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Personally Speaking -- by Phillip F. Miller

Intelligence—Our Nation's Safety

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The Lions club International has as its motto "Liberty, Intelligence—our Nation's Safety." An added meaning was given to this motto at a recent club meeting when a former operations chief of the Central Intelligence agency of the United States spoke to members of the Royal Oak Lions club.

Major James Kellis, retired, discussed the importance of the operations of our intelligence system to the safety of our country.

We need to know what other countries, especially unfriendly countries, are doing in order to provide adequately for our defense, he pointed out. We need to know whether they are concentrating on planes, submarines, missiles, or other types of weapons so that we may, in turn, concentrate on specific defenses against the weapons. If we do not have the correct information, we are liable to spend billions and billions of dollars in misdirected efforts.

If unfriendly nations realize that we know what is going on in their military operations, they will be much more reluctant to launch any such operations against us, he stated. "They would never dare initiate an attack because they know we would take the necessary counter measures and mount an effective retaliatory attack."

Kellis, a retired Air Force colonel, professional lecturer of political science at the University of Detroit, discussed the effect of intelligence on a nation's foreign relations.

Our Central Intelligence agency, he said, is in effect performing many of the functions of a State department, over and above those of a purely intelligence and

informative nature. This is because our State department, as a diplomatic agency, can not do many of the required jobs.

One of the most important functions of the intelligence service is furnishing the State department with information on which it can base its policies in regard to foreign relations. The State department, Congress, and the President must be kept fully informed of developments as they occur so that the proper actions may be taken.

Failure to supply such intelligence has at times resulted in disastrous situations. "Our intelligence system," he stated, "did not provide proper information concerning the Korean invasion, the Chinese Communist entry in the Korean conflict, the Suez crisis, and has continually underestimated Soviet missile accomplishments and capabilities."

Kellis, who served in the OSS during the last war and most of the major theaters of the war and behind enemy lines, feels that our intelligence service could be greatly improved. He suggested that we should do with the CIA as was done with the FBI some 30 years ago. Then, J. Edgar Hoover took over a faltering and inept FBI. By careful selection of personnel and very careful training, he has made the FBI into one of the best agencies in the world today. "It's even better than Scotland Yard," Kellis said.

Proper intelligence is indeed essential to our nation's safety, he stressed. Whatever we can do to improve our intelligence operation will add immeasurably to the security of our country.