
Part II

The CIA's Role and Authority

Introduction

The legal authority of the Central Intelligence Agency derives primarily from the National Security Act of 1947 and the implementing directives of the National Security Council.

The Act, written in broad terms, is properly understood only against the historical background. Chapter 4 discusses this background.

Chapter 5 sets forth the statutory language and describes the legislative history, the subsequent National Security Council directives, and the administrative practice.

Chapter 6 analyzes the scope of the CIA's legal authority for its activities within the United States.