

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. JOURNAL		
MAY 3 1980		
EVENING-38,898		
SUNDAY--49,089		

Newsmen aren't spies

The Central Intelligence Agency announced in 1976 that it would hire no more newsmen as spies, and we applauded.

Now Adm. Stansfield Turner, the CIA director, says the policy has been modified to permit the use of journalists by the agency with the approval of the director.

This modification should be rescinded and the CIA should return to the ban on "any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, newspa-

per, periodical, radio or TV network or station."

If not, American newsmen abroad will lose credibility with their foreign news sources and with their American audiences.

Foreign correspondents can serve their country better by providing the American people with a full, unbiased, independent account of foreign affairs than by providing a cover for espionage.

Reporters serve society in an important role, one they cannot perform with credibility if any of them become secret agents.

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/09/09 : CIA-RDP90-00806R000100110021-5

Front Page	Editor Page	Other Page

RUTLAND, VERMONT
HERALD MAY 1 1980
MORNING - 21,500
SUNDAY - 21,500

Editorial

CIA May Recruit Newsmen

Admiral Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, created something of a commotion at a meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington last month when he said he "would not hesitate" to recruit a journalist for a covert operation "when it is vitally important to the nation."

It may be a sign of the tension of the times that the CIA director made such a statement—and was immediately backed up by President Carter—after intelligence agency policy against such a practice had been established only a few years ago. In 1976, George Bush, the current presidential candidate who was then CIA director, announced regulations stating that the CIA would not enter into any paid relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by a U. S. newspaper, news agency, periodical, radio or television network.

Admiral Turner's statement to the editors amounted to a wholesale repudiation of the 1976 policy and at the same time served notice to any enemy or potential enemy inimical to this country that the hunting season is open on newsmen. CIA repudiation of the policy against employing newsmen had the immediate effect of justifying expulsion of correspondents from Iran and any other country unfriendly to the United States on the ground that American journalists either are spies or are suspected of being spies.

Neither the change in policy or Turner's announcement of the change could possibly serve any useful purpose in the cause of

national security since it could only bring about a reduction in the information which this country obtains through the news media about what is going on in foreign countries. Why the CIA or any other government agency for that matter would want to put restraints on the free exchange of news with other countries escapes any reasonable explanation. Why Turner, with the backing of President Carter, made such a statement at a time of extreme tension in our relations with Iran is equally difficult to understand.

The importance of maintaining our ability to obtain news from other countries was well illustrated by an incident following last week's ill-fated attempt to rescue American hostages in Teheran. Following the rescue attempt, a government briefing was held for the benefit of the families of the hostages. Afterward, a member of one of the families said the briefing was "boring" and that he got more out of the news reports than he did from the government.

The incident served as a good example of the probability that newsmen who are left alone to pursue their work in foreign countries perform a more useful function from the standpoint of the national and international interest than they would as paid undercover agents.

Beyond that, newsgathering by foreign correspondents is already hazardous enough without having the director of the CIA announce to the world that some U. S. correspondents may be agents in the pay of the American government.

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Editor Page	Other Page
---------------	----------------	---------------

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
BULLETIN

EVENING - 536,330
SUNDAY -- 643,387

APR 30 1980

Why journalists shouldn't be spies

We thought at one time the question of the Central Intelligence Agency using journalists as agents — had been settled in the public interest — by the CIA's banning the practice.

That, at least, is how matters were left by George Bush, then director of the agency, in 1976. He issued a flat prohibition on hiring newsmen or putting them under contract and on sending agents out under "cover" of being a journalist.

Now CIA director Stansfield Turner has said he waived that worthy rule on three occasions and "wouldn't hesitate" to waive it again if he felt the situation was "unusual" enough to require it. It turned out that none of the three journalists actually served as agents, but the CIA had been prepared to use them.

Admiral Turner, in discussing this with the American Society of Newspaper Editors earlier this month, said he could see nothing amiss with the practice. "I don't understand the connection you make between serving your country and being free," he told the editors. "You can do both."

Well, we don't understand how the admiral can fail to understand why doing both is intolerable for a responsible journalist and why his even saying he approves the practice creates serious problems.

The role of the journalist as the pub-

lic's eyes and ears abroad is difficult enough these days in many parts of the world without the added burden of distrust and even danger of being suspected of being a CIA agent.

Then there is the inevitable problem of divided loyalties: which gets first priority from such a double agent, his responsibility to report the news or serve the government? Finally, how would such a journalist report on the CIA itself, an agency frequently in need of investigative coverage?

You may ask, can't journalists take care of the problem merely by refusing to work for the CIA? Certainly, they should. In any large professional

group, however, there are a few who will take the bait and muddy the waters for the rest. Beyond that, the fact that the CIA is known to countenance such hires is enough to cast an unneeded shadow over journalism.

When Mr. Carter appointed Admiral Turner in 1977 he asked his appointee for assurances that he would conduct the CIA "strictly in accordance with the law and with American values."

Admiral Turner's policy, which has been supported by President Carter, is a danger to the press whose first responsibility is to report the news to the American public in straight-from-the-shoulder fashion.

Editors question CIA use of reporters as agents

At one point in the recent convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, the sound of an egg hitting the fan figuratively could be heard.

It came when Adm. Stansfield Turner, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told a crowded session of the nation's daily newspaper editors that under certain "very exceptional" circumstances, he would approve recruiting a newsman as a CIA agent.

In fact, he said, he had done so on three occasions in the three years since President Carter named him director of Central Intelligence. As it happened, he added, in none of the three instances had circumstances fallen together so that the newsman had been able to do the CIA job he was recruited for.

Splat!

One of the first editors on his feet in the following question period was A. M. Rosenthal, who as executive editor of the New York Times shares responsibility for the safety and integrity of one of the biggest stables of foreign correspondents in American newspaperdom.

