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# Former spy master says CIA essential agency.

By Nancy Price  
Staff writer

"Hi, I'm Bill Colby," the bespectacled man said with a smile, reaching out to shake hands.

Where were the cloak and dagger? The hidden microphones in the hotel suite?

Could it be that this thin, gray-haired man with the professorial manner once parachuted behind Nazi lines into Norway and France, directed pacification efforts in Vietnam and headed the Central Intelligence Agency for four years?

William E. Colby seems like such a nice man. Who'd ever figure him for a master spy?

But don't be fooled by his mild-mannered demeanor. Colby started spying during World War II, and after joining the CIA,

served in Stockholm, Rome and Saigon as chief of the CIA's Far East Division.

Repercussions from Watergate forced President Nixon to reshuffle his Cabinet, leading to Colby's appointment as CIA director in 1973. Colby was removed by President Ford in 1976.

Colby, 64, now works as an attorney in the Washington office of Reid & Priest, specializing in international legal matters.

He was in Jacksonville yesterday to speak at Florida Junior College's Kent Campus. His talk, an insider's look into the CIA, was part of the Forecast '85 Lecture Series sponsored by the FJC Institute for Private Enterprise.

Colby, attired in a gray flannel suit and navy blue tie, admitted with dry humor that he is hardly a James Bond lookalike.

"I know what you're thinking: He doesn't look like a spy, with glasses and gray hair," he told his 500 listeners. "You're thinking, 'Where's the cloak? Where's the stiletto? Where's the blonde?'"

No, he said, his appearance was not a cover.

"The profession of intelligence is different than it used to be," Colby said. "And it was here in America that the changes were made."

After 1945, when spying behind the Iron and Bamboo curtains became more and more difficult, the United States turned to aerial photography, first with U-2 planes and later using satellites, he said.

Instead of sending a spy through Hong

Kong to the Manchurian border between the Soviet Union and China, "we can look down at the tanks, the aircraft and artillery assembled there. We know when they move from time to time. We know what 100 spies could not tell us."

In the mid-1970s, CIA operations underwent a metamorphosis — "we now insist on operating under the Constitution, not outside it," he said.

"Congress has two committees in the House and Senate that have the right to know what the CIA is doing. We have developed a special court, so we can go before a judge and get a

warrant to conduct an activity.

"If we run it this way, it's clear the decisions are American decisions — not a CIA rogue elephant running loose, and not just the president acting. And when congressional committees have put up barriers to certain activities, it has stopped certain activities."

In an interview yesterday morning, Colby said intelligence gathering and analysis is an essential function of the CIA and critical for the nation.

"You can't live in modern times without intelligence," he said. "The CIA is needed to collect information, analyze the world and make sensible

projections."

Colby, who said he supports the nuclear freeze movement, said arms negotiations would not be possible without CIA-supplied intelligence.

"So you've got to look at the pluses as well as the minuses," he said.

A CIA manual distributed to Nicaraguan rebels that advocated "neutralization" of enemies was a mistake, not an indication that the CIA is out of control, Colby said.

"Mistakes happen once in a while," he said. "If the Air Force makes the mistake of paying \$7,000 for a coffee pot, that doesn't negate the need for the Air Force."

The word "neutralization" was an unfortunate choice because it has several connotations, Colby said.

"In dealing with guerrilla problems, you have to think in terms of discrediting the leadership," he said. "The term 'neutralize' originally came from China. It didn't mean killing, it meant political neutralization — putting a dunce cap on those people to be discredited and making them ride around in a cart."

"It should not have been written using that term, because it has a double meaning. But it's hard to control the far ends of a guerrilla war. I should know — I've been in them."