

6 AUGUST 1976

SYD STAPLETON

CIA Colby, Wm.
Stapleton, Syd

Socialists vs. the CIA

Syd Stapleton

Debates

William Colby

WILLIAM COLBY

On April 11 some 1,000 students at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale attended a "Debate on the CIA" sponsored by the Graduate Student Council.

On one side was William Colby, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

On the other was Syd Stapleton, national secretary of the Political Rights Defense Fund and a member of the Socialist Workers party National Committee. The PRDF is a civil liberties organization publicizing the multi-million-dollar suit filed by the socialists against government spying and harassment.

The event was originally scheduled to be a lecture by Colby, but after protests by an ad hoc group, the Graduate Student Council and Colby agreed to change the format to a debate.

Colby and Stapleton had previously debated at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, March 8.

The debate began with prepared remarks by both speakers.

Following are excerpts from the rebuttals and question-and-answer period that followed the initial presentation. The remarks were transcribed and edited for grammatical smoothness. Neither speaker has had the opportunity to revise his comments for publication.

Colby. With respect to some of the specific allegations—the CIA helping to overthrow Allende. No, the CIA did not have anything to do with the military coup against Allende.

What we tried to do was to support the democratic forces and media in Chile, looking

forward to the elections of 1976.

Assassination is a very flamboyant kind of a word and I think that most Americans and I myself are against it. I was against it in the early 1960s. I turned down suggestions to that effect.

~~CIA Special~~
Workers Party
(big under Colby)

Shout from the audience. "What about the Phoenix program?"

Colby. I'll answer the Phoenix program if you want to. I've been against assassinations all along.

But if you will read the Senate report on the subject you will find that the CIA didn't assassinate anybody. [Uproar from audience.]

There were five pages in the report that stated that there were only two assassination attempts where the CIA did try to go out to see if they could kill somebody, but neither of them died. [Laughter from audience.]

On the question of prosecutions of our people which Mr. Stapleton raised, no, there haven't been any prosecutions and I don't think there should be. Because the activities that were undertaken were undertaken in the belief that they were approved at the top level of the government—that is, that they reflected the consensus of what the American people, and the Congress, and the executive were thinking at the time.

In respect to accusations about the FBI, I'm not going to comment; I wasn't in the FBI.

I believe the Constitution of the United States, if we follow it and if we apply it, will reflect what our American people want and what they expect as things that should be done and as things that should not be done.

Stapleton. Mr. Colby said that the CIA was not involved in the overthrow of the Allende regime. I think that's just not true.

The CIA has been involved in the overthrow of governments in the past, and I don't see that there has been any reexamination of the CIA's policy that has led it to renounce that course of action.

Now, on the allegation that the CIA has never killed anybody.

In fact, Operation Phoenix was a program aimed at the suppression of the political structure of the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam. It resulted somehow in the deaths of 20,000 people, according to a number of independent accounts.

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