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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Memo Chrono

Executive Registry

81-5686

23 November 1981

Mr. A. M. Rosenthal
Executive Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43 Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Abe:

The Associated Press, on 10 November 1981, quoted your remarks at Colby College the previous night regarding the involvement of former CIA employees supplying weapons to Libya. You are reported to have said, "There is every reason to suspect that people now in the CIA had knowledge of the whole sickening betrayal of American interests."

If you were quoted accurately, I sincerely regret that you have that impression. On the day of your remarks CIA issued to The New York Times a categorical denial of all allegations involving CIA in illegal acts committed by former employees Edwin Wilson and Frank Terpil. A copy of that denial, which your paper printed the following day, is enclosed for your information.

As indicated in our earlier statement, there is absolutely no evidence of illegal acts by CIA. Quite to the contrary, the Agency took prompt steps to report the activities of Messrs. Wilson and Terpil to the FBI and Department of Justice. We nevertheless continue to be concerned and are carefully looking into any indication of possible official misconduct. If you have any information that is relevant to this issue, we would welcome it.

Yours,

William J. Casey

Enclosure
Prepared by EAS/OPP: Rewritten by DCI/23 Nov 81
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9 November 1981

The CIA categorically denies all allegations involving it in illegal acts allegedly committed by former employees Edwin Wilson and Frank Terpil and their associates.

In 1976 when information was first received that former Agency employee Edwin Wilson had engaged in alleged illegal activities, the then Director of Central Intelligence conducted an extensive investigation of all known contacts with Wilson subsequent to his resignation in 1971. The investigation did not establish any official involvement by the CIA. Some employees were found to have provided support to Wilson and Terpil without official Agency sanction and action was taken against them.

In accordance with Executive Order 12036, all allegations of criminal complicity have been referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's office, those agencies having law enforcement authority.

The Agency has continued to look into all new allegations of misconduct on the part of current and past employees and thus far has found none. The Agency is continuing to cooperate fully with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in its broad examination of allegations of illegal and unethical activities by former government employees.

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DCI memo shown

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:

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2	DDCI		X (w/att)		
3	D/ICS				
4	DD/NFA				
5	DD/A				
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7	DD/S&T				
8	GC				
9	LC				
10	IG				
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12	D/PA				
13	D/EEO				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/ExStf				
16	AO/DCI				
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SUSPENSE _____ Date

Remarks:

Please apprise the DCI of anything that comes of your conversation with [redacted]

Executive Secretary

23 November 1981

Date

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