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The Role of Intelligence in the Cold War

by L. Fletcher Prouty

"The deepest cover story of the CIA is that it is an intelligence organization."

So said the bulletin of the Federation of American Scientists many years ago. It was a true statement then, and it is even truer today.

Have you ever wondered why the CIA was created and what it is really supposed to be doing? Or why it is that the "quiet intelligence arm of the President," as President Truman called it, and its Soviet counterpart, the KGB, are the leading brigades on the worldwide frontier in World War III, also known as the Cold War?

In the real world — where more than \$6 trillion have been spent on military manpower, materiel and facilities since World War II ended in 1945 — we are discovering that the major battles are being fought every day by Third World countries and by terrorists while, at the same time, the enormous military might of both world powers has proven to be ineffectual.

The existence of the multi-megaton hydrogen bomb has so drastically changed the tactics of warfare that, today and for the future, grand strategy is being carried out by the invisible forces of the CIA, the KGB and their countless lesser counterparts around the world.

Philosophical Basis

Men in positions of great power are forced to realize, sooner or later, that their aspirations and responsibilities have exceeded the horizons of their own experience, knowledge and capability.

Because they are in charge, however, they are compelled to do something.

This overpowering necessity to do something — although they do not know what to do or how to do it — creates in these men an overbearing fear of the people. It is a fear not of you and me as individuals, but of populations and of the masses of mankind.

When they reach this point, they are influenced by the persuasive tenets of a trio of the greatest propaganda schemes ever put forth by

man: Malthus' population theory, Darwin's theory of evolution as enhanced by the concept of the survival of the fittest, and Heisenberg's theory of indeterminacy, i.e., that God throws the dice.

The first provides a rationalization for the urge to somehow get rid of large numbers of people — any people, in any way. With Malthus they can rationalize that this is a good objective, because Earth could not support the progeny of so many people anyway.

The second fortifies them, because Darwin allows them to believe that because they survive — at no matter what cost to others and to Earth — they must be, by Darwin's definition, the fittest.

The third provides an excuse for their errors and confusion. Certainly, if science can be indeterminate, as Heisenberg has convincingly written, then economics can be, and so can everything else.

From this point of view, warfare and the preparation for war is an absolute necessity. This is documented by the remarkable "Report from Iron Mountain on the Possibility and Desirability of Peace" by the Special Study Group in 1966, an organization which was so highly classified that there is no record, to this day, of who the men in the group were or with what part of government they were connected.

That war is necessary to sustain society, the nation and national sovereignty has been the widely held view for millennia, and totally uncontrolled warfare — the only kind of real war — got bigger and "better" as time and technology churned on, until it culminated in World War II.

The High Cabal

At that time, the chief world leaders (those of the High Cabal: a term often used by Winston Churchill in recognition of their existence and their supremacy) were faced suddenly with the reality of the Great Dilemma.

At the root of the dilemma is the fact of the H-bomb.

The High Cabal realized that use of the thermonuclear, fusion-type, megaton-plus bomb would destroy mankind, nature and the earth itself. Must they, therefore, abandon the

historic madness of all-out uncontrolled warfare, or, instead, could they discover and create some alternative to war that would perpetuate nationalism and maintain national sovereignty?

Since the day, after Hiroshima, of that first realization, the H-bomb has been used to atomize whole islands in the Pacific, and that lesson has been sufficient.

The Great Dilemma is now fact.

There can no longer be wars — at least not all-out, go-for-broke type wars as there had previously been through the ages.

Today, the High Cabal can see no assured survival for themselves and their class. Despite the record of all those past wars of history and despite their intensity and scope, until the end of World War II, the elite of the High Cabal (who existed above the war, it might be said, on both sides) had always been assured of survival.

In any war with H-bombs, there can be no assured survival for mankind, for all of nature, or for the earth — much less for any select few.

Under such circumstances, since survival is the strongest drive in man, what form can war take, given that it is viewed as a necessity and that the High Cabal can actually make a choice?

The "Cold War"

Faced with this dilemma and with their continuing belief in the misleading theories of Malthus, Darwin and Heisenberg, world leaders turned — even before the end of World War II — to an alternative, all-new type of invisible war to be waged under the cloak of propaganda and secrecy.

They called it the "Cold War," and it has already cost more than \$6 trillion and many millions of lives. It is World War III — perhaps man's last war, because it will never end or result in victory for anyone. It will only assure the attrition of manpower and materiel, and it will dangerously pollute Earth.

On the other hand, it is a very real, killing war. Its battles loom everywhere and its dead are counted in the millions — more of them non-combatants than soldiers. It is the secret war, the invisible war, and from the point

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of view of the High Cabal, it is satisfactory, because it consumes the product and is reasonably controllable.

But the Cold War as an alternative to the real thing is a failure. We have already witnessed the deterioration of the concept of national sovereignty.

