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27 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : New Book: Secret Service: Thirty-three Centuries of Espionage by Richard Wilmer Rowan with Robert G. Deindorfer

1. This memorandum is for information only to invite your attention to the new revised edition of the late Richard Wilmer Rowan's book The Story of Secret Service. The new edition is entitled Secret Service: Thirty-three Centuries of Espionage (New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc. 1967).

2. This revised edition has been done by Robert G. Deindorfer with some assistance from the author's widow. Deindorfer has published several articles in this field, none of which are noted for excellence. In updating the Rowan book, Deindorfer contacted Mr. Goodwin to solicit CIA advice or assistance which, as a matter of policy, we were unable to give him.

3. Allen Dulles has contributed a foreword noting a need for secrecy in clandestine operations. He characterizes Mr. Rowan's book as a work "of major importance", and in fact, it is probably the best comprehensive historical survey of well-known intelligence cases from biblical times to the date of the book's first publication in 1937. Unfortunately, Mr. Rowan himself never updated his own book from the materials in many libraries and archives which have become available since the book was first written. Except for some excisions, Deindorfer has not altered the original text. The new material which Deindorfer has added starts at page 573. It is largely a rewrite of well-known cases and published information.

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P- Rowan, Richard W.
Soc. 4.01.2 - "Secret Service: 33 Centuries..."

Walter Pforzheimer
Curator
Historical Intelligence Collection

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