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## ON 20TH BIRTHDAY

## Johnson, HHH laud CIA

WASHINGTON (CDN) —

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The Central Intelligence Agency was taken a bit by surprise Monday, but was hardly upset by it.

It was the day for presenting annual service awards, and for the first time it was in a position to give 20-year certificates to employees.

The spy agency was created by the National Security Act of Sept. 17, 1947. No special 20-year birthday ceremony was planned, but to the surprise of the agency, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey showed up to praise the



HUMPHERY

CIA's activities in that span of time.

He called it "as vital to the well being of the American people and the nation as the Department of Defense and the Department of State."

And then to top off the surprises, President Johnson sent a birthday greeting to the agency, which was ready by Director Richard Helms.

"TWENTY YEARS AGO, this country had no broad-scale intelligence service worthy of the name," the President said.

"Today it has a strong and vital one — the best in the world.

"You have built a solid foundation in these last 20 years. America relies upon

your continued dedication to the truth — on your commitment to our democratic ideal. I believe our trust is well-placed."

The agency was so unnerved by the praise it got from the two top elected officials of the government that word leaked out that 803 employees received 20-year certificates.

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