We have seen the rise of the strange, non-military power of the small nations of the Third World. The whole scheme of warfare is being turned upside down by bands of terrorists who defy the great powers. They cannot be controlled with H-bombs; and modern armies, if used in strength, would create a situation which the armies, ultimately, could not handle. The greater the potential victory, the closer the war would move to the nuclear threshold.

General Douglas MacArthur had to accept that on the south bank of the Yalu River in Korea. General Creighton Abrams learned that when he proposed to capture Hanoi instead of maintaining a perimeter around the Cercle Sportiff in Saigon. And, more importantly, the terrorists have learned this, and they use that knowledge to defy everyone — the big powers and their neighbors.

This is why the newly structured bipolar world of communism vs. the West began building enormous intelligence agencies that had the power, invisibly, to wage any warfare, anywhere, and to include methods of warfare never before imagined.

These conflicts had to be tactically designed to remain short of the utilization of the H-bomb by either side. There can never be victories in such warfare, but there can be tremendous loss of life, and there is the much-desired consumption and attrition of trillions of dollars — and rubles — worth of war equipment.

This series of articles will discuss these new forces. It will tell the whole CIA story, from 1947 to the present, and will provide comparisons with the intelligence organizations — the invisible forces — of other countries.

Modern-Day Intelligence

It is essential to note that there are two general categories of intelligence organizations, and that their functions are determined by the characteristics of the governments they serve — not by the citizens of those governments — but by the leaders of those governments.

These leaders are forced to depend upon these secret, elite forces to remain alive and in power.

Under totalitarian or highly centralized, non-democratic regimes, the

intelligence organization is a political, secret service with power to arrest. It is designed primarily to protect the personal security of those who control the authority of the state against political opponents foreign and domestic.

Such an organization operates in deep secrecy and has the responsibility for carrying out espionage and counter-espionage. This methodology is as true of Chile or Jordan as it is of the Soviet Union.

The second category of intelligence organization is one whose agents are limited to the gathering and reporting of intelligence and who have no police functions or power to arrest at home or abroad.

This second type is what the CIA was created to be, but, factually, this second type does not exist.

In the decades since the CIA was created, the agency has acquired more sinister functions, as all intelligence agencies, in time, tend to do.

The CIA today is a far cry from the agency that was created in 1947 by the National Security Act. As President Harry S Truman had confided to close friends, the greatest mistake of his administration took place when he signed the National Security Act of 1947 into law.

The "Iron Curtain"

During World War II, the four great powers — the United States, Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union — opposed the Axis powers — Germany, Italy and Japan. These enormous military and economic forces, on each side, were locked together in the greatest armed conflict of history. The Russians alone suffered more than 20 million casualties.

One would believe that such a union of forces, welded in the heat of war, would remain joined forever.

However, even before the surrender of Germany and Japan, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) — and particularly its agents, Frank Wisner in Budapest and Allen W. Dulles in Switzerland — nurtured the idea that the time had come to rejoin with selected Nazi power centers and to split the Western alliance with the Soviet Union.

"Rejoin" is the proper word in this case. It was the Dulles-affiliated New York law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell that refused to close its offices in Nazi Germany after the start of World War II, even while Great Britain and France were locked in a losing struggle with Hitler's invading forces.

It was this covert faction and its policies, coordinated with a similar British faction, that encouraged the Nazis to put forth the divisive "Iron Curtain" concept as early as 1944. They did it to save their own necks, to salvage certain power centers and their wealth, and to stir up resentment against the Russians, even at the time of Russia's greatest triumph.

As a result of a masterful propaganda campaign begun by the Nazis themselves, most of us have been led to believe that it was the British who first recognized the communist threat in Eastern Europe, that it was Winston Churchill himself who coined the phrase "Iron Curtain" with reference to the communist bloc countries of Eastern Europe, and that Churchill did this after the end of World War II.

The facts are otherwise. Churchill did not coin that memorable phrase. He only embellished it and exploited it. The true story was as follows:

Just before the close of World War II in Europe, when the Russian army and the American and British armies were rushing to meet each other over the bodies of a defeated German army in a devastated country, the German foreign minister, Count Lutz Schwerin von Kroschk, made a speech which was reported in *The Times* of London on May 3, 1945.

In this speech, von Kroschk used the Nazi-coined propaganda phrase "Iron Curtain" for the first time, and he used it in precisely the same context which was later repeated by Churchill.

On May 12, just three days after the German surrender went into force, Churchill wrote a letter to Truman, who had become president one month earlier after the sudden death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The purpose of the letter, he said, was to express his concern about the future of Europe, and to say that an "Iron Curtain" had been lowered to conceal everything that was going on within the Russian sphere of Eastern Europe.

This was a clever thrust by the old master, along the road to widening the tensions and splitting the alliance between the Soviet Union and Western powers. This deft move by Churchill planted the seed of a potent idea in the mind of the new president, and at a most opportune time.

