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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION TO SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION PLOTS

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25 NOVEMBER 1975

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S U M M A R Y

NONCOMMUNIST COUNTRIES

The radios and press agencies of West Europe are not known to have commented on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report on U.S. involvement in plots to assassinate foreign leaders. Sparse, available comment is entirely from the West European press, but none of the countries has commented extensively. There was little serious assessment of the long-range impact of the Senate revelations, but the London TIMES, notably, expressed the hope that the demonstration of the U.S. system publicly rectifying its mistakes would outweigh the immediate damaging effects.

Austria's semi-official WIENER ZEITUNG expressed concern over the potential damage from all the publicity. The Danish Social Democratic paper AKTUELT and the Austrian dailies WIENER ZEITUNG and ARBEITER-ZEITUNG all contrasted the openness of American society in acknowledging its missteps in the intelligence field to the silence and repression of the communist states.

Only one paper, the Spanish daily LA VANGUARDIA, referred to the Senate report as a "coverup" because of its failure to pinpoint responsibility for the assassination plots. There was little discussion of direct Presidential responsibility for the plots, but the respected Italian daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA said President Eisenhower "must have authorized" the anti-Lumumba operations. There has been no monitored comment or reportage from French or West German media.

Noncommunist Latin American reaction is extremely meager, confined almost entirely to short, factual news agency reports buried well down in radio broadcasts, dominated on 21 and 22 November by news on the death of Spain's General Franco. A single Argentine press comment criticized the Senate committee and saw political campaign overtones in the report's release.

Asian noncommunist reaction includes fairly extensive reportage in only a few selected countries, along with some critical comment in the Japanese and Thai press. Japanese comment deplored U.S. "corruption" while seeing U.S. world prestige possibly enhanced by such public airing of past misdeeds.

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Available African and Middle east media reaction was very sparse, mostly factual, with only the Iraqi and Israeli radios offering assessments. Baghdad's report saw it as confirmation of direct U.S. Presidential involvement in assassination plots, while the Jerusalem radio observed that there was no direct evidence of Presidential instructions to kill.

COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

Of the communist states, only East Germany, Hungary and Yugoslavia have originated substantive comment on the implications of the Senate Intelligence Committee Report. Consistent with past Soviet treatment of the Congressional investigations of intelligence activities, Soviet media have confined themselves to generally factual TASS dispatches summarizing highlights from the report and reaction to it in the United States. Among Asian communist states, only North Vietnam is known to have even acknowledged the issuance of the Senate committee document. A single Hanoi report described it as proof of the involvement of U.S. leaders and intelligence organizations.

East German reaction has been the most extensive and vituperative, seeing the report's revelations as confirmation that "brutal" U.S. imperialism employed the kind of intelligence service that reflected its real character. Hungarian comment was more restrained, seeing the publication of the report as related to the coming U.S. political campaign and elections, a viewpoint also adopted by a Yugoslav commentator, who additionally foresaw no serious harm to U.S. relations with foreign countries from the allegations about past assassination plot involvements.

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I. NONCOMMUNIST COUNTRIES

WEST EUROPE

BRITAIN While the major British dailies on 21 and 22 November carried the details of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report, these items were confined to the inside pages, and there has been very little editorial comment. News accounts on the 21st all included the Senate findings on the Castro and Lumumba assassination plans, and most mentioned CIA involvement in Chile and in anti-Trujillo activities. Reports the following day featured President Ford's assurances that assassination plots would not be repeated, and the GUARDIAN quoted Secretary Kissinger as saying "I think there can be tighter control." Fred Emery's Washington dispatch in the TIMES cited Kissinger as viewing "this washing of dirty linen as an unmitigated disaster" and added that the President felt the same. Jonathan Stell in the GUARDIAN raised the question of the security of CIA operations in the wake of the investigation.

Among the Sunday papers, the SUNDAY TIMES carried a two-page inside spread giving a detailed summary of the Senate report, along with a Henry Brandon dispatch from Washington predicting that Congress would outlaw political assassinations and that a Senate committee with broad powers would be established to provide oversight of CIA operations. The OBSERVER on the 23d carried a page eight article on Edward Lansdale--"the Kennedy spy who tried to kill Castro."

There have been only two British editorials concerning the Senate report. The TIMES on the 25th noted that the report presents an "extremely disturbing picture of criminal, immoral and inefficient behavior" by the U.S. Government, but it went on to observe approvingly that it was another branch of the government which exposed this behavior. The TIMES expressed the hope that "the benefits deriving from this demonstration of the system's ability to correct its own abuses will outweigh the damage done by the revelation of the abuses themselves." Moral issues aside, the TIMES questioned the wisdom of plots against Castro and Allende, "even on the coolest calculation of national interest," and asserted that "assassination is an imprecise weapon which is likely to have unpredictable results, such as the martyrdom of the victim or his replacement by somebody worse."

An editorial in the 22 November SUN, as reviewed by BBC's World Service, treated the CIA derisively for considering such "antics" as the use of exploding seashells, poisonous cigars and fake shoe polish to make Castro's beard fall out. The paper said "the American Senate must take credit for exposing these dangerous men to the gale force of world laughter and scorn."

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ITALY Milan's prestigious daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA on the 22d carried a page six report on the Church committee findings, focusing on the anti-Lumumba plots and declaring that President Eisenhower "must have authorized" the alleged attempt against Lumumba. The communist party paper L'UNITA on the 21st carried a brief back-page dispatch on the Senate report and followed this the next day with a frontpage report which said that the CIA's "criminal, manifold and prolonged activities" involving assassination of foreign leaders had "the direct support" of President Eisenhower and "the objective sponsorship of others such as Kennedy and Johnson."

