

EB9 (480)

YOUNG-CIA

BY G. MILTON KELLY

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, DEC. 16 (AP)—SEN. MILTON R. YOUNG, R-N.D., TELLS OF A CLOAK AND DAGGER TYPE OVERSEAS RENDEZVOUS WITH TOP SECRET AGENTS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA). HE CALLED THEIR WORK OUTSTANDING.

"IN FACT," YOUNG SAID IN AN INTERVIEW BEFORE FLYING TO FARGO, N.D., "I AM INCLINED TO THINK THE JOB THEY ARE DOING IS SUPERIOR TO THAT DONE BY THE KGB, THEIR SOVIET OPPOSITE NUMBERS, AND KGB HAS TWICE THE PERSONNEL."

YOUNG WENT ABROAD AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A SPECIAL SENATE WATCHDOG COMMITTEE WHICH KEEPS AN EYE ON ESPIONAGE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA, AND OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON WHICH HE ALSO SERVES.

CIA WORK IS SO SECRET IT'S BUDGETS ARE LARGELY HIDDEN BY CONGRESS IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR OTHER AGENCIES. FEW CONGRESS MEMBERS KNOW HOW MUCH IT RECEIVES OR WHAT IT DOES WITH THE MONEY.

BECAUSE OF THIS, YOUNG SAID, THE SPECIAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEE--ONE OF THE FEW TO WHICH IT REPORTS--FELT AN IN-THE-FIELD CHECK ON CIA WOULD BE TIMELY.

YOUNG SAID HE HAD CLANDESTINE MEETINGS WITH CIA AGENTS IN 14 OF THE 16 COUNTRIES HE VISITED ON THE FIVE-WEEK TRIP AROUND THE WORLD FROM WHICH HE HAS JUST RETURNED. HE SAID HE CAME BACK REASSURED THAT "WE'RE IN A HIGH STATE OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS" IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION BEFORE THE KOREAN WAR.

HE DESCRIBED PRECAUTIONS ARRANGED BY THE CIA ITSELF TO MAKE SURE HIS MEETINGS WITH ITS AGENTS OVERSEAS TIPPED OFF NOT SECRETS TO SOVIET AGENTS OR THE SECRET POLICE OF ANY OF THE COUNTRIES VISITED, AND THAT THE AGENTS WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED.

B10

NEVER, HE SAID, DID HE KNOW WHOM HE WOULD MEET OR WHERE, EXCEPT THAT THE MEETINGS COULD NOT BE AT THE HOTELS WHERE HE STAYED. HE DECLINED TO SAY WHERE ANY OF THEM DID OCCUR.

"AT THE REQUEST OF JOHN A. MCCONE (HEAD OF CIA) THEY CONTACTED ME AT PLACES OF THEIR CHOOSING BECAUSE ROOMS AT SOME OF THE HOTELS WHERE I STAYED PROBABLY WERE BUGGED," YOUNG SAID.

HE SAID ONE OF THE SECRET MEETINGS AT WHICH HE RECEIVED BRIEFINGS FROM TOP CIA PERSONNEL WAS IN SAIGON, SOUTH VIET NAM. HE SAID HE RETURNED WITH A FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST KEEP TROOPS THERE IN THE WAR WITH THE COMMUNIST VIET CONG.

YOUNG CALLED IT "A WAR WE AREN'T WINNING BUT WHICH WE ARE A LONG WAY FROM LOSING TOO. WE CAN WIN THIS IF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE CAN PULL THEMSELVES TOGETHER UNDER BETTER LEADERSHIP."

HE SAID HE HOPED THE NEW SOUTH VIET NAM GOVERNMENT COULD STABILIZE CONDITIONS AND QUIET UNREST. YOUNG EXPRESSED A "FEELING THAT BUDHISTS (OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT THERE) ARE INFLUENCED STRONGLY BY THE COMMUNISTS." HE SAID MANY OF THEM ARE STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST BUT OTHERS "HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY PROPAGANDA."

XZ306ACS