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Casey likens communism to Nazi totalitarianism

By Bill Gertz
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Communist states, led by the Soviet Union, pose a threat today similar to World War II-era Nazi totalitarianism, according to CIA Director William J. Casey.

"What we face today has much in common with what we faced in 1944," Mr. Casey said in a recent speech before an audience of World War II veterans of the Office of Strategic Services, predecessor of the CIA.

The primary objectives of the Soviets' "creeping imperialism," he said, are strategic control of Middle East oil fields and the Central American isthmus.

Mr. Casey, a key administration hard-liner against the Soviet Union, blasted Marxist-Leninist states for "unleash[ing] the 'four horses of the Apocalypse' — famine, pestilence, war and death."

The CIA Director made the remarks Friday during a two-day symposium on the OSS and its founder,

Gen. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan. The meeting was sponsored by the William J. Donovan Memorial Foundation, set up by several OSS veterans.

During World War II, Mr. Casey, working under Gen. Donovan, directed secret agent operations in Europe against Nazi Germany.

"Throughout the Third World we see famine in Africa, pestilence through chemical and biological agents in Afghanistan and Indochina, death everywhere, with over 300,000 Soviet, Vietnamese and Cuban troops in savage military operations directed at wiping out national resistance in Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and several other countries," Mr. Casey said.

Mr. Casey called the massive exodus of refugees from communist states since World War II an "eloquent indictment" of communist policies, and he warned that millions of Central American refugees will pour over U.S. borders if com-

munist states consolidate "their conquest of Nicaragua."

Unlike the 1960s and 1970s, a period in which leftist insurgencies attracted anti-Western guerrillas, "the 1980s have emerged as the decade of freedom fighters resisting communist regimes," Mr. Casey said.

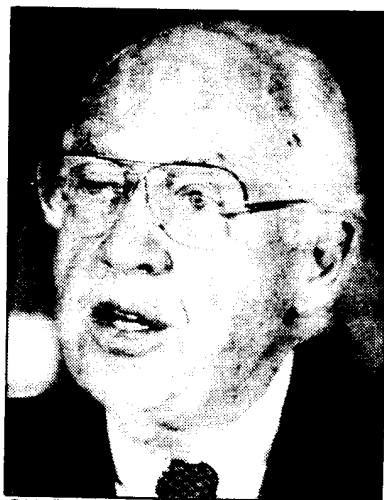
He compared U.S.-backed insurgents in Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Angola to "George Washington's ragtag army," which managed to defeat the British in the American Revolution with covert assistance from France and with as few as 3,000 men active at some periods.

"A resistance movement does not seek a classic, definitive military victory," Mr. Casey said. "Nagging military pressure" can "bring down or alter a repressive government," he said.

Mr. Casey said he believes covert shipments of sophisticated weapons are not the best way to support anti-communist insurgents, since guerrillas "do not need and cannot handle" advanced military hardware.

"What they need is what always has been needed in these kinds of situations — training in small arms, and their use in small unit actions, good intelligence and good communications," he said.

Mr. Casey, in an apparent reference to democratic resistance forces fighting the Marxist Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, concluded his speech, "We helped provide this [kind of help] with effect to the resistance against Nazi Germany, and if we can muster our resolve and act before resistance assets are allowed to wither away, we can put these tactics to good use today."



CIA Director William J. Casey