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QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY BY THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA AUDIENCE ON MAY 7, 1975.

Questions Asked:

1. How many members of The Phoenix Program operations group were removed from South Vietnam with the Refugees? Of the 26,369 persons killed by Phoenix, How many were V.C. operatives?--Charles Sweeney--ZNS Radio

2. By cloak & dagger; do you mean actions like the Phoenix program or like aiding opposition to the Allende government in Chile?

3. How do you account for the apparent public attitude in America that we can do without any Foreign (much less, domestic), intelligence? D.S. Riggs

4. Is not surveillance of Americans, within U.S. borders, of those who have traveled abroad and met with anti-West revolutionaries, within proper CIA tasks? R. Lilienthal

5. Many are concerned about future effectiveness of CIA in view of increasing disclosures by members of Congress and the news media. Will you please comment? F. Hammond

6. In order to avoid the type of controversy that has plagued the CIA over the past years, do you feel the Director should be chosen by Congress and report directly to a committee such as "Foreign Relations"? M. Berger

7. Does the Agency have a contingency plan for a domestic operation Phoenix? D. Hagmann

8. Why not adopt the European practice (i.e., don't admit, or respond, to anything), in our intelligence activities? D.S. Riggs

9. How effective are U.S. counterintelligence operations overseas? How many agencies (army--Navy--etc), do we have involved? D.S. Riggs

10. What is the CIA doing to stop former employees from providing the world with information held by the agency? R. Rose

11. I have confidence in the CIA. What is being done to restore the confidence of the American people in the CIA. H. Hammond.

12. A recent national news magazine alleged that the secretary of state will not read CIA reports on other countries. If the executive branch does not have confidence in the CIA and prefers to use other sources, of what value is the agency? P. Kearney.

13. CIA & Kennedy--CIA & Castro--CIA & Chile--CIA & Phoenix--CIA & Mafia--Is this a "bum rap" for CIA or "Where there is smoke there is fire"? A. Guthoner

14. We note you are being protected by Burns Dective Agency today--Do you feel more secure?

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Questions Submitted:

1. What is currently taking place in Cambodia and South Vietnam in the way of imprisonments, executions and other political reprisals by the Khmer Rouge and South Vietnamese Provisional Government?

2. What is the status of women in the CIA? Are they assigned sensitive tasks requiring highest level security clearance?

3. An article in this morning's Chronicle reports on a "Penthouse" story by the respected Tad Szvlc which indicates that the CIA is still up to dirty tricks, murder and mayhem in Malagasy--your comment? L. Dawson.

4. Can you elaborate on media concern for involvement of CIA. Is it not safe to assume that the media is the inquiring arm of public? C. Dexter.

5. The CIA has been criticized for involvement in domestic activities. Considering the fluidity of modern transportation and communications, is it possible to draw a hard and fast line between domestic and foreign intelligence activities? Is so, how? F. Speier.

6. Why is the CIA's conduct not under constitutional constraints? B. Gaddy.

7. Was not Thieu responsible for the debacle in Viet Nam? Why did someone fly him out of Saigon with his family and ten tons of his personal belongings? and Gold. H. Crawford.

8. Aren't there plenty of U.S. citizens and quite a few organizations who need plenty of watching by the FBI and the CIA? H. Crawford.

9. What is the future of the CIA as you see it?

10. Please respond to today's reports the CIA participated in the assasination of the President of Malagasay in order to secure a military base.

11. As CIA Director, what do you plan to do with the estimated 5,000 ex-Phoenix operatives that are reported to be among the refugees. will they still work for the CIA?

12. Whom is the CIA responsible to? The President? Congress?

13. Can you cite some specific instances of thwarted foreign communist takeovers or domestic civil disturbances which, but for the CIA's efforts, would have succeeded?

14. In your very impressive background, as given in the introduction to your speech, at what point did you actually begin working for the CIA? (asked)

15. One magazine said that the CIA had 5000 assassins on duty in Viet Nam? True or False.

16. Are our spys producing enough intelligence to justify the cost of operation? If so what future benefits could be obtained if more money were made available?

17. In respect to national soverinty how can one nation's covert operatives be placed in another nation on the basis of international Law?

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Questions Submitted--Page 2:

18. Can you give us an indication of KGB strength and activities abroad? D.S. Riggs.

19. Please comment on assination as national policy?

20. Won't all these investigations harm the effectiveness of CIA? R. Harron.

21. Wouldn't the American public have been better protected by knowing less about the CIA activities--thereby keeping the secrets from those elements dangerous to our country and our freedom?

22. What can you tell us about domestic activities of the CIA?

23. Since the U.S. has abdicated its role as a world power, is the CIA really necessary?

24. Would you please comment on the recent newspaper articles stating that the CIA and the Mafia jointly attempted to assasinate Fidel Castro. Do you feel that these attempts were in any way responsible for a retaliatory assasination of John F. Kennedy? M. Kindig.

