

MERCURY (San Jose, Ca.)
7 February 1978

CIA has 'openness,' director tells critical Stanford crowd

By Charles Bricker
Staff Writer

STANFORD — CIA Director Stansfield Turner, claiming an historic new sense of openness in American intelligence operations, went before an audience of Stanford University students Monday night and laid himself open to a barrage of tough questions.

He was asked about current covert activities by the CIA, the training of secret police in South Africa and Iran, and illegal domestic spying.

Using a variety of blunt talk and glib wit, Turner rebuffed all charges against the CIA.

And he got strong applause for a partial defense of CIA activity in Chile under the Allende regime when he told an abrasive questioner:

"What you think went on there and what I think went on there are two different things."

It was an unusual speech before a college audience by the head of the super-secret spy agency, but one apparently designed to promote the CIA's new image of openness.

Turner spent a half hour before the estimated crowd of 2,000 at Kresge Auditorium on campus outlining what he has done in 10 months as head of the CIA to change the agency's image.

He said four big changes have been undertaken.

The first, said Turner, was to "shift the product of intelligence" so that the Soviet Union's military secrets are no longer a sole object of spying by United States agents.

Today, said Turner, CIA agents are after military, economic, and political information on nearly all of the 150 countries around the globe.

"Today we need to know what goes on around the world and cover a wider range of topics and broader areas than ever before," said Turner.

"Our attitude toward interfering in internal affairs also is changed. I don't say we should eschew political action when it is in the interest of the United States, but I do say it is better controlled," Turner said.

He said there has been much less emphasis placed on political action by CIA agents.

A second change, said Turner, is what he called, "the production line."

He said the American spy has been the basic element in intelligence gathering for years.

"Now, we have advanced technical devices to

collect that information," said Turner. He said agents now must emphasize why things are happening in other countries and what tomorrow will bring.

A third major change, he said, is "openness."

He said the CIA today must submit its plans to unprecedented numbers of oversight committees at the federal level.

Turner said he personally must subject the CIA's programs to the scrutiny of the "President, vice president, and eight committees of Congress as well as the National Security Council."

Speaking directly to future graduates of Stanford, Turner said that there is a need for new blood in the intelligence community, and that the "life blood of the CIA is the bright young college graduate."

Responding to criticism of CIA covert activities and charges of illegal actions over the past decade, Turner said, "I am very happy to see us turning the corner on the critical attitude towards intelligence."

He said that the CIA is working toward elimination of all of the abuses that have been alleged over the last decade.

During a half-hour of questions and answers with students, Turner denied that the CIA is training secret police in South Africa and Iran.

He said he would not discuss individual covert activities going on around the world, but that, "Even if I was to tell you what they were, it wouldn't sell in a book."

He said that the CIA is very sensitive to the violation of rights of citizens of the United States and that the CIA today is in no way involved in any kind of spying on domestic organizations.