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Approved For Release 2007/06/21 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100040126-1

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

Date. 10 Feb 76
Item No. 1
Ref. No.

DISTRIBUTION II
UP-021

(MEDIA-CIA)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH MET WITH EXECUTIVES OF THE NEW YORK TIMES AND CBS LAST WEEK CONCERNING THE AGENCY'S USE OF NEWS MEDIA IN ITS INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS, A CIA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

BUT THE SPOKESMAN DECLINED IMMEDIATE DETAILS OF THE MEETING, WHICH HE SAID TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF BUSH PLANNED MEETINGS WITH OTHER NEWS EXECUTIVES.

THE WASHINGTON POST, QUOTING INFORMED SOURCES, SAID TODAY THE CIA GOT SUPPORT FROM CBS AND TIMES OFFICIALS FOR ITS POSITION OF "BURYING THE PAST" AND NOT MAKING PUBLIC THE NAMES OF REPORTERS WHO WORKED FOR THE AGENCY.

THE CIA HAS REFUSED TO RELEASE TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE THE NAMES OF REPORTERS WHO HAVE WORKED FOR THE AGENCY IN THE PAST.

THE POST SAID THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT ONE NEWS EXECUTIVE TOLD BUSH: "WE PROTECT OUR (NEWS) SOURCES. YOU PROTECT YOURS."

BUSH, WHO WAS SWORN IN JAN. 30 TO REPLACE WILLIAM COLBY AS CIA DIRECTOR, WAS IN NEW YORK AND HAD AN OFF-THE-RECORD LUNCHEON LAST WEDNESDAY WITH CBS BOARD CHAIRMAN WILLIAM PALEY, CBS NEWS PRESIDENT RICHARD SALANT AND CBS EVENING NEWS MANAGING EDITOR WALTER CRONKITE, THE POST SAID.

THE SAME DAY, ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, BUSH HAD AN 90 MINUTE OFF-THE-RECORD MEETING WITH NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHER ARTHUR SULZBERGER, EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR JOHN OAKES AND TIMES VICE PRESIDENT SYDNEY GRUSON.

"THE NETWORK AND NEWSPAPER EXECUTIVES BELIEVED THEIR REMARKS, LIKE THOSE OF BUSH, WOULD NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THEM," THE POST SAID. "NEVERTHELESS, BY FRIDAY, THE SENATE COMMITTEE HAD RECEIVED WORD OF SOME SUPPORT FROM THE TIMES AND CBS FOR CIA'S NON-DISCLSOURE POSITION" -- BUT THAT CRONKITE WAS OPPOSED.

THE POST QUOTED CRONKITE AS SAYING HE FELT "VERY STRONGLY" THAT THE NAMES OF JOURNALISTS WITH PAST CIA CONNECTIONS SHOULD BE "PUT ON THE TABLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THOSE NOT GUILTY OF SUCH BEHAVIOR."

UPI 02-10 09:47 AES

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