

Our Master Spy

The job of directing the Central Intelligence Agency is a difficult one, to say the least.

So it was not surprising that Allen W. Dulles would have faced crises of grave degree during his lengthy tenure as director of our nation's spy network.

President Eisenhower's Advisory Committee on Intelligence activities is known to have made serious criticism of the internal organization of CIA. These criticisms, it is said, reflected upon Mr. Dulles' methods as an executive. Officials of other Government departments compared him in this respect with his brother, the late John Foster Dulles, who tried to run the State Department in the Eisenhower administration as a one-man show.

The CIA director refused, however, to accept the committee's recommendations and President Eisenhower declined to force them upon him.

And, in the last year and a half, Mr. Dulles and his agency went through two public crises which reflected adversely upon them. The first

Went Through Two Big Crises

was the unfortunate U-2 incident in the spring of 1960 which led to the collapse of the Paris summit conference and brought an unsurmountable rift between President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Khrushchev. The second was the unsuccessful attempt last April to back an invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro rebels.

Although President Kennedy publicly assumed responsibility for this miscalculation, he ordered a private investigation of the CIA, which had been in charge of the planning and training of the invasion force.

In both instances, Mr. Dulles offered to be the scapegoat and resign, but both Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy refused the offers. Both times powerful friends in Congress rallied to assure Mr. Dulles he would be able to end his long career of government service with honor. Thus he was able to stay long enough to fulfill one of his fondest dreams—the transfer of his staff to the new CIA headquarters building at Langley, Va., a move which already has begun.

Mr. Dulles instituted at least one drastic change in spy procedures. When he became the nation's chief intelligence agent in Switzerland

Instituted Change In Spy Procedures

land in World War II, the old-fashioned person-to-person, word-of-mouth method still was the basic mode of operation. The tradition of secrecy still was so strong at the time that the chief of British intelligence was known only as "The Brigadier" and his real name, Menzies, was not even mentioned at cabinet meetings.

But Mr. Dulles, although he maintained close secrecy on CIA activities, never shunned personal publicity. In fact, it was because he was known as the chief intelligence agent of the U.S. in Switzerland in World War II that German informants came to him in 1944 with information about the plot by highly placed anti-Nazis to assassinate Adolf Hitler. And again the following year the German military came to him to assure him that the German army in Italy was ready to surrender.

This experience led him to reply to critics of the new, plainly visible CIA headquarters building:

"Never try to conceal what cannot or need not be concealed. When I was in Switzerland during the war, nobody knew who was the British intelligence agent, but everyone knew who was there for the United States. That was why certain information about what was going on in the enemy countries came to me."