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WALT RAYMOND INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Q: Press reports state that there is no CIA involvement in the Public Diplomacy Program. Yet isn't Walt Raymond, a CIA employee, involved heavily?

A. Walter Raymond is a member of the National Security Council staff. In the past he has worked for Defense, CIA and State. It is true that in the formative stages of the effort, Walt Raymond contributed many useful ideas. It is ironic that he was one of those who was most insistent that there be no CIA involvement in this program in any way.

Indeed, it is a credit to the Agency that it has stressed throughout that the United States ought to be completely open about the programs it puts in place to assist in the development of democratic institutions and that none of these programs should come under the aegis of the CIA. They do not want to be involved in managing these programs and will not be. We have nothing to hide here. It is entirely reasonable for the United States and other countries to be nurturing labor unions, free press and the other private and public sector bodies essential to effective democratic process if they ask for it. Our friends in Europe have been doing this for years.

IF PRESSED ABOUT WHERE HE LAST WORKED:

He retired from CIA. He is a permanent member of the National Security Council.

IF PRESSED ABOUT WHAT HIS DUTIES WERE:

His duties there are classified.

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Mr. Walter Raymond, Jr. was born October 14, 1929 in New York, New York. He is married and has three children. He received a BA from the College of William and Mary and a Masters from Yale. He is also a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College, class of 1975.

Mr. Raymond has been a United States Government official since 1952 when he served with the United States Army. He subsequently served with the Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, the White House and the Department of State. He has lived in Germany, France and England, speaks French and German and has travelled extensively in Europe and the Middle East.

Mr. Raymond has been particularly active in fields of public diplomacy and international affairs both as an information and political officer and as a foreign policy specialist. He has concentrated on a broad range of international issues and joined the National Security Council as a senior staff member in July 1982.