

12 OCTOBER 1975

CIA of Colby, Wm.
0291 NO 250

Colby defends record of CIA

Associated Press

Although admitting the Central Intelligence Agency has failed to predict several recent international crises, CIA Director William Colby defended the organization as the "best intelligence agency in the world" during a weekend visit to the Twin Cities.

He cited the coups in Portugal and Chile and the 1973 Middle East war as cases where the CIA failed to accurately predict those happenings. But, he noted that "intelligence is not a crystal ball."

THE CIA MUST maintain the capability for covert operations because "there are some things that can't be handled by a diplomatic protest, and yet you don't want to send the Marines," Colby said.

Colby also said he approved of



Colby

criticism of the CIA, saying: "We expect the government to respond to the questions of its citizens and follow the Constitution and laws."

But, he accused the news media of "some undue sensationalism," in reporting CIA activities.

COLBY ATTENDED a reunion of a special duty group which volunteered for a mission in Norway during World War II.

Except for Colby, an Irishman, all 80 members of the group, organized by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), were of Norwegian ancestry. They were experts in parachuting, skiing and guerrilla warfare.

Colby, 55, commanded the expedition. They parachuted into northern Norway to cut the railroad lines Germans were using to bring troops back from Finland. Seventeen of the volunteers were killed.

Colby, in brief remarks, told his old comrades that they shouldn't feel too sorry about his "having to answer a few questions. We want intelligence to work under the Constitution and under the law."

*P. Smith, Robert
CIA Colby, Wm
ORGI NORSO
Coigunder Smit*

CIA's Colby salutes past, Norwegian OSS comrades

By Robert T. Smith
Staff Writer

The head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) came to Minneapolis Friday on a sentimental journey.

Thirty years ago, William E. Colby, then a major in the U.S. Army, commanded a group of 80 Norwegian-Americans who were experts

in parachuting and skiing and guerilla warfare. They were volunteers for special dangerous duty.

Colby, now 55, parachuted into northern Norway with them to cut the railroad lines the Germans were using to bring troops back from Finland. Seventeen of his men were killed.

But 47 of the rest gathered in the Normandy Motor Inn last night—the first reunion they have ever had. They came from New York, California, Pennsylvania, the Panama Canal Zone and other parts of the nation to tell tall tales, sing bawdy songs and hug each other.

Among them were lawyers and ship captains, an insurance executive, a tool and die maker, a pig farmer and the head of the CIA.

They belonged in World War II to a secret organization called NORSO, the Norwegian Special Operations Group, a branch of the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.). They were picked because of Norwegian ancestry and some were Norwegian merchant marine seamen whose ships were sunk in the early part of the war and who then joined the American Army. All are now Americans.

The reunion was organized by two Minnesotans, Leif Eide of Minneapolis and Adolph Hogfoss of New Ulm, and Karl Hoffman of Medford, Calif. Minneapolis was selected because of its central location.

Colby, a native of St. Paul, still a slightly built man of 153 pounds, was known as "Major Guts and Bones," because of his small size.

He entered the reunion room carrying the NORSO flag, a pennant with a parachute and crossed rifles with a ski pole holding it up. He grabbed a gin and tonic and then

the good hand of Nels Huss, of Spokane, Wash. Huss's other hand was blown off while lighting an explosive charge.

The CIA chief hugged Leif Oistad, the captain of a geophysical research ship who came to the meeting from the Arctic Circle. He grabbed both hands of Einar Eliassen, Woodland Hills, Calif., who was known as "Eli" and was the outfit's top sergeant.

As Colby walked away, Eliassen said to some others: "He's gone through more than all those guys chewing him apart put together," referring to recent investigations of the CIA. "I want to get up and kick them all in the ass."

Colby, in an interview, said he came because "these are very close old friends," adding, "We parachuted together and developed very warm friendships that continued through the years. These Norwegians are great." Colby is Irish.

They drank and ate steak and sang songs ranging from the Norwegian National Anthem to "Roll Me Over in the Clover." As the names of their dead comrades were sounded — Bernard Hagland, Robert N. Anderson, Capt. Bill Larson . . . — the old company bugler, Fred Johansen, played "Taps." Now an insurance executive in Jamestown, N.Y., he had practiced it for the last two months.

Colby declined to discuss specifics of the CIA's recent problems, but did comment on why there is a CIA office in Minneapolis. "We're not in Minneapolis to spy on anybody," he said. "We want to get information on foreign activities — from such as businessmen and university types and whatever."

In a talk to the group, he noted that the O.S.S. was a forerunner of the CIA and said the men gathered there "produced a spirit and enthusiasm that left a permanent mark on the United States and on Norway."

12 OCTOBER 1975

CIA of Colby, Wm.

ORGI NORSO

Colby Meets Old Buddies Of OSS Days

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 11 (AP)—Lawyers, ship captains, business executives, a die maker, a pig farmer and the United States' spy chief were there among the old wartime buddies.

The 47 on hand were among 80 American soldiers who volunteered for special duty in Norway during World War II. All but one were of Norwegian ancestry and all were experts in parachuting, skiing, and guerrilla warfare.

For the one non-Norwegian, William-E. Colby, 55, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, coming to Minneapolis on Friday for the reunion was a sentimental journey. Thirty years ago, then Maj. Colby commanded the volunteers on their dangerous mission. Colby and the others parachuted into Norway to cut railroad lines Germans were using to bring troops back from Finland. Seventeen of the volunteers were killed.

The reunion in a Minneapolis hotel was the first ever held by the men from the secret organization known as NORSO, the Norwegian Special Operations Group, a branch of the Office of Strategic Services. They came from New York, California, Pennsylvania, the Panama Canal Zone and elsewhere. They told tall tales, sang bawdy songs and hugged each other.

The slightly built Colby, who was known to the others as "Major Guts and Bones," entered the reunion room carrying the NORSO flag, a pennant with a parachute and crossed rifles with a ski pole holding it up.

Later, the men who 30 years ago parachuted into Norway with "Major Guts and Bones" gave him a standing ovation.

"These Norwegians are great," said Colby, of Irish descent.