

The Spy Who Is Telling All

By Vera Glaser

Washington

There's a new, more open style at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Director William E. Colby, often tagged the nation's "chief spook," doesn't hide in the woodwork.

His home telephone is listed, he goes sailing with neighbors, is a pillar of the Little Flower Catholic Church and sometimes dines with journalists.

And recently a Colby aide at CIA headquarters introduced himself wryly as the agency's "spooksmen."

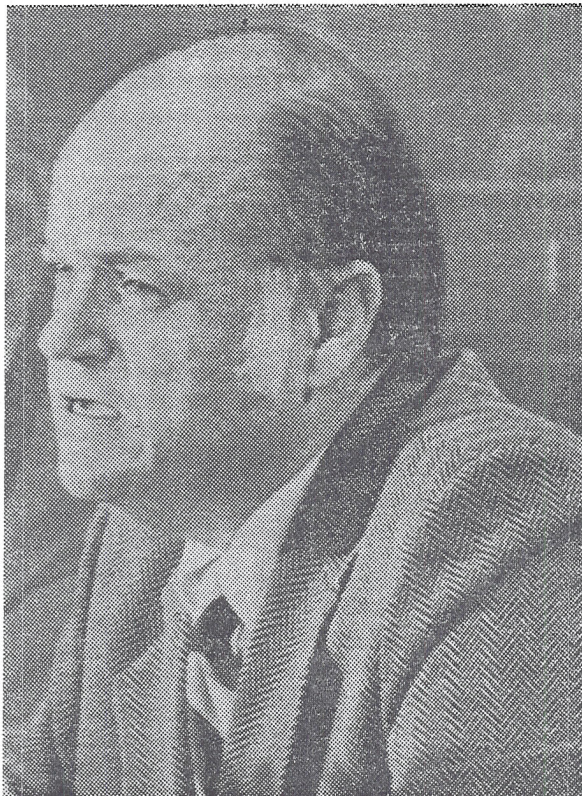
For years, the CIA has been trying to scrub up its image as an "invisible government" abroad and, more recently, an alleged ally of Watergate burglars at home.

Congress has tried to get a "handle" on the CIA's controversial covert operations that reportedly have overthrown governments and financed foreign guerrillas, U.S. foundations and even assassinations.

Now, Capitol Hill sources say, the "cloak-and-dagger" doings have dwindled to less than ten per cent of the agency's activities.

The trend began before Colby was named director about a year ago, and he has encouraged it.

Colby's crucial, delicate job makes him President Nixon's principal intelligence adviser and a participant in National Security



Congressman Lucien Nedzi is impressed with Colby's candor

Council meetings — where confidentiality is a "must."

But Colby said he "comes clean" with the appropriate subcommittees of Congress.

"I'll tell them anything. There are no secrets. It's good for bureaucrats to be under surveillance," he said in a rare interview at the fortress-like CIA building in Langley, Va., where all ground-floor windows are screened with chain links.

To reach his office, one rides to the seventh floor in

a private elevator, waits briefly in an isolated reception cubicle, then is ushered into a spectacular glass-walled room with a stunning view of the lush landscape.

The soft-spoken, 54-year-old Colby, in his horn-rimmed glasses, muted plaid suit and dark tie, looks more like an accountant than a spy.

The graying hair is neatly slicked down, the blue eyes are cool and seemingly indifferent. He uses the same casual tone to speak of the

Soviet Union and China as he does to chat about the crabgrass on his lawn.

Colby keeps his wiry 5-foot-8, 162-pound frame in shape with tennis, bicycling and daily calisthenics. He knows judo, speaks some Vietnamese and can do business in French and Italian.

Colby has spent his career in intelligence and the "operations" end of the CIA. During World War II, he parachuted behind enemy lines, worked with the French resistance and was dropped into Norway to blow up a German rail line.

Now he rides herd on an agency whose size and budget are top secret. Outside authorities have estimated that the CIA employs upwards of 20,000 people around the world and spends about \$750 million a year. It is actually a small part of the U.S. international intelligence network.

A barrage of criticism over the years has triggered a cutback in covert activity.

"We're kind of a bad word in a lot of places in the world, unfortunately," Colby said. "Some of this is sensationalism and not well-founded. Some we deserve."

Barbara Colby, a lively, knowledgeable woman who stays up until 2 a.m. reading newspapers so as "not to miss anything," said her husband has done much "to wipe out the cult of secrecy for secrecy's sake at the CIA."

Sources on Capitol Hill agree.



CIA Director William E. Colby: "There are no secrets"

Last July, Colby became the first CIA director to testify in open Senate confirmation hearings.

He conceded the CIA may have overstepped its authority by engaging in domestic actions and in training a "secret army" in Laos.

He admits frankly it was a mistake for the CIA to furnish disguises for the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office — and in the next breath chuckles because CIA experts were insulted by persistent press reports that a red wig furnished to Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt was "ill-

fitting."

Colby has made a good impression on Senator John Stennis of Mississippi and Representative Lucien Nedzi of Michigan, the Democrats who head armed services subcommittees that are concerned with the CIA.

"He has never flinched in responding to us," Nedzi said.

Nedzi believes the agency is "moving in the right direction, with less meddling in other people's business."

But Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin worries that "a real possibility exists of using this enormous

apparatus to unscrupulous or illegal ends here at home."

He wants covert operations entirely wiped out, and his amendment to a military procurement bill would more tightly limit the CIA to international activity and extend Congress' powers of scrutiny.

Later this summer, the Stennis subcommittee will review in depth the 1947 National Security Act, which created the CIA.

Colby emphasized that "the real nature of intelligence today is the intellectual process of gathering

'Cloak and dagger' activities have dwindled considerably

bits and pieces of information and making overall assessments from them."

Covert operations, he says, "contribute a small and sometimes critical part to a total picture. I would not favor abandoning them."

In a recent speech Colby said the CIA would "continue to need Americans and friendly foreigners willing to undertake clandestine intelligence missions."

The toughest part of his \$42,500 job, he says, is making "the longer-term projections of what's going to happen to the world, and what the major threats to the U.S. are going to be."

A 1940 graduate of Princeton, Colby served in the Army parachute field artillery, then volunteered when the Office of Strategic Services called for French linguists in 1943.

After the war, he took a law degree at Columbia, practiced briefly in New York and then returned to government, serving at the U.S. embassies in Stockholm, Rome and Saigon.

He was "pacification chief" in Vietnam, with the personal rank of ambassador, in 1969 and '70, and was named deputy director of CIA in March, 1973.