

## OBITUARIES

# Ray S. Cline Dies at 77; U.S. Intelligence Official

By Bart Barnes  
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Ray S. Cline, 77, a former official of the Central Intelligence Agency who played a critical role in shaping the system by which national leaders receive estimates of what is happening elsewhere in the world, died March 15 at his home in Arlington. He had Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Cline served 20 years in the CIA and its World War II predecessor agency, the Office of Strategic Services. From 1962 to 1966, he was the chief of the CIA's Intelligence Directorate. In that capacity, he led the operation that digested and tried to make sense of a plethora of raw data and classified information collected daily by government agencies and individual operatives.

He later was chief of CIA operations in Germany, then in 1969 was named director of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, which analyzes information on events around the world and does long-range forecasting of political, economic and sociological trends. He resigned from that position in 1973 in a policy disagreement with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

In books and articles published after leaving government service, Mr. Cline would contend that the benefits of detente with the Soviet Union had been oversold to the American public. He accused Kissinger and other policymakers of trying to control the flow of intelligence "to keep it from embarrassing the White House."

During World War II, Mr. Cline began his intelligence career as a Navy cryptanalyst, a position he held in 1942 and 1943. Subsequently, he

moved to the Office of Strategic Services, where he was chief of the intelligence staff. After the war, he wrote "Washington Command Post," an official history on wartime U.S. military planning.

He received a doctorate in international relations and history from Harvard University and, in 1949, joined the CIA. There, Mr. Cline was among a nucleus of scholars, including Sherman Kent and Abbott Smith, who developed a systematic process for the coordination and rigorous evaluation of all foreign information available within the U.S. government. For most of his career, he specialized in analysis and evaluation.

Within the CIA, Mr. Cline was known as a sharp and penetrating analyst with a conciliatory and amiable demeanor and a penchant for defusing conflicts by prevailing on the participants to pause and think matters over.

But he also worked in covert operations. "Ray Cline . . . was both intrigued by undercover work and ambitious to climb to the very top of an agency that has been dominated by covert operators from its earliest days. So in 1958, after a short course in clandestine 'tradecraft,' Cline became the CIA's head of operations on Taiwan," wrote former Foreign Service officer John Marks in a 1976 review of Mr. Cline's book, "Secrets, Spies and Scholars."

In that book, Mr. Cline espoused a hard line on foreign policy matters, and he argued that covert operations should not be seen as "dirty tricks," but as secret assistance to U.S. foreign friends. "It was not illogical," he

contended for the agency to try to employ the Mafia to assassinate Cuban dictator Fidel Castro since the Mafia's "former Havana gambling empire gave them some contacts to work with and since a gangland killing would be unlikely to be attributed to the U.S. government."

After retiring from government service, Mr. Cline taught at Georgetown University and became executive director of Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

He also became a vocal and aggressive supporter of Taiwan and leader of a pressure group backing

Taiwan's interests, the Coalition for Asian Peace and Security. In its publications, that organization criticized "the unpredictable and often antagonistic attitude of our State Department officials in their efforts to curry favor with the Chinese Communist regime."

Mr. Cline also organized study programs on Taiwan at Georgetown, paid for in part by grants from Taiwanese businessmen, and he arranged free trips to Taiwan for congressional aides under the university's "Pacific Basin Project."

He had served as a foreign policy adviser to George Bush in his 1980 candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination and later to President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Cline was born in Anderson Township, Ill., and he graduated from Harvard University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He also received a master's degree in history and literature from Harvard, and he later studied literature at Balliol College at Oxford University in England.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Marjorie Wilson Cline, and two daughters, Judy Fontaine and Sibyl MacKenzie, all of Arlington; and two grandchildren.