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# BRIEFING

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

The problems that plague the intelligence community are so deeply rooted that only fundamental changes can improve performance



BY ALAN E. GOODMAN

The recent campaign for the White House marked the third annual presidential election in which the American intelligence community's performance was a major issue.

Fragmented, sophisticated electronic technologies have actually impeded the sharing of information. And few agencies will cooperate for financing purposes such divergent analyses that the system fails to provide enough accurate, timely, or complete information to policy makers.

Liberty of Israeli air attack if the ship continued a mercantile mission during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the risk to the USS Pueblo of surveillance activities near North Korean waters in 1968, the objective of the Tet offensive in Vietnam in 1968, the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the Argentine seizure of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the subsequent British re-taking of the Argentine cruiser Beagle, and the efforts by Iraq and Iran to destroy each other's oil fields and export facilities since the Persian Gulf war broke out.

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reached their conclusions, they were guided by faulty intelligence analysis or poorly served by the slow or incomplete dissemination of reports by the intelligence community.

They have predicted correctly, but U.S. intelligence agencies and their analysts failed even to guess close.

At early in 1982, the Reagan administration's disappointment in the U.S. intelligence community's performance was at its lowest level since Pearl Harbor.

Since the White House has not permitted the director of central intelligence to release an unclassified version of the CIA annual report, the number of services is not known but there are 15 agencies in the intelligence community.

When Pressure Forces a CIA Officer to Quit

Nothing will get an intelligence officer's back up faster than a shift of that kind of pressure in his pocket. It is a matter of principle that he not stand in the judgment of his superiors or to show the glory of approval as administration's policies.

Strong-minded officials often think they know better than intelligence officers. Attempts to suppress intelligence reports or judgments that don't fit up an administration's policies have a non-partisan dimension.

The council would be made up of members of the five different organizations already charged with the task of examining the performance of the intelligence community and of the CIA in particular.

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When your favorite the first year of the Great Decisions program, sponsored nationally by the Foreign Policy Association, next week is the beginning of the Great Decisions '85 program, which consists of eight weekly meetings in communication throughout America to discuss significant U.S. foreign policy issues.

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