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British Paper Names Three 'CIA Spies'

LONDON (AP) — Now a radical British journal has named three American Embassy officers, claiming they are working as CIA spies here. Retiring U.S. Ambassador Elliot Richardson immediately criticized the allegations.

Time Out, a weekly, claimed in a piece headed "Spook Spotting" that the number of CIA men here had increased from 60 to 70 since May. It said the three men it named are among the CIA's top staffers in Britain.

Richardson, who flies home tomorrow to become secretary of commerce, was asked at a farewell news conference yesterday about Time Out's charges.

"I would have regarded this as a trivial matter but for the recent assassination of Richard Welch," he replied, without confirming or denying them.

Gunmen in Athens last month killed Welch after Greek papers exposed him as head of the local CIA station.

Since then, a left-wing Paris newspaper, Liberation, has set out in its own words to to "undress the CIA." It has listed the names and telephone numbers of 44 officers described as CIA agents in France.

French Interior Minister Michel Poniatowaki denied in Paris yesterday that French secret service units had played any role in the publication of the names. Poniatowski said it was "clearly established that the information originated abroad. The same operation has been carried out in other capitals before Paris."

Richardson said the chance of further assassinations perhaps should have inhibited publishers from putting out that sort of information. "The role of the CIA in Britain is concerned solely with intelligence," he said. "It is fully understood by the British government."

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