

ARTICLE APPEARED  
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# Have Jack Anderson's Reports Harmed National Security?

WASHINGTON—In his recent clash with convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy on ABC's "Good Morning, America," columnist Jack Anderson vehemently denied that he had ever published anything that resulted in the execution or imminent execution, probably after torture, of a U.S. intelligence agent abroad. In his new book, "Will," Liddy says that he had suggested that Anderson be killed because there was reason to believe the columnist had done this. Anderson told Liddy:

"You can't name any CIA agent whose death or execution I caused . . . because it never happened. I don't reveal the names of CIA agents. I consider that to be reckless."

Well, indeed Liddy couldn't name any such names. But the idea that a U.S. intelligence operative might be murdered, because his name was published is not really all that far-out. On Dec. 23, 1975, Richard S. Welch, the CIA station chief in Greece, was shot and killed by three masked gunmen outside his home in a suburb of Athens. Welch, who was officially listed as a member of the U.S. diplomatic corps attached to the U.S. Embassy, was murdered after he had been named as a CIA agent in a letter published in the English-language daily Athens News on Nov. 25, 1975.

In any event, Anderson cannot deny Liddy's statement that the columnist has published material "seriously damaging the ability of the United States government to conduct foreign policy and diplomacy."

—On Dec. 14, 1974, after four days of hearings on unauthorized disclosures and transmittal of classified documents, the Senate Armed Services Committee issued a report about what it called leaks to the press of "highly sensitive information" which were "a serious compromise to national security decision-making." In a section titled "Material Facts," this Senate report declared:

"Information from at least 70 highly sensitive, classified documents was disclosed by Mr. Jack Anderson in his newspaper column between December 13, 1971, and February 1, 1972.

"The documents covered a range of subjects—the Indo-Pakistan situation, the military status in Cambodia, Arab guerrilla activity, B-52 strikes in

Laos, etc.—and were from a variety of sources—National Security Council, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Central Intelligence Agency, State Department, U.S. Mission at the U.N., etc.

"The leaks to the press were massive and of a serious consequence. Particularly important were leaked minutes of the Washington Special Action Group meetings of the National Security Council which provided a verbatim depiction of the national security decision process in an ongoing crisis situation—the Indo-Pakistan war. Other documents tended to reveal sensitive sources of intelligence information. Still other material disclosed secret information regarding U.S. military movements."

Commenting on the information Anderson published regarding the Indo-Pakistan situation, former Anderson legman Brit Hume wrote in the August 1974 issue of The Washingtonian magazine:

"At first his sources gave him only a few papers. But Jack insisted that he had to have a full set, or his stories could be challenged as being only a partial glimpse of the picture, out of context. All of the material bore the highest security classification. It was an astonishing haul."

—On May 6, 1977, appearing with him on a local TV show here called "Panorama," I accused Anderson of having blown one of the most sensitive U.S. intelligence operations in history—a project code-named Gamma Guppy, in which the CIA monitored communications between top Kremlin leaders. Responding to my charge, Anderson said: "It's just not factual. At no time have I ever reported—that is, at least until it had been reported elsewhere—that we bugged the limousines. . . ."

I interrupted Anderson, asking him: Which is it? Did you report this? Or did you report it after it had already been reported? Anderson replied: "I don't think I reported it even afterwards." But, as he frequently is about a variety of things, Anderson was wrong.

According to an article in The Wall Street Journal on May 8, 1973, Anderson, in September 1971, reported that the United States was eavesdropping on private conversations of "the kingpins of the Kremlin (as they) banter, bicker and backbite among themselves." In addition to small-

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