

STATINTL

Approved For Release 2004/11/29 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000500050011-9

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

STATINTL

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Evening News STATION WUSA-TV
CBS Network

DATE May 6, 1987 7:00 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT William Casey's Legacy and Mystery

DAN RATHER: The President today praised his old friend, political fundraiser, and former CIA Director, William Casey. Casey died today at age 74. He was one of the potential witnesses congressional and other investigators wanted to talk to most. They couldn't. Casey had brain surgery here in Washington in December. He was then in a New York Hospital with pneumonia.

Correspondent Eric Engberg reports on the Casey legacy and mystery.

ERIC ENGBERG: William Casey, a crusty self-made millionaire, charted a new aggressive course for the CIA in the shadowy world of covert operations. His role in helping the Nicaraguan Contras in a war supposedly off limits to the CIA dominated the opening day of the congressional investigation.

RICHARD SECORD: Casey asked me, "How much money is needed?"

And I said, "Well, that depends on what period of time you're talking about."

ENGBERG: Casey, who had won medals for his World War II spy exploits, made his millions in law and finance, then managed the Reagan presidential campaign in 1980. As a close friend of the President, he had the clout to become the most powerful intelligence chief since the Eisenhower years.

WILLIAM COLBY: He was a very hands-on, risk-taking guy, and that he believed in turning the agency into a very activist organization.

OFFICES IN: WASHINGTON D.C. • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES • CHICAGO • DETROIT • AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES

Approved For Release 2004/11/29 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000500050011-9

Material supplied by Radio TV Reports, Inc. may be used for file and reference purposes only. It may not be reproduced, sold or publicly demonstrated or exhibited.

ENGBERG: He seemed always at the center of a storm in Congress, refusing to put his fortune into a blind trust, mining harbors in Nicaragua, and using a clever tactic to dodge questions from those he thought too nosy.

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY: You could always tell when he was in the mood that he didn't want to cooperate. He would stop mumbling. Later on, you might be in the committee and say, you know, "What about these disturbing reports that we've heard about such-and-so?" And we'd hear, "Mum-mum-mum-mum-mum-mum-mum." And that would be about it.

ENGBERG: Congressional investigators of the Iran-Contra affair have known since Casey was overcome by illness that his role was unique.

SENATOR ORRIN HATCH: Bill Casey probably is the only person who could have answered some certain questions that are very critical questions.

REP. DICK CHENEY: The fact of the matter is, the President made the decision, and Bill tried to carry out his wishes. And that's what any good CIA Director would have to do.

ENGBERG: Richard Secord, opening the congressional hearings, said he met three times with Casey to discuss the secret Contra supply network.

RICHARD SECORD: He told me that they were very appreciative of what I was doing, and he said I had his admiration.

ENGBERG: Now there will be no Casey version of events.

SENATOR DANIEL INOUE: Obviously, Mr. Casey has taken certain information to the grave with him.

ENGBERG: And for as long as the congressional hearings go on, they will have to contend with the specter of one witness chair that is empty.