

Colby Says CIA Being Jeopardized

New Orleans

Central Intelligence Agency Director William Colby said yesterday the CIA and its service to the country are being jeopardized by sensational headlines.

In a speech at the annual Associated Press meeting, Colby said that some Americans who had cooperated with his agency in the past now are worried that their businesses abroad might be endangered if the relationship is revealed.

He said some foreign sources are concerned about

passing sensitive information to the CIA.

"We are already seeing some of these sources withdraw from their relationship with us or construct the information they provide us," he said.

"If the CIA were in politics, we could perhaps take solace from the politician's old story about not caring what they said about him so long as they spelled his name right," Colby said.

"But our intelligence agency today and its service to our country are being

jeopardized by its status as the nation's No. 1 sensational lead."

Reports about the CIA recently have been twisted to make a more appealing story, Colby charged.

"I only ask that we Americans protect our nation's sources in the same way the journalist protects his."

He urged protection of the nation's "good secrets," sources in the same way the journalists protects his."

He urged protection of the nation's "good secrets," but

not what he called bad secrets — "our missteps of the past" — or nonsecrets — "a known fact about intelligence which in the old tradition would have been kept secret but which in our open society should no longer be withheld."

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