

Former Director Colby explains CIA actions

By SUSAN CARR

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"We can almost literally peer over the corners of the earth and learn about things we never would have dreamed we would know," declared William Colby, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, as he spoke before a near-capacity crowd in Hubbell Auditorium last night.

Colby said that "American intelligence now operates under American law, and that's a very novel idea," as he spoke of a "New Intelligence" for the United States, "different from any past images of spies, cloaks, and daggers."

Tracing a general history of the intelligence operatives in the United States, Colby declared that the need for some centralized information-gathering center "began at Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor was not the result of lack of information," he said, "but we just didn't put that information together."

Describing the nature of the CIA and its functioning, Colby said that there were more individuals — scholarly, managerial, and technical — from a wider diversity of backgrounds than in most other government organizations.

He said that "running such a great enterprise has become comparable to running great technical institutions — a school or a business."

Colby outlined some of the courses of basic changes in the CIA's operations since Vietnam and Watergate. He stated that, when the CIA was first organized and laws governing its activities were first established, they were "laws in nice, fuzzy, broad language, and under

those laws we ran everything from the individual spy to the Bay of Pigs. The result of this," he continued, "was a realization that no part of the US government can operate outside of it as well."

In speaking of public investigations into CIA operations, Colby said of the CIA's own internal attempts to investigate itself. In 1973, "We looked back to see if the CIA was operating outside of the laws. We gathered a little bundle of such instances, wiped our hands and thought we'd brought ourselves in under American laws. But it was equally important that the

American people believed that that was the case."

Consequently, he went on, "a journalist put it all on the front page. Many events were sensationalized, and there was a gross misunderstanding of what we had been doing. But when you read the reports," Colby explained, "you find that the CIA was not out of control, that it was responsive, under complete Presidential control, and that then the Congress knew about it, or didn't want to know."

As a result of the investigations, Colby explained that information is



Stu Youngentob/CAMPUS TIMES

William Colby spoke last night in Hubbell Auditorium.

now in public documents, and that "instead of the Congress shutting its eyes, congressional committees will do the supervision."

Colby did not say, however, that complete honesty with the public could be feasible. "I think we tried it once," he said, referring to the years immediately following World War I. But people then quickly learned that "the world was not populated by gentlemen." Colby stressed the importance of intelligence "in a world we have to share with other super-powers."

In response to questions dealing with various undercover and illegal activities the CIA has been charged with, Colby replied, "This business of giving secret help to other countries (continued on page 10)

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must be placed into proportion. Because these things happened doesn't make them right, but we can look back and find many things that are right."

Colby defined the CIA's role in Vietnam as one of "providing assistance to those who wanted to fight for their freedom." He maintained, "The South Vietnamese were fighting the war, we were helping."

Colby was questioned intensively about his involvement in "Operation Phoenix," a covert program he directed in 1967-68 whose purpose was the imprisonment of thousands of Vietnamese citizens.

Colby stated that the purpose of the program was "to bring accuracy and decency into a very brutal battle. Most of those killed were in military combat and some by the Vietnamese police. Some were undoubtedly and wrongly killed. But the purpose and the effects of Phoenix were to eliminate that as much as possible."

"Stories of atrocities were much overblown, but I never pretended no deaths occurred under the Phoenix program." He clarified his statement, adding, "Phoenix was outside of the CIA."

Colby spoke about the importance of central intelligence for the immediate future, especially in light of threats from Third World countries.

He predicted that Brazil and Iran would also rise as super-powers. He said, "Knowledge gained through good intelligence will deter the problem we'll be faced with."

Colby said, in response to a question about whether the US had the right to interfere in other nations' internal affairs, "Except in self-defense, we do not have the right to impose our beliefs, but we may go in and help those who are sympathetic to our interests."

Colby concluded by saying, "If the CIA has done some things wrong, then let's correct it and let's control it. But let's not blind ourselves in the process."

Colby speaks on CIA-UR link

By WILLIAM HARTEL

The CIA is "not perfect and has made some mistakes in the past," said former Director of Operations William Colby, "but it is still the best (intelligence service) in the world — the best in scholarship and the best in technology — and will continue to be so."

During an interview with a *Campus Times* reporter yesterday afternoon, Colby discussed various aspects of the Central Intelligence Agency. Colby spoke on topics ranging from current issues regarding the CIA and covert operations to Project MK-ULTRA and the UR.

Present CIA Director Stansfield Turner, recently revealed that public disclosure of a total spending figure for all US intelligence agencies would be an acceptable risk. Colby, however, disagrees. Disclosure of a single spending figure "wouldn't mean anything to anyone," said Colby, "it can only lead to further disclosures."

Turner and Colby agree that detailed information on intelligence spending would be a powerful weapon for US enemies, allowing adversaries to focus countermeasures against American efforts. "Otherwise," said Colby, "(Turner) runs a tight ship." Turner is an admiral in the United States Navy.

Jimmy Carter recently signed a bill into law requiring that all "paramilitary" operations of the CIA be approved by the president. The new law prohibits torture and assassinations, and disallows US involvement in "overthrow of 'democratic' governments. Colby feels that the term "democratic" will have to be better defined before the law can become effective in that respect. Colby doesn't figure the new regulation will severely hamper the effectiveness of the Agency.

