

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR WILLIAM E. COLBY

Thursday, August 9, 1973

(10 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

-- To emphasize the importance of the role of the Director of Central Intelligence in national security affairs.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Your nomination of Colby for the position of Director of Central Intelligence was confirmed by the Senate on August 1. His hearings involved unprecedented public scrutiny of his past and of the activities of CIA in Vietnam and Laos.

Colby takes over at a critical time in the history of the Intelligence Community. Budgets will be constrained; new Congressionally imposed restrictions on CIA operations are possible; improved intelligence is needed; the momentum of Schlesinger's vigorous efforts to implement your November 5, 1971 reorganization plan must not be lost.

B. Participants: Colby's family and representatives from departments and agencies of the Intelligence Community. (A list is attached at Tab A.)

C. Press Plan: Press photo opportunity.

III. RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS

-- It is a particular pleasure to participate today in the swearing in of Mr. William E. Colby as Director of Central Intelligence.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

- Mr. Colby's long and distinguished career of Government service has uniquely qualified him for his position.
- The position of Director of Central Intelligence calls for a man of very special qualities. He must have the judgment, courage and independence of mind to assess foreign situations accurately and impartially.
- He must have the knowledge and ability to manage the overseas operations of the Central Intelligence Agency in the manner which adheres scrupulously to the policy guidance he receives from the President and the NSC.
- He must have, as the President's principal intelligence officer, the administrative ability to ensure that needed foreign intelligence is collected, but that marginal activities throughout the Intelligence Community are eliminated.
- Mr. Colby takes up his new responsibilities at a critical time in the history of the Intelligence Community and of this country. Intelligence is more important than ever; but budgets will be stringent, and new management problems pressing.
- In my judgment and, after exhaustive hearings, in the judgment of a great majority of the Senate, Mr. Colby has amply demonstrated that he has the qualities and the qualifications to be Director of Central Intelligence.
- I know he will carry out his job with distinction and with proper appreciation for the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Government today. He will need the help of all those gathered here, his family and the representatives of the major departments, agencies, and elements of the Intelligence Community.

**Attachments:**

Tab A - List of participants

Tab B - Biography of William E. Colby

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MEMORANDUM

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SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR WILLIAM E. COLBY

List of Participants

Mrs. William E. Colby  
Jonathan Colby (27, former NSC staff member, now in U. S. Army)  
Carl Colby (22)  
Paul Colby (will be 18 this month)  
Christine Colby (13)

~~Secretary of State Rogers~~

Secretary of Defense Schlesinger

~~Deputy Director General Vernon Walters (CIA)~~

Ray Cline, Director, Bureau of Intelligence and Research (State)

Deputy Secretary Clements (Defense)

Albert Hall, Assistant Secretary for Intelligence (Defense)

Vice Admiral Vincent DePoix, Director, Defense Intelligence

~~Agency (Defense)~~

Director Kelley (FBI)

General Philips, Director, NSA

~~Attorney General Richardson (Justice)~~

Henry Kissinger (NSC)

~~General Brent Scowcroft (NSC)~~

*Admiral DePoix*

WILLIAM EGAN COLBY

Mr. William E. Colby was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1920. The son of an Army officer, his early life was spent in various posts, including a three-year period in Tientsin, China.

In 1940 he was graduated from Princeton University and in 1941 joined the United States Army, serving in the Parachute Field Artillery. When the Office of Strategic Services put out a call for French speakers in 1943, Mr. Colby volunteered and in 1944 was parachuted behind enemy lines in north central France to work with a resistance unit. Shortly before the end of the war in 1945, he led a team dropped in northern Norway to destroy a rail line used for transporting German reinforcements.

Following the war, Mr. Colby obtained his law degree from Columbia Law School and joined a New York law firm headed by William J. Donovan, former head of OSS. He is a member of the New York State and U. S. Supreme Court bars.

In 1949 Mr. Colby accepted his first U. S. Government position as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington. In 1951 he joined the staff of the American Embassy in Stockholm and from 1953 to 1958 served in the American Embassy in Rome, Italy.

Mr. Colby became First Secretary of the American Embassy in Saigon in 1959, leaving in 1962 for an assignment as Chief of the Far East Division of the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D. C.

In March 1968 Mr. Colby joined the Agency for International Development and was posted to Saigon to assume the post of Assistant Chief of Staff and in November 1968 of Deputy to the Commander of MACV for the CORDS program of support to the Government of Vietnam's pacification campaign, with the personal rank of Ambassador. He was reassigned to the Department of State on 30 June 1971.

On 10 January 1972 Mr. Colby was appointed Executive Director-Comptroller of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Colby was appointed Deputy Director for Operations effective 3 March 1973.

Mr. Colby is married to the former Barbara Heinzen. They have four children and reside in Bethesda.