"Do you think it's worthwhile to cast into doubt the ethical and professional position of every foreign correspondent?" Rosenthal asked. "This endangers not only the ethics of our work but the physical existence of our foreign correspondents."

Rosenthal was echoed by several other editors. All of them seemed surprised, and perhaps embarrassed by their surprise, to learn that Turner three years ago had altered the policy which had been announced by his predecessor as CIA chief, the current presidential candidate George Bush.

Bush had declared that it was CIA policy never to use an American newsman as an agent, although he did not rule out recruiting news stringers of foreign nationality.

Evidently most of the editors, including me, thought that was still CIA policy. Equally evidently, we were wrong.

Later, in an editorial, the New York Times stated the position which I think most (but not all) United States editors would share:

"We argue from the premise that free American inquiry around the world has a greater value than any occasional intelligence mission. American reporters cannot long function abroad if forced to operate under a cloud of suspicion. They need to be what they represent themselves to be

independent seekers of information which they communicate to the public."

In a memo to client newspapers, H. L. Stevenson, editor-in-chief of the worldwide United Press International news service, said, "UPI's policy forbids the volunteering of information or working for the CIA, FBI or any other government intelligence or law enforcement agency."

Adm. Turner didn't back down, and later President Carter, in a conference with a small group of editors which I attended, supported him.

No journalists presently are employed as CIA agents, and there are no current plans to use any, Turner said.

But, he added, "What if we have a terrorist situation and the only way to gain information is through use of a journalist? That is the kind of circumstance I mean, a situation wherein the real security of the United States is involved. . . . I think a lot of correspondents are patriotic enough to do this."

Patriotism isn't the point. The credibility of an American reporter depends absolutely on his not being the paid or unpaid secret operative of any agency but his own news employer — especially not of a government agency, and even more especially not of a government intelligence agency, valuable though that agency might be to national security.

The work of American reporters and photographers overseas is dangerous and difficult enough without the added handicap of their government's spy chief having announced that one of them just might be a secret agent.

I do recognize — as some of my fellow editors do not — that the stated policy of the CIA director in some cases may be beside the point. In all too many countries, the press is totally controlled by the government, and journalists are either spies or government tools, or both.

In such a country, all the denials of the director of Central Intelligence might well not be worth the paper to write them down on. Foreign correspondents are likely to be assumed to be spies because the locals can hardly conceive that they wouldn't be. Besides, if the head of the Russian KGB were to solemnly declare that the Soviet reporters in the United States are free and independent of the Soviet government, would we believe him? Of course not.

But at least to Americans it ought to matter that most foreign correspondents realize they must not accept commissions from the CIA or other government agencies. The CIA may continue to try to recruit them — it wouldn't surprise me a bit — but heart-wrenching though the particular situation might be, it is the reporter's duty to his readers to turn down the request.

Donald J. Sterling Jr.
Editor



Sterling

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
------------	-----------	------------

PORTLAND, OREGON
OREGON JOURNAL

EVENING - 106,918
APR 26 1980

New CIA charter should prohibit the use of journalists as spies

THE controversial issue of the use of journalists as intelligence agents is back in the news again, as a result of comments by Adm. Stansfield Turner, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), at the recent meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington.

Turner told the convening editors that he "would not hesitate" to recruit a journalist for a covert operation "when it is vitally important to the nation."

This would seem to put the issue right back where it was before 1976, when George Bush, then the CIA chief, announced regulations stating that the agency would not enter into any paid relationship with any full-time or part-time journalist and, as soon as feasible, would terminate any

existing relationships of this sort.

As recently as November, 1977, Turner himself issued a lengthy set of regulations reiterating the ban on using journalists and also prohibiting the CIA from using the name or facilities of any U.S. news organization as a "cover" for agency activities.

However, the last section of those regulations said there would be no exceptions to the prohibitions except with the specific approval of the CIA director. And there were those who warned at the time that this last sentence negated all the other provisions of the regulations.

In the light of Turner's recent comments, it now appears those doubters were right.

In recent weeks, Congress has been conducting hearings on the drafting of a proposed charter for the CIA. Not only should the regulations prohibiting the use of journalists as intelligence agents be incorporated into that charter, there should be no provision for any exceptions.

One of the principal roles of the press is to maintain scrutiny of government. If it's to do this, the press must be entirely independent of government. The use by the CIA of any journalists as agents casts suspicion on all journalists and raises the possibility that one of them may be a spy.

In a foreign country, who would talk confidentially to an American reporter if there was any possibility that the reporter was a CIA agent? And who would believe what reporters would write if there was a possibility that their articles were strictly CIA propaganda or, at any rate, based on information "planted" by the government?

Indeed, the CIA's recruitment of journalists as intelligence agents could endanger the lives of all U.S. journalists abroad if some foreign government suspected that they were intelligence operatives and not really foreign correspondents.

For these reasons, it should be obvious that the CIA and the press need to keep each other at arm's length.

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edi Page	Other Page
---------------	-------------	---------------

HUNTINGTON, W.VA.

HERALD-DISPATCH

APR 22 1980

MORNING -- 43,007

SUNDAY -- 50,287

CIA and journalism don't mix

By John R. Finnegan
Executive Editor

The editor's notebook

It was clear from the question and answer session that the editors and the director of the Central Intelligence Agency were not communicating well.

The director announced he had returned to an old CIA policy of using newsmen as sources for information overseas as well as allowing CIA agents to pose as newsmen.

One thing that bothered newsmen was that he had returned to the policy three years ago and most editors missed the switch.

The other thing that bothered newsmen was that Admiral Stansfield Turner, the CIA head, seemed to have no understanding of the reasons why journalists object to being used by the intelligence agency.

The occasion for this encounter was the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, D.C., 10 days ago. Turner was there to explain the "new look" of his agency and to get support for proposals pending before Congress.

