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Q Admiral Raborn, you have just left the Central Intelligence Agency after more than 14 months as Director. What is your opinion of the Agency?

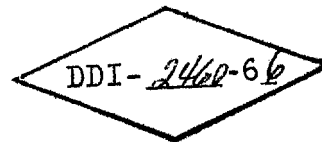
A Excellent. It is the finest organization I have ever been associated with. The people at CIA are dedicated, loyal, and highly capable. I found the Agency well up to its exacting requirements as our first line of national defense.

Q Why are you leaving now?

A When President Johnson called me out of retirement from government service, I asked him first how long I would be needed. He told me I could serve six months, or a year, or as long as he was in office, or until I was satisfied with certain administrative tasks, including in particular long-range planning. I'm taking the fourth option, but I also came close to the one-year hitch. Actually, the President had had my resignation in hand for about three weeks when he came in with the Dominican crisis, and you might say it

# U. S. News & World Report

WASHINGTON



2300 N STREET, N. W. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20037

June 6, 1966

Vice Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr.  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
McLean, Virginia

Dear Admiral Raborn:

Apropos of our telephone conversation today, I am enclosing a list of questions that occurred to me and also a memorandum from one of my associates on the same subject.

Sincerely yours,

Editor

DL:H

1. While we know you can't tell us exactly how much money you spend on particular activities, could you give us an idea of how your appropriation is divided -- that is, as between gathering of information abroad and transmission of it to various parts of our government and information that is related to clandestine operations? Just the proportions might be interesting.

✓ 2. In view of the fact that most of your energies are devoted to the gathering of information, would it have been more accurate to have used the initials of your organization and to call it the "Central Information Agency"?

Isn't it true, for instance, that much of the information that you gather isn't really secret at all, but that if someone were at the proper place at the proper time in a given area or city he would be able to get the information in a normal way, as for instance, a newspaperman gets it?

3. When the information is gathered, is it interpreted by somebody on the spot, or is it brought to you in raw form so that you can feel sure it is factual rather than opinionated?

4. What is the importance of this type of information to the operations of our government?

5. Since it has been stated that you yourselves do not make policy, would you say from your contacts with government officials that they have found the information valuable when they start to formulate particular policies?

6. As we understand it, you do not operate within the United States in the matter of clandestine operations of any kind. Is that correct?

7. Is this left entirely to the FBI?

8. In working abroad, what is the system of contact that you have with our embassies and legations? Do you have any representatives in any of the embassies?

9. Do you transmit any information directly to the embassires, or does it have to come to Washington and then be relayed back to the embassies, or

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legations abroad?

10. What comments have you had, in a general way, from government officials as to the value of the information they have received through your system?

11. Prior to the establishment of the CIA, was there a feeling in the State Department and elsewhere that they were handicapped in getting information from other countries, while the governments abroad themselves carried on a constant information-gathering operation in our country as well as others?

12. Do you collect information of a business nature, as well as that which concerns governmental operations?

13. Do you gather information about the operations of the governments themselves throughout a country?

14. At what point do you feel that the information gathered is of a nature which requires you constantly to report it back to our government? ~~It~~ We are speaking now only of information that would be available to anybody who happened to live in the country and does not involve clandestine operations in any way.

15. In dealing with clandestine operations, are you up against counter measures taken by other governments to thwart the activities of our own people?

16. Do foreign governments operate within the United States through their clandestine operations differently than we do when agents of your office operate abroad?

17. Would you say that the discovery of the atom bomb secrets, or rather the getting of information of a secret nature both in this country and in England by ~~by~~ the Russian Government was accomplished through clandestine operations of an agency analagous to yours, ~~or was~~ and could it have been thwarted by activities on our part? In other words, do we have better measures now to protect our secrets than we had then?

18. How do you co-operate with the intelligence agencies of the military <sup>one</sup> services? Does each ~~one~~ of the armed services have its own intelligence units and

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operatives? Do they operate in foreign countries? Are they confined strictly to military information?

19. Or is the CIA expected to collect this, too, in cases where the units of the armed services are not represented or do not have agents?

20. Do you have any outside counsel or advisers? What is the nature of this activity?

21. How long ago did the CIA begin to disclose to congressional committees information about its activities?

22. Have the congressional committees which have been in contact with the CIA expressed any dissatisfaction over the years that they were not getting enough information?

23. Do you find that leakages of information have been detrimental to your operation in any respect?

24. Do all the major countries operate intelligence systems?

25. Is there co-operation between the intelligence systems of friendly countries and our own?

26. If we collect information that is of vital importance to one of our allied countries, would it be transmitted to the State Department or Defense Department and to the proper governmental units abroad which are friendly to us?

27. To what extent is the co-operation between the intelligence agencies of allied governments a factor in the successful operation of intelligence activities by your unit?

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29. What are the names of your different divisions, if you can give them to us?

30. Do you maintain offices abroad -- or is this secret?

31. Does most of your personnel live abroad?

32. What can be said in answer to the criticism that dishonorable methods are used by the CIA?

33. Do you consider that the CIA is an instrument of the "cold war" and is justified in taking any measures to get information that are being taken by other governments in their efforts to get information inside the United States?

34. Would you say that there is any essential difference between the methods used by the Army, Navy and Air Force in their intelligence units to get information abroad, and that which is used by the CIA?

35. On the whole, would you say that former employees have maintained integrity and have not broken confidence over the years?

36. Have you had many instances of defections?

37. Do other governmental intelligence agencies have something of the same problem?

38. Although the Armed Services have intelligence units, does the CIA feel responsible for the collection of any military information that could possibly be of value to the Armed Services?

39. To what extent does the CIA operate under direct instructions from the President or Secretary of State?

40. Are there some ~~very~~ general instructions given covering a number of activities?

41. Do you have anything which might be called regulations to govern your activities?

42. Are these prescribed by the President or Secretary of State or any other Cabinet officer? In other words, to what extent do you operate under specific instructions in certain types of cases?

~~D.E.1-~~

Some possible added questions for CIA:

- ✓ 1. Can you describe the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in general terms?
- ✓ 2. Is this role essentially one of information gathering? Would a more descriptive title be: "Central Information Agency?"
- ✓ 3. People seem to have the impression that yours is a big "spying" organization, staffed by <sup>u</sup>spies. Is that anywhere near a correct impression?
- ✓ 4. Another idea is that the CIA is in the business of stirring insurrections or starting and maybe running little wars. Is that impression justified?
- ✓ 5. Do your information activities cover the globe?
6. Why is information on this scale important to the U.S.? Is it necessary as an aid in shaping policies of this nation with its world-wide interests and world-wide aid programs?
- ✓ 7. Do you work with the nation's embassies overseas and its consulates? Is that work a supplement to the diplomatic and consular service or in competition with it?
- ✓ 8. Is your role in information gathering different from that of the intelligence services of the armed forces?
9. Does machinery exist to correlate all of the information that flows into Washington?

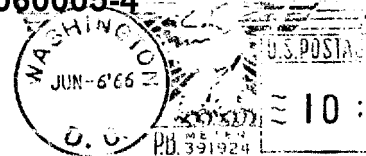
vast amount of information that you receive? Is this machinery so geared that quick action can follow when the flow of information <sup>impending</sup> suggests (danger or trouble)?

11. Do you work largely in a vacuum with little or no contact with the rest of the Government?
12. To whom does your organization report? Are accounts supervised or audited? Does anyone in Congress know of what activities you are carrying on?



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PERSONAL

Vice Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr., USN Ret.  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
McLean, Virginia

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