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December 26, 1989

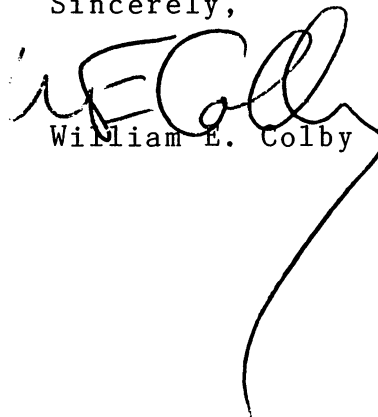
Mr. Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

You kindly responded to my request for a copy of a resolution proposed by Councillor Graham and adopted by the City Council of Cambridge on November 20, 1989, which refers to me. I first heard of this resolution when it was read to me at the meeting arranged by and at the Cambridge Public Library on November 21.

May I request that the comments I have attached to this letter be presented to the Cambridge City Council members for their consideration.

Sincerely,


William E. Colby

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

December 27, 1989

To: City Council
City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

From: William E. Colby

Re: Council Resolution dated November 20, 1989

1. I first learned of the subject resolution when it was read to me, with considerable passion, at a meeting at which I spoke at the Cambridge Public Library on November 21, 1989. I was somewhat startled that a public body such as the City Council would have stated such condemnatory conclusions with respect to a fellow American citizen without the slightest regard for the elemental considerations of due process which require at least a consideration of the views of the individual being judged before judgement is decided, especially from such a center of American jurisprudence as Cambridge. I understand that the Council's conclusions were only to express its "deep reservation" about the use of the public library and to urge the citizens of the community to "seek out the truth", but it did express "abhorence at what Colby represents", which seems to express a conclusion without trial.

2. Somewhat after decision has been rendered by the Council, let me make a few points in response to the Whereas clauses of the Council's resolution:

- A. I did appear at the Cambridge public Library at the time and date specified, to express my opinions about the Vietnam War and to respond to the audience's questions on the subject. I believe that such an appearance is not only within our First Amendment rights, it is a way of responding to our citizens' questions and concerns about a matter of major public interest.
- B. With respect to the Phoenix program in Vietnam, I have testified several times under oath and written publicly that it was not a program which "targeted for political

assassination" opponents of the Vietnamese government. I said that numbers of the Communist secret apparatus it tried to identify in South Vietnam were killed, but that the greatest percentage of these were killed in military operations, and that the program was not a program of "assassination". I also denied that the program involved torture and murder, and am prepared to offer evidence of that fact. I am appalled that the Council would come to its conclusion without the most elemental elements of due process on such a grievous charge.

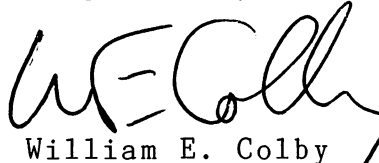
- C. With respect to the 1973 coup in Chile, again I have testified before the Congress with respect to the CIA role in Chile, and have specifically denied the attribution of "destabilization" with respect to its programs there. The resolution of the Council, which it adopted without apparent consideration of the facts or testimony from individuals cognizant of them, is plainly wrong, and libelous of my role without the slightest review of the contesting views of the situation.
- D. I flatly deny that I lied to the Congress with respect to the Angola operation, which was conducted in full compliance with American law. Again I find the Council in violation of the elemental principles of American jurisprudence in charging me with a felony without the slightest respect for due process.
- E. As I outlined in my book and is well known to anyone with the slightest knowledge of intelligence law, my submission of my book to the CIA prior to publication was only to determine that it did not reveal material important to our national security, and the CIA exerted no "censorship to control the 'image' of the CIA and conceal the truth".

The resolution of the Council then "expresses its deep reservation about the use of our public library to promote or condone in anyway Mr. Colby", which seems about as clear an expression of suppression of views to which it objects as anyone can imagine, a startling view in such a bastion of free expression as Cambridge. It then urges the citizens of the

community to vigorously challenge Colby and aggressively (sic) seek out the truth about Colby - a charge I fully accept in our democratic society, and in fact responded to by my public appearance there. But it then goes on to express "abhorrence at what Colby represents", a conclusion I forcefully reject and which I am startled that such a body could arrive at without any apparent effort to examine the considerations (which I am prepared to prove erroneous) upon which it is based.

In this period of the triumph of the appetite for freedom in Eastern Europe, it is dismaying that in one of its birthplaces we see the desire to suppress the contrary view, and that this can occur without the elemental requirements of hearing it out before decision. I would hope that the City Council of Cambridge might review its resolution of November 21st.

Respectfully submitted,


William E. Colby

13. S-54

Comm. from William E. Colby relative to
resolution adopted by the City Council and
transmitting comments to the City Council.

In City Council,

January 8, 1990

Placed on file