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(INTELLIGENCE)

WASHINGTON--CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY PERSONNEL ARE DOING A BETTER JOB ABROAD THAN THEIR RUSSIAN COUNTERPARTS DESPITE BEING OUTNUMBERED MORE THAN TWO TO ONE, SEN. MILTON YOUNG SAID TODAY. THE NORTH DAKOTA REPUBLICAN, JUST BACK FROM A WORLD TOUR, SAID HE BASED HIS CONCLUSION ON VISITS TO CIA POSTS IN 14 NATIONS. THEY WERE SOUTH VIET NAM, SPAIN, JORDAN, EGYPT, THAILAND, JAPAN AND FORMOSA.

"RESULTS ARE BETTER THAN THOSE OF THE RUSSIAN KGB, THE SOVIET COUNTERPART, EVEN THOUGH THE RUSSIANS HAVE MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY PERSONNEL," YOUNG SAID.

HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY "INTELLIGENT, PERSONABLE AND EXPERIENCED" CIA OFFICIALS WHO BRIEFED HIM. AND HE SAID THE U.S. CLOSELY PREDICTED THE DATE OF COMMUNIST CHINA'S FIRST ATOM BOMB EXPLOSION WAS "TYPE" OF THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK.

YOUNG MADE THE TRIP AS A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE CIA'S MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET. ITS ACTUAL AMOUNT IS HIDDEN IN BUDGETS OF OTHER AGENCIES.

"I WAS NOT QUITE SATISFIED THAT I WAS VOTING INTELLIGENTLY ON THEIR APPROPRIATION REQUESTS," YOUNG TOLD UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL IN EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP.

HE SAID HE WAS TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED BY OPERATIONS OF CIA AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. "THEIR WORK IS FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE PUBLIC GENERALLY GIVES THEM CREDIT FOR," HE SAID.

SOME PREVIOUS CRITICISM OF CIA MAY HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED, HE SAID, BUT ADDED, "IT IS A FAR BETTER ORGANIZATION NOW THAN IN THE YEARS PAST."

YOUNG PRAISED THE ADMINISTRATION OF CIA DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE. "HE IS AS GOOD A MAN AS WE COULD HAVE," YOUNG SAID. "IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF HE WERE REPLACED."

THE SENATOR ALSO SAID HE FOUND U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OVERSEAS AT A HIGH STATE OF PREPAREDNESS, "READY TO FIGHT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY IF THEY HAVE TO."

A HELICOPTER FLIGHT OVER SOUTH VIET NAM PERSUADED HIM THAT THE PROPOSAL TO BOMB SUPPLY LINES OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MIGHT DO SOME GOOD, YOUNG SAID.

"BUT IT'S NOT AS IMPORTANT AS MANY PERSONS THINK IT IS," HE SAID. "THE VIET CONG GUERRILLAS LIVE ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE ECONOMY OF SOUTH VIET NAM, STEALING AND CAPTURING WHAT THEY NEED."

YOUNG WAS HIGH IN PRAISE OF U.S. MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS THERE, AND SAID HE BELIEVED THIS COUNTRY MUST CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HELP TO SOUTH VIET NAM.

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