SCANDINAVIA Reporting in the monitored Scandinavian press has been largely confined to reportage from the papers' own correspondents or news agencies, with little comment. A report in the Norwegian Labor Party organ ARBEIDERBLADET by Borge Visby on the 22d said: "The CIA has never murdered a foreign head of state-- but there has been no lack of desire." The only editorial comment appeared in the Copenhagen Social Democratic AKTUELT on the 23d. Although the paper expressed shock at the revelations, it thought that "it ought to be stressed that the reports come from the United States itself" and that this reflected "how strong the democratic forces are in the United States. American "frankness" was contrasted with the repression of the East European regimes and the paper concluded wishfully that "perhaps the day will come when an Eastern citizen, critical of society, will not need to travel to the West in order to speak freely."

GREECE While the Athens press gave fairly thorough coverage to the Senate report, it was not prominently featured. Comment was sparse, if pointed. A report on the 25th in the daily RIZOSPASTIS, organs of the Moscow-line Communist Party of the Exterior, was unique in noting the damaging domestic consequences of the Senate investigation for the CIA, pointing out that university students in Berkeley, Los Angeles and San Diego have persistently demanded withdrawal of CIA recruiters from their campuses. A columnist in the progovernment daily ETHNIKOS KIRIX referred to Secretary Kissinger's assurances that the United States would not undertake assassination plots but expressed concern that "no American has asked that the responsible people of the CIA be committed for trial either for acts of torture or assassination." The conservative I KATHIMERINI sardonically commented that President Ford's announcement that he will present a bill to Congress banning U.S. involvement in foreign assassination plots "means that since there has been no specific relevant law so far, this method for the propagation of democratic and humanistic ideas that are cultivated in postwar America has been legal."

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TURKEY The only available Turkish reference was a 21 November Ankara radio report which, after naming the alleged assassination targets as reported by the Senate committee, noted that "except for Castro all the statemen were assassinated." Ankara failed to cite the committee's finding that the United States was not necessarily involved in implementing the plots.

CYPRUS Generally sparse reaction in the Cyprus press included the vitriolic comment of the pro-Makarios O FILELEVTHEROS, which noted that "only Fidel Castro (and not Makarios?) escaped the death with which he had been 'tagged' by the CIA" and concluded: "Spit on them--they deserve it!" The Communist paper KHARAVYI, in its "Our Views" column charged that the "imperialist conspiracy" and the "sinister criminal syndicate of the American CIA" have spread worldwide, including Cyprus, which "has also been the victim of precisely these interests, where the notorious circles of EOKA B were found to play the abominable and treacherous role of the venal tool of imperialist plans."

SPAIN Of the Spanish papers monitored, only Barcelona's LA VANGUARDIA on 22 November carried materials on the Senate report. The paper devoted almost an entire foreign news page to the subject. Angel Zuniga, the newspaper's New York correspondent, drew attention to the fact that the report "was unable to draw concrete conclusions about who authorized the conspiracies," commenting that this was a skillful way of shaking off final responsibility, "in what one commentator has already called the Church coverup." The paper also carried dispatches on CIA's involvement in Chile, but noted Secretary Kissinger's denial that the United States was involved in the coup which overthrew the Allende regime.

AUSTRIA Vienna radio on the 21st carried a five-minute report by one of its U.S. correspondents summarizing the Senate report and highlighting details of the assassination plots, but the radio offered no comment. Vienna press comment was confined to two papers, the semi-official WIENER ZEITUNG and the Socialist ARBEITER-ZEITUNG. WIENER ZEITUNG on the 22d argued that secret intelligence work is "dirty work" but apparently indispensable to both East and West, and necessary cleanups should be made without resorting to "masochistic publicity" that is apt to do "tremendous damage" and to "weaken the Americans with whose strength or weakness the entire West stands or falls." ARBEITER-ZEITUNG the next day hailed the "relentless consistency" of the Senate investigation, pointing out that the cleansing process now following the "monstrous CIA plots" constituted "some guarantee that gangster methods will get less and less room also in power politics." Both papers mentioned secret

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intelligence activities of the East bloc states, and ARBEITER-ZEITUNG specifically reminded the communists that the world was still waiting in vain for a public report on the activities of the Soviet secret police.

OTHER COUNTRIES Portuguese papers through 22 November carried only one report on the Church committee's findings: Lisbon's DIARIO DE NOTICIAS on 22 November carried a roundup of Western press agency reports on its back page, describing without comment the alleged plots and their victims. The Brussels paper LE SOIR on 22 November carried an AP account detailing the Senate findings and highlighting the alleged plot to kill Patrice Lumumba. There was no comment.

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LATIN AMERICA

Monitored noncommunist Latin American media have treated the Senate Intelligence Committee's report released on 20 November as a routine, minor event. The only available comment, in a conservative Argentine English-language newspaper, criticized Senator Church and Congress for going too far in public revelations of CIA activities and suggested that Congressional immaturity and early 1976 election campaigning were motivating factors. Reportage on the Senate committee report by Latin American radios generally was carried well down in newscasts, was based upon press agency accounts, and included acknowledgments that Cuban Premier Castro had been the target of alleged assassination attempts.

