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THE FRESHMAN SPY

Uncle Sam is a freshman spy. He is up to his ears in international intelligence, with a more generous budget for the cloak-and-dagger business than any other nation except Russia. But it's a new role for the old Uncle who has traditionally been a frank, plain-talking (if somewhat naive) old gentleman. How is he doing?

Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence agency and brother of the Secretary of State, claims he is doing pretty well. In a lengthy interview in the current U. S. News Dulles asserts that the chance of an enemy pulling a new Pearl Harbor has vanished. He says that we are now set up to evaluate instantly any major intelligence reports. Pearl Harbor, he points out, came about not so much from a lack of information as a breakdown in the process of getting that information to the proper people in time.

The uncomfortable thing about the Central Intelligence agency is that we must take Mr. Dulles' word for how it is doing. Its budget is never published. No taxpayer can get a list of the people who are on its payroll. We have to trust Allen Dulles to see that it is not infiltrated with enemy agents. We cannot examine the information it receives to judge if it is true or false.

Back in the days of wonderful optimism between the Civil War and World War I the American people were convinced that the world was moving progressively and inevitably toward a Christian millennium. We reasoned that with physical slavery gone serfdom would soon follow, that the obvious decline of the hereditary nobility meant an inexorable rise of pure democracy, the colonialism would mature into freedom for all peoples, and that expanding education would result in a close bond of international understanding.

No one would have guessed back in 1914 that in 40 years the United States would be pouring \$60 billions a year into a tremendous war machine, including the CIA spy network and the Atomic Energy commission whose work is also kept a dark secret from the people.

This unfortunate circumstance is the product of a terrible accident in history. There was good cause for cautious optimism in 1914. But an effort by the land-locked German empire to catch up with the wealth and prestige of the British Empire resulted in a convulsion that swept away the wealth of both. It also toppled the rotten Russian aristocracy, and a tiny Bolshevik minority crushed the unorganized middle class and seized power.

The uneasy peace between the World Wars was jarred in 1933 when the rising and ambitious Japanese nation moved into Manchuria. Two years later Mussolini took Ethiopia and in 1939 Hitler attempted once again to establish German power over Europe. This greater convulsion completed the impoverishment of the British Empire, ruined the prestige of the French and in power vacuum caused by the fall of the Axis nations the Communist conspiracy moved forward quickly.

So it's a cloak-and-dagger world, a world that trembles in the shadow of the H-bomb. It is a world in which those people who are still free cannot afford any more Pearl Harbors.

We hope Mr. Allen Dulles knows what he is talking about when he assures us that he and his CIA boys know quite a bit. We're going to have to trust him. If we're going to hire spies we can't ask them to fill out questionnaires.