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Washington merry go round

Intelligence agents infiltrate U.S. State Department to spy

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WASHINGTON — An estimated 1,500 intelligence agents have quietly infiltrated the State Department where they carry on their spying activities in diplomatic garb.

Operatives from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and National Security Agency (NSA) have taken over many key posts.

This has caused considerable grumbling and grievances among old-line foreign service officers.

They have charged privately that promotions have been rigged, transfers arranged and even a few resignations forced to clear foreign service officers out of the way so intelligence agents can take over their jobs.

One grievance case, hushed up by the State Department, involves foreign service officer Charles Anderson who claims he was bumped from his political job in Sofia to make room for a CIA agent. When

Anderson complained about the transfer, he got a low efficiency rating for his pains.

Anderson refused to comment, but his friends told us about his grievance. Other State Department sources described how the cloak-and-dagger boys were moving into the diplomatic service. The 1,500 figure came from personnel officers.

An official spokesman, however, refused to comment on the number of CIA and related spies in the department.