



**'Upper echelon' in NBA draft**  
 ■ Greg Oden, Kevin Durant just part of talent pool, 1, 8C  
By Steve H. Carter, AP

**USA TODAY**  
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**Women take bow at BET**  
 ■ Diana Ross among stars receiving honors, 2D  
By Marla Anderson, Associated Press

Oden: Ohio State star likely to go fast Thursday.

Jennifer Hudson: Performs at awards show Tuesday.

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

# CIA discloses past abuses



**From spying to poison, CIA's secret legacy**  
 Declassified intelligence reports reveal ...

**Chief says agency is beyond acts of 'very different era'**

By Richard Willing  
 USA TODAY

**Assassination plot**



In 1960, Fidel Castro became the target for a "sensitive mission requiring gangster-type action." Through an intermediary, the agency reached out to Mafia figure Johnny Roselli, who recruited mobsters to plot to kill Castro by poisoning his food.

WASHINGTON — For three decades, reports of rogue CIA operations from plotting Fidel Castro's assassination to collecting files on U.S. citizens have trickled into the public arena. Now the agency is acknowledging its past illegal activities and revealing in startling detail how it crossed the line.

Tuesday's disclosure of the CIA's secrets from the 1950s until the early '70s shows how the agency repeatedly violated its own charter. As the CIA now endures criticism for its role in pre-Iraq war intelligence failures, it has exposed past flaws by complying with a 15-year-old request to disclose those activities.

One set of documents details a 1960 plot to poison Castro's food by conspiring with organized-crime figures and an aide to tycoon Howard Hughes.

Gen. Michael Hayden, the CIA director, said the agency has learned "from its history" and moved beyond the abuses detailed in the report. "We will find in the press coverage of today's release reminders of some things the CIA should not have done," Hayden said in a note to agency employees. "The documents truly do provide a glimpse of a very different era and a very different agency."

Releasing "unflattering" details of the CIA's history will increase public trust in the agency, said Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

"This decision may upset some who worry that releasing these so-called Family Jewels puts the 'good old days' in a negative light," Reyes said. "But the truth is that the 'good old days' weren't always that good."

Critics say the modern CIA is too quick to distance itself from past abuses. The documents provide an important historical record of the CIA's "skeletons," said Thomas Blanton, director of the National Security Archive, a watchdog group. The archive's 1992 Freedom of Information Act request prompted the documents' release.

"The CIA cannot be allowed to simply walk away from its skeletons," he said. "Especially when some of those skeletons, like warrantless wiretapping, are alive and walking around today."

The documents, which contain many blank pages, provide little information about current operations, says Ted Gup, author of *Nation of Secrets*, a 2007 book on government and private sector secrecy. "History welcomes disclosure," Gup said. "But what we as citizens need is something vastly more insightful."

CIA officials compiled the documents in 1973, after newspaper reports connected the June 1972 Watergate break-in to former CIA officers E. Howard Hunt and James McCord.

The report, a collection of various memorandums from CIA officials, also shows how the agency:

- ▶ Collected files on 9,900 Americans active in the anti-Vietnam War movement. In addition, the agency planted agents in peace groups in the 1960s and sought information on radicals and black militants.
- ▶ Carried out "behavior modification" experiments on unwitting citizens, including mind-altering drugs. Some test subjects were secretly given hallucinogens such as LSD so agents could observe their reactions.
- ▶ Spied on columnist Jack Anderson and three of his researchers, including Brit Hume, now a Fox television news anchor, in an attempt to learn their sources.
- ▶ Planned to assassinate Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba and Rafael Trujillo, leader of the Dominican Republic. Both men were killed in 1961. The CIA had no role in Lumumba's murder but had a "faint connection" to Trujillo's death, the report states.

**Spying on students**



In 1968, CIA operatives working with the U.S. Secret Service illegally spied on protesters at the Democratic and Republican national conventions. Civil rights protesters were also targeted.

**More on Watergate**



In 1973, the role of former agent E. Howard Hunt in the Watergate break-in led CIA Director James Schlesinger to investigate whether the agency had been involved in activities outside its charter. Hunt was a key member of President Nixon's White House "plumbers" team.

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 www.nsaarchive.org