He said the CIA has been more open in its operations since 1975. "We are on the front pages all the time. The result is that today the intelligence profession must adapt so that it can be more open with the public, yet control that openness so that we can still do our job effectively."

Some editors took that to mean the CIA wants to be open on its terms only and, as one editor commented, "What's new about that?"

The openness policy has four dimensions, Turner said, including impact on internal operations and organization; work with the rest of the executive branch; relations with Congress and dealings with the public and the media.

Internally, the agency is moving toward a "more corporate" structure which he describes as being more consultative, more collegial and "better organized for long range decision making."

He uses legal counsel more today, he said. He tries to keep more key people in the agency informed of overall decisions.

"The disadvantage . . . is that as you increase the number of those who know about a secret activity, you also increase the level of risk that that activity will be compromised," he said.

As for relations with the executive branch, there are more intimate ties with policymakers and their deliberations. "We can be more effective in providing the data which they (the National Security Council) need if we know what their concerns really are. A minus, however, is



Finnegan

that the probability of a damaging leak of secret information is geometrically proportional to the number of people who know it."

There is greater interplay with Congress, Turner said, which "helps us to keep in touch with the public, and helps us to understand what is expected." The primary disadvantage is "the danger of leaks. In terms of leaks, Congress is no better or worse than the executive branch."

He is asking that Congress amend current law requiring the CIA to notify seven committees of proposed covert or secret actions. Turner wants to cut the number to the two CIA oversight committees.

He also wants "limited relief" from the Freedom of Information Act under which the public can ask for data concerning CIA operations. He claims that foreign governments are reluctant to provide the CIA with names of informants for fear the names will be released under the FOI act. They want a guarantee that no names will ever be revealed. The argument is that foreign governments think the lives of their agents or informants could be jeopardized.

No names have ever been released under the FOIA, Turner admitted. But there is a "perception" abroad that our courts might permit release under the law.

Admiral Turner, understandably, does not want to jeopardize those sources.

But Turner does not understand the journalists' opposition to his policy of using newsmen and women as CIA sources abroad which also could jeopardize their lives. True, he said that it would be a "unique case" when he would approach a journalist and seek assistance in information gathering. True, he said it would be a "unique case" if a CIA agent was sent into a terrorist organization posing as a reporter.

But he did not seem to understand that the mere fact the CIA would use journalists to do its work undermines their integrity as independent newsmen and could put their lives in peril in foreign countries.

He expressed surprise "at the assumption that you are no longer free if you have a relationship with us. I think you can serve your country and still be free."

He was absolutely blind to the problem American editors were emphasizing: that any hint of attachment of journalists to the CIA makes them appear as arms of the government and purveyors of propaganda.

He could see the fears of foreign governments but was unwilling to see the problems posed by American newsmen.

In any case, he is following bad public policy which I hope American journalists will reject.

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page

ST. PAUL, MINN
PIONEER PRESS

MORNING - 100,502
SUNDAY - 244,261

APR 20 1980

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
TIMESMORNING - 54,544
SUNDAY - 59,148

APR 18 1930

Reporters As Spies?

CIA Director Stansfield Turner stirred up an old controversy last week with his assertion to a convention of newspaper editors that the CIA has used journalists for intelligence purposes on at least three occasions and would continue to do so. The policy is a mistake.

Mr. Turner's argument, which President Carter apparently accepts, is that if the national security requires reporters to become spies, then they ought to do so.

The argument sounds plausible but really isn't. It assumes, for instance, that U.S. journalists are always welcome in most foreign countries. The assumption is false; in a Communist country, a reporter would be foolish to risk contracting to provide information to the CIA. He would immediately assume a risk of imprisonment or, at least, expulsion. Moreover, such activity would make it much harder for his successor, not to mention his colleagues, to continue providing news about the country to their readers back home. The CIA, of course, gleans considerable information from stories filed

by foreign correspondents.

Worse, the CIA's campaign to recruit journalists as part-time spies damages the essential role of the press as envisioned by the country's founders. That role is necessarily one of independence from government, no matter how well-intentioned an agency's appeal might be in terms of, say, the national interest. That does not mean, of course, that a journalist has absolutely no responsibilities as a citizen. It does mean, however, that a journalist who volunteers to be a spy destroys his own credibility. More to the point, how does such a policy differentiate the U.S. from more restrictive societies where the press is often viewed as an arm of government?

It is fraudulent for Mr. Turner or even the president to suggest the issue turns on the question of a reporter's "patriotism." It is, rather, the question of how a reporter is expected to fulfill his responsibility of informing the public if the latter has reason to question his credibility because of a government spy assignment. The CIA ought to inter its policy.

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

Front Page	Editor Page	Other Page
---------------	----------------	---------------

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS

EVENING - 152,367

APR 18 1980

The corrupting hand

Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, betrayed a lack of understanding of the CIA's role in a free society when he said recently he had approved the use of journalists in intelligence operations and would not hesitate to do so again.

Speaking to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Turner said that in three separate instances he had personally approved the use of journalists for secret intelligence activities but none had actually been used. Turner also said he had no current plans for involving journalists but that, if he felt a particular situation justified their use, "I wouldn't hesitate."

Nor is journalism the only profession, Turner made clear, which might be used as a cover for CIA activity. "We fully share," he said, "the recognition that journalism, religion and academia have a special place in our country. At the same time, we recognize that there may be unusual circumstances in which an individual who is also a member of one of those professions may be used as an agent."

Apparently surprised by the negative reactions of the editors who heard his remarks, Turner said: "I don't understand why you think if you accept an assignment

from me you are not free."

Most news organizations, needless to say, are opposed — as we are — to any attempt to harness the free press to the purposes of the state. Any such exercise would compromise the independence of the press, generate suspicion in the eyes of the public and make it difficult for the press to keep the confidence of its sources.

