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SIDNEY SOUERS, FIRST DIRECTOR HONORED

\$46 Million CIA Building Has Cornerstone Ceremony

By EDWARD W. O'BRIEN
Chief of The Globe-Democrat
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON.—A slab of white Georgia marble was troweled into place Tuesday at the cornerstone of a \$46,000,000 headquarters building for the Central Intelligence Agency.

As chief mason for the occasion, President Eisenhower praised the government's intelligence operatives as patriotic heroes who often go "undecorated and unsung, even among their own fraternity."

Among those honored in ceremonies held in a wooded setting high on the Potomac River bluffs in suburban Virginia was Sidney W. Souers of St. Louis, retired navy Rear Admiral and first director of CIA in 1946.

Admiral Souers, wartime deputy chief of naval intelligence, was seated in a small group on the speakers' platform, along with President Eisenhower, CIA director Allen Dulles, Defense Secretary McElroy and other top officials.

He watched while Mr. Eisenhower, Mr. McElroy, Mr. Dulles and retiring Undersecretary of State Robert Murphy took turns with silver-plated trowels in daubing around the cornerstone, as it was lowered into the building foundation, sealing off a document-filled copper box.

"Aren't you going to tell us what's in the box?" Secretary McElroy jokingly asked Mr. Dulles.

"Secrets," answered the head of the world-wide, cloak-and-dagger CIA.

Actually, the box contained historical papers tracing CIA development as a permanent fact-gathering service, growing out of the Office of Strategic Services of World War II.



...when the agency was moved into its new headquarters building in Washington, CIA was in a period of transition from the OSS to the present CIA. Later Adm. Souers moved to the White House, becoming executive secretary of the National Security Council and special consultant to President Truman on military and intelligence matters. He is now board chairman of the General American Life Insurance Company.

The building will have almost 25 acres of usable space, plus 16 acres of parking lots will include a cafeteria and a gymnasium for employees.

...reminded me of his estimate of 2000, most of them are men. "The nation's reputation depends in large measure upon the quality of your work."

"The reputation of your organization for quality and excellence of performance, under the leadership of Allen Dulles, is a proud one," he said.

"By its very nature, the work of this agency demands of its members the highest order of dedication, ability, trustworthiness and selflessness, and the finest type of courage.

"Success cannot be advertised. Failure cannot be explained."

Mr. Dulles recalled that ever since the CIA was given permanent status by Congress 12 years ago, the agency has had the support of Presidents and Congresses of both political parties.

"Facts have no politics," he said.

Adm. Souers had much to do with shaping the CIA. After six years of Naval service, he was appointed Director of Naval Intelligence in 1946.

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