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HEADLINE: 'CIA' peeks into files of the spy **fraternity**

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BODY:

James Bond is really a bureaucrat, and not always a very good one.

That's the impression you get from watching this stimulating three-hour (over three nights) documentary. It deglamorizes the spy business while exposing a long-shrouded fraternity of "adult Boy Scouts" who play a deadly global game of covert espionage with mixed and often dismaying results.

In the tradition of Discovery's acclaimed miniseries on Watergate and the death of Yugoslavia, ***CIA: America's Secret Warriors*** interviews an impressive number of actual participants: from the late **CIA** director William Colby (a month before his drowning death) to convicted turncoat Aldrich Ames and a caustic gallery of former operatives, some proud and some bitter, many talking for the first time.

Tonight's opener provides a cogent overview, tracing the **CIA's** Ivy League "secret society" roots and capsulizing the agency's Cold War heyday with post-World War II capers in Iran, Guatemala and Laos, with disasters (the Bay of Pigs) and triumphs (Afghanistan).

Tuesday's installment, titled "Betrayal," is even better, focusing on the crippling paranoia within the **CIA's** corridors as spies seek "moles" within their own ranks. Ames, who sold secrets successfully for years, takes smug center stage.

Wednesday's finale, "Blowback," examines the alarming boomerang effect of some of the agency's covert operations abroad, training those who would become the world's future terrorists.

All in all, with its long litany of scandals and congressional hearings, not a pretty picture. But an awfully fascinating one.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Color, Dennis Brack, Black Star

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