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NEW YORK TIMES
27 Sept. 1980

***N-TIMES (FIELD NEWS SERVICE)

WASHINGTON-THE WHITE HOUSE HAS DECLARED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE REV. JESSE L. JACKSON WAS EVER AN AGENT OF LIBYA OR PROFITED FROM ANY OIL DEALS MADE WITH THAT RADICAL GOVERNMENT.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JODY POWELL FRIDAY BRANDED AS INACCURATE PRESS REPORTS THAT QUOTED A SECRET CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MEMORANDUM TO THE EFFECT THAT JACKSON WAS SUCH AN AGENT.

JACKSON, WHO RECENTLY ENDORSED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR RE-ELECTION, WAS IN WASHINGTON FRIDAY FOR A MEETING WITH CARTER, BUT THE CIA MEMO ''DID NOT COME UP AND THEY DID NOT TALK ABOUT IT,'' SAID POWELL AT HIS DAILY BRIEFING.

POWELL SUGGESTED THAT THE STORY ABOUT JACKSON, FIRST RUN IN THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, MIGHT BE PART OF A RECENT CAMPAIGN OF ''DISINFORMATION'' DIRECTED BY UNNAMED SOURCES OUT TO EMBARRASS THE UNITED STATES THROUGH FALSE STORIES INVOLVING THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.

ASKED ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF THE MEMO, POWELL SAID:

''THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION INDICATING THAT (JACKSON) IS OR HAS BEEN AN AGENT OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OR UNDER ITS INFLUENCE OR THAT HE HAS EVER INTENDED TO OR MADE ANY EFFORT TO PROFIT FROM ANY OIL TRANSACTION BETWEEN LIBYA AND ANY AMERICAN COMPANY OR ANY OTHER LIBYAN OIL TRANSACTION.''

POWELL SAID THE PRESS REPORTS THAT CITED THE CIA MEMO ''DID NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT WHAT WAS CONTAINED IN THAT INFORMATION.''

HE DID NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY EVIDENCE THAT JACKSON ARRANGED ANY OIL DEALS WITH THE LIBYANS, WITHOUT MAKING ANY PERSONAL PROFIT.

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