

CIA's Schlesinger Begins Streamlining Operations

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The new director of the Central Intelligence Agency has begun the long-promised reorganization of the vast U.S. intelligence community with an eye toward streamlining his own agency and bringing military intelligence under closer civilian control.

At the peak of the Vietnam war, the U.S. intelligence community employed 150,000 persons and spent \$6 billion a year, a growth that led to duplication, inter-agency bickering and jurisdictional jealousies that horrified President Nixon.

In his first month as director, James R. Schlesinger has moved three choices of his own into top jobs at the CIA, forced out two members of the old guard and set about the task of bringing under CIA control the three other federal services that with the CIA make up the bulk of the U.S. intelligence network.

This description of Schlesinger's first month as CIA director came from an authoritative source, who said that Schlesinger is acting on the personal instructions of the President. It was Schlesinger who directed a massive study of the intelligence community when he was a member of the Office of Management and Budget in 1971, just before he became chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

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Paring of the Defense Department's intelligence activities began even before Schlesinger moved into the CIA. Manpower at the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and the intelligence branches of the four armed services had climbed above 100,000 persons at one point. In addition, 50,000 others were scattered through 10 other agencies.

One source on Capitol Hill said that \$1 billion had been cut from the budget of the Defense Intelligence Agency alone, a figure that was disputed in size only by

another source.

"It wasn't that much of a cut," the source said, "but it was a good-sized bite."

Since becoming director, Schlesinger has made five key moves in his attempts to strengthen the CIA, which one source said was suffer-

ing from "aging and bureaucratization."

Schlesinger appointed William E. Colby as deputy director of plans, which is the CIA title for the man who heads the agency's covert espionage operations or "department of dirty tricks." Now 53 years old, Colby was at one time head of the U.S. pacification program in South Vietnam.

The new CIA director also pulled a pair of generals out of the Pentagon to serve on

the newly formed Intelligence Resource Advisory Committee. They are Army Maj. Gen. Daniel O. Graham and Air Force Maj. Gen. Lew Allen, both of whom have served in military intelligence and knew Schlesinger who had admired them since his own days with the Rand Corp.

"Jim [Schlesinger] is a takeover kind of guy," one source said, "and these appointments bring in men he feels comfortable with, who will back him up when the going gets tough."

The going is expected to get tough quite soon, since it is understood that Schlesinger plans a complete overhauling of the CIA. One source described the CIA as an "old boy network" that had been allowed to grow unchecked since it was created by President Truman in 1947. The CIA now employs 15,000 persons and has a budget of \$600 million a year.

Schlesinger has already forced two old CIA hands into early retirement. One is Bronson Tweedy, former deputy to Schlesinger's predecessor, Richard M. Helms. The other is Thomas Parrott, a deputy to Tweedy who had been at the CIA since 1961.

Schlesinger is said to believe that the CIA must

shift gears now that there is a cease-fire in Vietnam. He is said to think that the Middle East should now be the

focus of CIA attention, particularly since the Soviet Union is understood to be moving some of its activities out of the Mediterranean and into the Persian Gulf.

The new CIA director is also said to believe that the CIA ought to change its role with the changing times. One source said that Schlesinger believes the CIA must begin to gather more intelligence about international crime, terrorism and narcotics traffic.

"The international terrorist movement is something that Schlesinger feels should be watched far more closely," the same source said. "There are some people in intelligence who say it's going to take a major effort to keep these terrorists out of the U.S., to keep them from assassinating public figures right here on American soil."

Schlesinger is also said to be concerned about public opinion of the CIA and the role of espionage in an increasingly critical world society.

"I think Jim would like it if the American public had a greater understanding of the need for intelligence," one source said. "I don't think he believes he can get the job done right if there is hostility and opposition to the CIA because it's thought to be a nest of spies."

Richard Helms' departure from the CIA was said to be as much of a sign of change at the CIA as Schlesinger's arrival. Helms presided over the CIA for the past seven years, during which time the United States was caught in a series of intelligence failures.

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The loss of the *Pueblo*, the loss of a U.S. reconnaissance plane in North Korea right after the *Pueblo* disaster, the abortive raid on the *Sontag* prisoners-of-war camp in North Vietnam are all cited as failures of U.S. intelligence. The lack of intelligence about North Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in 1970 and of its offensive in South Vietnam a year ago are also cited as examples of an intelligence community grown too bureaucratic.

While Helms was admired for his tough-mindedness, he was also viewed with suspicion by the Nixon White House for his independence and his alliances in Washington society.

His power base in Congress, his friendship with Washington columnists and his socializing at Georgetown cocktail parties were all frowned upon in the White House, where a low profile is admired more than standing in society.