

EB35

FITZGERALD 260

THE PLAINS, VA., (AP)-DESMOND FITZGERALD, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PLANS FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, DIED SUNDAY. HE WAS 57. FITZGERALD, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BUT LEAST PUBLICIZED OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SUFFERED AN APPARENT HEART ATTACK WHILE PLAYING TENNIS AT HIS VIRGINIA HOME.

AN ATTORNEY, FITZGERALD JOINED THE CIA IN 1951 AND AFTER SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND JAPAN BECAME DIRECTOR OF LATIN AMERICAN OPERATIONS IN 1961.

A YEAR AGO, HE SUCCEEDED RICHARD HELMS WHO BECAME THE CIA'S TOP MAN. UNDER HELMS, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATIONAL SIDE OF THE AGENCY'S WORK, INCLUDING ITS CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES.

IN THAT POST, HE WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN IN GOVERNMENT, THOUGH HE WAS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC. BORN IN NEW YORK, HE GRADUATED FROM HARVARD AND DURING WORLD WAR II ENTERED THE U.S. ARMY AS A PRIVATE. HE WAS A MAJOR WHEN HE LEFT IN ~~1956~~. 1946 \*

HELMS SAID: "IN THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF DESMOND FITZGERALD, THE COUNTRY HAS LOST A PROFESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OF HIGH INTEGRITY, SPECIAL ABILITIES AND UNCOMMON DEDICATION."

FORMER CIA DIRECTOR ALLEN W. DULLES SAID: "...I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIM ONE OF THE ABLEST MEN IN THE FIELD OF INTELLIGENCE WITH WHOM I'VE BEEN ASSOCIATED."

TRIBUTES ALSO WERE PAID BY WALT W. ROSTOW, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON, AND PAUL NITZE, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

FITZGERALD IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIDOW, BARBARA; TWO DAUGHTERS, FRANCES AND JOAN; A SON, DESMOND JR.; AND STEPDAUGHTER, BARBARA MARY LAWRENCE.

BU916PCD JULY 23

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FITZGERALD OBIT CORRECTION

\* THE PLAINS FITZGERALD DEATH B35, TO FIX DATE, MAKE SIXTH GRAF READ AT END X X X LEFT IN 1946.

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