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Date 30 Sept '87



Robert Gates



Alexander Haig



George Shultz

# Gates denies slant given CIA reports

By Bill Gertz  
 THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Deputy CIA Director Robert Gates denied yesterday that the CIA "cooks" intelligence estimates to support U.S. policy, contradicting charges by Secretary of State George Shultz that it does.

"There is no charge to which we in the CIA are more sensitive than that of 'cooking' intelligence — of slanting our reporting to support policy," Mr. Gates said in a speech at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

While some intelligence estimates reflect the biases of certain analysts and are sometimes wrong, Mr. Gates said, he denied the agency slanted its analysis.

"Sometimes we have been wrong, but on problems large and small, we have not flinched from our honest view," he said.

Mr. Gates' remarks challenged testimony by Mr. Shultz before Congress' Iran-Contra investigating committee last July. Mr. Shultz testified that the CIA had become "too involved" in providing information about Iran and carrying out the covert Iran policy initiative.

The secretary of state, who feuded with then-CIA Director William Casey over the Iran policy, accused the CIA of allowing "your analysis and the selection of information that's presented [to] favor the policy that you're advocating."

The CIA concluded in early 1985 that Iran was becoming unstable and that the Soviet threat to Iran was

growing. The analysis was used by some policymakers to launch the secret change in U.S. policy that led to the administration scandal.

Although the Iran initiative and Mr. Shultz were not mentioned in the speech, intelligence sources said the Gates speech was directed against the Shultz testimony.

About 95 percent of the CIA budget is spent on collecting intelligence and analyzing it, Mr. Gates said.

Mr. Gates, quoting CIA Director William Webster, said the agency would avoid "politicizing" its intelligence product and will "tell it like it is."

The CIA is often at odds with policymakers in the administration, and in recent years, the Congress, over U.S. foreign policy, Mr. Gates said.

Mr. Gates said CIA analysts were overzealous in trying to debunk 1981 charges by then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig that the Soviet Union was behind international terrorism.

After Mr. Haig spoke out about the Soviet role in terrorism, "agency analysts initially set out not to address the issue in all its aspects but rather to prove the secretary wrong," he said.

"But in so doing, they went too far themselves and failed in the early drafts to describe extensive and support for terrorists groups and their sponsors," Mr. Gates said.

He described the episode as an example of CIA analysts' effort "to poke an analytical finger in the policy eye."