

## New Priorities and Functions

# Major Changes in the CIA

By David Binder  
New York Times

Washington

Bruised by the domestic politics of the Vietnam conflict and the Watergate affair, its influence in the White House broken by the practitioners of detente, the Central Intelligence Agency is undergoing a major, perhaps fundamental, transformation.

Its claws — the covert operations that once marshaled large mercenary armies in Laos and Latin America and toppled undesired governments in Iran and Guatemala — are now largely retracted.

The weightiest organ in the bureaucracy, the Board of National Estimates, a federal court of intelligence, has been abolished.

Under its new director, William E. Colby, some of the agency's functions and priorities have been shifted, with seemingly paradoxical results.

Although President Nixon has given Colby more power and responsibility than most of his predecessors, the director has markedly less access to the White House.

While he may not face as much rivalry from the military intelligence establishment as some critics feared, Colby's agency is being challenged by the State Department's Intelligence and Research Bureau, newly revitalized at Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's behest.

These changes, which by the nature of the intelligence profession have taken place quietly, became known through interviews in the intelligence community.

The rules of the game require that there be no attribution of information acquired from high intelligence officials. When Colby sees newsmen — he has done so more frequently than any of his predecessors since he took over last summer — he requests that not even the terms "officials" or "sources" be used.

## CIA Chief Asks Strong Powers

Washington

William E. Colby, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is seeking legislation that would provide him powers to enforce protection of intelligence secrets on penalty of ten years in prison or a fine of \$10,000.

The request, accompanied by a three-page draft of a bill amending the National Security Act of 1946, was sent to administration officials and congressional leaders on January 14.

But it became public knowledge only last week in connection with court action in Richmond, Va.

The genesis of Colby's request is in his court struggle with Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., publisher of the soon to be distributed book, "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," by Victor L. Mar-

chetti and John D. Marks.

Marchetti was a CIA employee from 1955 to 1969 and the book draws heavily on his experience.

Last September Colby, who had just taken over as director of the CIA, sought court assistance in obtaining 339 deletions of what he and his associates considered to be classified and highly sensitive information.

After a series of court encounters, Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr. ruled that only 27 passages should be properly deleted.

The case is now before the Court of Appeals in Richmond, and Colby evidently intends to fight it to the end because he feels the CIA would be naked without the power to enforce its secrecy oath on employees and former employees.

New York Times

The mandate given Colby by the President provides him not only the power to preside over all intelligence operations, but also the power to allocate the entire intelligence budget of about \$6 billion.

Even tactical intelligence, previously an activity jealously maintained by the military services, comes under his purview.

Impelled by apparent failures of Israeli tactical intelligence during the October war, American intelligence officials have decided to place greater stress on relaying information on the stationing of opponent forces to field commanders in West Germany and South Korea.

But the most striking changes in the Central Intelligence Agency have come at the top, having been initiated by Colby himself.

He replaced the ten-man Board of National Estimates and its staff of 20 last October with a system manned by what he calls national intelligence officers.

The board formerly produced long-range estimates of the intentions and capabilities of antagonists.

The new 11 national intelli-



gence of officers are expected to range through the entire government and beyond to put together their evaluations.

The new officers are preparing more short-term assessments and fewer long-range estimates. This is partly in response to the demands of their chief consumer, Kissinger.

Explaining why he believed the change was necessary, even though regrettable, an official said:

"The board couldn't have gone on. It was in a helluva rut. It thought in big strategic terms and didn't get into grubby options. It was often too general and philosophical. Also, its profound skepticism on Vietnam didn't help the board in this town."

The new estimates carry dissenting views from within the intelligence community as an integral part of their texts. In the old system dissents were registered as footnotes.

Kissinger was described by an agency official as wanting "papers dealing with real, live problems this week or next week."

The official said there was a lack of elegance and orderliness in the hastily written estimates of today, and a lack of "the rigorous review that 10 or 12 sophisticated and judicious minds

could put together." But he maintained that Colby's system had demonstrated gains in flexibility and responsiveness.

A concern voiced by Colby's critics is that the military intelligence establishment, which makes up more than four-fifths of the intelligence community, may simply overpower the agency and its independent civilian views.

The preponderance of the military, even after Congress slashed 9000 persons from the Defense Intelligence Agency last year, does not worry Colby.

He hired Major General Daniel Graham, a defense intelligence specialist who had greater military control over military intelligence. Graham is now Colby's liaison man within the intelligence community.

In addition to Graham, Colby has appointed an admiral as his national intelligence officer on conventional forces.

Colby is satisfied with his

system because he feels it has ruled out institutional differences with the military and made remaining differences a matter of factual appraisals rather than opinions.

In the year since he has taken charge, Colby has let it be known that he wants the agency to concentrate on what he believes are new priorities — international trade, cultural relations and the monitoring of international agreements to reduce arms and armies.

To this end the agency continues to maintain agents in American companies engaged in foreign trade and in journalism, with perhaps 500 of 6000 agents using the cover of businessman or reporter.

Colby, who spent most of his career with the agency in covert operations, is intent on keeping the ability to conduct them. Even if it is being applied only sparingly.

But there are lunchtime debates among the agency's senior officials about the value of maintaining the planes, the weapons and the trainers that were associated with the secret armies.

"It doesn't seem to go with Nixon's idea of constructing world peace," one official said.

Kissinger apparently has also given some thought to reducing the size of the covert operations establishment, according to one of his aides in the Bureau of



**WILLIAM E. COLBY**  
More power, less access

Intelligence and Research.

The bureau, under William G. Hyland, has become more active and does much analysis work for Kissinger, with results that are said to please him.

This has meant a new kind of competition for the CIA.

But in the agency's spotless halls in Langley, Va., there seems to be a good feeling about the challenges of the new system and the newly reduced role.

"How it's going to net out is too early to say," a 20-year veteran remarked. "But this system can be made to work."

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