's secret. I'm not really quite sure whether the intelligence community and the administration in our country now is capable of keeping many secrets from journalists who work hard to get them.

ANDERSON: Stansfield Turner is convinced of the need for covert activities.

ADMIRAL TURNER: There are circumstances where I can see it to be in the best interests of this country to try to overthrow another government. But that's got to be a decision made by the President of the United States. And the system is set up today so that it cannot be done without the President's personal approval, without the notification of two committees of the Congress.

ANDERSON: Meanwhile, the CIA is using foreign forces, some of them of questionable reliability, to carry out its clandestine activities. This raises a question. Should the CIA finance groups that it cannot control?

This much is certain. The CIA is quietly returning to its old ways of stirring up secret mischief abroad. This raises another question. Will these dirty tricks enhance our national security, or will they create more John Stockwells?