

CIA Honors

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Besmirched

Spy Figure

Washington

James Jesus Angleton, once described as the mastermind of a massive illegal domestic spying operation by the Central Intelligence Agency, received the agency's highest award yesterday.

The Distinguished Intelligence Medal was presented to the ousted counterintelligence chief by Deputy Director Vernon A. Walters. CIA Director William E. Colby, who forced Angleton to retire at the end of last year, was out of town.

An agency spokesman said it was "coincidence" that the ceremony had been scheduled for a day when Colby was out of town.

When Angleton and three of his top aides were forced by Colby to retire last December, their departure was widely linked to the publication by the New York Times of allegations that Angleton headed a spy operation against American anti-war dissidents in the late 1960s.

Although officially retired, Angleton has continued to work at agency headquarters in Langley, Va., where a spokesman said he is serving as a consultant.

Associated Press