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P-Prouty, L. Fletcher
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TEAM

P-McCANN, Hugh
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BOOKS

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A View of the CIA: When The Watchdog Becomes the Master

THE SECRET TEAM, by L. Fletcher Prouty (Prentice-Hall \$8.95)

The Central Intelligence Agency was created in 1947 to gather and distribute information affecting the security of the U.S. to appropriate agencies and departments of government.

President Truman didn't want it to be anything more than that. Congress specifically corralled the CIA behind the National Security Act to make sure it would never mount secret military operations on foreign shores as its wartime predecessor, the OSS, had done so successfully.

But 26 years later, warns a retired U.S. Air Force colonel who worked with the CIA, the agency routinely wages secret wars in foreign lands, and in effect controls America's foreign policy.

And that's not the worst of L. Fletcher Prouty's warning in "The Secret Team."

He says the CIA is the nucleus of a vast brotherly fraternity of military men who were once on assignment to the agency, CIA alumni now back in the business and academic worlds, and cover agents long ago planted in other government departments and agencies and now grown to positions of power and influence.

The glue that binds this fraternity he continues, is its evangelistic zeal in stamping out "Communism," the mystique of pulling the invisible reins of government, and the sheer thrill of the fun and games of spying and clandestine military operations.

ALTHOUGH he was never a CIA man, Prouty was the Department of Defense contact man through whom the CIA requested logistical support for its secret operations.

Prouty retraces the course of the CIA from its creation as an intelligence-gathering body through its 26-year-long voyage around the constraints of the National Security Act into clandestine military operations around the world. And he focuses on the skilled navigator, Allen Dulles.

Machiavellian Machinations

As Prouty sees it, Dulles, the pipe-smoking professorish-looking lawyer with the steel-rimmed glasses, whose brother, John Foster Dulles was Eisenhower's secretary of state, was the Machiavelli.

ACCORDING to Prouty, Dulles built the CIA's secret operations army on a proviso of the National Security Act (1947) which foresaw the possible necessity of occasional clandestine activities — but only when the CIA's controlling body, the National Security Council, would direct it to engage in secret operations.

The National Security Council includes the President and Vice-President, the heads of the departments of state and defense, the secretaries of the army, navy and air force, and others.

Prouty recreates the momentous years just after World War II when the nation was caught up in a national hysteria over the spread of communism and the apprehension that someone was going to steal America's formula for making an atomic weapon.

It was against this background, he recalls, that the CIA and its parent, the NSC, were created in 1947.

A year later, a fretful Congress demanded to know if the CIA was really doing its job under its first director, Admiral Sidney Souers. President Truman commissioned a study of the agency by three wartime secret-intelligence-and-secret-operations veterans, Allen Dulles, William H. Jackson and Matthias F. Correa.

WRITTEN in the fall of 1948, the report was dominated by Dulles' views, claims Prouty. In it, he presses for a CIA that combines the gathering of intelligence with the launching of secret operations — a concept caged within narrow limits by the CIA's watchdog overseer, the National Security Council, which was created at the same time as the CIA itself.

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