Argentina's Buenos Aires HERALD took a generally critical view of the Senate committee's revelations, in a 23 November editorial questioning Senator Church's judgment in revealing the names of agents allegedly involved in assassination plots and doubting the "maturity" of Congress as a whole. The paper observed that the issue was not whether it was "ethical or even convenient" to assassinate foreign heads of state, but that Senator Church wanted to expose the names of people "who at the time were doing what they were told to do, and usually running very grave danger in what they interpreted was the service of their country." The HERALD added that Senator Church was "letting the shadow of the Statue of Liberty blot out the fact that democracy has to be fought for--and not always openly with a flourish and a swordsman's stance."

The editorial concluded with retrospective praise for earlier U.S. investigations of "Watergate" that led to the unseating of former President Nixon, while declaring that disclosure of the CIA's worldwide activities was of more international significance because of the U.S. world leadership role, which in turn meant "not everything" could be made public. It noted that Congress would be able to draw the line on public revelations of secret U.S. activities only when "it has itself achieved maturity, and this does not seem to be the case just yet--at least not in pre-election years."

ASIA, AUSTRALIA

JAPAN Major Tokyo papers on 21 and 22 November gave extensive frontpage coverage to reportage by Washington correspondents and international news agencies on the Senate Intelligence Committee's report. Most papers featured editorials or comment by their U.S. correspondents.

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Almost uniformly, the press comment deplored U.S. Government "corruption" and the CIA's "dirty activities" while at the same time lauding the U.S. Congress for having had the courage to make the report public. An ASAHI editorial on the 22d was typical, expressing shock at the CIA's "unbelievable degree of corruption," while arguing that U.S. prestige had been "enhanced" by the Congress' "having had the courage to expose this shameful conduct." In a similar vein, TOKYO SHIMBUN on 24 November observed editorially that the revelations have tarnished the U.S. "image," but concluded "nevertheless, the conscience it has shown in making the report public must have given the whole world a favorable impression." Most of the comment did not address the question of the report's impact on the future of CIA.

The JCP organ AKAHATA reacted to the Senate report in a 24 November editorial alleging that the assassination plots were "based on the anticommunist theory that anything should be done to beat communism."

THAILAND Reports on the substance of the Senate committee's report were published in all three Thai English-language papers and in several of Bangkok's Thai-language papers. Some of the comment harshly criticized CIA, and a column in SIAM RAT observed that it was obvious why President Ford tried so hard to keep the secrets of the Agency, even to the extent of firing William Colby to "keep him quiet." A report in PRACHACHAT warned that the Senate report demonstrated that the United States would do anything, "no matter how depraved," to protect its interests. The English-language Bangkok POST, while condemning the "intolerable" excesses revealed in the report, noted that the White House must share a "large portion" of the blame and praised the release of the report as a "tribute to American democracy."

OTHER ASIAN, AUSTRALIA Few other Asian newspapers are yet available, but the Senate report was mentioned in some monitored broadcasts. The Delhi radio carried a news report on the release of the report and quoted Secretary of State Kissinger as saying that CIA assassination activities would be discontinued but other secret activities would not. The Colombo domestic service briefly described for Sri Lanka listeners the content of the report and cited recommendations for legislation outlawing assassination attempts. The Singapore radio mentioned the report and noted President Ford's statement that the disclosures would not affect the future of Dr. Kissinger or the Administration. Kuala Lumpur's international service carried a short report noting that no evidence of U.S. Presidential involvement had been found.

The only available Australian comment was an editorial from the AGE newspaper in Melbourne, broadcast by Melbourne radio, which asserted that "there was nothing, no matter how weird or ghastly, to which this

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organization would not stoop in pursuit of its dubious and immoral aims." The paper went on to express the hope that the lessons would not be lost on Australian intelligence organizations.

AFRICA

Very sparse available African media treatment of the Senate Intelligence Committee report suggests that it has received low-key, largely factual publicity. Monitored African radio broadcasts have not mentioned the committee's report. In North Africa, Maghreb newspapers through 22 November, with the exception of the Algerian EL MOUDJAHID that day, had carried no comment on the Senate report. EL MOUDJAHID was the only one even to report the subject, in an 800-word dispatch outlining the alleged plots and their intended victims and naming the CIA officials implicated.

MIDDLE EAST

Apart from a distorted Baghdad domestic radio report on the Senate committee document claiming direct Presidential culpability, and an Israeli broadcast over Jerusalem radio stressing the lack of direct evidence concerning Presidential-level orders for the alleged assassination plots, Middle Eastern radios have given the Senate report very little publicity.

Baghdad's broadcast on the 21st noted that "an official report" by the committee had "affirmed" that CIA was involved in the assassination plots, listed the foreign leaders targeted, and claimed that the report "stressed that the Presidents of the United States were fully responsible for these attempts" as leaders of the executive branch. Baghdad drew no distinctions on the evidence in each case, as the Senate report actually had done. The Jerusalem radio, on the other hand, highlighted its report with the statement that the Senate committee "has cleared former U.S. Presidents of suspicion" and pointed out there was "no direct evidence" linking CIA activities with Presidential instructions. The Israeli broadcast also noted corrective legislation "demanded" by the report to forbid conspiratorial connections abroad by U.S. citizens.

Cairo radio newscasts on 22 November and the influential Cairo paper AL-AKHBAR on the 21st and AL-AHRAM on the 22d acknowledged publication of the Senate report without comment, as did the Kuwaiti AS-SIYASAH on the 22d. Short, factual news agency dispatches datelined Washington were published in the Jordanian AL-AKHBAR and the Damascus AL-BA'TH on the 21st, and Beirut's English-language DAILY STAR on 22 November. The newscasts of the Jordanian, Libyan and Voice of Palestine radios have ignored the report in monitored broadcasts, while the Lebanese and Syrian radios each acknowledged its publication in short, factual reports.

