

Former CIA director says '80s appear ominous

By Mike Scanlon
staff writer

The calendar said spring, but a bristling, unshaven, mean-spirited wind had the season on the ropes for awhile Thursday afternoon as former Central Intelligence Director William E. Colby spoke at Oakland University.

It seemed fitting, because Colby's vision of the future had all the sunny promise of a Force 7 hurricane. "Ticking off phrases like 'enormous danger,' 'reckless despots,' 'internal turmoil' and 'international upset,' Colby made the 1980s sound like a global stroll through a nuclear minefield.

All in all, he said, "I don't think the world is necessarily safe for democracy in this decade."

The CIA, on the other hand, is bruised but still alive after "an orgy of re-education over what happened over the past 25 or 30 years."

A WORLD WAR II paratrooper when he was recruited as a spy, Colby spent 15 years of his intelligence career living in and working on Vietnam before serving as CIA director from 1973 to 1976. He's now an attorney for

a Washington law firm.

Colby says a lot of problems are lurking in the woodwork for the next decade and beyond, and they include:

- The Soviet Union, which poses "an enormous danger" in the wake of a 15-year militarization program that has transformed a "grossly inferior" nuclear strike force into one "that's approximately equal" to the U.S. force. The Soviet fleet has become "a blue ocean navy" in that same period, and the army has been modernized. Meanwhile, if something else doesn't do it first, time alone is likely to soon change the country's aging leadership — perhaps for the worse.

- The emergence of the Third World, and the change it may represent in world power. "Over the centuries, great power has largely been a monopoly of large countries," but "great power is becoming available in very small packages." That includes nuclear, chemical and biological packages, Colby said, and one or another may fall into the hands of "reckless despots."

The chances of avoiding that in the next generation are "not very good."

Political foment in lesser developed countries also risks a populace "polar-

izing between a brutal dictator we don't like and a ruthless terrorist who doesn't like us," said Colby, suggesting as a possible remedy "quiet assistance on a very small scale to some better alternative (to) offer some hope to the people of that country."

- Wealthy Middle Eastern states, which face "an enormous problem of management, of education, of elite-building." Some may fall through "internal turmoil, international upset as we've seen in Iran," a possibility not helped at all by the large numbers of foreign workers in many of the countries.

PROBLEMS Colby said the world will avoid include China, which he thinks "is going to go through a series of turnovers. There's a whole generation and a half brought up on the words of Chairman Mao and I don't think that's been eliminated. That should keep China in enough turmoil to prevent it from being a danger anywhere outside China."

Colby said it will be difficult to persuade the Soviet Union about that, however, since its leaders are "petrified" of China.

"The way they talk about the Yellow Peril, it almost sounds like William Randolph Hearst," said Colby.

POLAND's crisis may work out for the best, Colby said.

"The Soviets have 100 reasons not to invade Poland, which they're well aware of. There's only one reason to do it — if things get out of hand."

Colby said he thinks it's possible Poland can walk a tightrope toward greater political and economic independence as long as it can convince the Soviet Union that it represents no military threat.

If Poland succeeds, other Warsaw Pact countries — particularly Hungary, but certainly not Russia — may follow, creating "the Finlandization of Eastern Europe."

Colby said, "I don't think anybody is going to send large numbers of soldiers (to El Salvador). That's the lesson we learned" in Vietnam.

America's involvement in Vietnam, he said, entailed four "very significant" different stages, with the third stage offering the best solution in El Salvador — promotion of land reform and political restructuring while "si-

multaneously keeping the enemy out of their hair" with effective frontier defense.

Colby said he thinks American public opinion is turning toward greater support for a strong CIA, the end of a public opinion "binge over intelligence" spurred by "gross exaggerations."

"CIA never assassinated anyone, although it wasn't for lack of trying in regards to Mr. Castro," Colby said, adding, "There may have been cases where people were killed and CIA was involved with the people who killed them."

Colby admitted past CIA abuses,

commenting that "I wouldn't even try to defend the genius who decided we should go to the Mafia" for help in killing Castro. But he said the extent of CIA abuse was not as widespread as critics claimed, and what abuse existed had ended before criticism began.

But the complaints "scared people into thinking CIA was under every bed in the world," creating a climate where "any cheap politician in the world can at least try" to combat opponents by linking to them to the CIA "and be guaranteed a headline."

Oh, and his favorite spy novelist is Graham Greene.

Sunday package liquor to be legal

If you're the kind of purist who demands really fresh ingredients for your Sunday brunch Bloody Mary, you can start cracking open brand new bottles of vodka.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners decided last week to allow Sunday sales of package liquor.

Although technically the Sunday sales will be legal immediately after County Executive Daniel Murphy signs the action, realistically Sunday liquor-by-the-bottle probably won't be much in evidence until May.

Retail liquor stores which choose to sell on Sunday must buy a separate license with a fee pegged to 15 percent

of the initial license fees. Since package liquor licenses all expire May 1, county administrators expect few retailers to be willing to buy two licenses in a couple of weeks.

Commissioners approved the sales in a 19-7 vote, with the dissenters, all Republicans, including G. William Cadell (Walled Lake, West Bloomfield), Marilyn Gosling (Bloomfield Hills), George Jackson (Birmingham) Paul Kasper (Bloomfield Hills), John Peterson (Rochester) and Wallace Gabler and Charles Whitlock.

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners has twice rejected Sunday liquor sales.

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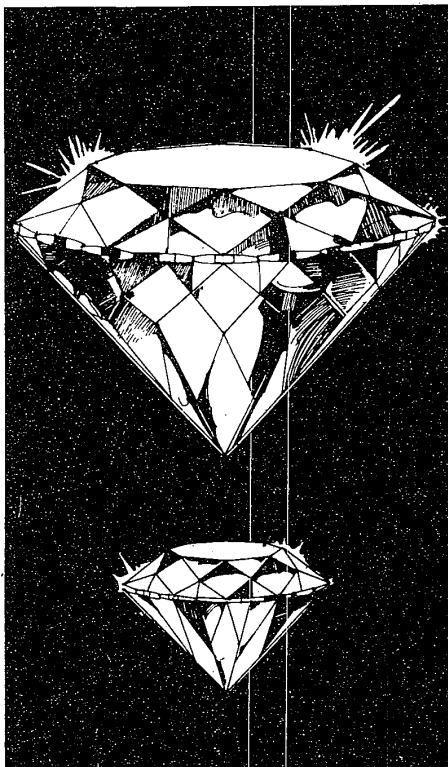
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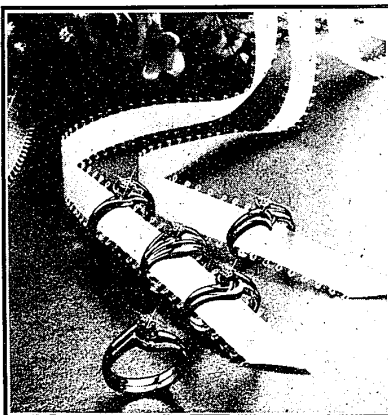


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