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Senator Finds CIA Better Than Soviet Counterpart

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (UPI)

A Senator just back from an inspection trip around the world said today the Central Intelligence Agency is doing a better job than its Soviet counterpart, and with fewer men.

Senator Milton R. Young, (Rep.), North Dakota, based his conclusion on a top-secret tour of CIA posts in 14 countries and American military installations in 15 foreign nations.

He made the trip as a member of the special Senate subcommittee authorized to examine in detail the CIA's multimillion-dollar budget—the actual amount of which is hidden in budgets of other agencies.

"I was not quite satisfied that I was voting intelligently on their appropriation requests," Young said in an interview.

Young said he was 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.

"Their 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 that some previous criticism of CIA may have been justified, but "it is a far better organization now than in the years past."

He 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 said he found United States 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 Viet Nameese 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 praised United States military and diplomatic officials there, and said he believed that this country must continue to provide help to South Viet Nam.

"But the South Viet Nameese are going to have to win the war," he said. "They can if they have the will and the leadership. Otherwise, it's a lost cause."

Young said that he would support cuts in foreign aid to some countries, notably Indonesia. However, he would vote for increased military assistance to others, he said, including Spain and Formosa which he described as "staunch allies, bitterly anti-Communist."

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