25. What was the role of the CIA in Viet Nam? What was the attrition rate of CIA agents?

26. When will CIA emulate the State Department and hold conferences for non-governmental organizations such as the Commonwealth Club? D. S. Riggs.

27. How do we keep paid foreign infiltratrators out while adopting masses of Vietnamese refugees?

28. Has the Soviet intelligence ever planted a "mole" in the CIA? (asked)

29. My wife and I, good friends of your uncle Bill Egan are here at table 56. We want very much to meet you and will try to do so after the lunch. H.A. Carlisle, RAdm. USN, Ret.

30. Where does the function of the FBI sometimes overlap CIA work and vice versa? Do you often collaborate? R. Cathcart.

31. Arecent book: "Cia and the Cult of Intelligence" indicates that the Agency's primary focus is on covert operations in foreign countries. Can and should the emphasis be shifted to technical intelligence collection and analysis. Robert Cross.

32. What is the status of the two CIA investigations, one by the Senate, the other by Rockefeller?

33. Has the "Mission Impossible" image of the CIA clouded the ability of the average American to understand the real function of your Department? What are the dangers of romanticization of the CIA? Mrs. D.S. RIGGS

34. Will the present federal investigations seriously hamper your present & future work?

35. Could you explain how the CIA budget is determined and who has approval over it? D.Weber

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36. To what extent have the investigations in Washington effected the CIA? W. Groverman.

37. Why do your critics never question your work with Israel?

38. The CIA has come a long way since WWII days of "Wild Bill" Donovan and the OSS, some activities good, some not so good. Can we hope its scope in the future will be confined primarily to foreign affairs? Please Comment? F. Hammond.

39. Does the Agency see Edward Kennedy's potential Presidency as an obstacle as were John and Robert Kennedy? D. Hagmann

to

40. You are hounded so absolutely protect individual rights that you are being precluded from giving the protection to the public against those individuals who conspire against the public. Doesn't the public right require that you give preference to it and against i.e. the communistic elements.--the Ellsburgs who swear allegiance and sell or give restricted documents.

41. What could have been done to save South Vietnam? Could the Phoenix program have been expanded to this end? T. Burke

42. Has CIA taken steps to assure itself that among the Vietnamese refugees we are not being infiltrated by communist or subversive agents?

43. Would you please speak on the difference between intelligence and wisdom? B. Eger.

44. Why should former CIA employees books be suppressed (by litigation) especially once they have been published elsewhere (thereby compromising any "secrets"). Don't the people have a right to know? H. Green.

45. How does the CIA recruit undercover agents? (are there any openings?) G. Smith.

46. How is classified information safeguarded when field operatives are dismissed for exceeding their authority? C. Smith.

47. Would you have any comment on the Victor Marcetti book on the CIA? My opinion: Weak histoy. Walter E. Hagen.

48. How involved is CIA in actual decision for covert or open actions, for example, Bay offices?

49. Mr. Director, as you are aware I am presently unemployed, however, I have had some experience in cabal. When I am available in a few years will there be a place for me in your organization? "Liddy"

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50. Is the annual budget of the CIA more than one billion dollars?

51. In a country where no one is (theoretically) above the law, what should be done with law enforcement or intelligance operatives who violate criminal or other laws in the course of performing their duties as they interpert them? --K. Phillip Knierim

52. Do you see the CIA's future operations being hampered by the trend toward isolationism in the United States of America? -- Harry A. Seymour

53. Is it possible to have civilian (outside) control of an intelligence agency? If so, how? -- Vesta Read

54. In a country where freedoms of speech and expression are vital, why did the CIA attempt to censor "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence" by Marchetti? - T. Saltiel

55. Before the CIA may legally undertake covert actions, I understand a new law requires about 200 Senators and Congressmen to be so informed. In your considered opinion, what is the effect (if any) of this law upon American Security. Harry L. Johns

56. In a recent speech, Norman Mailer stated that the CIA is fragmented into layers of authority wherein the top echelon is unaware of policy decisions of the middle echelon. This for protection of the top man when appearing before Congress. Comment please. -- Sylvia Schwartz.

57. Mr. Colby, if certain congressmen have their way, the CIA's secret overseas activities will be severly curtailed. Will such an action by Congress aid the Communists or the free world? -- Henry L. Johns

58. How do you accoujt for the apparent failure or breakdown of "Intelligance Services" during the weeks immediately preceding the fall of South Vietnam? -- E. V. Laurent

59. How do you explain the deletions made in the book entitled "The ICA: the Cult of Intelligance", by Macheiti and Marks? -- E. V. Laurent

60. Do you think that a muclear confrontation in the Mideast is likely? If so, do you think that the USSR would back down from the brink?

61. There is currently a debate in the Senate over whether Secretary Schlesinger's policy puts a dangerous hair trigger on nuclear war. What is your opinion in this debate?