A. M. Rosenthal, executive editor of the *New York Times*, put it well when he told Turner: "You have put into question the real purpose of American correspondents and you have cast doubt on the ethical position of every American correspondent abroad."

The work of foreign correspondents — and of ministers, missionaries and educators who work abroad — is dangerous enough without Turner adding new risks and liabilities.

It is bad enough that Turner has considered the use of these professions in the past. But what is worse is that he still sees nothing wrong with it and would engage in such practices if, in his opinion, the situation justified it.

Probably only the President can overrule Turner's wrongheadedness, and he should do so at once.

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

PHOENIX, ARIZONA
REPUBLIC

MORNING-219,587
SUNDAY--331,129

AIR 13 1980

Media and CIA

CIA DIRECTOR Stansfield Turner says he can't understand why news organizations are so opposed to his plan to use foreign correspondents to gather intelligence for the agency whenever he and the president consider it necessary.

He got into a heated argument over this at the recent meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors with several newspaper executives, including A. M. Rosenthal, executive editor of *The New York Times* and a Pulitzer Prize-winning former foreign correspondent himself.

"What you are saying is that if you accept an assignment from me to get some information that can be very vital to our country, that you have lost your freedom," Turner declared.

"I'm sorry. I don't understand the connection that you make between serving your country and being free. I think you can do both."

Previous CIA directors have gotten into the same argument with the ASNE that Turner did without reaching any resolution, and the reason is that neither will face reality.

They prefer to speak in lofty terms about a free press, independent of the government; on the one hand, and patriotism on the other.

The reality is that American reporters overseas frequently swap information with CIA agents on a purely informal basis, just as Washington correspondents covering a congressional investigation frequently swap information with the investigators, and just as police reporters swap information with the police.

We'll bet dollars to doughnuts that Rosenthal followed this practice when he was overseas,

and particularly when he was reporting from Eastern Europe.

There's nothing wrong with it.

An obvious problem arises, however, when the CIA puts correspondents on the payroll, as the agency formerly did. They then begin serving two masters, and this can have perfectly outrageous results.

In the past, for example, the CIA sometimes used correspondents on its payroll to spread *misinformation*, known as "black propaganda."

In doing so, it not only subverted the press, it committed a crime against the public.

Another obvious difficulty arises when CIA directors talk about using correspondents to collect intelligence. Such talk instantly puts every American correspondent overseas under a cloud.

Every correspondent becomes a suspected CIA agent. This inevitably makes his work more difficult by choking off his sources.

The result is less information for both the American public and the CIA.

Turner and his successors would do well simply to let nature take its course. They shouldn't put correspondents on the CIA payroll, and they shouldn't talk about *using* correspondents.

The correspondents will continue to swap information with the CIA because it serves their professional interests. And, if they learn anything they consider of vital importance to national security, they'll let the CIA know about it.

After all, they *are* Americans.

Page	Page	Page
------	------	------

WHEELING, W.VA.

NEWS-REGISTER

APR 15 1980

EVENING --28,417

SUNDAY -- 63,140

Journalists As CIA Agents

CIA DIRECTOR Stansfield Turner had delivered a rather routine address on the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency last week before a convention of the American Newspaper Society in Washington when the time for questions arrived. An editor asked Director Turner how he felt about allowing the spy agency to use American foreign correspondents, a practice halted when George Bush was CIA director and in the midst of a public outcry.

Mr. Turner dropped a bombshell on the assembled journalists when he said that he had changed the policy to allow the use of newsmen for secret intelligence operations only in specific instances and only with his personal approval.

The editors were dismayed and shocked for they were under the impression that CIA regulations still barred the use of American journalists as agents. They said that they had been unaware that current regulations allowed exceptions to be made with the specific approval of the director of the CIA.

A.N. Rosenthal, executive editor of *The New York Times*, immediately was on his feet, stating: "You have put into question the real purposes of American foreign correspondents, and you have cast doubt on the ethical position of every American correspondent abroad."

CIA Director Turner, a former admiral in the U.S. Navy, seemed unshaken in his position. He said that while he fully shares the recognition of journalism, religion and academia to have a special importance to our country, at the same time he recognized there may be unusual circumstances in which an individual who is also a member of one of those professions may be used as an agent.

Editor Rosenthal shot back, "Do you think it's worthwhile...to cast into doubt the ethical and

professional position of every foreign correspondent?"

Director Turner said it would be "naive" to think that a foreign government would assume that journalists of any nationality are free of association with intelligence agencies. He said he would be ashamed if he needed a law to protect his ethical reputation.

We are sorry indeed that the head of our Central Intelligence Agency today does not understand the importance of keeping our journalists free of the slightest taint of becoming involved in a spying mission. When the CIA ties with journalists were disclosed several years ago, reporters felt this endangered not only the ethics of their work but the physical existence of foreign correspondents, especially those covering not so friendly nations.

Although Director Turner says that no American journalists currently are working undercover for the CIA, there had been three instances when he had approved use of correspondents in CIA operations but plans did not materialize. Nevertheless, the very fact that he is now on public record stating that the CIA is free to utilize newsmen for spying has harmed all journalists working abroad. Such practice violates the traditional independence of the press from government and makes it difficult for other journalists to retain the trust of their sources. For example, in a country like Iran, the possibility that a foreign correspondent was a CIA agent certainly would endanger his life.

The use of journalists as intelligence agents has long been a sensitive subject with news organizations in this country. As with most editors, we thought this issue had been well debated and buried and we are appalled to learn that it has been revived under the Carter Administration.

This is a serious matter that deserves the attention of the President and the Congress.

QUINCY, MASS.
 PATRIOT LEDGER
 APR 15 1980
 EVENING 75,105

The CIA and the press

Stansfield Turner's remarks to the effect that he doesn't see anything wrong with his Central Intelligence Agency using journalists for intelligence purposes is damaging to American newsmen working abroad and to Americans at home who rely on them for information.

