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For Release At Will

"ON COMPANY BUSINESS," DOCUMENTARY EXAMINING CIA'S RELATIONSHIP
TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, TO AIR ON "NON FICTION TELEVISION"
ON THREE CONSECUTIVE FRIDAY EVENINGS, STARTING MAY 9 OVER PBS

"On Company Business," a three-hour, three-part documentary film exploring the relationship of the CIA to the formulation and execution of American foreign policy over the past 30 years, will be broadcast nationally on NON FICTION TELEVISION on three consecutive Friday evenings, May 9, 16 and 23 at 9 p.m., ET,* over the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Produced by independent documentarians Howard Dratch and Allan Francovich with the assistance of a completion cost grant from the Independent Documentary Fund, administered by the Television Laboratory at WNET/THIRTEEN, New York, "On Company Business" is an in-depth study of the CIA's role in the goals and methods of post-World War II United States foreign policy.

The filmmakers began work on this comprehensive film study nearly five years ago in 1975 when Congress, reacting to the Watergate break-in, began its own 18-month investigation of CIA and FBI activities. The CIA was forced to reveal some of the most carefully hidden secrets of its 30-year history, providing the Congress and the public for the first time with an account of CIA interference in the domestic affairs of foreign nations.

*Please check your local PBS station for area broadcast dates and times. "On Company Business" will be seen on WNET/THIRTEEN, New York, on three consecutive Fridays --May 9, 16 and 23 at 10 p.m.

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NON FICTION TELEVISION ON THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY FUND WITH GRANTS FROM THE FORD FOUNDATION AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS TO WNET THIRTEEN, NEW YORK

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At the same time, Dratch and Francovich began three years of research, poring over existing historical records of the CIA already on film --- totaling thousands of hours of governmental and news library material to be found in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, London and Paris.

This extensive film research, combined with 120 hours of filmed interviews with 50 people who planned or implemented American foreign policy -- at various levels in the chain of command -- gave the filmmakers an opportunity to evaluate the CIA's activities during the years of the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine, the Korean War, Cold War skirmishes in Iran and Guatemala, the Bay of Pigs, military coups in Brazil and Greece, Vietnam, Chile, and finally, Iran again.

"On Company Business" is divided into three segments which will be televised on consecutive Friday evenings.

The opening segment, to be seen Friday, May 9*, reviews the early operations of the CIA since its creation in 1947, when President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act. This segment also concentrates on the CIA's involvement with labor unions in Europe in the 1940's and 1950's, details the establishment of the Castro regime in Cuba and the events leading up to the CIA-backed Bay of Pigs invasion; and further explores the nature of the CIA as an instrument of the Executive Branch.

Part One includes archival newsreel footage of the important news events of the period intercut with filmed interviews with some of the major personalities of the period who helped shape its history.

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Among those interviewed are: Philip Agee, CIA officer from 1959-1969; William Colby, who joined the CIA in the 1940's and was CIA Director from 1970-75; Victor Marchetti, CIA officer 1955-1969 and Assistant to the Deputy Director; Victor Reuther, United Automobile Workers CIO International Representative in Europe, 1951-54; Sig Mickelson, President, CBS News, 1954-1963 and President of Radio Liberty, 1975-1980; David Atlee Phillips, CIA Officer 1954-1975 and Director of the CIA's Western Hemisphere Division; and John Stockwell, CIA officer 1964-1977 (Ivory Coast, Congo, Burundi, Vietnam, Angola) and Chief of the Angola Task Force 1975.

The second segment of "On Company Business," airing on NON FICTION TELEVISION Friday, May 16,* will explore the CIA's methods of manipulating public opinion, using Latin America in the 1960's as an example. The segment alleges that the 1964 coup in Brazil was a CIA covert operation which had been in the planning stages for two years and documents how this coup was organized by CIA infiltrators in the labor unions of Brazil. This section also investigates CIA involvement in teaching the techniques of interrogation and torture in cooperation with secret police of other countries.

Among those interviewed in this segment are: Joseph Burkholder Smith, CIA Officer 1951-1973 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Phillipines, Argentina and Mexico); William Doherty, Executive Director, American Institute for Free Labor Development; Andrew Mellon, AFL-CIO Inter-American Representative; CIA Officers William Colby, David Atlee Phillips; Dr, Hugo Vilas and Juan Ferriera, Uruguyan exiles; and Angela Seixas, Brazilian exile,

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The third and final segment of "on Company Business," airing Friday, May 23* over PBS, will examine the CIA's role in the events which led up to the 1973 coup in Chile, using interviews with participants, such as Laura Allende, Chilean exile and sister of former Chilean President Salvador Allende; Isabel Letelier, Chilean exile and widow of Ambassador Orlando Letelier; and former U.S. diplomat Edward Korry, U.S. Ambassador to Chile 1967-1971. This section also explores the issue of CIA accountability to the American public and focuses on the CIA-supported Angola operation of 1975-76 when the CIA continued its secret operations even while the U.S. Congress was investigating the organization's past covert operations.

The three-hour film documentary concludes by asking several key questions: Can a foreign policy instrument such as the CIA be effectively controlled? As pressure mounts on the President to intervene overseas, such as in the current Iran situation, can the CIA be properly supervised? In view of the previous CIA interventions, have American foreign policy makers learned the lessons of the past? Can we expect the CIA to be used in the same way for the next 30 years as it has been for the past 30 years?

CIA officers Agee, Stockwell, Smith Phillips, Colby and Marchetti offer their views on the past history and possible future direction of the CIA in this concluding segment.

"On Company Business" was recently shown at Filmex in Los Angeles and at the Berlin Film Festival, where it won the special International Critics Prize.

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"On Company Business" is a Howard Dratch, Allan Francovich, Isla Negra Films production. It was directed by Francovich, edited by Veronica Selver and Alice Erber and researched by Dratch. Francovich and Kathleen Weaver.

The film was produced with grants from the Independent Documentary Fund, the Foundation for Open Company, Inc., FDM Productions, Inc., Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Film Fund and The North Shore Unitarian Veateh Program.

The Independent Documentary Fund was created with grants from the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts in 1978. It was established to encourage the production of new and innovative documentaries by independent film and video makers for national broadcast on public television.

David R. Loxton, Director of the Television Laboratory at WNET/THIRTEEN, New York, is the Executive Producer for the NON FICTION TELEVISION series. Kathy Kline is the Coordinating Producer for the series.

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