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II. COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

THE SOVIET UNION

Moscow has provided low-key coverage of the Senate committee's report through several TASS dispatches summarizing the report and reaction to it within the United States. Soviet media have not offered any direct comment on the report's findings, though they have replayed critical editorial comments by some U.S. newspapers. While several Moscow papers have published the TASS dispatches on a selective basis, as of 24 November the party organ PRAVDA had not even mentioned the committee report. TASS items have also been carried in Moscow radio's domestic service, but the only available report in Moscow's international services is in an Arabic-language broadcast on Moscow's purportedly "unofficial" Radio Peace and Progress. The treatment of the report in Soviet media is consistent with Moscow's practice during the course of the Senate and House investigations into U.S. intelligence activities of providing regular, nominally factual, coverage of developments and subsequent negative reaction from within the country.

The TASS-attributed dispatch on the release of the Senate committee's report published in the central press on 23 November (except for PRAVDA) cited its revelation of "at least eight CIA plots" against Cuban leader Fidel Castro, planning in 1950 for the assassination of former Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba, and plotting in 1970 against Chilean General Rene Schneider. The description of Chilean events implied that General Schneider's death in October 1970 was the direct result of U.S. action. The report noted the Senate committee's observation that the attempt on Lumumba "ended in failure," though adding that he was "villainously killed" in January 1961.

The 23 November central press report on revelations about the "monstrous, criminal activities" of the CIA concluded by noting the comment by the Senate document's authors that the harm caused by such actions to U.S. foreign policy and prestige abroad was "incalculable." A dispatch on the 24th reporting U.S. press reaction noted that voters, members of Congress and the press had offered "loud and wrathful protest" over CIA activities. It cited the New York TIMES as observing that the United States had "gotten mixed up in" activities which contradict "international moral standards." And a further dispatch on the 24th replayed a CBS report that "upper circles in Washington" were attempting to conceal further details about U.S. involvement in Chile leading up to the ouster of Salvador Allende's government.

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EAST EUROPE

Only East Germany, Hungary, and Yugoslavia have commented so far on the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee's report on assassination plots. Factual accounts have appeared in the media of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, but Romania and Albania have so far ignored the Senate report. East German reaction is in line with the anti-U.S. tone of other recent comment, including that on the U.S. cabinet changes early this month. The vituperative and relatively voluminous East Berlin comment has stressed that the Administration tried unsuccessfully to prevent publication of the report, that the whole truth has still not been fully revealed, and that the report was released only after overwhelming public opinion demanded it. For example, an Arno Friedmann commentary on the East Berlin domestic radio on the 21st cynically dismissed the view that the release of the report represented a positive democratic self-cleansing process, asserting that "everybody, really everybody, kept quiet until the whole thing stank to high heaven." Friedmann went on to point out that "brutal" U.S. imperialism used the kind of intelligence service that "accords with its character."

Budapest and Belgrade took a more benign approach, viewing the release of the Senate report in the context of the heating up of the U.S. Presidential election campaign. A commentary carried on Budapest domestic television, also on the 21st, took a more restrained tone--characteristic of Hungarian media treatment of the United States. Following a routine condemnation of the alleged assassination plots, the talk conjectured that the struggle for power positions among U.S. economic, political, and military interests was growing more intense on the eve of the Presidential campaign and that "the legislature would like to curtail the Presidential jurisdiction, which according to some members of Congress is excessive."

A Washington-dated Budimir commentary carried by the Yugoslav TANJUG on the 23d also discussed the report in terms of domestic politics. It assessed the release of the report as a victory for the Democratic majority in Congress at President Ford's expense. TANJUG observed that "Ford has lost the battle, and his opposition to publication of the report could have certain political consequences" in the Presidential campaign. The Belgrade commentator was notably moderate toward the United States in predicting that the release of the report would not result in any serious deterioration in U.S. relations with foreign countries. In this connection he surmised that Castro--allegedly the target of numerous assassination plots--had already known about the plots for a long time, and that his readiness to normalize relations with the United States would not undergo any significant change.

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CUBA

The most striking aspect about the relatively low-keyed and selective treatment by Havana media of the Senate Intelligence Committee report on assassination plots is the complete omission thus far of any acknowledgment that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro was one of the purported targets. Instead Havana has focused entirely upon alleged U.S. attempts against former Chilean Army chief General Rene Schneider and U.S. efforts to prevent the late Salvador Allende from taking office as president of Chile.

The obviously deliberate omission is consistent with domestic Cuban media's past tendency to play down talk of assassination attempts. While both Fidel and Raul Castro have publicly acknowledged awareness of such alleged U.S. attempts in the past, their statements have generally been reserved for the foreign press or were publicized only in Cuba's PRENSA LATINA for foreign audiences. Most recently, for example, Raul Castro in a 19 September interview with the Mexican EL DIA noted that, "The CIA attempts against Fidel that we denounced 14 years ago when no one believed us are cited in the press daily now."

