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GENERAL FAVORS INTELLIGENCE CUT

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He Charges Duplication By
Civilians and the Military
NYTimes

By WILLIAM BEECHER
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WASHINGTON, April 10 —

A top military intelligence officer, writing in an unofficial Army journal, has called for reducing "duplicative" analyses by civilian intelligence agencies of threats facing the United States.

The proposal, by Maj. Gen. Daniel O. Graham, currently holding a high post with the Defense Intelligence Agency, was pictured in some news reports today as probably pre-empting a substantial cutback of those analysts at the Central Intelligence Agency who have been preparing independent appraisals of threats.

The supposition presumably stems from the fact that General Graham will soon take a senior position at the C.I.A.

But senior Pentagon officials and others in the intelligence community discounted the thrust of the news reports, insisting that no such changes were in prospect.

Appointed Expected Soon

General Graham, now deputy director for estimates of D.I.A., is reportedly slated soon to chair an interagency committee under Dr. James R. Schlesinger, the new Director of Central Intelligence.

Writing in the current issue of Army Magazine, a publication of the Association of the United States Army, he blamed past military overestimates and scare tactics for causing national policymakers to turn increasingly to civilian intelligence agencies, like the C.I.A. and the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

"The trend toward independent analysis has been gathering over the past 10 years, and there are now analytical staffs in the civilian intelligence community paralleling those of the Defense Intelligence Agency on almost every military intelligence subject," the article said.

But the general argued that a basic reorganization of D.I.A. in 1970, the rise of better quality military and civilian analysts in the agency and the relatively recent realization of military leaders that they should not try to bend intelligence to support their pet projects has improved the quality of strategic military estimates.

"There was a time," he said, "when the rule-of-thumb for acceptability of threat estimates among planners was 'the bigger the better.' Intelligence estimates which failed to maximize enemy threats in both sum and detail were likely to draw fire as 'wishful thinking.'

"More often than not, military intelligence people came to heel under such criticism and stumped hard for the 'worst case' view. Those old attitudes are waning now, and simplistic demands for the scariest possible threat estimates are much less prevalent among users. Some hard lessons have been learned."

As an example of how such "worst case" estimates may be counter-productive, General Graham said that, in the context of negotiations over strategic arms limitations with the Soviet Union, there is "the very real possibility of trading off actual, friendly capabilities for enemy 'capabilities' existing only on paper in our own intelligence estimates."

But with the improvements in organization, manpower and attitude that General Graham said had been made, he declared that "the time is ripe for the military profession to reassert its traditional role in the function of describing military threats of national security."

He concluded, "While there will always be a legitimate reason for independent judgments from outside (the Defense Department) on issues of critical importance to national decision-makers, there is no longer a need, in my judgement, to duplicate D.I.A.'s efforts in other agencies."

Pentagon sources said that General Graham wrote his article last December, before he was approached to join the C.I.A. The article was cleared for publication by the Office of Security Review.

Jerry W. Friedheim, who was nominated today to become Assistant Secretary of Defense for public affairs, said that the article represented the Pentagon's views. But he added that "a little bit of duplication is a good thing."

Other officials, in an out of the Pentagon, said that the C.I.A. and other agencies would continue to make independent analyses which, along with the estimates of the D.I.A., would be studied by the United States Intelligence Board each fall.

Proxmire Urges Cuts

WASHINGTON, April 10 (AP)

—Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, said today that the United States intelligence community employed about 148,000 persons and spent \$6.2-billion each year.

Renewing his call for drastic cuts in the cost of American spying and covert activities overseas, he urged Dr. Schlesinger, the Central Intelligence Director, to make public the Government's entire intelligence budget, which has always been secret.

He said that he believed that the intelligence establishment had swollen out of proportion to national defense needs.