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here is an amusing irony surrounding the secrecy of the CIA—amusing because an adventurous tourist can spend an interesting morning or afternoon penetrating it.

The recommended method for getting into spy headquarters is of prime importance and, interestingly enough, the least expensive. Note: it is not by automobile. Although you could ask a gas station attendant for a D.C. roadmap and spot the multi-acre estate astride the Potomac in suburban McLean, Virginia, in a twinkling (it is clearly marked on all the maps as the CIA), actually finding it is a different matter. The most common approach, west out of Washington along the George Washington Parkway, would yield nothing but frustration in terms of locating it.

The exit from the Parkway which leads to the side entrance to the CIA is clearly marked "Fairbanks Highway Research Center," a Bureau of Public Roads facility.

There actually is a small BPR tenant on the large CIA estate, so no official lying is involved.

Story has it that in the early '60s Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, who passed by this way each morning, ordered that the CIA sign be taken down and a substitute put in its place.

The main entrance is located just off Route 123, which also is accessible from the George Washington Parkway. At the second light from the Parkway exit a road curls off to the right toward CIA. A short distance up that road, however, one is greeted by a sign warning that a federal installation is ahead and that entry is authorized only to those on official government business.

At each gate, a guard stops would-be tourists by simply asking a few questions and showing them where to turn their cars around to correct their "mistake." There is really no way around this, and the whole process is cited only to show you that you shouldn't expend a lot of