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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA FILE

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86-1

22 May 1986  
OCA 86-1725

The Honorable Dave Durenberger, Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your letter received May 14, 1986 regarding allegations of a Ku Klux Klan group in the Computer Services Division of CIA. At the outset, let me assure you that after a thorough review we can find no indication that there has been any such group, or any such activity in CIA. It appears that the allegations you have received stem from a tasteless prank that occurred in late 1981 and was investigated at the time. The facts are as follows.

The incident was prompted when several employees in the Ruffing Computer Center happened to be listening to a local radio station that announced an upcoming meeting of the Ku Klux Klan. Upon hearing the announcement, a black employee joked to his white colleagues that they should attend the meeting. Shortly thereafter, upon returning to the office from an outside errand, the black employee found white paper hats made from computer paper and was told a KKK meeting had taken place. This was a tasteless attempt at a joke and was interpreted as such by the black employee. The following morning, in yet another misguided attempt at humor, Ku Klux Klan literature was found on the Ruffing Center bulletin board. After an investigation conducted by senior supervisory personnel all of the employees involved in these pranks received stern oral reprimands.

The other two racial incidents on record in recent years involve separate, informal one-on-one discussions that took place between a white and a black employee regarding the Ku Klux Klan. In one case, an oral reprimand was given, and in the other, the two employees were reprimanded and sent to a special seminar.

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None of the incidents outlined above involved employees found to be KKK members, and none consisted of anything more than off-the-cuff remarks and/or dubious efforts at humor. I should emphasize, however, that each was taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. We take seriously any indications of KKK involvement on the part of Agency personnel. In our view, any such involvement bears directly on the issue of employee suitability.

I trust this letter addresses the matters you have raised. A separate copy is being provided to Vice Chairman Leahy.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

David D. Gries  
Director of Congressional Affairs

Distribution:

- Original - The Honorable Dave Durenberger (OCA 86-1725)
  - Original - The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy (OCA 86-1726)
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22 May 1986  
OCA 86-1726

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The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Vice Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman:

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Sincerely,



David D. Gries  
Director of Congressional Affairs

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contract suit brought against Coke by several of its bottlers who allege that Coca-Cola and Diet Coke are merely different versions of the same product. (Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Shrevesport v. Coca-Cola, 32 Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal 123, U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, May 23)

A confidential report on an alleged mock-Ku Klux Klan meeting at CIA headquarters, which one official referred to as "a tasteless joke," has been submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in response to inquiries made by the committee. When asked about the report, vice-chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt) replied: "I can't talk about it. It's classified." Under the 1982 executive order on classification issued by President Reagan, only information whose "disclosure reasonably could be expected to cause damage to the national security" may be classified. The confidential stamp applies only to information "the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause damage to the national security."

*12/11/84*

# **ACCESS REPORTS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

Volume 12 Number 15 July 16, 1986

**Washington Focus:** *The House Government Operations Committee is expected to consider H.R. 4862, a business procedures amendment to the FOIA sponsored by Rep. Glenn English (D-Okla), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice and Agriculture, and Rep. Tom Kindness (R-Ohio), ranking minority member of the subcommittee, when it meets in early August. English will apparently introduce an amendment to the bill at that time allowing agencies to promulgate regulations providing for the routine disclosure of certain categories of business information which would not require a notice to the company before release. The change, which was suggested by Public Citizen and other public interest and press groups, has met some resistance from business, which fears it may give agencies too much leeway in defining what types of business information can be routinely disclosed. If the issue can not be settled by negotiation, and business support for the amended bill begins to wane, it is almost certain to spell the end of the business procedures amendments, at least for this session.*

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### BILL AIMED AT SPIES MAY HIT THE PRESS

An amendment to the Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act, meant to deprive convicted spies of any money they might have gained, or stand to gain, from their illegal activities, has sparked concern among public interest and press groups who fear the amendment's provisions could be used against the press.

Besides providing for forfeiture of any profits from espionage activities, the amendment requires government seizure of "any of the person's proerty used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to faciliate the commission of, such violation."



Editor: Harry A. Hammitt

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Washington, D.C. 20505

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Your request for information concerning the allegations of "Ku Klux Klan" activity has been received in the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator and has been assigned reference number F86-0767 for purposes of identification.

We have conducted a search and have recovered an internal CIA notice which was circulated to all employees and which summarized the allegations made and the investigatory steps taken in response thereto. Very minor deletions have been made pursuant to exemption (b) (3) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please note that you have the right to appeal the foregoing determinations by writing to me. We trust this information will be informative and useful. All search and duplication costs are waived. This concludes our action on your request.

Sincerely yours,



Information and Privacy Coordinator

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Enclosure



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