It would be naive to think that newsmen and CIA agents have no contact at all. Journalists and CIA agents can and have been mutually useful to each other by trading what both deal in—information. And in some foreign posts, particularly those with small U.S. diplomatic missions, it is virtually impossible for either not to have contact with the other.

But there is a world of difference between a professional relationship in which both understand that the newsmen is dealing with the CIA person as a government news source, with the reserve and skepticism that implies, and a situation in which the CIA has an arrangement with the newsmen to furnish the agency with information—using him as an intelligence source or as a middleman in making contact with potential intelligence sources.

That kind of arrangement should be abandoned by the CIA both in practice and as a matter of public policy, for it makes all newsmen suspect as potential espionage agents, and increases the risk that they, like American diplomats, will become used as pawns in international politics. It also violates the traditional independence of the press from the government and makes it more difficult for journalists to retain the trust of their sources.

In a number of other countries—especially in security-conscious Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, whose governments often use their journalists as intelligence-gatherers—Western newsmen are regarded as foreign agents. When Russia or East

press their displeasure at some policy of the West, they often harass or expel Western journalists—often on charges of spying.

Statements such as CIA Director Turner's—made last week to an editors' conference in Washington—can only further confirm the suspicions of foreign governments that U.S. journalists double as CIA spies—and subject U.S. newsmen to close scrutiny. When this happens, it becomes more difficult for the journalist to report accurately and completely, for his access to news sources and to information becomes restricted. How frankly would you talk to a reporter if you suspected he was a CIA agent? Or as a reader, how much credence would you put in his reports?

The American overseas press, to preserve its credibility and its professional standards, should be on guard against CIA efforts to subvert news-gathering.

Some foreign governments may never come around to accept journalists as objective gatherers of information, rather than someone seeking to pry into their innermost secrets, or at best a biased observer trying to make them look bad.

But every time our intelligence agencies suggest they are using or may use journalists in secret intelligence work, it makes the task of overseas reporters that much more difficult. And that ultimately affects the quality and accuracy of the news reports to the American public.

The Patriot Ledger welcomes expressions of opinions by our readers. Letters should be factual, temperate in language, and as brief as possible. All are subject to editing for style and readability, and to condensation. Letters should contain the author's name, valid address and telephone number to aid in verification. No anonymous letters, pen names or initials are acceptable. Poetry or copies of letters sent to third parties will not be

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
COMMERICAL APPEALMORNING - 205,452
SUNDAY -- 283,622

APR 15 1980

Carter Should Know Better

THE FAILURE of Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, to understand why the nation's newspaper editors object to any attempt by the CIA to recruit news reporters as secret agents was cause for concern.

Still, given his military background with its emphasis on discipline and patriotism and the history of the clandestine agency he heads, his attitude could be explained even if it could not be accepted by the editors who heard him at the annual meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington last week.

But now Turner's position on this question has been given the enthusiastic endorsement of President Carter. That is real cause for concern, for although the President, too, was Navy educated, he has had many years of experience in civilian government service and as President is supposed to understand and uphold all aspects of the Constitution for the people. He should know better than Turner the pitfalls of the policy he so heartily approves.

Referring to Turner's statements before the editors, Carter said over the weekend that "in a rapidly changing international situation, where on occasion our nation's own security or existence might be threatened, we do not want to publicly foreclose the option of taking certain action that might be necessary."

THE PRESIDENT makes it appear the press is unpatriotic if it is unwilling to allow its members to be recruited for CIA secret agent work while continuing to pose as journalists. That is far from the truth. Rather, it is that the press regards its patriotic duty to be the preservation of freedom of the press. And that freedom cannot be preserved if members of the press are to do double duty, as Turner and the President indicate they should be willing to do.

Once even a single member of the press is known to have been recruited as a CIA agent, the effectiveness of the entire American press is handicapped. The sources which now are willing to pro-

vide information to the members of the news media, because they trust them, will refuse to provide that information, even to those journalists who have not been corrupted by affiliation with the CIA or other secret intelligence agency. They all will be suspect. And the result, it must be stated again, will be that the people of this nation will know less and less about what is going on.

The American press has been fighting for years to maintain its ability to report and distribute unbiased news worldwide, despite the strong efforts of some Third-World and Communist nations to use the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to control that flow of news. It has been moderately successful in that struggle up to now, but what chance does it have if it accedes to the idea of American journalists using their writing positions as a cover for CIA work? Who will believe that a CIA agent posing as a reporter can deliver unbiased news? Do we accept the reports of Communist nations' reporters as truth? Of course not. We recognize their reports as part of their government's propaganda. We cannot afford to allow our press to become victims of that same sort of system.

Turner, in speaking to the editors last week, deplored the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act which have given foreign nations — even Communist nations — access to this nation's files. He suggested revision of the act to protect agencies such as the CIA from such probes. What he was asking for again was the right of agencies such as the CIA to have their own secret sources of information, to gather and hold and use whatever they regard as proper information. Yet, by asking also the right to recruit journalists to be his agents, Turner — and now presumably the President, too — suggests that the nation's press should not have the right to gather and use information independently. Turner and the President should be consistent. And to be consistent they must recognize and uphold the right of the press to refuse to do double duty regardless of the international situation the nation faces.

The CIA's Use of American Reporters

Should an American newspaperman ever report back his findings to the Central Intelligence Agency?

The reverse happens all the time. CIA men in American embassies overseas — the open ones, that is — are among the best information sources available to correspondents about developments in the countries where they are stationed.

They are well informed and particularly useful in providing background to a correspondent who may be in a country for only a short time.

Good journalists tap this knowledge, but doublecheck their information, as they would with any other source, and generally find it reliable.

