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## The CIA and swine flu

While we accept the fact that spying and intelligence networks are a fact of life which accompany big governments like that of the United States, acceptance of this fact does not mean their activities should go disregarded and without final scrutiny by responsible public officials.

With that in mind, the apparent efforts of the Central Intelligence Agency to wipe the Cuban pig population by introducing the African swine fever virus seems particularly questionable.

Besides harrasing the Cuban government and making life miserable for the island's inhabitants, two unworthy

purposes for the government of the United States, it is difficult to understand why the CIA would want to involve itself in this kind of activity.

The act, itself, is reprehensible. For all intents and purposes, it constitutes the practice of biological warfare for which Cuba would be perfectly justified in seeking reprisals. It is far removed from the humane goals most Americans like to associate their names with.

It underscores all the more why institutions such as the CIA must at all times be ultimately under the control of responsible public officials who can be trusted to monitor their behavior.