Dwelling almost entirely on Chilean events related in the report, the closest Havana came to acknowledging that there were other efforts affecting Cuba came in a Havana domestic radio report on the 20th-- before the Senate report was released. It noted "former" CIA Director Colby's request that Congress keep secret the names of CIA officials who "participated in assassination plans" in the report to be issued later that day. Havana described the Senate study as covering "assassination plans, CIA operations to overthrow Chilean President Salvador Allende and other governments in this hemisphere and in the world," and U.S. "domestic espionage." Havana domestic and international radio reports, as well as Cuba's PRENSA LATINA agency, after release of the Senate report on the 20th concentrated on "CIA assassination plans," the allegations that former President Nixon had ordered the kidnaping of Chilean army commander General Schneider, and gave extensive details on alleged CIA activities in Chile. There were no subsequent Havana references to alleged CIA attempts to overthrow "other governments in this hemisphere."

ASIAN COMMUNIST STATES

As of this writing, there has been no monitored reference to the Senate committee's report on foreign assassinations by communist media in China, North Korea, Laos, or Cambodia. North Vietnam took note of the report in a brief news item, broadcast by Hanoi radio on 22 November, which maintained that the report "provided concrete evidence that CIA had carried out assassination plots" against foreign leaders and that President Ford had engaged in a "heated struggle" with Congress to prevent its release.

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WORLDWIDE MEDIA ATTENTION TO INVESTIGATIONS OF CIA

This memorandum provides a representative sampling of comment in worldwide media on the investigations of CIA, from last December to date. The survey of material over a 10-month period revealed that the CIA story has not been a big "media event" in any foreign media. In the communist world, Peking has totally ignored the investigations; Moscow and East Europe have reported the more sensational revelations, but have offered little comment. Available material from Middle East sources provided no significant comment.

None of the comment deals directly with the question of continued cooperation between foreign intelligence services and the CIA; however, there are some indications of British concern that the continuing investigations might produce embarrassment for its own intelligence service regarding past cooperation. Canadian media also duly reported the official investigation ordered there last May of CIA operations within their borders. There has been very little consideration in general of the long-range impact of the investigations for CIA, but some West European comment suggests the results might be beneficial.

Given the paucity of comment from most areas, broad generalizations are difficult to make and this memorandum is perforce descriptive rather than analytical. It is divided geographically and, with the noncommunist countries, the material described represents virtually all of the available relevant comment rather than selected highlights.

WESTERN EUROPE & CANADA

Great Britain: While available British media say little about the CIA investigations, one newspaper did note concern that they may have an impact on British intelligence. Chapman Pincher, in the 13 June DAILY EXPRESS, reported growing fears in Whitehall that the British Secret Service might be implicated in the investigation of improper CIA activities, including assassinations. He wrote:

There has been close collaboration between the Secret Service--MI6--and the CIA over many years and the CIA secret records may reveal instances where they have worked together on "dirty tricks." While the Secret Service is now forbidden to take part in political assassinations or other forms of violence, this was not true several years ago and the CIA inquiries are believed to cover the last 20 years at least.

Shortly after the Rockefeller Commission was formed, early British press comment was quoted in the 11 January BBC World Service press

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review. The TELEGRAPH saw the CIA investigation as a reflection of the American post-Watergate mood, in which even the idea that a secret service should conceal things "is apparently regarded as outrageous." It added that the KGB "must be really enjoying this." The SCOTSMAN commented humorously on charges that the CIA had been spying on London's subway, but went on to say that "the problems raised by the charge are not perhaps quite so silly. It is not in the interest of America or its allies that the CIA should go off its head."

On 12 January, a SUNDAY TELEGRAPH article said Whitehall security experts were noting the increasing number of CIA operatives in Britain, France, Italy and Spain, and reported that some of the CIA people were entering Britain in the guise of tourists or lecturers. This was said to reflect American uncertainty about the stability of existing regimes, particularly in Italy and Spain. The paper said: "Even Britain is no exception: Strikes and galloping inflation have led some CIA chiefs to the belief that there could be some kind of coup."

Comment on the Rockefeller Commission report appeared on the 11 June BBC World Service press review. A TIMES editorial said that CIA had been drawn into domestic activities during the protest wave of the 1960's and "was also contaminated by the way in which a corrupt and increasingly paranoid White House confused political enemies with threats to the security of the state." The TIMES also said that the CIA deserves protection from indiscriminate criticism but that it also requires close and regular scrutiny. Vice President Rockefeller's recommendations were regarded as "a sensible compromise." The GUARDIAN was cited as saying that Congress was inevitably going to have to be more involved in supervising intelligence operations. The DAILY EXPRESS said it would be "disastrous for America if a Watergate-type scandal were to erupt over Ford's refusal to make public some evidence about CIA activities." The paper added: "When Moscow discloses the working of the KGB President Ford may review his policy of silence on the CIA, and not before."

Canada: A Montreal broadcast to Europe on 29 May reported that the Canadian Government had ordered the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate charges that CIA had operated illegally in Canada. Solicitor General Warren Allmand, at a meeting of the House of Commons Justice Committee in Ottawa, was reported to have said in effect that espionage was espionage no matter which country is involved. He said that if the CIA was found to be operating illegally in Canada "the matter would be turned over to the Department of External Affairs."

Germany: The available West German comment all focused on the Rockefeller Commission report and some of it noted the harmful effects of publicity. An 11 June FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE editorial, for example, said: "Nothing is more harmful to an intelligence service than publicity, and at the moment the CIA is better known than any star." The paper concluded that the CIA was involved in political violence and mentioned the assassinations

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However, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE tried to put the allegations in perspective by referring to the greater ruthlessness of communist intelligence services. It was because of this, the paper said, that Ford "did not chide his own intelligence service. He has condemned excesses. This, too, will be harmful to the CIA, but the President's presentation to the public was necessary. On the one hand, he has an implacable Senate on his back. On the other hand, this purging process may be wholesome for the CIA. After the political thunderstorm the intelligence service can at long last disappear from the headlines."