Nearly one year later, on March 4 and 5, 1946, Truman and Churchill traveled together on the president's special train from Washington, D.C., to Westminster College in Fulton,

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Missouri, where Churchill delivered those historic lines: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an Iron Curtain has descended across the Continent."

The New Propaganda Line

Most historical publications and news media sources would have us believe that this memorable occasion marked the end of the wartime alliance with the USSR and the beginning of the Cold War, but this was not so.

The grand strategy decision to create a new bipolar world had already been made in 1944-1945, and the partners in this new global power structure were to be the United States, Great Britain, Germany and Japan — two of the World War II victors and two of the vanquished.

The great array of forces of World War II were disbanded rapidly in 1945, and shortly thereafter, in 1946, Truman disbanded the OSS and created a new Central Intelligence Group (CIG).

During those post-war years, a massive, new propaganda line trumpeted across the land: "The United States represents free enterprise, and we will destroy socialism!"

It was based on this propaganda line that the new form of warfare was born, and its continuing battles were to be waged in Third World countries by a secret and invisible army, with the OSS, the CIG, and later the CIA constituting the advance guard of that secret army.

The vast store of unused, first-class military weapons and heavier materiel that had been stockpiled on Okinawa for the expected invasion of Japan was divided and given, in the fall of 1945, to the South Korean forces of Syngman Rhee and to the Indochinese nationalist forces of Ho Chi Minh and General Giap.

OSS units with both of these Asian leaders coordinated the enormous supply movement into those Japanese-devastated countries.

It is no chance happening that it has been in these locales that the two greatest conflicts of the Cold War to date have been fought, and that both were fought to no victorious conclusion. If and when other such conflicts occur, they will have to follow the same pattern and will reach a similar conclusion.

By the end of World War II, the great financial powers of the Western World, aided by their omnipotent Wall Street lawyers, had decided it was time to create a new power center of transnational corporations and, in the process, to destroy the Soviet Union and socialism. To achieve this enormous objective, they chose as their principal force the invisible

power and might of the CIA.

They began this move cautiously.

Peacetime Intelligence Agency

During 1947, Congress worked on the legislative language that would establish a new National Security Council (NSC) and a new Department of Defense (DOD), with a Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) structure and separate departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Almost as an afterthought, the National Security Act of 1947 provided for the creation of a central intelligence agency.

There was much opposition to this concept.

The United States had never before had, in peacetime, a full-fledged intelligence agency operating in the international arena. There had been intelligence organizations in the Army, Navy, FBI, Treasury and State departments, but these were all specialist staffs designed to perform the work required for the functional support of their various masters.

Furthermore, the work of these traditional intelligence organizations had almost always been limited to pure intelligence, and did not intrude into the area of "fun and games," as clandestine operations are known within the intelligence community.

"Calm the Waters"

Therefore, when the language of the National Security Act of 1947 was drafted — primarily written by a most gifted lawyer, Clark Clifford — it was designed to calm the waters.

It was the intent of the sponsors of this legislation to have the CIA created and brought into existence no matter what the language of the law had to contain — or not contain — in order to get over the threshold. They knew that no matter what was written into the law, the CIA, under the cloak of secrecy, could then be manipulated to do everything that was requested of it later.

The law that was passed by Congress and signed by President Truman created the Central Intelligence Agency and placed it under the direction of the National Security Council (NSC).

The agency's statutory authority is contained in Title 50 U.S.C. Section 403(d). To facilitate the creation of the agency, its expressed legal duties were limited to "coordinating the intelligence activities of the several departments and agencies in the interest of national security."

The modest language of the law was chosen specifically to overcome the objections expressed by such members of Congress as Rep. Clar-

ence Brown (R-Ohio), who said:

"I am very much interested in seeing the United States have as fine a foreign military and naval intelligence as they can possibly have, but I am not interested in setting up here in the United States any particular central policy agency under any president — I do not care what his name may be — and just allow him to have a Gestapo of his own if he wants to have it. Every now and then you get a man that comes up in power and that has an imperialist idea." ▲



Major Prouty wrote the first text on "Rockets and Missiles" for the U.S. Air Force in 1949, while assigned to the Continental Air Command headquarters as a writer of official Air Force textbooks.

L. Fletcher Prouty has a long background in the business of clandestine operations and their military support.

During the latter part of 1943, he was at the Cairo and Teheran conferences. During 1944, he flew into the Soviet Union on a special mission and made a number of flights into Turkey, then a neutral country, assisting with the discovery and break-up of a ring — including American military personnel — that was smuggling German gold via Turkey to Argentina. He also assisted in the setting up of a special air pickup of hundreds of American and Allied prisoners of war from the Balkan states. Among these hundreds, the OSS had infiltrated pro-Nazi sympathizers, an action which grew to much greater proportions after the war and was administered from Frankfurt, Germany.

From 1955 through 1963, Prouty was Chief of Special Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, served in a similar capacity with the Office of Special Operations in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and headed the Special Operations Office for the U.S. Air Force. All of these were charged with "the military support of the clandestine operations of the CIA."