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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 97-1463  
19 May 1997

Mr. John Millis  
Staff Director  
Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear John:

SUBJECT: Notification

COUNTRY: United States

ISSUE: (C) Identification of a CIA Employee (Marrell McCollough)  
in *Time* Magazine

(U) Forwarded herewith is a background paper regarding  
the subject mentioned above.

(U) If you have any further questions regarding this  
issue, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. H. Moseman".

John H. Moseman  
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure

CY BY: 710712  
CL REASON: 1.5(c)  
DECL ON: X1  
DRV FROM: COV 1-82

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 97-1463/1  
19 May 1997

Mr. Michael W. Sheehy  
Democratic Counsel  
Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mike:

SUBJECT: Notification

COUNTRY: United States

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Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 97-1463/2  
19 May 1997

Mr. Taylor Lawrence  
Staff Director  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Taylor:

SUBJECT: Notification

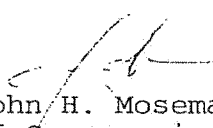
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Director of Congressional Affairs

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 97-1463/3  
19 May 1997

Mr. Chris Straub  
Minority Staff Director  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chris:

SUBJECT: Notification

COUNTRY: United States

ISSUE: (C) Identification of a CIA Employee (Marrell McCollough)  
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Director of Congressional Affairs

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 97-1463/4

19 May 1997

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

SUBJECT: Notification

COUNTRY: United States

ISSUE: (C) Identification of a CIA Employee (Marrell McCollough)  
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Director of Congressional Affairs

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DRV FROM: COV 1-82

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 97-1463/5

19 May 1997

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

SUBJECT: Notification

COUNTRY: United States

ISSUE: (C) Identification of a CIA Employee (Marrell McCollough)  
in *Time* Magazine

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SUBJECT: Congressional Notification/Identification of a CIA Employee (Marrell McCollough) in *Time* Magazine

(U) The purpose of this correspondence is to notify the oversight committees of the identification of a CIA employee in a recent *Time* magazine article (King Conspiracy Update, page 29, dated April 14, 1997). The article identifies Mr. Merrell McCullough (sic), who was with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

(U) The article contains a photo of Mr. McCollough kneeling over Dr. King moments after he was shot. According to the article, conspiracy theorists are focusing on Mr. McCollough as a participant in a US Government conspiracy to murder Dr. King. These theorists believe that Mr. McCollough was a secret US agent who helped cover up the plot. Mr. McCollough was a Memphis, Tennessee, policeman working undercover at the time of the assassination. In the late 1970s, Mr. McCollough testified before the House of Representatives "Stokes" Committee regarding Dr. King's assassination.

(U) Preceding the *Time* article, Mr. McCollough's name was mentioned on an episode of ABC's *Prime Time Live* which aired 3 April 1997. The show identified Mr. McCollough as a CIA employee and implied that he could have been working for the Agency at the time of the assassination. After the show aired, other members of the media began contacting the CIA's Public Affairs Staff (PAS).

(C) Mr. McCollough entered on duty with the CIA on 23 June 1974 and served as a covert employee from 1974 to 1991; his cover was lifted as of 15 December 1991. Since Mr. McCollough is now an overt CIA employee, we were concerned that the media would attempt to link CIA and the Dr. King assassination. PAS, with direction from the Acting Director of Central Intelligence, gave background information to Mr. Jack White of *Time* magazine confirming Mr. McCollough's employment with the CIA since 1974. PAS emphasized to Mr. White the fact that Mr. McCollough was not hired until six years after the assassination took place.

(U) Following Agency policy, Mr. McCollough has reported all contact with the media to PAS.

CL BY 0723248  
CL REASON: 1.5c  
DECL ON: X1  
DRV FM COV 1-82

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SUBJECT: (C) NOTIFICATION Regarding Identification of a  
CIA Employee (Marrell McCollough) in Time Magazine

DCI/OCA/LG/MJSulick:dms/37292 (14 May 97)  
OCA 97-1463/1-5 (FN:wdata/notify/da970235.doc)

Distribution: OCA 97-1463

- Original - John Millis, HPSCI (w/encl)
- 1 - OCA Records (w/encl)
- 1 - D/OCA (w/encl)
- 1 - DCI/OCA/AO (w/encl)
- 1 - DDA (w/encl) #DA 97-0235
- 1 - Notification File (w/encl)

OCA 97-1463/1

- Original - Michael Sheehy, HPSCI (w/encl)
- 1 - OCA Records (w/encl)
- 1 - Notification File (w/encl)

OCA 97-1463/2

- Original - Taylor Lawrence, SSCI (w/encl)
- 1 - OCA Records (w/encl)
- 1 - Notification File (w/encl)

