

Bureaucratic battle shakes up the CIA

by Thomas B. Ross  
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President Nixon reportedly has been suspicious of the [Board of National Estimates, which produces the government's most important analyses of key crisis areas in the world] from the outset, viewing it as dominated by liberal academics appointed in Democratic administrations.

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Ironically, [James R.] Slesinger has moved first against the intelligence division of the CIA, which as gained a generally good public reputation, while so far sparing the plans division, the so-called "department of dirty tricks" which has marred the image of the agency and the United States around the world.

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By moving the Board of Estimates to the right while reinforcing the power of the old line operators, Mr. Nixon is giving the impression that he intends to rely on the CIA for covert power as he withdraws overt U.S. military forces from Vietnam and other countries.