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Nation's Two-Headed Intelligence Apparatus



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Today's column is by Drew Pearson's associate, Jack Anderson

FROM THE apogees of its spy satellites to the perigees of its bombproof basement code rooms, the vast United States intelligence industry has been going through a wrenching reorganization.

The Central Intelligence Agency, most lampooned and cartooned of all the word's spy outfits, has been rocked by more than 200 reforms. Military intelligence has been consolidated, with a great battering together of brass hats, into a single unit: the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Still, many senators are not convinced that the reforms have gone far enough, and are demanding greater control over the whole James Bond industry.

THE PURPOSE of the reforms, of course, is to improve the quality of intelligence, eliminate rivalries, and prevent another Bay of Pigs — the CIAsponsored invasion of Cuba which became a bloody fiasco.

While some minor rivalries may have been scotched, however, a major rivalry has emerged. Our intelligence apparatus nas sprouted two heads, the CIA and the DIA, which often get in one another's war.

In theory, the CIA is supposed to be the final sieve through which all intelligence should pass before reaching the President. It is upon this information that he keeps abreast of world affairs and makes his policy judgments.

Yet the DIA increasingly is catching the President's eye. Moreover, it is so dominated by Secretary of Defense Robert

McNamara that it has a tendency to produce intelligence that supports his views. Its reports generally have reflected his optimistic outlook on the Vietnam war, rather than the pessimistic possibilities.

His interest in economy, no secret to his intelligence officers, has led to more comfortable appraisals than conservative military men would make. They prefer to judge the Communist threat by its capability for aggression rather than someone's estimate of its intentions.

BEFORE THE Bay of Pigs, CIA agents roamed the world, plotting coups and counter-coups, making undercover deals. Rival intelligence agencies also kept their information to themselves for use in political and budget battles on Capitol Hill.

The Bay of Pigs, the blunder that came near ending all CIA blunders, brought a drastic change. The late President Kennedy fired off a series of secret directives to correct the CIA's faults. The DIA was established to end interservice rivalry in the military field. Thus began the great spy shake-up, which was supposed to end the free-wheeling operations coordinate all free-wheeling operations, coordinate all intelligence, and prevent duplication.

Instead, the CIA and DIA are now open rivals, competing to scoop one another with intelligence beats. On paper, the DIA is supposed to turn all its intelligence over to the CIA. In practice, it often bypasses the CIA and furnishes intelligence directly to the President. (Copyright, 1966)