

New CIA Director Plans a Shakeup

Washington

Director William E. Colby is shaking up the CIA in a move to provide himself and President Nixon with sharper estimates of U.S. defense needs and developments in China, the Soviet Union and other sensitive world sectors.

Sworn in only ten days ago, Colby plans to surround himself with about ten specialists — National Intelligence Officers who will be responsible for a specific subject, such as strategic weapons, or an area, such as China or Latin America.

They will replace the prestigious panel of "wise old heads" who comprise the Board of National Estimates, which for more than 20 years has been responsible for preparing intelligence estimates.

Through attrition, the elite ten-man board of ex-ambassadors, admirals and generals is now down to five or six members including Livingston Merchant, a former undersecretary of state.

Remaining at the apex of the government's intelligence apparatus will be the

U.S. Intelligence Board, headed by Colby. Its members are drawn from the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Treasury and State Departments, the Atomic Energy Commission and the FBI. Army, Navy and Air Force intelligence officers attend the meetings as "observers."

The shakeup comes against a backdrop of criticism that intelligence estimates have been too fuzzy and generalized, with dissent lost by the time they reach the CIA director. By giving a single specialist the responsibility for collating the divergent views, Colby hopes to have dissents funneled to him.

He expects to draw most of the ten specialists from the CIA. Others may come from the Pentagon, the State Department or even college campus. They will be told they should not consider their jobs permanent, that they could be moved out within a few years, or their subjects or geographic areas abolished and others added in their place.

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