But what about journalists giving back information in return?

"Never for money" was the guideline suggested here two years ago by three foreign correspondents attending a University of Hawaii Round Table on Asian News, sponsored by the Gannett Fellowship Program.

Keyes Beech, now of the Los Angeles Times; Dennis Bloodworth of the London Observer, and Richard Halloran of the New York Times, all said they talk to intelligence agents overseas, even exchange information with them, but would consider it prostitution to accept paid CIA assignments.

Beech termed his relations with overseas agents "mutually beneficial."

All of this bears on a new flap among journalists over an amendment to the 1976 CIA policy that it would not use full-time or part-time U.S. journalists, paid or unpaid, for intelligence activities.

At the end of 1977, the new CIA director, Stansfield Turner, amended this policy to permit exceptions with the specific approval of the CIA director.

Under this amendment, he told the American Society of Newspaper Editors, three assignments for newsmen were approved by him, but never carried out because of changed circumstances.

Turner defended the policy. He said he sees no harm in a newsman helping his government secure important information, so long as he remains ethical and honest in what he reports to his journalistic audience.

President Carter later backed Turner and indicated the exceptions also had been cleared with him.

A number of American newspapers tend to fear any contact with the CIA will tarnish their reputation for integrity and independence.

The facts are that contacts always have been frequent, and that no matter what we say or do, most foreigners will be suspicious anyway that newsmen are sometimes "spies."

This will displease some of our journalistic brethren but we think the allowance of exceptions specifically approved at the highest levels of government is reasonable if frugally exercised.

The losses to journalism will hardly be as great as alleged. The gain to the nation presumably could be significant or else the exception shouldn't be approved.

Ethical writing and reporting still remains the respon-

Honolulu, HI
(Honolulu Co.)
Star-Bulletin
(Cir. 6xW. 117,989)

APR 15 1980

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Honolulu, HI
(Honolulu Co.)
Advertiser
(Cir. 6xW. 77,597)

APR 14 1980

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Ban CIA journalists

Among the most unfortunate results of current moves to "unshackle" the Central Intelligence Agency is removal of the ban on use of American journalists as spies.

With Iran, Afghanistan and other foreign policy failures fueling a sort of hysteria about America's ability to conduct covert operations (even though better intelligence collection and analysis would be more useful), plans for a CIA charter have been virtually scrapped. With it, regrettably, went a ban on CIA use of academics, clerics and journalists.

IN 1976, AFTER investigations and public outcry over CIA excesses, then-director, George Bush issued regulations prohibiting use of full or part-time correspondents for American newspapers or broadcast stations in secret operations. It was also understood CIA agents would not go abroad posing as American journalists.

In 1977, Senator Daniel Inouye, who then chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee, told the American Society of Newspaper Editors that in the future the CIA would have no paid or contractual relations whatever with accredited U.S. correspondents abroad.

The argument then was whether the CIA would be allowed to use even foreign journalists.

In Washington last week the editors heard quite another story from CIA Director Stansfield Turner. The agency will use American journalists, he said, "when it is vitally important to the nation." Since he became director in 1977, three such plans were approved but not carried out.

NEWSPEOPLE from Communist countries, like Soviet TASS reporters, are taken for granted to be agents of their countries. In many parts of the world American journal-

of being agents of the U.S. government, especially the CIA. No charter or law or regulation will convince everyone that American journalists are not.

But the absence of any rule — and audacious statements like Turner's — cast into suspicion all American correspondents abroad. It makes their job of honestly gathering news more difficult. Indeed, in some places it puts them in physical danger for no good reason. It also undermines the concept of press freedom.

This is something Turner and people like him do not seem to understand or accept. He does not see why journalists should refuse to work for the CIA, or why other journalists should object if colleagues do such work. "I think a lot of correspondents are patriotic enough to do this (assist the CIA)," he said.

PATRIOTISM IS NOT the question. Presumably in the name of patriotism, many journalists have in the past cooperated with the CIA in everything from providing "covers" and planting "misinformation" to playing a role in the overthrow of the elected government of Chile.

But those were exceptions and even journalistic attitudes that tolerated such abuses have changed — for the better.

Most people in the news business today believe, in the words of the respected Columbia Journalism Review that journalists can best serve their country "... by fulfilling their obligation to inform the public."

That free and independent informing of the public, an essential ingredient in the operation of a democracy, is how journalists should show their patriotism. And that is precisely what the CIA actions serves to undermine.

A reasonable CIA charter is still desirable — and in it should be a

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page

SOUTH BEND, IND.
TRIBUNEEVENING - 110,802
SUNDAY - 126,277

APR 14 1980

Patriotism, a search for truth

Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA, does not understand how a journalist can regard the search for truth as the highest form of patriotism, a goal that can only be sullied by doing side jobs for a spy agency.

Nor does Turner understand the meaning of credibility, as it is used in the news sense. And it appears he either doesn't understand or doesn't appreciate the hazards he creates for overseas journalists when he says he would use them as spies.

Turner, an Annapolis graduate (classmate of President Carter) and a career man in the Navy, professed surprise last Thursday at the attitude of editors to whom he spoke at the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention in Washington.

Turner said he realized that journalism, religion, and academia have a special importance to this country, but that he also recognized the possibility of "unusual circumstances in which an individual who is also a member of one of those professions may be used as an agent."

Most editors thought CIA regulations ruled out using journalists. Turner said current regulations, made public more than two years ago, allow such exceptions to be made with approval of the director.

Turner said he had allowed three exceptions, the journalist agreeing in each case, but that in none of the

cases was the job carried out because the proper circumstances did not materialize. The general reaction by many of the editors to this revelation was shock.

Ask this question of the journalist, or his employer, or his customer, the recipient of the news he speaks or writes. Is it better for your country that the reporter gather and present the facts as completely and accurately as possible, or that he mix in secret side jobs done on behalf of the government?

