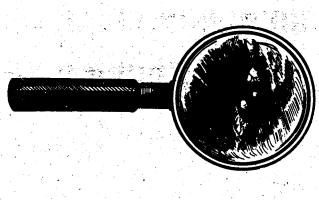
emoralization and Deterioration



y Dennis Hermanson for The Washington Post

There is another side to the CIA story that hasn't been told. It's a story of demoralization and deterioration inside the clandestine agency. It's the reason't William Colby was finally fired as the CIA

produced an unwholesome environment, which was changing the CIA into an ugly, frightening creature. "For too long," we subterranean world of half light, a world of grotesque shapes and shadows." recently wrote, "the CIA has operated in a We believe that excessive secrecy

blackmailed diplomats, tailed newsmen and spied on loyal Americans. into an unfamiliar, un American agency, which plotted murders, committed burgiaries, conducted buggings, This was turning the CIA, we suggested,

which, as one CIA source put it, "has left us naked before our enemies." Our CIA contacts have given us another picture, which we feel obligated to publish. claim there has been too much sunlight the rot that was infecting the CIA. They We felt sunlight was the best antidote for

which we have been able to confirm: Here are some of the repercussions,

employees are switching their allegiances to foreign intelligence services, which -Top CIA informants and contract

shut off invaluable future sources of inforside, no longer trust the agency. This could has been able to coax over to the American

ted: "You don't have a country, you have a church—no pun intended." mation. sins to Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, has left sophisticated allied intelligence oflicials incredulous. One of them commen-—The spectacle of the CIA confessing its

acknowledged, "but the extent of the cooperation is less because of their lessened confidence in us." with allied intelligence agencies. "Oh, they have to deal with us," one source -This has reduced the CIA's credibility

problems. the Cyprus crisis and related Middle East Pike, D-N.Y., the most secret material on could be induced to turn over to Rep. Otis vices simply can't understand how the CIA -The Middle Eastern intelligence ser-

has been left largely to Britain, France, with what the Soviets are doing. Instead, it moderate leaders at least commensurate have given clandestine support to is still a threat, the CIA normally would Italy and West Germany to save Portugal. —In Portugal, where a Communist coup

they consider more trustworthy. ——In Italy, Communists have taken over——The Soviet defectors, whom the CIA — at least 17 major jurisdictions during rewould have worked with Italian security to elect the Communists. Soviets poured money into the campaigns men to prevent the victories, just as the cent elections. In times past, the CIA

their morale broken. munist remnants throughout the country. In contrast, the CIA has been outmanned, war.They are strengthening the Comthan at any time since the Spanish civil —In Spain, the Soviets are more active

forts are feeble. Palestine Liberation Organization is gaining power. Once the CIA operated one of its strongest networks in Lebanon. Now its ef--In Lebanon, the Soviet-supported

have been badly strained. and the crack Israeli intelligence service —In Israel, the long ties between the CIA

decline of the CIA. appointee. Our sources blame this upon the the CIA, has been replaced by a political intelligence services, a staunch friend of —In France, the veteran No. 2 man in the

ces. ousted under similar, dismal circumstan-American intelligence chief has been -In Australia, the devotedly pro-

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the old relationship Even in Cana between the CIA and the intelligence arm of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has

become corroded.

"All of them (are beginning to) mistrust
us," explained a CIA contact."They looked to us for leadership. Because they are out on the firing line, they must know that our word is trustworthy. But who will trust us with their country's secrets now?

"You don't write up contracts in this business. The dealings of one agent with another becomes a sort of unofficial con-

tract with the U.S. government."

CIA agents look upon themselves as patriots. Even in time of peace, they put their lives on the line for their country. Declared one CIA than with long experie Declared one CIA than with long experient ce. "No one in this business would work with all that self-sacrifice if he didn't think he was part of the secret arm of our government. Every CIA agent feels that he is an instrumentality of the President, no matter which President is in power with Most of the veterans blame William Colby, the embattled CIA chief, for failing to stand up for them. He began to appear to them as a cold, calculating man who

preferred exposure to loyalty, the sine qua non of all covert activity.

dapper backroom operator, wise in the ways of the Georgetown sophisticates. If ways of the Georgetown sophisticates. In the CIA encountered any obstacles, he would explain the CIA's position in the musty, rich reading rooms of the Cosmos Club, Metropolitan Club, and other haunts where the establishment figures hang out. where the establishment figures hang out.
But Colby didn't operate in this clubby
way instead, he submitted a 50-page summary to President Ford. As one CIA fasider sees it, this fied the President to
make an uninformed statement about how
he was not going to tolerate this kind of
activity which seemed to confirm
everything the rumors were saying.
This left a vacuum in the public under
standing, and the legislative branch rumb-

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This left a vacuum in the public understanding, and the legislative branch ruited in the life in the l

cent of his time running the CIA."

Meanwhile, the CIA began hemorrhaging, Topagents and technicians began rushing to retire. The demoralization spread until the word reached the President, He reacted by firing Colby. (c) 1973, by United Feature Studieste