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## BOB GATES WILL HAVE TO BRING THE CIA IN FROM THE COLD

Supporters of the Central Intelligence Agency breathed a sigh of relief when the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on the Iran-*contra* affair showed that agency personnel were not extensively involved. But that doesn't mean the CIA is out of trouble. Intelligence professionals warn that the first task of new chief Robert M. Gates will be to find and defuse what a former official calls the "land mines" buried around the globe during William J. Casey's tenure.

Casey, who resigned as director of Central Intelligence because of illness on Jan. 29, gets great credit for rebuilding an agency demoralized by the Nixon era scandals and neglect during the Carter Administration. But Casey also got the CIA back into covert operations in a big way. Says a former Casey deputy: "He ran the clandestine side himself." Under Casey, agency officials "let themselves drift back into operations without informing Congress," adds a former top official. "Some of what they did was in contradiction of the law."

Intelligence sources decline to pinpoint the legally questionable adventures undertaken by Casey's CIA.

Aside from the obvious problems in Iran and Nicaragua, speculation focuses on covert activities in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, and Ethiopia. Casey, says a colleague who has known him since his days in the Office of Strategic Services, "was a freebooter. His ambitions and the President's ambitions meant that a tremendous number of things could be going on, and no one would question them."

**MENDING FENCES.** Many former CIA officials are urging Gates to get the cleanup operation under way even before his Senate confirmation, which is expected in February. "Gates must sort out all of the clandestine services' activities, particularly the covert action, and get a handle on them," says one professional. There is some indication that Gates, in fact, began that process as soon as he became acting director in December. But the new intelligence chief must also rebuild relationships with Congress that were shattered by Casey's evasiveness and confrontational style.

Gates, who at 43 is the youngest man ever to become Director of Central Intelligence, is well-equipped for the job. Although he has been in intelligence since graduating from college, Gates has been an analyst, not a spy or covert operator. Many professionals, including some who spent time on the clandestine side of the CIA, consider that a plus. "His analytical bent will be useful in overseeing operations, particularly covert operations, to be sure you're getting the bang for the buck," says former CIA Deputy Director John N. McMahon. A specialist in Soviet affairs and arms control, Gates put in time at the White House during the Nixon, Ford, and Carter Administrations, when the CIA detailed him to the National Security Council staff. James R. Schlesinger, who headed the CIA under Nixon, thinks Gates is capable of handling the difficult job he faces. "Bob Gates is a solid professional," says Schlesinger. "I believe he will do for the agency what is necessary at a time of some heavy weather."



Gates is well aware that he was not the White House's first choice: Former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker rejected an offer of the job. And many observers outside the intelligence community believe that only an outsider can be counted on to undertake a thorough house-cleaning credible to Congress and the public. But Gates's status as an insider—one who so far, at least, seems untainted by illegality in the Iran affair—will allow him to hit the ground running.

The most difficult problem Gates could face is the White House's probable desire to limit disclosure of possible CIA wrongdoing. Full disclosure of questionable covert activities and an overdue briefing of congressional leaders on agency actions are bound to produce new revelations. "Gates is going to have to come clean, and he will run into opposition from the White House," says a former top CIA official. "The Administration has always thought that what it did was in the national interest and that everyone should agree."

By Evert Clark