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Backs Information Source Policy

Ex-Director Dulles Discusses the CIA

By DON BACON

WASHINGTON (JJNS)—Authorized congressional committees—including the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—have a right and a responsibility to know what's going on inside the Central Intelligence Agency, says former CIA director Allen W. Dulles.

But Congress should not, he adds, press the agency to reveal its sources of information.

..THE 73-YEAR-OLD former director said in an interview the CIA "should not be completely secretive," and isn't. The President and the National Security Council, he said, are always fully informed as to the agency's activities, and the agency is always responsive to their directors.

"You'd be surprised about the amount of influence the President has" over the CIA: Dulles said. "I don't believe the CIA can do anything the President doesn't know about."

..DULLES, who retired from the CIA in 1961 after nine years as director, was closely associated with some of the organization's most successful operations, as well as a few of its notable failures. In true CIA fashion, he accepted in silence much of the criticism for the failure in 1961 of the Cuban invasion, which had been planned and partially executed by his agency. He resigned shortly after the Bay of Pigs disaster.

President John F. Kennedy's desire to revise CIA administration in 1961 coincided with Dulles' desire to retire and devote more time to his personal endeavors, which include book writing.

..IN 1963 he published "The Craft of Intelligence," and this October will publish "The Secret Surrender," an account of his exploits with the Office of Strategic Services in World War II. Serving in

Dulles shortly before the end of World War II helped arrange for the surrender of a million Nazis in Northern Italy. In his account, Dulles describes some of the clandestine maneuvers, including the placing of a radio operator in the office of an SS general, that were forerunners of modern spying and intelligence.

Dulles said in the interview that as CIA director he testified before the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees "many times."

.BEFORE APPEARING, however, he would seek the permission of the chairman of the House or Senate CIA subcommittees — to which he was primarily responsible. There are four subcommittees—two each in the House and Senate—which oversee administrative and financial aspects of the CIA.

The Senate recently debated a controversial resolution to include the Foreign Relations Committee in the CIA oversee group on the theory that the CIA is involved in shaping and executing United States foreign policy.

..THE RESOLUTION was stopped by opponents on a procedural vote last week, but Foreign Relations Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) has indicated he will attempt again to get a vote on the resolution itself.

Dulles while emphasizing that his separation from the CIA made him not necessarily familiar with the current situation implied that as director he had no substantial problems in his dealings with Congress.

subcommittees whatever they wanted to know. He found that 'sometimes they don't want to know too much."

He said he was never pressed to reveal information that would endanger a CIA operative or close up a source of information.

"The members were very careful;" he noted. "I would say I don't think I should answer that . . . (and) that would be the end of it."

..THE RECENT publicity and debate over the CIA does not disturb the former director. "That's got to be expected in our society," he said.

Neither does he subscribe to the idea that it was a mistake when the agency was formed in 1948 to put the word "intelligence" in its name. Some have suggested that "central information agency" or some innocuous cover name would have better public acceptance.

"That wouldn't be any good," Dulles said. "Everybody would know who you were anyway, and the result would be the same."