

## U.S. Spies Posing As Businessmen

A high United States official said yesterday that more than 200 American intelligence agents are stationed abroad, posing as businessmen.

He said that some are full-time intelligence operatives and that business enterprises providing them with a cover receive payments from the U.S. government to defray the costs of running their offices.

Others function only part-time as agents, he said, and some of them have proved to be such talented businessmen that they are lured away from their intelligence positions and hired as full-time executives by the companies that had provided cover.

"We've lost some good ones that way," the official said. He added that some of the businessmen - agents had been "very valuable" as intelligence gatherers, while others had become "a pain in the neck," because they "spent only ten minutes a day" on intelligence activity

and the rest of their working day on business assignments.

The official made the disclosure during a discussion of relationships between U.S. intelligence services and private American business.

The official, who insisted that neither his name nor his department be identified, said that the American intelligence services frequently sought specific information from businessmen, scholars and journalists. He indicated that some of the information was purchased while other items were acquired by "swapping" data useful to the other party.

The official stated that the Central Intelligence Agency was also "phasing out" its practice of having agents operate under the cover of being journalists.

Last year it was disclosed that the CIA had maintained some 30 journalists on its payroll during the years since World War II.

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