The two tasks are not compatible. If the public had reason to feel that a reporter was engaged in both types of service it would not accord him the credibility that it does when it thinks the total aim of news gathering is an informed constituency.

And editors whose organizations have overseas correspondents and bureaus were understandably alarmed at the revelation. There are countries where the mere possibility of a correspondent being a spy could endanger the life of the news gatherer.

These aspects seemed to give Turner no problems. His schooling, his career, his experience all have given a top priority to love of country. He cannot see that manipulation of a system intended solely to inform the population could do far greater damage to his country than the failure of a few spy missions.

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
DESERET NEWS

EVENING - 74,087

APR 11 1980

IN OUR OPINION . . .

Press must not even look like an arm of the CIA

For an agency whose middle name is intelligence, the CIA often doesn't live up to its description.

As a case in point, take this week's disclosure by Director Stansfield Turner that the Central Intelligence Agency has been recruiting U.S. journalists to help the CIA.

American journalists are understandably valued as intelligence operatives because they usually have developed good contacts within foreign governments. Moreover, as journalists, they can move around freely and ask questions without arousing suspicions.

While journalists are just as patriotic as the members of any other profession, this practice is not in the national interest and ought to be halted.

In fact, it supposedly was halted during the Ford administration when George Bush was head of the CIA. But former Admiral Turner disclosed that three years ago he revived the use of journalists in secret intelligence operations as long as the CIA director approved of the specific cases. Are the ground rules to be changed every time the CIA changes directors?

So far during the past three years there have been only three such cases. But that's enough to poison relations between the press and its overseas sources of information.

The press is supposed to be a completely independent undertaking, not just another arm of the federal government. That's one reason many news sources are willing to talk to reporters.

But overseas news sources can quickly dry up once they start suspecting that foreign correspondents may also be doubling as CIA agents. When that happens, the public is deprived of valuable information. For that matter, so is the government. The CIA, in fact, regularly reads various news media to complete the picture the agency gets of what's going on in various parts of the world.

Moreover, once the CIA starts using the press to gather information for it, this practice feeds the suspicion that the agency may also be using the media to spread reports furthering the work of the CIA.

Yet, incredibly, Turner professes to see no harm in the CIA's occasional use of journalists and even accuses editors of being "naive" when they object to the practice.

What Turner is doing raises serious doubts about his judgment and strengthens the argument that the CIA should be run by a civilian, not by a former military man like Turner.

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MORNING-204,738
SUNDAY-282,238

APR 13 1960

Who's Naive, Admiral?

ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER repeated to the nation's newspaper editors meeting in Washington last week what he had told both the Senate and House intelligence committees earlier this year. Namely, that in three separate instances since he became head of the CIA he personally had approved the use of journalists for secret intelligence operations.

He said that in none of the cases were the journalists actually pressed into service and, in response to a question, that there are now no American journalists actively employed or paid by the CIA either in the United States or abroad.

That would have been good news if Turner had stopped there. Unfortunately he didn't.

He went on to say he has no plans to use or hire any journalists for his spy operations, but that if a situation presented itself in which he felt such a practice was justified, "I wouldn't hesitate" to recruit one.

As if that wasn't enough, Turner continued in his appearance before the American Society of Newspaper Editors by saying he was surprised at the negative reaction of the editors to what he had just said. He told them he thought they were "naive."

"I don't understand why you think if you accept an assignment from me that you are no longer free," he said. He added that he failed to understand "the connection you make between serving your country and being free."

WELL, IF THE admiral doesn't understand that connection, it is he who is naive, not the nation's newspaper editors.

The concerned news media of the nation have made the distinction clear many times in the past. If Turner doesn't understand it, it is only because he either didn't or wouldn't listen.

The case for keeping news people out of the CIA's official spy business is simple enough.

It is found in the very fact that intelligence

officials consider them valuable as intelligence operatives. News people usually are able to move about the world freely and ask searching questions without arousing suspicions. Experienced news people develop good sources in foreign capitals, sources which are often more willing to talk to them than to known secret agents of governments. They trust the news people.

But if these news people become agents for the intelligence services, the news people's value immediately is destroyed. Their sources will dry up because they no longer will be regarded with trust. They will be just secret agents like all the rest.

What is worse, however, is that not only will the news people who turn secret agents lose their value, so will the honest news people who have refused to join the cloak-and-dagger game. All news people will be suspected of being secret agents. And when that happens, everybody loses. The readers, listeners and viewers of the news no longer will get as much information as they did when the press was totally free of taint. And the intelligence agencies will get less information in the long run than they do now.

