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Front Page
Edit Page
Other Page

Date

Why Did Ike Lift Cloak on CIA Setup?

Special to CHICAGO AMERICAN

WASHINGTON—The city is still wondering about President Eisenhower's laying the corner stone of the 46 million dollar Central Intelligence Agency building at Langley, Va.

Considering the hush-hush, cloak-and-dagger tradition

that has engulfed CIA since it was organized in 1947, the building dedication should have taken place on a moonless Halloween, witnessed only by witches and hobgoblins.

Eisenhower dedicated the building to the unnamed heroes of the CIA who, he noted, are "undecorated and unsung, often even among their own fraternity."

Who Knows What?

This is an understatement, since no one in official Washington pretends to know even how many persons work in CIA, let alone who they are.

Estimates on the size of the staff range from 8,000 to 30,000. The parking lot at the new building has room for 4,000 cars. Several former top newspaper men have disappeared within its ranks, presumably to take undercover posts in far corners of the world.

Its annual budget, stashed away in the appropriations of other government departments, has been estimated at up to 500 million dollars.

Cash Always Ready

Congressmen have often balked at approving CIA appropriations without knowing how, where and why the money is being spent, but under new ways have pre-

voted without questions being answered.

The old CIA headquarters, a cluster of red brick buildings at 2430 E st., N. W., was surrounded by a barbed wire fence, and entrance to the elevators was by key only.

All wastepaper was burned every evening and departing stenographers even locked their typewriter ribbons in safes overnight.

All Work Abroad

The CIA has no function inside the United States, its primary duty being to get behind the scenes in other countries and to know who is behind bur scenes.

The agency was caught with its cloak down by the communist invasion of South Korea

In recent years, under the direction of Allen W. Dulles, 66 the CIA is credited with uprooting the Mossadegh regime in Iran and with gumming up a communist plot in Guatemala.

The return of Russell A. Langelle from his post as security official in the United States embassy in Moscow is an example of the scheming of foreign agents often encountered by the CIA. When the Russians were unable to buy or coerce secrets from Langelle, they denounced him as a spy and demanded his expulsion.

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