A broadcast to Africa by Cologne's Deutsche Welle service similarly remarked on the dangers of publicity: "In the case in point, the Rockefeller report on the CIA, there is a danger that the call for publicity and greater controls could be carried to such a point as to make impossible the normal running of an intelligence-gathering agency. President Ford is aware of this danger and has attempted to counter it by declaring that the CIA is absolutely vital for the survival of the nation and that, in the future, it will have to work within the law."

A commentator on Cologne's Domestic Service, however, saw the greater danger emanating from the CIA itself. He portrayed an internal power struggle "between military-oriented and sober analytical forces, between officials who defend power with all means and those defending it solely by legal means." This commentator concluded that if the CIA is vitally essential to the United States, "then the President will have to reform it. Otherwise, it might become more harmful to the country than what it is combating."

France: A 12 June LE MONDE editorial on the Rockefeller report found it noteworthy that a presidential commission was set up to investigate the charges against the intelligence service and that it published a report. This "could not be imagined in any other Western democracy." The paper blamed the problems of the past on White House pressure and the careless supervision by Congress. It said that the CIA had shown by its willingness to cooperate with the Rockefeller Commission and the congressional investigations that it wanted to shed the marginal activities for which it had been criticized in order "to devote its time unmolested to what will always remain its sacrosanct and, in any case, unquestioned sphere: spying by a superpower on the rest of the world."

Norway: The Oslo AFTENPOSTEN editorial on the Rockefeller report said that political assassination in peacetime must be regarded as unacceptable for democracies, but it regretted that "excesses committed by the CIA led some circles to want the entire intelligence service abolished." It underlined the importance of intelligence services as an instrument of state, and especially for the United States, which must counter the efforts of the KGB. AFTENPOSTEN contrasted the secrecy in which the KGB operates to the publicity surrounding CIA,

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but regarded the investigations as a vindication of American
democracy. "The disclosure of weak points will in reality be
the strength of American society," the paper concluded.

Austria: Vienna's Socialist Mayor Gratz, at a Socialist rally in
Vienna reported by Vienna's WIENER ZEITUNG on 14 February, criti-
cized the CIA role in Chile and the mentality that believes
democratic America can be defended with the aid of dictatorial
regimes. But the mayor went on to praise the resilience of American
democracy, as demonstrated by the various investigations. Gratz
said: "Our belief in democracy is strengthened by the fact that
in the United States a process of self-purification from political
corruption and the power of the CIA is now underway. Ideas have
always triumphed over cannons."

LATIN AMERICA

Chile: Two Chilean magazines, in commenting on the Rockefeller
Commission's findings, mentioned possible harmful effects, although
they were not terribly explicit. A 23 July article in Santiago
ERCILLA said: "As was to be expected, several sectors became
concerned that the investigation would harm the CIA's security in
some nations, as well as its respectability in others--and in all--
its possibilities of operating in the future." The 19 June Santiago
QUE PASA said: "Furthermore, other well-informed columnists have
said that obviously there are persons who are interested in under-
mining the CIA's operations and whose revelations have endangered
the lives of many of its agents or disrupted vital counterespionage
operations."

Dominican Republic: In an 8 March Santo Domingo EL CARIBE interview,
Gen Antonia Imbert Barreras, one of two remaining survivors of the
anti-Trujillo plot, flatly denied allegations in Washington POST articles
about CIA involvement in the Trujillo assassination. Imbert said:
"I firmly reject--not as a participant in this historic event, but as
a common citizen--this allegation that the CIA intervened in the
execution of Trujillo."

Panama: A commentary on Panama City's Radio Libertad on 9 January
declared that Vice President Rockefeller, through his investigation,
might be able to reestablish Executive Department control over CIA and
thus erase "the low esteem in which the CIA is now held--with good
reason: A first step could be to change its name."

The nominally pro-government Panama City newspaper CRITICA carried
a 27 August editorial on an article in the Caracas magazine ELITE
entitled "Omar Torrijos Is in the CIA's Sights." The article claimed

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that CIA was planning an invasion of Panama from some Central American country. CRITICA ridiculed the idea, saying that if the United States tried to make another Vietnam out of Panama all of Central America would join Panama to oppose this. The article also claimed that Torrijos had rejected a \$2 million CIA bribe not to return to Panama while he was in Mexico in 1969.

Bolivia: A 12 June article by La Paz PRESENCIA's director Huascar Cajias K. deplored the activities revealed by the Senate and the Rockefeller Commission, but contrasted the behavior of democracies, which can correct their own abuses, to dictatorships which commit worse abuses unimpeded.

Mexico: A 28 January editorial in Mexico City's EL DIA attributed terrorist attacks in Mexico City and elsewhere in Mexico to CIA instigation. In a rather labored effort the paper sought to demonstrate that, despite appearances, the incidents could not be the work of leftists because they would have no reason to oppose the progressive policies of President Echevarria. The editorial said its thesis was bolstered by the testimony of CIA Director Colby and former CIA directors to investigating agencies.

Mexico City's EXCELSIOR, as quoted by Havana's PRENSA LATINA on 14 January, warned against the tendency to take CIA lightly after charging CIA agents with committing, instigating, and recommending political assassinations. The paper urged its readers to consider seriously the possibility that the CIA may have been, is, and will continue operating in Mexico.