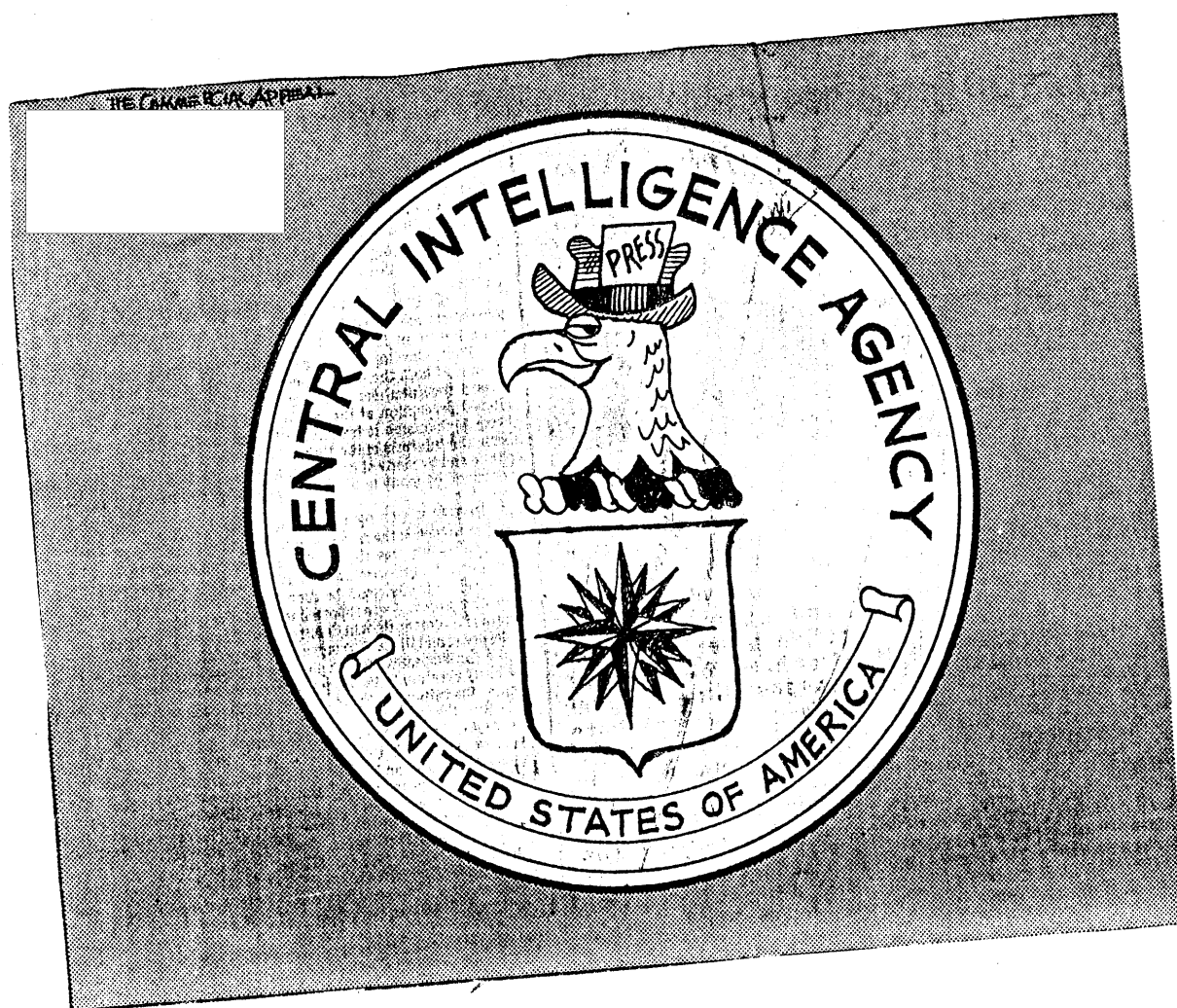
AS A. M. ROSENTHAL, executive editor of The New York Times, told Turner at the Washington meeting, "You have put into question the real purpose of American foreign correspondents and you have cast doubt on the ethical position of every American correspondent abroad."

Isn't that clear enough, admiral?

Unfortunately, there is nothing illegal about Turner or any other intelligence agency director trying to recruit news people for spy work. It should be made illegal, however, if this nation is to protect the rights of its citizens to have access to all the information in the world. It is not the right of the press that matters in all this, but the right of the people of this nation to know what is going on. That can be protected only when people like Turner learn the true meaning of the First Amendment.

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/09/09 : CIA-RDP90-00806R000100110021-5

STAT



Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/09/09 : CIA-RDP90-00806R000100110021-5

Press Intelligence, Inc.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

COCOA, FLORIDA ...
TODAY APR 11 1980
MORNING -- 57,569
SUNDAY -- 66,626

CIA Makes Ties To 'News' Agents, Director Reveals

By WILLIAM RINGLE
TODAY—Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — During a clash with editors over the use of reporters as agents, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency revealed Thursday that three U.S. correspondents had agreed to be covert CIA informants.

Although Adm. Stansfield Turner said that as the three situations had unfolded the CIA had not needed the reporters, a number of the editors remained upset.

Nor were they mollified by his assurance that a 3-year-old CIA directive requires his specific approval before news reporters "in very exceptional situations" would be used.

A number of the editors, including New York Times Executive Editor A. M. Rosenthal, were surprised and some were even incredulous that the CIA had announced such a rule.

Turner said that he had changed a policy set by former CIA Director George Bush that U.S. correspondents would not be used.

House records show that Turner did describe the new

policy publicly on April 20, 1978, at a hearing of the House Permanent Select Subcommittee on Intelligence's oversight committee.

Turner's exchange with the editors occurred during a question-and-answer session after he spoke to the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Use of reporters as a cover for CIA information-gathering was disclosed in post-Watergate investigations of U.S. intelligence.

Rosenthal and others contended that if such a practice were followed, even with the limitation Turner imposed, a host country could never be sure whether a U.S. correspondent was a CIA agent or a bonafide news reporter.

Many editors see the practice as "directly counter to the spirit" of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, which prohibits government interference with freedom of the press, said Editor Richard D. Smyser of the Oak Ridge (Tenn.) Oak Ridger, moderator of a panel that questioned Turner.

But Turner could not comprehend their attitude.

"I'd be ashamed, if I were you, to have to have a law to protect my ethics," he told the editors. "You can be suborned by the military industrial complex, by business, by so many people in addition to intelligence."

As for the freedom argument, he said: "What you're saying to me is that if you accept an assignment from me to get some information that might be very vital to our country, you've lost your freedom. I don't understand that. I really don't."

"You're sort of saying that if you accept a request to serve your country — maybe for money, maybe not — that you're no longer free ... If you slant the news because you're on our payroll, that's bad, you aren't free."

Turner said the three correspondents he had enlisted were "perfectly agreeable" to work with the CIA, but that "the circumstances did not mature in the way we had expected" and "we backed off."