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ALLEN DULLES WARNED AGAINST CIA 'OCTOPUS'
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Allen Dulles, who later became director of the CIA, urged in 1947 that the intelligence agency not be allowed to become "a great big octopus" with hundreds of agents; congressional testimony kept secret for 35 years revealed

According to knowledgeable estimates, CIA employees now number upwards of 5,000.

Testifying at closed House hearings on the National Security Act of 1947, which led to the setting up of the CIA, Dulles said, "I do not believe in a big agency."

"You ought to keep it small," he said. "If this gets to be a great big octopus, it should not function well."

The number of agents abroad should be "scores rather than hundreds," Dulles said.

Dulles was called to testify because of his successful operation of a small U.S. spy mission out of Switzerland during World War II.

"I could do better with 10 people than I could with 50," he said of the Office of Strategic Services operation, which was cut off from all but radio contact with the United States after Germany occupied France.

Dulles testified that about 10 percent of the Abwehr, the German high command's intelligence agency, provided the OSS, the CIA's predecessor agency, with information. Such information, he said, included "the first clues" to Germany's development of guided missiles and led the way to the bombing of missile bases at Peenemunde.

As was revealed years ago, those providing the OSS with information included the head of the Abwehr, Adm. Wilhelm Canaris, who was executed in 1945 because of his participation in a 1944 plot to kill Adolf Hitler.

Dulles also told House members that the CIA should be free to seek information from "business organizations and philanthropic and other organizations who send their people throughout the world."

"They collect a tremendous amount of information," he said. "There ought to be a way of collecting that in the United States."

Such information could be collected by "a couple of dozen people throughout the United States ... two in New York, one in Chicago and one in San Francisco," he said.

The only remaining transcript of the secret 1947 testimony was found in the CIA files and released chiefly through the efforts of Rep. Robert McClory, R-Ill., who said he felt it should be made public because of its "historical value."

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