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MOVIE REVIEW

HARROWING REPORT ON CIA ACTIVITIES

We are facing an implacable enemy. There are no rules in such a game. We must learn to subvert, sabotage and destroy our enemies by more clever, more sophisticated, more effective means than those used against the United States.

—The Doolittle Report on the CIA, 1951

By LINDA GROSS

On Company Business" (at the Cineplex, Beverly Center) is a harrowing and powerful three-hour documentary on the role the Central Intelligence Agency has played in influencing governments in Africa, Iran, Vietnam and Latin America.

The film is divided into three parts. The first covers the years beginning in 1947 when the CIA was first created as a result of the post-World War II paranoia concerning the "Communist threat."

The second part tells of the CIA's activities in Latin America allegedly to protect U.S. industries and multinational corporations. The documentary deals specifically with the CIA's use of propaganda, torture and surveillance to suppress popular left-wing movements within Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil.

The third part details the CIA's role in undermining the popularly supported government of Salvador Allende, who was elected president of Chile on Sept. 4, 1970, as well as the CIA's alleged complicity in the 1973 coup that resulted in Allende's death and the subsequent dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet. The documentary also covers CIA operations in Angola and Iran.

By assembling and dramatically juxtaposing an encyclopedic selection of news clips and diverse interviews (with Philip Agee, Richard Helm, Sen. Frank Church, David Atlee Phillips, William Colby and Isabel Letelier), film makers Alan Francovich and Howard Dratch have provided a compelling examination of the CIA and of American foreign policy at its most fearful.

Times-rated: mature. The film's outstanding editing is by Veronica Selver.