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Washington Parade

Douglas Joins Those Kicking CIA in the Teeth

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Hearst Headline Service

The Central Intelligence Agency has been getting kicked in the teeth on the hour around the clock.

Some of the charges may or may not have some basis but the accomplishments of this agency are seldom recorded because of its hush-hush dealings with secret matters. For this same reason it is unable to defend itself.

Supreme Court Justice Douglas, while admitting that matters involving espionage and counter-espionage cannot be conducted openly, took a whack this week at the pattern of secrecy surrounding the CIA as well as the Pentagon.

REGARDING THE Pentagon, I go along with Justice Douglas. I believe that the current policy of "management" of the news in the Defense Department under the directive of defense press agent Sylvester has stimulated the search by alert Washington correspondents for news leakage coverage.

An example of how such news manipulation can backfire is sharply illustrated in the case of the magazine article describing Adlai Stevenson as having supported an appeasement policy during the Cuban crisis.

The piece was written by two journalistic friends of the President. It was based on a news leak, from some undetermined source.

Obviously, if there had been a policy of open news in the Defense Department there would have been

seeking the inside of the Cuban crisis via news leakage.

JUSTICE DOUGLAS asserts that the CIA uses its money in foreign "elections" and is conducting unreported intrigues in foreign policy, thereby violating the public right to know.

The liberal Justice Douglas is running squarely across the bow of the Kennedy ship of state.

JFK is on the record in opposing access of the press to intelligence data and justifying the news deception used during the Cuban crisis on the grounds it protected national security.

On the side of the CIA, it should be stressed that it evaluates only and that policy decisions, such as supporting the Castro forces in the mountains or going into an amphibious landing on the Cuban coast without air support, are made—not by the CIA—but by the administration.

ALSO, IN DEFENSE of the CIA, and associated military intelligence units, there has been the distorted charge that our agents in Red Cuba, should have been able to report the presence of Soviet missiles which could carry nuclear warheads deep into the U. S.

The presence of such missiles was reported to what was considered the proper upper channels, weeks before the presidential decision to establish a naval

A congressional committee next session is due to seek the answer to the mystery as to what official or officials set on this information.

This committee will also consider the wisdom of establishing a joint congressional committee, similar to the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, to serve as a watchdog on the CIA, particularly as to whether the taxpayers are getting their money's worth in the secret spending of millions and millions of dollars appropriate

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