6-11-75

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With Les Whitten

FROM CIA TO FIA?

WASHINGTON.

A blue-ribbon commission, with such prestigious members as Vice President Rockefeller and Senate Democratic leader Mansfield, is expected to recommend on June 30 that the embattled CIA should continue its controversial undercover operations under a new name.

The staff has prepared a confidential study, proposing that the CIA start anew as the Foreign Intelligence Agency. The study is expected to be approved by the full commission, which will submit it to both President Ford and Congress at the end of the month.

The staff study declares forcefully: "We believe that firmer central direction and oversight of the intelligence community is essential. That is the main thrust of our recommendations."

The study also cautions that "covert action"—which is defined as "activity abroad intended not to gather information but to influence events"—"should be employed only where clearly essential to vital U. S. purposes which are impossible to attain through other means, and then only after the most careful process of high-level review."

"But," emphasizes the report, "we do not conclude that covert action can or should be abolished."

The law now requires the President personally to certify to Congress the necessity for an undercover operation. The report suggests this "is harmful in associating the head of state so formally with such activities."

The study, therefore, recommends revoking "any requirement for the personal certification of the President as to their necessity."

Footnote: In a reference aimed at Secretary of State Kissinger, who also serves as the President's national security adviser, the report recommends that "in the future, the assistant to the President for national security affairs should not ordinarily hold a Cabinet position as well." A spokesman for the commission refused to comment on the study.

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Of one million business executives who make up America's power elite, a startling 150,000 to 200,000 are "irresponsible alcohol users."

Most of them manage to cope with their jobs despite an overdose of lunchtime martinis and evening cocktails. But they ruin their family lives and lead their children to drink.

These are the confidential findings of a survey, which the high-powered Booz, Allen and Hamilton firm conducted for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

The taxpayers put up $50,000 for the study, which touted a clinic-resort for the rich. But an NIAAA spokesman, while acknowledging that the government considered funding this glorified drunk tank, said it was ruled out because the affluent can pay for their own treatment. The funds are more badly needed, he agreed, for non-millionaire alcoholics.

But one of the government officials who authorized the costly study, former NIAAA deputy chief Ken Eaton, is now using it to promote a private resort-clinic with himself as its head, our sources say.

Eaton conceded to us that he has discussed the idea with his former boss, NIAAA chief Dr. Morris Chafetz. Eaton said he had also talked about the project with an entrepreneur. But he insisted he was merely "blue skying" the idea. He swore he had never used the report, which he had promoted while at NIAAA, to solicit loans from banks to build a private treatment center.

As Booz-Allen conceived it, the clinic-resort would match the most fabulous vacation centers. It would offer "golf for father," "sculpting workshop for mother," "photography workshop for children," not to mention the usual tennis, billiards, swimming and other deluxe pursuits.

The emphasis would be on recreation to make the cure as pleasant as possible. But there would also be counseling sessions, with the drunken member of the family getting the most counseling and also the hair of the dog that bit him.

"Consumption of alcohol while in the treatment environment will not be prohibited as a rule," suggests the study, although it would be controlled by "hours and amounts." Of course, some patients "simply should not drink" and, therefore, would get no hootch at all.

The Booz-Allen study calls for a pilot program, costing about $725,000, as an adjunct to an existing vacation complex. The money might be put up, suggests the study, by the taxpayers. If the project is successful, a complete resort could be built for the silk-stocking souses for around $7 million, the study says.

Footnote: According to the study, 60 per cent of the executive lushes are between 45 and 64 years old, 96 per cent are married and 65 per cent have no more than one child.

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The fatcats are always raising money, it seems, for their friends on Capitol Hill. The Mortgage Bankers Political Action Committee has sent out a fund appeal, which speaks baldly of spending $50,000 on "Congressmen who understand and support our industry's sound policies."