

Ex-CIA Executive Kirkpatrick Defends Agency, Hits Soviets

By JEFF GASTER

A former executive director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), now a professor, defended the CIA in the context of American freedom and attacked the suppression of the truth by the Soviet Union in a speech at the University last week and in an article in the Oct. 11 issue of U.S. News and World Report.

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, Jr., professor of political science at Brown University and the Naval War College (Newport, R.I.), spoke before Professor Faris R. Kirkland's military science class, "International Arena and Public Interest," on "Propaganda and National Leadership" last Thursday. His magazine article was a defense of the CIA, in which he held several influential positions over the last two decades.

Kirkpatrick joined the CIA in 1947. He was given the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service in 1964 and was awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal in 1965, when he accepted his post at Brown.

The "war for men's minds" was cited as the objective behind propaganda used by all nations. Kirkpatrick said that this goal was especially evident in the selection of news by nations such as the U.S.S.R. and Communist China, as well as by newspapers in "free" nations where journalists are "trying to shape your mind."

He contrasted the American and Russian presentations of the "truth," saying that "in a free society the government must be close to the truth or a credibility gap will develop; the Russian KGB, however, has a Disinformation Bureau which is very successful in its goals."

Turning to the American outlook on the world, Kirkpatrick called President Nixon "the most powerful man on earth, whose responsibility is to lead the U.S. in international relations."

Kirkpatrick pointed to the effect of

American national leadership on the public in the recent "China case." He said, "Before news of the Kissinger mission to China was out and Nixon's visit was arranged, Americans held a hostile attitude toward China. Not only did this new development change opinions in the U.S., but the entire world was influenced so that the positions of about half of the nations in the world changed on the U.N. vote on Chinese admission."

In the magazine article, "A Former CIA Executive Defends Its Operations," the professor revealed some of the procedures which assure a "controlled" CIA—something not commonly known.

The professor, who is on leave from Brown, noted, "The Pentagon Papers eloquently support my point that the CIA national intelligence estimates are quite independent of overwhelming military influence."

Refuting a commonly-held myth, Kirkpatrick stated that "the Central Intelligence Agency has no internal-security police or subpoena powers. It investigates its own applicants and persons with whom it must deal, but its attention is directed outside the United States. There are no professors secretly on the CIA's payroll, although some have assisted the agency in spotting individuals who might qualify for intelligence work abroad."

Teaching at the Naval War College this year, he indicated that "if you cannot trust the people in it (intelligence organizations), you are doomed to failure. The Russians are now experiencing that in London. The damage that one can do who betrays his trust is incalculable. The point is that the most important principle that must be used in building an intelligence organization is that its personnel must be of unimpeachable

integrity. They are not recruited because they are amoral adventurers. They are hired only if they have high intellectual achievements and are of good character."

Kirkpatrick deals with another misconception in his article. "Not only does the CIA fully reveal its budget to the Appropriations subcommittees of Congress, it goes into whatever detail the members desire," stated Kirkpatrick, a participant in Congressional-CIA relations since 1951. "The CIA has never refused to answer a question forthrightly and frankly from a member of these subcommittees. In fact, the CIA has taken the initiative in insuring that the subcommittees were kept fully informed of its activities."

The political science professor continued, "I submit that there is no federal agency of our Government whose activities receive closer scrutiny and 'control' than the CIA."

The former CIA executive director, who is confined to a wheelchair, condemned Soviet activities in the intelligence field, citing "105 Russians being expelled from Great Britain for subversive activities including planned sabotage."

He referred to this event extensively during his speech at the University, where he emphasized that "Tass, Izvestia and Pravda print only what the government wants printed. The Russian people will never know the basic facts."

He concluded that "I am convinced that any lessening of our vigilance before reaching a meaningful and enforceable agreement with the Russians could lead to a national catastrophe. Until then, like it or not, there is a cold war!"