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CIA Man Says Agency's Image Result of Necessary Secrecy

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NEWS

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CIA MAN SAYS AGENCY'S IMAGE
RESULT OF NECESSARY SECRECY

COMMERCE, --"I don't think there will ever be a time when you don't need a Central Intelligence Agency," the East Texas State University visitor was saying.

"Without information there would be no end to trouble," the speaker continued. "We couldn't anticipate situations. We would have to maintain a larger armed forces."

"But," the interviewer asked, "why couldn't we anticipate the results of the Bay of Pigs?" "Yes," the visitor said, "the public hears about the failures, but it's the one-thousand-and-one successes we can't tell them anything about."

Dr. Charles Rudolph, CIA research analyst, had just finished lecturing on land reform in Iran before an ETSU political science class. He had recently completed a doctoral dissertation on the subject, but perhaps the most interesting thing about the visitor involved his work in the CIA.

Those initials conjure up an image of cloak and dagger; the term "spook" comes to mind. Is that image correct? Hardly, according to Rudolph.

"The people working for the CIA are the most ordinary people that you could imagine--except they are highly educated," the research analyst said.

(MORE)

cia man/add 1

Where then do people get the "spook" image? "I think the public doesn't know enough about the CIA," Rudulph explained, "and when you don't know enough about it, there is a tendency to make up what you don't know."

Dr. Rudulph said the major function of the CIA is to gather information for the President and the United States government and to execute the orders given it by the President.

"The CIA doesn't make policy," the visitor explained.

But what about the stories in the press of CIA activities in Laos and of intrigue in foreign capitals?

Rudulph said he couldn't answer, explaining that the agency is "very compartmentalized."

"We operate on a need to know basis," the research analyst said. "I only know what I need to know."

Speaking as a scholar on the Middle East, Rudulph said that Egypt doesn't seem ready to take on Israel again. There are students and elements of the military in Egypt that want their government to rush headlong into Israel with all the Soviet equipment, he said. But he sees the uneasy peace as lasting for awhile anyway.

Rudulph said that in his opinion the United States and Russia would be vitally interested in the Middle East even if there weren't major petroleum resources there. "It's a very strategic territory," he explained.

Would he encourage college students to seek a career with the CIA? "Yes," the visitor said, "I would say it's been a good career for me."