

6

C

Laird Aide Seeks to Improve Pentagon Intelligence Gathering

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 —

The man who has just been given authority over the Pentagon's intelligence operations believes the military is "spending too much and getting too little" in the way of useful information for policy makers.

He is Robert F. Froehlke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Administration who has been assigned "additional responsibilities by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird to "improve the management of intelligence functions" within the Defense Department.

Mr. Froehlke said at a news conference today that he planned to effect some reforms to try to make collection and evaluation of military intelligence more efficient.

While talking guardedly about the subject because of security concerns, Mr. Froehlke said that one of the basic problems was a lack of coordination between the Defense Intelligence Agency and the super-secret National Security Agency.

It is understood that Lieut. Gen. Joseph F. Carroll, head of the D.I.A., and Lieut. Gen. Marshall S. Carter, head of the N.S.A., are retiring. But Mr. Froehlke insisted that the coordination problem was due to faulty organization, "not personalities."

Tasks of Agencies

The Defense Intelligence Agency is responsible for coordinating and evaluating the intelligence gathered by all the armed forces, including information from military attaches, data from Air Force spy satellites and information from reconnaissance aircraft and ships.

The National Security Agency is responsible for gathering information from enemy radio and other transmissions and for breaking codes.

A recent attempt by the National Security Agency to get a new complex of computers to enable it to start interpreting and evaluating the mean-

ing of some intercepted data is understood to have been rejected by Secretary Laird on the ground that this was the function of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency.

In a statement today, Mr. Laird said he was assigning Mr. Froehlke his new responsibilities after reviewing a report by him following a three-month study.

Heretofore, Mr. Froehlke said at his news conference, responsibility for overseeing all defense intelligence activities was charged to the Defense Secretary and the Deputy Secretary, both of whom were too busy to give it adequate attention.

Of the seven Assistant Defense Secretaries, he said, he was the only one whose workload would permit him to take on the new intelligence role.

Initially, he said, he planned to assemble a staff of 14 men to assist him in the assignment. This team might grow later on, he said.

Far-flung defense intelligence activities currently cost \$1-billion to \$2-billion a year, he estimated. But there has been dissatisfaction with the results, both in Congress and within the Administration, he said.

Plans Informal Board

Because of a lack of coordination between the intelligence sections in defense and with other agencies, information has sometimes been in hand that did not go to the agency or decision-maker who needed it, he said, and there has also been duplication of effort.

Mr. Froehlke said he planned to set up at least an informal coordinating board representing all the military intelligence sections and hoped to increase coordination with outside agencies, presumably including the C.I.A., and the intelligence branches of the State Department and the Atomic Energy Commission.

He stressed, however, that he was not planning to intrude upon the domain of Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence, who oversees all the nation's foreign intelligence.