

3 FEB 1975

Honorable Lawton Chiles
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chiles:

I have your letter dated January 20, 1975 regarding the outside activities of physician-employees of the CIA. I am, of course, referring to physicians who practice clinical medicine for the Agency and who are employees of the U.S. Government. The outside activities of these physicians, like the outside activities of all other Agency employees, are governed by the federal statutes and the Executive order pertaining to conflicts of interest and ethical conduct of Government employees. As long as the outside activities of employees conform to these standards and the additional standards imposed by this Agency with regard to security and other matters, they may conduct themselves in the same manner as all other employees of the Federal Government. To further restrict an individual's activities would appear to me to be an unjustified intrusion into his or her personal affairs.

For your information, the CIA maintains a specific, outside activities clearance procedure to ensure that an employee's proposed activities do not violate the pertinent statutes or the Executive order or possibly reveal intelligence sources and methods, which I am responsible, by statute, for protecting. There is absolutely no prohibition on our physicians who maintain a private practice from discussing their Agency affiliation either if asked by their patients or if they believe it appropriate to do so. So long as these physicians meet the high personal and professional standards prescribed for their profession and for employment by the Federal Government, I see no reason arbitrarily to hinder or limit them in the conduct of their personal lives.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director



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