Peru: A 25 June Lima EXPRESO article by Mario V. Guzman Galarza complained that, despite the Rockefeller report, influential segments of the U.S. public feel that what was denounced as illegal and a violation of U.S. citizens' rights is perfectly legal abroad on the grounds of "national security." After reciting the usual litany of charges concerning the U.S. role in Latin America, the writer expressed skepticism about the "new dialog" the United States favors with Latin America, and concluded with an entreaty to the U.S. Congress "to prohibit the CIA's illegal activities in Latin America and the rest of the Third World" if it truly desires improved relations.

Venezuela: The Rockefeller Commission investigation was lauded by the 19 June Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS as a vindication of U.S. democracy and a reproach to the habitual anti-U.S. elements who "parrot the 'horrors' of the CIA while they shamelessly play the ostrich with regard to the KGB."

Cuba: In three separate interviews, Premier Fidel Castro was questioned about alleged plots to assassinate him, and in each case Castro replied that he had long been aware of such CIA plots. Interestingly enough, in the 8 May press conference at Havana's Palace of the Revolution during Senator McGovern's visit, the assassination question came after Castro had spent much of the meeting expressing his wish for improved relations with the United States. As reported by Havana's PRENSA LATINA, there was no indication that Castro regarded the alleged assassination attempts as an impediment to such improved relations.

In a 10 July interview in Santiago de Cuba, while accompanying Jamaican Prime Minister Manley, Castro explicitly exonerated all three Kennedy brothers of any responsibility for the plots, according to Mexico City's INFORMEX agency.

While Havana radio has reported developments in the investigations, these reports have been relatively straightforward and have taken no identifiable line. A Havana Domestic Service broadcast of 22 March, though, did say that CIA was trying to refurbish its image in the United States, and toward this end "has retired the head of its Latin American department, D. Phillips, so that he--as a simple citizen--can head an active propaganda campaign in defense of CIA activities."

AFRICA

Nigeria: Both CIA, and FBIS in particular, were subjected to a brief flurry of criticism in July when the Nigerian Government was pushing for return of the U.S. Embassy annex in Lagos and some journalists also attempted to exploit the presence of the FBIS bureau in Kaduna. Citing the Marchetti-Marks "Cult of Intelligence" for its revelation of the CIA-FBIS relationship, columnist Haroun Adamu in the 6 July Lagos SUNDAY TIMES insisted that the Nigerian Government make public the agreement between Nigeria and the United States and disclose the real purpose of the FBIS bureau. He said that Ministry of Communications experts should inspect the bureau and that "Americans should either sell the outfit to us or crate their equipment and send them home."

An 8 July editorial in the Jos NIGERIAN STANDARD entitled "Flush Out the CIA" detailed the CIA assassination plots allegations, mentioning Castro, Trujillo, Lumumba, Diem and Allende, and went on to say: "With this evil record it is a pity that the CIA should be allowed to run a communication center in this country." The paper pursued this theme the following day, asking: "When shall we sum up enough courage to send the CIA and the British intelligence outfit packing?"

Uganda: A Uganda "military spokesman" was quoted by Kampala radio on 20 January as charging CIA with the deaths of President and Robert Kennedy, Patrice Lumumba and Che Guevara. With a confidence worthy of President Amin, the military spokesman warned would-be plotters that CIA could not possibly penetrate into Uganda because all CIA plans are well known.

ASIA

Noncommunist Comment: The intelligence investigations have been reported infrequently and briefly in dispatches attributed to Western news agencies throughout the year, but there has been little or no comment except in isolated instances.

Japan: A JAPAN TIMES editorial in June, following release of the Rockefeller report, observed that it had yielded no surprises, confirming "what most people suspected: that a clandestine organization with this much power almost certainly will exceed its authority and violate the law unless held firmly in check." It noted that Americans were "shocked" mainly because "CIA dirty tricks were played against themselves." Taking a balanced view, JAPAN TIMES added that one could not expect the Soviet Union to subject its own KGB to public investigation, concluding that "no doubt the CIA will be needed as long as the communist states continue to make espionage one of their major activities abroad." It predicted that the congressional investigations would mean "CIA's effectiveness no doubt will suffer in the process," a price that "must be paid to preserve freedoms in the world's largest democracy and to prevent criminal acts abroad."

Thailand: The conservative Bangkok POST adopted a "hands off" viewpoint, noting in June that while the CIA is "indeed a criminal organization," except for the times when Thailand "has been a victim of CIA plots, this is an internal affair of the United States--and they are welcome to it." A Thai vernacular newspaper, RUAM PRACHACHAT, in August provided a detailed account--said to be based on congressional testimony by a CIA political affairs expert--of alleged CIA support amounting to some \$12.5 million to the "Rawaphon" political movement in Thailand, and of alleged espionage directed by U.S. charge d'affaires in Thailand Edward Masters.

Communist Comment: Rare references to the CIA investigations in Asian communist media, primarily from North Vietnam and North Korea, dealt primarily with revelations and ties to their own regional experiences involving the Agency or employed doctrinaire propaganda stereotypes to attack the United States, its leaders, and Agency officials. Reportage on the investigations was infrequent and brief. There was no known speculation on the potential harm to CIA cooperative relations with other Western intelligence organizations.

