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CIA-BODD

WASHINGTON, FEB. 17 (AP)-SEN. THOMAS J. DODD, D-CONN., URGED TODAY AN END TO WHAT HE TERMED "THE VIRTUAL EPIDEMIC OF ATTACKS ON THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY."

IN A SENATE SPEECH DEFENDING THE GOVERNMENT'S TOP LEVEL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, DODD SAID THE ATTACKS ARE UNFAIR AND UNWARRANTED.

"IT IS A HIGHLY DANGEROUS PASTIME BECAUSE THE CIA IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OUR SECURITY," HE SAID.

DODD, A ONETIME FBI AGENT AND GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY, SAID HE IS ASTONISHED AT RECENT ATTACKS ON THE CIA BY SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS "WHO ARE STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNISTS."

HE SAID MUCH CRITICISM ALSO HAS COME FROM PACIFISTS "WHO WOULD LET THE COMMUNISTS TAKE OVER THE WORLD RATHER THAN FIGHT AGAINST THEM" AND "MUDDLE-HEADED MORALISTS . . . WHO FOR SOME STRANGE REASON CONSIDER IT WRONG" FOR THIS COUNTRY TO MOVE AGAINST COMMUNIST SUBVERSION.

DODD IS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE'S INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE. HE DENIED MANY OF THE CRITICISMS HE SAID HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST THE SUPER-SECRET AGENCY AND PRAISED IT FOR AIDING THE OVERTHROW OF COMMUNIST-AIMED REGIMES IN GUATEMALA AND

"BAIT-THE-CIA ALMOST SEEMS TO HAVE ACHIEVED THE STATURE OF A POPULAR NATIONAL PASTIME," HE SAID, ADDING:

"THERE IS SOMETHING UNBECOMING ABOUT THE PASTIME, BECAUSE THE CIA CANNOT DEFEND ITSELF. ATTACKING THE CIA, INDEED, IS SOMETHING LIKE BEATING A MAN WHO HAS HIS ARMS TIED BEHIND HIS BACK.

"FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY, THE AGENCY CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY PUBLISHED REPORTS, TRUE OR FALSE, FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE. IT CANNOT ALIBI. IT CANNOT EXPLAIN. IT CANNOT ANSWER EVEN THE MOST OUTRAGEOUSLY INACCURATE CHARGES."

DODD SAID THE SOVIET SECRET POLICE "HAS SET UP A SPECIAL BUREAU "WHOSE TASK IS TO DISCREDIT THE CIA" AND IT SPREADS ALL ATTACKS ON THE CIA THROUGH ITS WORLDWIDE PROPAGANDA MEDIA.

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