

7 March 1986

CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR DISPUTES ALLEGATIONS OF POLICY DIFFERENCES

The following is a statement issued today by Deputy Director of Central Intelligence John N. McMahon. The White House on 4 March 1986 announced Mr. McMahon's decision to resign from CIA effective 29 March 1986.

"I have been dismayed and angered by the reaction of those in the press and special interest groups who have sought to interpret my retirement from CIA as an expression of discontent with the President's policies. Nothing could be further from the truth.

To set the record straight, I support the President's policies in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and the Third World at large and execute his directives to the fullest extent. Ironically, while some in the media were touting my alleged disapproval of administration policy, I was testifying before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and later to the House Armed Services Committee on behalf of the President's Nicaragua proposal. I fully subscribe to the President's policies as articulated by Secretary Shultz in his 27 February statement before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and requested that the Shultz statement be made part of the record of my own testimony.

Those who know me are familiar with my strong belief that intelligence officials should respond to inaccuracies through the oversight process and not by making personal public statements. I have had no need to respond to earlier attacks on me because I was confident that the people who counted watched my actions and gave no credence to unsubstantiated claims. I must draw the line when these uninformed and erroneous reports provide fodder--as they indeed already have--for propagandists in the Sandinista press in Nicaragua and others abroad who seek to denigrate this administration and its policies."

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■ The CIA's No. 2 man, John McMahon, is retiring after 34 years in government, effective March 29. The White House accepted his resignation Tuesday. Robert M. Gates, the deputy director for intelligence, was named to replace McMahon.