

All Foreigners Now Know the CIA

READING BETWEEN THE LINES of the news of the deterioration of American-Greek relations, strongly suggests an active factor in the misfortune of the Central Intelligence Agency.

If it surfaces, it will be but another example of the infernal meddling in foreign affairs of the vast and sprawling nest of spies operating out of Washington.

Initial stories of the cautious Greek alienation carry no detail. It came as unpleasant surprise to most Americans, including the large and socially valuable segment of Americans of Greek stock.



Though the story was fragmentary, it did contain information that anti-American demonstrators in Athens carried cards derogatory to the CIA. This manifests an unseemly paradox, in which a foreign people know more about the international machinations of a vested American institution, than do native Americans.

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IT POSES the intolerable before us, and since President Ford is turning a new leaf in our national existence, he could do worse than address himself to the CIA tangle.

And is it a tangle! The Agency is a spinoff of a spy outfit seated in Switzerland during the Hitler war. With Hitler gone, the core of the outfit was moved to Washington.

In this lush bureaucratic jungle, it grew as tropical plants grow, ravenous and insatiable, resisting all restraint. It became a self-governing empire, spawning new agents like the oak-moth pest. As its work is basically secret, it drew an impenetrable cocoon about itself, defying Congress (while seducing it) and the executive, and as its action is overseas, the courts. Beside it, the FBI is a benign and honest policing body.

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SINCE THE 1950s, repeated Presidents have bucked it, to be stricken with inertia by its audacity, power and propaganda wiles.

It is voted princely annual sums. They are used for bribery, for inventing systems for corrupting and suborning factions and anti-factions and governments in troubled little lands. It has accumulated ships, weapons, radio networks and guerrillas used to kill innocents in Indochina, Latin America, Africa and all Asia.

Collectively its judgments are often execrable and its bungling notorious. A score of its conspiracies have exploded, these but a fraction of its myriad schemes and entrapments.

CIA has swayed, distorted and frequently nullified American foreign policy, presumed to reside in the President, his advisers and congressional committees as checks on the President. It has often usurped the duties of our ambassadors.

On the efficiency scale its work is meager; on the perilous nuisance scale its record is enormous.

In our modern world of communications and technology, let us grant we need some prudent espionage. We don't need thousands of gumshoes running in packs about the globe, playing their nefarious tricks while we, the people, and our elected representatives don't have the slightest idea what the hell is going on. Could be the Greek thing will expose the CIA. If not, we must wait until these provocateurs land — and land us — in some real soup.

August 19, 1974