

CIA's Successes Just Can't Be Told



Longer version, WXP, filed CIA.

Jack Anderson

LOCKED in the Central Intelligence Agency's vaults is another side to the CIA story, which probably will never be told.

The story can be found in the thick, top-secret transcripts of the civilian advisory board, which watches over the CIA.

CIA officials were subjected to intensive questioning, which sometimes lasted a full day. This brought a great many reforms, which the board pressed upon the CIA.

A former chairman, Clark Clifford, told us he was convinced from the sessions that the CIA not only is an effective but an essential organization.

In the nuclear age, he said, the CIA has become our first line of defense. If some agents have been fools, he said, others have been unsung heroes whose deeds surpass the most valorous in our history yet must remain unrecorded.

"The CIA had some dramatic successes," he said. "But the successes must remain concealed or they no longer will be successes."

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HE SINGLED OUT for praise undercover men who have been caught and have been subjected to skillfully cruel torture, yet have resisted with uncommon bravery the effort to extort information from them.

Of course, the CIA has also had its

blunders. The blunder of all blunders was the Bay of Pigs invasion. The late President John Kennedy declared afterwards that he "wanted to splinter the CIA in a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds."

When he cooled down, Mr. Kennedy called in Clark Clifford, who had helped to draft the legislation establishing the CIA. Clifford told us he remembers the late President's words vividly.

"I made some bad decisions on the Bay of Pigs," said Mr. Kennedy. "I made these bad decisions because I had bad information. My information was bad, because our intelligence was poor. Something is gravely wrong inside the CIA, and I intend to find out what it is. I cannot afford another Bay of Pigs."

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WATCH ON WASTE: The armed services spend \$22 million on cockroach control. To save a few dollars, the Army had just abolished its two-man cockroach research program at the U.S. Army labs in Natick, Mass.

This leaves the Army without a research program for combating cockroaches, which carry 40 different bacteria and inhabit everything from helicopters to field kitchens.

The two-man Natick team was just making progress with new chemical and ultraviolet ray techniques for controlling cockroaches when the cutback occurred.

Today's column is by Jack Anderson and Les Whitten.