

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

7 May 1985

STAT

Thank you for writing the Central Intelligence Agency.

We do indeed share your concern for the publicity given the irresponsible statements such as the one you cited to us. Regrettably, we are simply not equipped to track down all such utterings for official rebuttal.

You are within your rights should you wish to write a letter to the editor, just so long as you are faithful to your secrecy agreement, which requires that you continue to protect classified information. The wisdom of taking on the allegations of someone like Ralph McGehee in a public or media debate is at best arguable. We are unfortunately aware of many well-intentioned and knowledgeable people who have tried to "set the record straight" and later regretted it. The most frequent problem encountered is that those who would besmirch the CIA can and will say anything to promote their cause, true or not. If, on the other hand, you stick strictly to the truth, the truth may become your handicap.

You are of course free to do as your judgment and conscience tell you. You may find the enclosed current information about CIA intelligence helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. L. Lamborn".

G. L. Lamborn
Public Affairs

Enclosure

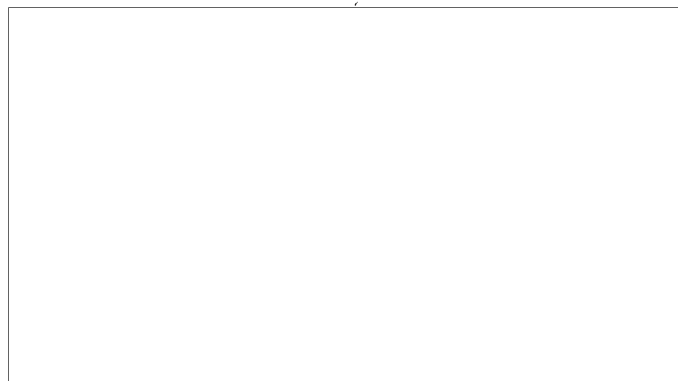
1 MAY 1985

25 April 1985

Dear Sir:

The enclosed article recently appeared in the Wisconsin State Journal, a Madison, Wisconsin, paper of considerable influence. We believe the statements of Ralph McGehee ought to be refuted by a knowledgeable authority. I am a retired Agency employee and my wife and I do not like to see the Agency slandered and such extensive coverage given to its enemies. (We can also write a "letter to the editor" if you think it will be of any help.)

Sincerely,



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CIA vet rips agency

By Peter Annin
Of The State Journal

A 25-year veteran of the Central Intelligence Agency spoke against the CIA and its covert actions to about 50 people Sunday at the Pres House, 731 State St.

Ralph McGehee's appearance was sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and was the first event of Peace Week which started Sunday and will continue through next Sunday.

McGehee said, "The CIA has never been a central intelligence agency. Its intelligence in all cases is skewed to support whatever the administration wants."

'Misinformation'

"Misinformation is a major responsibility of the CIA and the American public is the major focus for this misinformation."

He cited a number of experiences he had while working with the CIA where the intelligence information he gathered was changed or distorted.

On a CIA assignment in Thailand during the Vietnam War years, he said, his job was to document the number of Communists in a particular region of Thailand. He said he eventually turned in a report listing about 2,000 members of the Communist Party of Thailand in the region.

He said the CIA then began to claim that there were only 2,500 Communists in the entire country, even though he had shown that there were at least 2,000 in just one of its provinces.

McGehee said the CIA purposefully underestimated the number of Communist Party members in Thailand and particularly in Vietnam during the war because the U.S. troops were supposed to be protecting the South Vietnamese from a Communist minority and, "If we had admitted that we were fighting against more than 50 percent of the population we would be in trouble."

Finally complained

He said that when he became "so furious and so fed up that I had to let out my anger" he complained to his superior — who put him on probation — and he was given an office job back in the United States.

"I left the agency in 1977 after finding it futile to protest from within."

McGehee charged the CIA has been involved in a number of Latin American countries.

Nicaragua: He said, "You have to understand what's going on now in the CIA. It's killing people in Nicaragua."

El Salvador: He said that CIA personnel compile lists of Communist Party members in El Salvador, similar to the work he was doing in Thailand. He said these lists eventually get into the hands of El Salvador's right-wing death squads.

The elections in El Salvador of Jose Napoleon Duarte were "manipulated by the CIA," he said. "If there is one thing that the CIA can do, it is rig an election."

Grenada: He said that weapons the U.S. troops found stockpiled in Grenada after the invasion were planted there by the CIA "to justify our intervention."

McGehee, who is the author of a book titled "Deadly Deceits" which he said contains documentation of his claims about the CIA, told the audience he is frequently the subject of intimidation tactics by the CIA.

"My phone has been tapped. My hotel rooms are routinely entered. They're doing all sorts of things and they're doing it not-so-sophisticatedly and I think for the sole purpose of intimidation."

He said that once he was talking on the telephone and a person monitoring the phone call began yelling at him.

"I have been the subject of seven different sting operations to get me to do something illegal."

Today's Peace Week events include a program from 7 to 9 p.m. called "What would a peaceful society look like and how can we get there?" at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Union.

And at 7:30 p.m., at the Pres House, "The Indian human rights struggle and non-violent social change: A shared progressive agenda."

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The Wisconsin State Journal welcomes letters from readers. So that many different viewpoints may be published, please keep your letters short (less than 200 words). The more concise the letter, the better the chances of its publication.

Include your name, address and telephone number. The State Journal does not publish unsigned letters, copies of letters or those addressed to others as "open letters." Send your letters to:

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