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'Spy' Shift—FBI To Latin America

Move Considered A Setback to CIA

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Sen. Fulbright

Fulbright— Words Too On the CIA

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WASHINGTON.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright, who has been sniping at the Johnson administration's foreign policy, turned his guns yesterday on two other Federal powerhouses—the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Department.

The Arkansas Democrat said that he and many others thought both agencies were playing too "prominent" a role in the conduct of American foreign policy.

The CIA, Sen. Fulbright continued, in an interview on NBC-TV's "Meet The Press," is "supposed to be an intelligence agency only, and not an operating agency in the execution of foreign policy."

As for the military, he said, the American tradition is that it should be "subject to civilian policy-makers."

Asked whether he thought the CIA and the Defense Department "have a decisive influence on the American policy in Viet Nam, Sen.

More by FULBRIGHT—

Under orders from President Johnson, the business of intelligence collection in Latin America, and perhaps the rest of the world as well, is going to be "augmented" by FBI agents, the Herald Tribune has learned.

Normally, the field of foreign intelligence gathering is the jealously guarded domain of the Central Intelligence Agency, but sources in Washington confirm that Mr. Johnson has directed the FBI into at least eight key Latin American cities where it had not operated since the end of World War II.

The FBI would act—and in some cases is already acting—to give the President "an independent new source of intelligence data" on matters relating to U.S. security.

The CIA will continue to operate more or less as it has in the past in most countries, sources said, and the FBI agents, who would work in a far less cloak-and-dagger way, will concentrate almost totally on gathering intelligence.

The FBI, except under the rarest circumstances, will not be authorized to carry out covert operations—invasions, armed infiltration, secret support of opposition to regimes and other 007-type projects—as does the CIA.

Only "two or three men and a small staff" will make up the FBI team in any country, the sources said. The exception to date, however, is in the Dominican Republic, where more than a score of FBI agents were ordered into Santo Domingo by Mr. Johnson during the crisis last May.

PRESIDENT DISTURBED

It is known, despite Administration protests to the contrary, that President Johnson was sorely dismayed by the work of the CIA during the Dominican crisis. His dispatch of the FBI to Santo Domingo is widely regarded as both a repudiation and punishment for the CIA.

There is also the fact that President Johnson was disturbed by the work of the CIA on an unpublicized overthrow attempt of a Central American government which was set to take place last April—the same time the President was embroiled in the Dominican affair.

Washington sources said Mr. Johnson was made "unduly alarmed" after reading the CIA reporting on the potential coup. He found out later that much of the CIA's intelligence was faulty and overdrawn.

The FBI, on the other hand, presented a realistic picture of the threat and, just as FBI director J. Edgar Hoover personally assured Mr. Johnson it would, the plot was a total failure.

Since that time, Mr. Johnson has shown considerable confidence in the FBI's reporting about Latin America, and the FBI has stepped up its program of sending agents abroad.

The FBI is sending many agents from the Miami area (on scouting trips) because of their knowledge of Spanish. But

More on 'SPY SHIFT'

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Fulbright on the CIA

Fulbright responded by saying he thought the role of both was "very great."

"I would prefer that the civilian agencies be the major and decisive influence," the Senator said. "I think it (the Viet Nam situation) is largely a political decision." He predicted that only political and social settlements "will finally bring about some stability in that area."

In a floor speech on Sept. 15, Sen. Fulbright attacked the Administration's decision to intervene with troops in the Dominican Republic revolt. In another floor speech on Friday, he told fellow Senators that about 90 per cent of the mail he had received following the earlier address favored his stand. He continued:

"Many of the letters I received expressed concern about the role of the Department of Defense and the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the conduct of American foreign policy."

It was in response to queries yesterday about this that the Senator questioned the CIA-Defense Department roles in any fields but their own.

He was asked whether he thought "an imbalance" had developed between the State and Defense Departments, in the latter's favor, in foreign policy matters.

"I think this has been developing," he replied.

He pointed out that the Defense Department receives more than 50 per cent of the whole Federal budget. In addition, he said, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara "is

an extremely able man, with great persuasive powers. It is a combination of these elements."

He then was asked whether he thought "The State Department has been very willing to let Defense make . . . policies which are really political policies."

"Well," he replied, "I don't know whether they (the State Department) have been willing or not, but it seems to me the Defense Department is extremely influential."

"I feel this very much as a legislator and as a Senator, when I see the way the Congress responds to the Defense Department in every respect. I mean the way they never subject their major enormous appropriations bills to any serious discussion. We take it on faith."

Asked for a suggestion on how President Johnson might "Restore the balance between (Secretary of State Dean) Rusk and Mr. McNamara," Sen. Fulbright declared that Mr. Johnson "has complete control of this Administration," and "He is not by any means under the dominance of anybody. . . ."

But, he continued, "as a matter of advice to him," he would remind the President of the Defense Department's "Enormous influence throughout the country through the great, enormous contracts and business they do."

"It is reaching even into my state, which is one of the remote ones . . . this is a tremendous power that they have, and I think we have to be very careful that it isn't a dominant one."

FBI 'SPY' SHIFT

sources said other FBI offices around the U. S. are also being tapped.

"They have found," said one source, "that many of the contacts made by the FBI during the war are still good and the reputation of the FBI has remained excellent."

While there is an obvious reluctance in Washington to admit it, the FBI's movement into the field of intelligence abroad is a blow to the prestige and power of the CIA within the Administration.

This may be one of the primary reasons, the well-informed sources said, why the CIA has recently passed out secret documents to selected Congressmen warning of a Soviet-directed slander campaign and other pressures being brought to "discredit" the agency.

"There is a lot of worrying going on across the river about how much money they are going to get when the budget time comes around again," said one informant. The term "across the river" means across the Potomac River in McLean, Va., where the huge CIA headquarters are located.

The likelihood that the FBI's activities in the foreign intelligence field will be increased even more is "very good," according to informed Washington sources. And it was stressed that covert or "black" operations will remain the sole province of the CIA.

Among the CIA's "black" operations in the past are the overthrow of Guatemala's far-leftist president Jacobo Arbenz, the assassination of dictator Rafael Trujillo Molina in the Dominican Republic, and, of course, the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

There is also some evidence that the massive CIA operation in the Miami area may be sharply curtailed sometime soon on the basis that its "operation" franchise in the area has expired with its failure to topple Fidel Castro.

The CIA's continuing anti-Castro operation, of which the Bay of Pigs was only a part, was at one time the agency's only "legal" reason for operating in the Miami area, since by statute the agency is forbidden to work inside the U. S.

Nonetheless, the CIA has now forced itself deep into the intelligence business inside the U. S., and this has caused some quiet but bitter jurisdictional disputes with the FBI and other government agencies, which are legally responsible for the internal security of the nation.

The FBI's stock, in some quarters, has been low since the assassination of President Kennedy. The Warren Commission's investigation criticized the organization for not telling the Secret Service that killer Lee Harvey Oswald was in Dallas although his presence in the city was known for three weeks before the assassination.