

LAIRD TIGHTENS UP CONTROL ON SPYING

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Froehlke Will Oversee Military Agencies

By FRED S. HOFFMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has acted to tighten control over military intelligence agencies, until now only loosely supervised from the top of the Pentagon.

Laird has directed Robert H. Froehlke, assistant secretary of defense for administration, to oversee the operations of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the shadowy National Security Agency.

Sources said Saturday the move was not prompted by either the Pueblo or EC121 incidents, but long had been favored by some key officials of the past Democratic administration.

"We need a focal point for supervision of intelligence below the secretary of defense," said one official of the Laird move. "The secretary is just too busy with too many matters to give it the personal attention it should have."

FRIEND OF LAIRD

So Froehlke, a friend of Laird, will act as his eyes and ears.

Officials obviously feel both of the Defense Department's chief intelligence agencies should be watched over more carefully, both to avoid duplication and to make sure they do not move into operations beyond their charters.

There are indications that some top officials feel the NSA is edging beyond its main assigned job of collecting information and into the business of evaluation. The agency is reported planning to buy big computers for that purpose.

Although the Navy has said that neither the spy ship Pueblo nor the EC121 reconnaissance plane was on an NSA mission when they ran into grief off North Korea, the two incidents in 1968 and this year heightened congressional interest in U.S. intelligence op-

erations and raised new questions about them.

Although the NSA and DIA maintain some coordination, they now are in separate chains of command up to the Secretary of Defense.

Both maintain worldwide operations, the NSA with more than 10,000 military and civilian staff members and DIA with better than 6,000. Both are separate from the CIA—the Central Intelligence Agency.

The National Security Agency, established 17 years ago, has headquarters at nearby Ft. Meade, Md., and specializes in electronic eavesdropping and code cracking of foreign nations—reportedly including the military codes of friendly countries.

MONITOR STATIONS

It has secret land, sea and air monitoring stations around the world.

The U.S. spy ship Liberty had three NSA technicians aboard when it was attacked by Israeli

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forces in the Mediterranean off Egypt in June 1967.

Of the two agencies, NSA has been the more controversial.

The defection of three NSA employees to Russia in the early 1960s caused Congress to enact legislation tightening the NSA's personnel security procedures.

DIA was a creation of former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara in 1961.

Organized over the opposition of the armed services, the Defense Intelligence Agency was assigned the job of pulling together in one place many of the intelligence functions and resources previously grouped under the various military services.

The services retain some of their independent intelligence operations, but these are reviewed by DIA and the service freedom in this field thus is hemmed in.

Among other things, U.S. military attaches around the world report their observations to DIA.