

Debate on CIA Intervention in Indonesia

Ralph McGehee: "The CIA prepared a study of the 1965 Indonesian operation that described what the Agency did there. I happened to have been custodian of that study for a time, and I know what specific steps the Agency took to create the conditions that led to the massacre of half a million Indonesians..."

Hugh Tovar: "I am rather shattered by these allegations... I was in charge of CIA operations in Jakarta at that time, so I would have been the primary instigator of the massacres that allegedly took place. In fact, the CIA served *primarily* [emphasis added throughout] as an intelligence collecting operation in Indonesia and *did not indulge heavily in covert action*. We certainly did not instigate the 1965 revolt. We had nothing to do with it."

This exchange between two former CIA officers took place in the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, DC in 1984, for a panel chaired by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Taken from Mark Danner, ed., "Should the US Fight Secret Wars?" *Harpers*, September 30, 1984. Full transcript of debate available at <http://markdanner.com/1984/09/30/should-the-cia-fight-secret-wars/>.