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James Angleton: 'Brilliant' CIA Agent

Because of the recent thrusts against the CIA, and specifically, James Angleton, it seems in order to remind the reading public, and influential critics such as journalists, senators, congressmen, and several former CIA employees, that the National Security Act of 1947, established the CIA for the purpose of performing two functions:

(1) To maintain a continuous reading on the intentions and capabilities of our opposition (and friends as well) in order to provide the United States government with a realistic basis for formulating a variable U.S. foreign policy. This meant operating on a global basis and hence the far-flung CIA Intelligence operations, reaching into every country in the world.

(2) To establish a counter-intelligence network on a global basis to identify opposition agents, to monitor their activities, and to neutralize them, in order to prevent the intentions, capabilities, and secrets of the United States government from being penetrated and known to the opposition. (The Counter-Intelligence Division also has an internal agency function, i.e. to prevent leakage of information concerning the identity of CIA personnel and CIA methods.)

The Counter-Intelligence Division of the CIA was organized by James Angleton, the most brilliant counter-intelligence mind this country has ever

produced. During the past 27 years, he selected CIA personnel and trained them to staff-out his division. Through their combined efforts they have done a brilliant job in preventing U.S. secrets from falling into the hands of the opposition.

Angleton has earned and deserves the gratefulness of every American citizen for the magnitude of his contribution to the security of the United States, and his unwavering devotion to the goals and objectives of his Counter-Intelligence Division.

To do the job James Angleton has done, requires a quality of intrinsic secrecy which cannot be separated from operations. It is not a question in the Counter-Intelligence field *how* the job gets done, but *did it get done*. The cold unescapable question is always there—did you get to the opposition, and did you stop him from stealing our secrets?

Jim Angleton did.

We who have known him as the master-workman, and love and respect him as a friend, have been deeply saddened to see him go, for in the no-man's-land of global counter-intelligence, where only brains, and wits and courage count, James Angleton is irreplaceable.

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