

# Introduction

I have written this book for people who want to know what counterintelligence is, not what it ought to be, and for people who may be interested in it as a trade or profession. The book is about what professional intelligence officers call “tradecraft,” specifically the craft used in the trade of counterintelligence. It is not about politics, policy, communism, anticommunism, justice in the developing world, human rights, or religion, although these affect the trade of counterintelligence just as they do the trades of stockbroking, oil exploration, and journalism. They will be mentioned occasionally, and my concerns about them will be evident, but only as they are elements of the environment in which counterintelligence functions.

My thirty-odd years working in counterintelligence have all been spent as an American official, but I have worked much of that time with the counterintelligence officers of other countries. I believe that this book will be useful to readers not only in the United States but also in other countries allied with the United States and in some nonallied and nonhostile nations where espionage and terrorism occur.

To illustrate various points, I have cited many actual cases. Some of these have been written about publicly elsewhere, with varying degrees of accuracy, and some have not. Those that have not yet come to the attention of journalists, historians, or writers of fictional documentaries I have altered (in counterintelligence jargon, “sanitized”) by changing names, dates, and places. I have done this to protect myself and to protect what American law calls “sources and methods” from hostile action. I have made some changes and deleted some material at the request of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which has reviewed the contents patiently, promptly, and thoughtfully. What I know about

the spy business I learned as an official under oath to my government, and therefore what facts I know about the spy business are the government's property, not mine. The *opinions* are my own, and the Central Intelligence Agency neither endorses nor condemns them.