North Vietnam: NHAN DAN, commenting in January after the first New York TIMES revelations about CIA, noted U.S. public indignation over the exposés, blamed many of the illegal actions on the Nixon Administration, and launched a vituperative attack on DCI Colby for his role in the "savagely crimes perpetrated by the CIA" during the "U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam and Indochina." NHAN DAN charged that Colby "personally directed" the Phoenix pacification campaign, which it claimed "massacred" "hundreds of thousands" of Vietnamese compatriots. Noting alleged CIA involvement in plots in Cuba, Chile, and Africa, the paper concluded

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that the New York TIMES disclosures had further exposed the true nature of the CIA as a dangerous tool of repression" and had confirmed that CIA is "indeed a kind of state within a state."

North Korea: North Korean press comment in June, after release of the Rockefeller report, denounced in standard vituperative Pyongyang form the "despicable and heinous" plots by "U.S. imperialists and their stooges" against Zaire, adding that the revelations had exposed the "dirty nature of the U.S. imperialists, human butchers and barbarians."

USSR

While Moscow has duly reported or commented on all the disclosures ensuing from the Rockefeller and congressional investigations of CIA, the subject has never approached being a major topic for Soviet media, either in terms of coverage volume or authoritative comment. The revelations have largely been ignored by Moscow's domestic radio and not heavily featured in the Soviet central press. In fact, the lengthiest Soviet exposition of the CIA story was not even a Soviet-originated piece but rather a 5,200-word, slightly abbreviated reprint of articles on CIA in the 23 June issue of NEWSWEEK. The reprint appeared in a July issue of the Soviet foreign affairs journal ZA RUBEZHOM and was prefaced by an introduction critical of the Rockefeller Commission report.

In comment for overseas audiences, the most frequent theme was the threadbare nature of American bourgeois democracy, as exemplified by the revelations of domestic surveillance, infiltration of dissident groups, and mail intercepts. Other prominent subjects were political assassinations and the failure to destroy toxic substances. Regarding assassinations, the more lurid charges were largely restricted to Moscow's purportedly "unofficial" Radio Peace and Progress. A 15 August Peace and Progress broadcast in Spanish to Latin America went so far as to accuse CIA of having assassinated President Kennedy to forestall expected punishment for the Bay of Pigs failure. In reporting and commenting on the toxins, Moscow stressed that failure to destroy the poisonous materials was in violation of presidential orders, but did not play up the fact that this also violated an international agreement signed by the Soviet Union as well.

While several Soviet commentators attributed questionable CIA activities to the cold war, one commentator professed resentment at efforts to shift the blame to the Soviet Union. Vladimir Pozner, in an English-language broadcast to Latin America, after noting that Operation Chaos, drug experiments on humans, and mail covers were all being tied to concern about the USSR, said: "But I certainly do want to say in no uncertain terms that I, as a Soviet citizen, cannot protest strongly enough against what I would call insidious attempts to morally justify the CIA by shifting the responsibility for its activities to the Soviet Union."

There has been no Soviet in-depth speculation on the long-range impact of the investigations on the Agency, but Boris Strelnikov, in commenting on the Rockefeller report in the 15 June PRAVDA, said that though the report confirmed violations of Americans' rights, it also defended the CIA's activities overall and rejected any radical changes in the laws under which it operates. This indicated, Strelnikov wrote, that although CIA "may have been slightly scared off, [it] will be able to continue its secret activity further."

EASTERN EUROPE

The communist media of Eastern Europe have regularly exploited the recurring revelations of worldwide CIA activities during 1975 along doctrinaire propaganda lines, for the most part pointing to the new "scandalous revelations" as confirmation of beliefs long held in the socialist states about the evils inherent in the U.S. intelligence apparatus. Available comment has completely avoided the question of whether the disclosures might harm U.S. intelligence relations with other Western powers. Judgments about the effects upon CIA have mainly concluded that despite the public attacks, the CIA, "a state within a state, a kind of parallel government," will change little and lose no significant part of its power. East German and Czechoslovak commentators appear to have been the most prolific in analyzing the CIA crisis, and have dealt the hardest blows. Yugoslavia and Poland rarely discussed the subject, and then in relatively restrained, reportorial terms.

Hungary: Hungarian comment expressed doubt that the current congressional investigations would be carried through to conclusion because of the potentially "very grave consequences" that would ensue not only in the United States but "foremost in the NATO countries." An atypical Hungarian commentary, noting that CIA spokesmen were "unduly self-assured" in maintaining that CIA did nothing on its own initiative, without approval higher in the government, concluded that "there are a number of indications suggesting that they are right."

East Germany: East German comment in June, reacting to the Rockefeller report, described CIA as a "creation of the cold war" whose continuing interference in other countries' affairs "does not fit into today's altered world in which the tendencies of detente have the upper hand." Another East Berlin radio commentator, who characterized the United States as a "police state" in the wake of CIA and other agency domestic activities, went on to offer a rare defense of "socialist secret services" and "socialist spies." He declared that "because there is such a thing as imperialism in the world, the socialist states have to protect their lives, even with the secret services." However, he stressed, citing German spy Richard Sorge's work to defend "peace" in Japan during World War II, "socialist spies" have never committed murder and "did not so much as spit in the faces" of the enemies of socialism, "although they would have loved to do so."

Czechoslovakia: Czechoslovakia's radio broadcasts for Africa have repeatedly exploited Western reports on CIA activities to point out the "hypocrisy of Western propaganda" seeking to demonstrate alleged perfection of what Prague said should be categorized as "bourgeois democracy." Prague emphasized for African listeners that reported CIA assassinations or attempts against African and Latin American leaders proved the "impotency" of the United States, particularly when such attempts were directed against leaders of "small, weak nations."