

SF Examiner 21 Feb. 1967

RFK Defends CIA, Spreads Blame

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.), whose familiarity with the spy problem goes back to the Bay of Pigs fiasco, said today it is unfair to make the CIA "take the rap" for secretly subsidizing private organizations.

The former attorney general spoke up for the beleaguered CIA during an interview in which he also:

- Indorsed the U. S. consular treaty with Russia, now pending in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

- Opposed any unilateral reduction of American troops in Western Europe but saw the possibility of some "dual system" of troop re-deployment — after "close consultation" with Nato allies.

Kennedy voiced his sympathy for the CIA, buffeted in protest reaction to the disclosure it had channeled money through various foundations to student and other organi-

zations with international activities.

RUEFUL GRIN

With a rueful grin about "getting into another controversy," Kennedy said:

"These basic decisions were not made unilaterally by the CIA but by the executive branch — in the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

"All relevant government agencies are contacted for their approval. That includes the White House.

"If the policy was wrong, it was not the product of the CIA but of each administration."

NO DREAM WORLD

"We must not forget that we are not dealing with a dream world, but with a very tough adversary.

"I think it is unfair that the CIA should take the rap on this. Any of these decisions made by CIA had to have been approved by others."