62. Would it not be preferrable for the CIA to say "no comme nt in the interest of national defense" instead of denying allegations which later come out to be true? E.K.Zimmermar

63. Admit that we must have a (spying) intelligance service in all foreign countries, but is it true, that the CIA finances and/or supports any assassinations of some unfriendly persons? -- Al Spencer

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64. Why in a free society, at a public meeting, is it necessary to know the identy of all individuals who will attend - especially when a public servant is the speaker! -- (Guest) Anne Chandler

65. Whatever happened to ex-world Federalist Cord Meyer, Jr. who last surfaced publiclly as an illegal CIA conduit in the subversion of the NSA (National Student Association)? - Laurence Dawson

66. The press today quotes one Tad Szule to the effect that "U. S. spying cost $25 billion a year" - more than priviously reported and that CIA had ties with the police group which killed the President of Malagasy". Care to comment. Wendell B. Barnes

67. Since our constitutional system guarantees a fundamental right to privacy for all citizens, do you find a conflict in operating, without the same right guaranteed to all foreign nationals by CIA operations abroad? Ronald L. Brock (guest)

68. Since the CIA's Civilian Review Board has obviously been unable to prevent domestic spyingwhat safeguards should be promulgated to prevent domestic spying in the future.- Ian Burke

69. Do you feel we have a moral right to interfere in the affairs of foreign countries? (as opposed to simply gathering intelligence data?) (guest) Donald L. Brock

70. Why are you here in a public forum? Shouldn't your leadership be of a private (secret) nature?

71. If CIA is not guilty of all the misdeeds it is accused of, why have no responsible persons risen to its defense and thus dispel the poor image the public has of Government Agencies and CIA in particular? -- J. A. Ornstein

72. Given the present "big-brother" attitude of Congress and the media, how can the CIA operate effectively in this less than perfect world?

73. Why doesn't the CIA disband and reorganize under another name that isn't a household word. - Eugene A. Hidden

74. Did the CIA play any part in the assassination of Diem? - Lila J. Hildreth

75. I am concerned about the criticism of the CIA. It is necessary for our protection. Is all this to be jeopardized and our security put in danger because of blown cover and security leaks?

76. Mr. Colby, you have had a distinguished career in service to your country. Part of that service was as the principal staff officer for the Commander of U. S. Forces in Vietnam for Civil Operations and Rural Development Support. In that position you had responsibilities for the advisory program to the South Vietnamese civil government and other areas involving the civil-military fabric of that country.

Would you care to share with us your views about recent developments in Vietnam. -- William R. Berkman

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77. Can the CIA serve U.S.A. needs adequately by concentrating on acquisition of information in foreign countries but avoiding fomenting political unrest? Dr. C. M. Van Atta

78. Hasn't much of the doubt in the public minds regarding the professionalism and good sense of CIA derived from the messianic and apparently blind anti communism of such people as Liddy and Hunt?

79. Why is the CIA subverting the governments of foreign countries and thwarting the free elections -- as in Chile? Is it any wonder U.S. is not popular overseas?

80. Why has the CIA attempted to suppress the books written by former CIA agents? Isn't this antithetical to free speech and a free society?

81. Would you explain what legal and moral restraints, if any, govern CIA clandestine operations? (especially operation Phoenix, of Chile, training of insurgent troops?)

82. Can you estimate the percentage of information gathered by CIA is from covert activities vs. conventional sources. - Marc N. Gropper

83. What countries are most concerning to you in their vulnerability to USSR and Chinese undercover work? - R. E. King

84. Could you please describe the Phoenix program? Are there presently similar programs in effect in other areas of the world?

85. To what extent has investigation of the CIA hampered it in the performance of its mission?

86. Is it not clear that any counter intelligence activity is bound to take place within the United States as well as abroad? Is it not a problem to have 2 organizations (the F.B.I. and the C.I.A.) where one would make things easier? -- Dr. Philip Lehot

87. If permissable - what is extent or size of the agency i.e., total of personnel? -- James H. Corson

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ORG 1 Commonwealth Club of San Francisco

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

CIA1.01 Colby, William (Origunder ORG 1)

SUBJECT: (Optional) Commonwealth Club Questions for DCI Colby, 7 May 75, San Francisco

FROM: Chief, San Francisco Office (CRCarlsen:lt)

EXTENSION

NO. SF-241-75

DATE 19 May 1975

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS
1. Director, DCD		22 May	JM
2. SA/DCI (Angus Thuermer) 1F04 Hqs			[illegible]
3.			
4. DCI	5/23	5/27	mc/ 6/8
5.			
6. A/DCI	1F04		[illegible]
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15.			

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

The DCI expressed an interest in these questions while here. Note that the questions on the first page were asked of him whereas pages 2-6 were submitted but not aired.

Chuck
C. R. Carlsen

Executive Registry
75-2426

Keep

Fascinating

Many thanks

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