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CIA 'Spying' in Chile Election

JAMES R. SCHLESINGER, new chief of the Central Intelligence Agency is reorganizing the bureau, which costs taxpayers \$600 million annually.

Audits of the expenditure are fragmentary, and even the Congress can't find where the money goes. The taxpayers are in total darkness in the theory that if cost of operation is not classified the bureau would be crippled in its espionage work abroad.

There is a speculative story from Washington that under the new budget the bureau may lose 1500 of its 15,000 personnel. The reduction would appear sensible, since the CIA isn't the most effective spy system of all time.



The outfit is a spinoff of the American espionage system set up in Switzerland during World War II. The spinoff is as big or bigger than its parent. Presumably the United States was in more danger after Germany and Japan were defeated, than it was while they were still at war.

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CIA MAINTAINS clusters of agents in various trouble spots abroad. They have been swarming in southeast Asia, where they overlapped military intelligence services.

Agents are spread across Latin America, including Cuba, in the Mideast, and perhaps more thinly in Europe and north Africa.

Their machinations only reach the free news area when they pull a big boner involving foreigners who can talk. Then CIA scurries for cover, and American taxpayers and the world get a part of the resulting mishmash. The agency never concedes it has miscalculated, or erred in execution.

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THERE HAVE BEEN YARNS, probably hyperbolic, that CIA adopts some of its methods from film writers who dream up "Mission Impossible" and related espionage concoctions, but CIA is somewhat less successful than Peter Graves and his cohorts.

Among its more impressive fiascos was the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, where all went wrong, the logistics of moving the invaders to the island site being idiotic.

Just now there is a flurry over International Telephone. For corporate reasons ITT wanted to block the election of the Marxist Salvador Allende as President of Chile. As you would expect the news has yawning blanks, like the holes in stellar nebulae. A Senate Committee is investigating ITT in the affair, but unhappily not the CIA.

A New York Times story can only discern that W.V.B. Broe, chief of Latin American spying agreed to go along with a plan of an ITT official, said to have suggested installation of a military government in Santiago. If true, it accords with CIA dedication, not only to spying, but to use of agents provocateurs in foreign countries. ITT may be justified in defending itself from confiscations, but CIA use of agents provocateurs cannot be defended in any situation but one menacing the vital interests of the United States.

The American people, including taxpayers, should catch this distinction if CIA never will.

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