

FEB 3 1969

## Allen Dulles: A Great American

CPYRGHT

America has lost one of its great civil servants in the death of former Central Intelligence Agency director Allen W. Dulles. He was the brother of the late John Foster Dulles, secretary of state under Eisenhower.

Of the two brothers, Foster was the more celebrated because of his governmental position. Clandestine operations are necessarily more shrouded in secrecy and heads of such agencies, like Allen Dulles, must take public beatings in silence without anger in a free society.

He ran the country's intelligence establishment during one of its formative and most dangerous periods, the Cold War of the 1950's. He brought to the job a gregarious, friendly and warm personality quite unlike that of his brother.

All who knew him well respected him. Ted Sorenson records that John Kennedy, even when he had determined to change the CIA directorship, was never angry at Mr. Dulles.

The manifold successes of the CIA under his leadership (which was quite a personal one) will never be known because of the nature of covert operations. Mr. Dulles once observed, "I don't spend my time worrying about things I can't do anything about. If something goes wrong, that's too bad. If it goes right, I just hope we can keep it a secret as long as possible."

Although some observers in America's open society find ALL secret international operations distasteful, the CIA is an obligatory agency of a modern government. Having served in the Office of Strategic Services, Allen Dulles had the background to assume command of the CIA during the critical years when it assumed its present functional nature. Mistakes were made; the United States was new at the massive international espionage game and assumed that Britain's system was the best to copy. How

There were individual operations always okayed by civilian presidents, that can be marked as "successes": the World War II network reaching into the German hierarchy that saved thousands of lives

by earlier surrender of German armies in Northern Italy; Guatemala; Iran.

There was the Cuban "failure" at the Bay of Pigs. In keeping with his nature, Mr. Dulles did not dodge any of his responsibility for any errors in that still beclouded operation. Even the closest of the Kennedys, who believed firmly that "Kennedys never make errors," give Mr. Dulles a clean bill of health, even though some of the Clan had snipped at his heels from the day John Kennedy was elected President. They wanted the late martyred President to remove two men at once: J. Edgar Hoover and Mr. Dulles. He retained them both as one of his first acts.

If Allen Dulles sits now with Saint Peter, one can easily imagine that they rock in front of a Heavenly fire. Said Mr. Dulles in life: "I have always tried to have important meetings around a fireplace. There is some subtle influence in a wood fire which makes people feel at ease and less inhibited in their conversation; and if you are asked a question which you are in no hurry to answer, you can stir up the fire and study the patterns the flames make until you have shaped your answer. If I needed more time to answer, I always had my pipe handy to fill and light."