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C.I.A. Denies a Murder Effort

AP
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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27— The Central Intelligence Agency said Wednesday that it had never plotted to kill Ronald Rewald, an investment counselor in Honolulu who asserts that his failed company was a C.I.A. front.

The agency said it had been so accused in reports broadcast by ABC News on Sept. 19 and 20.

"As ABC knows, the C.I.A. along with the rest of the U.S. Government is prohibited by law from engaging in or contemplating assassination," the agency said in a statement. It asked for a retraction.

Joanna Bistany, a spokesman for ABC News, said, "We stand by our story." She said ABC News had "never accused the C.I.A. of attempting an assassination"

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but only reported allegations made by Mr. Rewald and Scott Barnes, who is described by ABC News as having an "extensive intelligence background."

The C.I.A. has acknowledged using Mr. Rewald's firm, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong, as a mail drop, but denies that the agency was involved in creation of the company or in handling investors' funds. Mr. Rewald is facing charges that he defrauded investors of millions of dollars.

Mr. Rewald and a group of investors have sued the C.I.A. for \$671 million for damages related to the collapse of the firm.

The C.I.A. also denied "other improper activities" alleged in the ABC News report but declined to specify to which allegations it was referring.

The ABC News spokesman said its reporters had repeatedly requested interviews with C.I.A. officials so they "could get out their side of the story, and they refused."

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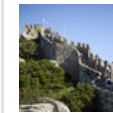


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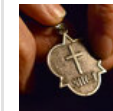
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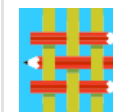
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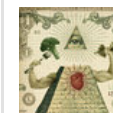
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