

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
SUN

M - 169,185
E - 194,534
S - 337,160

OCT 7 1973

Approved For Release 2005/08/22 : CIA-RDP88-01350R000200720008-7

P-DAVIS, CURTIS CARROLL

KIRKPATRICK, LYMAN

SO 04.012 The US

Intelligence Community
Foreign Policy & Domestic
Activities

CIA 1.04 Marchetti,
VICTOR

BOOKS

Who's watching the watchers?

The U.S. Intelligence Community: Foreign Policy and Domestic Activities. By Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, Jr. 203 pages. Hill & Wang. \$7.95.

This is a very sensible little handbook by an author who knows his subject as do few writing thereon today. Author of "The Real CIA" (1968) and now a professor of political science at Brown University, Mr. Kirkpatrick can look back on almost a quarter century of intelligence activity, culminating in his post as executive director-comptroller of the Central Intelligence Agency. In what he terms "neither a defense nor a whitewash but an evaluation of the U.S. effort as I see it," he begins his study with an explanation of what the so-called "intelligence community" centered in Washington is, analyzing the functions of its various components. He then sketches the controls built into and around this community to forestall gigantism or cancer, and singles out "the one with the sharpest cutting edge" as the Office of Management and Budget. He defends the secrecy pledge required of employees, thinks the case of Victor Marchetti "may well become a landmark ... for legal action against intelligence personnel," and delves at some length into one of those rare episodes where international espionage briefly surfaced. This was the 1964 slander suit staged before Judge Roszel C. Thomson in District Court in Baltimore

volving two Estonian nationals.

Government operations overseas and at home each receive a chapter, as does the subject of political support for, or criticism of, an administration's conduct in those fields. The author is solidly in favor of House and Senate "watchdog" committees overseeing intelligence activities, or at least their drift, but argues also that the professional community must appropriately withstand too much such access. If this situation were to predominate, "there would be no intelligence community and no security or secrecy in government."

Mr. Kirkpatrick's style is matter-of-fact, at times bordering on colorlessness. His index is skimpy, and he offers only two illustrations: charts of a sample electronics-communications system and of the Defense Intelligence Agency (within the armed forces). There is very little on espionage. The bibliography is almost ruthlessly selective. Offsetting such deficiencies is the author's masterly overview of a complex governmental structure, with the narrative occasionally enlivened by personal reminiscence. He recalls, for example, the photograph a grateful President Kennedy sent across the river to Langley inscribed, "To the CIA—with esteem."

Mr. Kirkpatrick finds "the modern American tragedy" to be that "many citizens have lost their confidence in the truthfulness of their government officials." Such citizens

wrong. "How good is the U.S. intelligence community? Obviously, it is neither omniscient nor ubiquitous, nor could it be. There are gaps in knowledge in vital subjects. But based on what was missing in 1947, compared to what is missing today, the record is good."

Civil-libertarian types may be expected to pounce upon this volume with little grunts of slavering anticipation. But to at least one reviewer it stands as an admirably compressed, wisely instructive monograph for the restricted audience it patently addresses.

CURTIS CARROLL DAVIS

Mr. Davis is a veteran of both the OSS and the CIA.

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