Regarding assassination plots against Premier Fidel Castro, Colby said he was not aware of any such plans until just before he was appointed director in 1973. Colby immediately issued a prohibition forbidding the assassination attempt. Colby stated that the assassination would have been "extremely unethical and dangerous."

When asked about CIA involvement in a plot to overthrow the government of Chile, Colby said that he knew the US was sending support to a "center democratic government organization," when, in 1970, President Nixon issued an executive decree ordering the CIA to prevent the rise of President Allende to power. Allende was later found dead and listed as "apparent suicide," Allende had been shot twice in the

mouth.

Throughout the decades of the 1950s and 60s, the CIA conducted experiments on college campuses under the guise of innocent research. Colby said that this research by the CIA should not have been done without the consent of the president of the university. Colby also stated that the secret research was not widespread and is no longer taking place.

The UR was involved with such research from 1953 to 1964. Project MK-ULTRA was disguised as motion sickness testing and began September 1953 with subproject 46, which lasted until September 1962. CIA subproject 17 lasted from October 1953 to October 1955. Subproject 148 lasted from October 1963 through 1964. MK-ULTRA studied the metabolic rate and distribution of psychotropic drugs.

About classified projects such as MK-ULTRA, Colby said the mode of research was "improper." Directives issued during Colby's administration in 1973 prohibited the CIA from conducting tests on unknowing individuals.

Colby was not personally involved in drug research, but he was aware that testing of biological warfare weapons was taking place in the early 1960s. A treaty to prevent biological warfare was ratified in 1969 and all research was discontinued.

Colby stated that, in hindsight, he believed the testing was somewhat immoral and unethical. However, had we "discovered that LSD could be used in certain ways of if we had discovered an antidote for its effects, the answer would be yes, the research was valuable and necessary."

With regards to recruiting of CIA agents on college campuses, Colby said that extremely few, if any, professors are CIA agents. However, a college professor might approach a CIA agent regarding a particularly bright student. Colby feels that there is nothing wrong with a citizen "consciously helping the US maintain its high standards."

The CIA agent might then confront the student in question and "relate" to him various opportunities in foreign espionage. When presented with the hypothesis that, since the UR has a high percentage of foreign students, this school might possibly be a prime target for recruiting agents, Colby replied, "Well, it's not beyond possibility."

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400 at U of R talk

Colby on CIA: 'Best . . . in the world'

By DOUGLAS C. LYONS

Former CIA Director William E. Colby looked more like a college professor than a spy last night during his speech on "The New Intelligence" before a group of University of Rochester students.

But during the question-and-answer session, Colby became the spy who came into the cold as several students sharply questioned the rationale of CIA operations in foreign affairs.

"You tell us of the CIA's efforts to support friendly groups in the election of foreign governments, but how do you reconcile that with our country's support in the right of self-determination?" a student asked Colby.

"I would answer your question as I did a similar question earlier," Colby responded. "We are in favor of self-determination for any country, but we are not in favor of self-determination for a country that will put us in mortal harm."

Colby, now a private attorney in

Washington, spoke before 400 students at the University of Rochester. His visit had a certain irony and a momentary trace of the college protests of the early '70s.

The irony was that the former CIA director was speaking at a university that had been used by the CIA to conduct mind-control research during the 1950s.

The aura of the college protest period came at the beginning of Colby's speech as nine students passed out flyers denouncing Colby's visit to the campus.

Despite some sharp questioning about the CIA's involvement in Chile and Vietnam, the audience was receptive to Colby.

Colby had joined the Office of Strategic Service, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency, in 1943. With the exception of a brief stint in law school and private practice, Colby had been with the CIA until 1975.

Colby was deputy director in charge

of the CIA's Directorate of Operations when he was appointed director of the CIA in 1973 under then-President Richard M. Nixon. Colby resigned the post during a major shakeup in the Ford administration.

During an interview before his speech, Colby lived up to the "professional," "soft-spoken," and "very careful" accolades that were used to describe him five years ago when he was named to head the CIA.

"I guess the most difficult year for me was in 1975, when I was asked to testify on Capitol Hill about CIA operations," Colby said. "I tried to be in the middle and not hide the things that were mistakes."

"I think that I was well criticized around Washington for saying too much," Colby said when asked about his resignation. "I think that that contributed to it (his resignation), but I think the President had to make a change to show that he was in control."

During the press conference, Colby outlined three reforms that he said could improve CIA operations.

These include enacting a clear set of guidelines to regulate CIA operations, maintaining supervision of CIA operations through congressional oversight committees, and promoting a greater public understanding of the importance of intelligence operations.

Colby, however, remains opposed to requiring the CIA to make its annual budget public.

"If you put out a number in a budget, it doesn't mean anything, and when that figure goes up, it'll raise a lot of questions," Colby said. "I think that's going too far."

Colby defended the CIA as "the best intelligence gathering operation in the world." He also praised President Carter's executive order that places all nine U.S. intelligence agencies under the direct budget control of current CIA director Adm. Stansfield Turner.