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Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, First Director of U.S. Intelligence, Dies

By PETER KIHSS

Vice Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, the first director of the Central Intelligence Agency, died Friday night at Mount Sinai Hospital. He was 85 years old and had lived in Weehawken, N.J., since his retirement from the Navy in 1958.

After his C.I.A. service, Admiral Hillenkoetter served as commander of a Navy task force in the Korean War.

Capt. Joshua L. Goldberg of the Navy, the former Third Naval District chaplain, said yesterday that the admiral was "a symbol of what an American should be." He said the admiral, while a Naval attaché to the Vichy Government of France in 1940 and 1941, had worked with the French underground and helped men hunted by the Germans to escape to safety.

"He was modest, and people who served under him just loved him," Captain Goldberg said. A former C.I.A. official, Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, has recalled him as "an able officer, an enjoyable person."

Wounded at Pearl Harbor

Admiral Hillenkoetter was wounded in the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the battleship West Virginia, of which he was executive officer, was sunk. He organized an intelligence network for Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and commanded a destroyer in Pacific combat during the war.

He later served as the Navy's director of planning and control in Washing-

ton and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

After the war, he commanded the battleship Missouri on a good-will cruise to the Mediterranean, and commanded the Navy Yard in Brooklyn and the Third Naval District.

The C.I.A. was established by Congress in 1947 as a successor to the World War II Office of Special Services and the peacetime Central Intelligence Group. Rear Adm. Sidney W. Souers, the first director of the Central Intelligence Group, was succeeded by Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg of the Air Force and then by Admiral Hillenkoetter, who was appointed by President Truman on May 1, 1947.

After the C.I.A. was established in September 1947, Admiral Hillenkoetter served as the director until he was succeeded by Gen. Walter Bedell Smith of the Army in October 1950.

Soon after Congress formed the C.I.A., the National Security Council adopted a directive on Dec. 19, 1947, ordering "covert activities" to oppose Communist and leftist parties in Italy's forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Despite an opinion from the counsel for the C.I.A. that his agency had no such power legally, Admiral Hillenkoetter authorized money to be provided to Italy's centrist political parties, which remained in power.

The security council on June 10, 1948, ordered further covert programs to counter Soviet efforts, specifying that, if detected, they could be disavowed by the United States. Included were "propaganda, economic warfare; preventive direct action, including sabotage, anti-sabotage, demolition and evacuation measures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance groups and support of indigenous anti-Communist elements in threatened countries of the free world."

After North Korean forces invaded South Korea in June 1950, the admiral asked to be returned to sea duty. From

November 1950 until September 1951 he commanded the heavy cruiser St. Paul and a task force that provided cover for South Korean forces advancing up the eastern coast, for their retreat before Chinese Communist invaders, and for the landing at Inchon of forces led by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

Admiral Hillenkoetter was born in St. Louis, Mo., May 8, 1897. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1919 after having served with the Atlantic fleet in World War I.

After his retirement from the Navy, Admiral Hillenkoetter served as chief executive officer of the American Banner Line, which operating to Belgium and the Netherlands in 1958 and 1959. In 1962 he joined a New York construction company, Hegeman-Harris, as vice chairman.

He is survived by his wife, the former Jane Clark, and a daughter, Jane Saar. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at 11 A.M. Thursday.