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New controls

Chief says the CIA has cleaned up its spy act

By Gerald Adams

The Central Intelligence Agency, long condemned for questionable morality and legality at home and abroad, is turning over a new leaf, according to director Stansfield Turner.

Only hours after the latest revelations of its activities, (drugging people without their knowledge, running a San Francisco bordello), the nation's chief spy assured members of the Commonwealth Club at a Palace Hotel luncheon that the CIA has a new image that inhibits meddling in foreign countries and domestic wiretapping. For example:

STANSFIELD TURNER
Speaking here

• On the accusation that the CIA helped to overthrow Salvador Allende's Chilean government, Turner indicated such a "covert act" would be far more difficult to bring about today.

So many new sanctions are required, he said, "There is no way I can initiate a covert action of this type" without first obtaining 1) a proposal from the National Security Council, 2) permission from the NSA, 3) permission in writing from the President and 4) and OKs from seven committees of Congress — and, he added, "If it isn't public by then, we'll do it."

• On controlling future CIA involvement with LSD, marijuana, electroshock and other experiments with human behavior, Turner promised strong control and stringent supervision.

The consolidation of most of the nation's intelligence operations under the CIA, just announced this week, also will provide protections, he said including:

1) A new presidential intelligence "oversight" board, consisting of three distinguished citizens who will be empowered to receive letters of complaint and appeals without their being routed through the chain of command.

2) Legislation, still under consideration by Congress, to insure that wire tapping in the United States "does not violate the rights of our citizens."

3) The turning over to Congress of details of all CIA drug-related activities (accomplished this week).

4) A change in philosophy that Turner stated thusly: "We cannot afford to utilize methods of collecting secret intelligence data our society feels would jeopardize the very values we are determined to defend."

Turner favors disclosing the size of CIA budgets. "I am not opposed to publishing a single figure," he said, (but) "very opposed to breaking down the figure (by departments) because an adversary can find where we are putting emphasis."

In other topics, Turner:

• Disclosed that CIA intelligence predicts a marked drop in U.S.S.R. oil production about 1980 that will create by the mid-1980s "a supply and price crunch" in the world at large and "some very difficult periods" for Soviet leadership.

• Called onetime CIA operative Philip Agee "a traitor" for publishing in his recent book "the names of agents, the names of people and places." The publicity "has grievously injured" U.S. intelligence capability, Turner said, to the point that potential agents wonder "whether they can risk working for us."

Turner, 53, a former Naval Academy classmate of President Carter, was appointed to CIA head in February and is believed to be the leading candidate for director of national intelligence operations, a new cabinet-level position.

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