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• JAMES BOND, THE FICTIONAL master spy of 007 fame, would be proud of U.S. Sen. Milton R. Young (R-N.D.).

Young, 67, just returned from a series of cloak-and-dagger meetings overseas with secret agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

He called their work outstanding.

"In fact," Young said, "I am inclined to think the job they are doing is superior to that done by KGB, their Soviet opposite number, and KGB has twice the personnel."

Young went abroad for a special Senate watchdog committee which keeps an eye on espionage and other CIA doings, and for the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SEN. MILTON R.

He said he wanted to see the CIA at work because "I was not quite satisfied that I was voting intelligently on their appropriation request."

He had clandestine meetings with CIA agents in 14 of 16 countries he visited in five weeks. The elaborate precautions were necessary so the Russians wouldn't know.

And maybe SMERSH?