OCA 97-1463/3

- Original - Chris Straub, SSCI (w/encl)
- 1 - OCA Records (w/encl)
- 1 - Notification File (w/encl)

OCA 97-1463/4

- Original - Chm C.W. Bill Young, HAC/NS (w/encl)
- 1 - OCA Records (w/encl)
- 1 - Notification File (w/encl)

OCA 97-1463/5

- Original - Chm Ted Stevens, SAC/DEF (w/encl)
- 1 - OCA Records (w/encl)
- 1 - Notification File (w/encl)

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## King Conspiracy Update

For years, conspiracy theorists who believe that the U.S. government plotted the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. have focused on **Merrell McCullough**, an undercover Memphis, Tennessee, policeman who was seen crouching beside King's body moments after the civil rights leader was shot at the Lorraine Motel 29 years ago last week. According to the the-

orists, McCullough was a secret U.S. agent who helped cover up the plot by pointing toward the flophouse from which the FBI maintains James Earl Ray fired the fatal shot, leading police away from a brushy area across the street where several witnesses saw a man who they believe may have been the real assassin.



JOSEPH LOUIS

Last week TIME confirmed from U.S. government sources that McCullough has in fact been a CIA agent since at least 1974. McCullough denies being on any intelligence agency's payroll at the

time of the murder and, for that matter, being part of any assassination conspiracy.

—By Jack E. White

## WRETCHED EXCESSES

### Want a Shake with That?

Fast food isn't exactly one of America's more glamorous cultural symbols, but that hasn't put off bag lady to the rich and famous **Kathrine Baumann**. New to her menu of ritzy glass-beaded purses, clutched by such celebrities as Liz Taylor, Melanie Griffith and Barbara Walters, is what she calls "the great American meal," a hamburger, fries and a bottle of Coca-Cola. It's hardly a take-out order for the common gal, however. This little set of McTrinkets costs about \$6,000, which comes to more than 1,000 "great American meals."



## Say It With a :)

You can chat online until your fingers are raw, but you still can't convey the emotional subtlety of face-to-face conversation. That's why emoticons were invented: those clever keyboard images designed to punctuate online palaver with a filip of feeling. Some have become well known: :) is a wink and a smile (in other words, aren't I ironic?). But the art form has spread beyond its first primitive symbols to become an increasingly complex form of Net expression. Herewith a quick sampling of the latest in postliterate sign language:

- :-( (I'm shedding a tear of joy)
- 3;-) (I'm giving you a devilish leer)
- :-X (My lips are sealed)
- :-O (I'm shocked)
- @} —> (Please accept this rose)
- %\*} (I'm drunk)
- :-{ (I have a Mohawk)
- :-P (I'm sticking my tongue out at you)
- +O:-) (I'm the Pope)

A quick quiz: Translate the following conversation.

Boy: 3;-)  
Girl: :-P  
Boy: @} —>  
Girl: :-)

What happens after that? Nobody's business but their own—and maybe the Supreme Court.

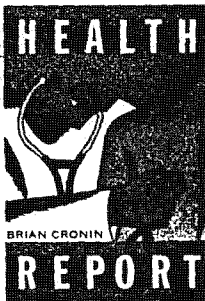
—By Michael Krantz

## THE GOOD NEWS

Go ahead, have the vanilla cone. Women who consume foods rich in calcium—milk, cheese and yogurt—may lower their risk of **KIDNEY STONES**.

Worried about coronary disease? Take heart. Doctors may have isolated a new risk factor for **HEART DISEASE** and stroke that's simple to pick up with a blood test: chronic inflammation of the arteries. Men with high levels of inflammation may have three times the risk of heart attack and double the chance of a stroke.

A new drug for **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS** called Copaxone reduces the frequency of attacks without causing flu-like symptoms or many of the other troubling side effects associated with today's interferon-based drugs.



BRIAN CRONIN

REPORT

## THE BAD NEWS

✓ The unkindest cut? Contrary to current thinking, **CIRCUMCISION** may not protect against sexually transmitted disease, though researchers can't explain why. In fact, the incidence of chlamydia may be 25 times as high among circumcised men.

✓ Pregnant women, steer clear of smoke. Exposure to **PASSIVE SMOKE**—even small amounts—can significantly increase the odds of giving birth to a baby whose lungs don't function properly.

The damage begins in utero when chemicals from cigarette smoke cause less oxygen to go from mother to fetus.

✓ Do you have **HEART PALPITATIONS**? If you're a woman, chances are they'll be misdiagnosed as a panic attack rather than a benign but treatable heart-rhythm disorder.

—2000 NEWS: Annals of Internal Medicine; New England Journal of Medicine; Teva Marion Pharmaceuticals; Journal of the American Medical Association; Environmental Health Perspectives; Archives of Internal Medicine