

From:

Mr. lic. phil. Daniele Canser

To:

Information & Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505
USA

Basel, Switzerland, December 14, 2000

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request on CIA's "Operation Gladio"

Dear [REDACTED]

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I request all agency records - the term "records" means records of any kind, including mission statements, organisational charts, budget data, memoranda, reports, and records of action - related to the following:

1. The United State Governments original decision(s), probably taken during the 1947-54 period, to sponsor, support, or collaborate with, any covert armies, networks, or other units, established to resist a possible invasion of Western Europe by communist-dominated countries, or to carry out covert action operations in Western European countries, which looked as if they were soon to be dominated by Communist, leftist, or Soviet-sponsored parties or regimes.
2. Any United States Government policy assessments or reviews, undertaken after 1945, of the United States Governments decisions to sponsor, support or collaborate with such covert entities.
3. With reference to the above, please include in your search any records relating to the activities known as 'stay-behind', particularly in Italy, France, Turkey, Belgium, and Switzerland.

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PLEASE NOTE:

A) This request merits a fee waiver because: 1) As a PhD student at Basel University, Switzerland, I am part of a scientific institution, and this request is made for a scholarly purpose only, and not for commercial use. 2) With my book "Reckless Gamble. The Sabotage of the United Nations in the Cuban Conflict and the Missile Crisis of 1962, University Press of the South, New Orleans, end 2000", I have demonstrated my ability to academically disseminate information about US government policy and operations. 3) Any records obtained as a result of the request will contribute significantly to public understanding of United States foreign policy in the post-World War II period, as well as the role of intelligence information, analyses, and operations in United States policy-making during that time.

B) The US Church committee already in 1976 confirmed that CIA's OPC branch, on the orders of the JCS, had erected stay-behind networks in Western Europe:

"The national elections in Europe in 1948 had been a primary motivation in the establishment of OPC ... Until 1950 OPC's paramilitary activities (also referred to as preventive action) were limited to plans and preparations for stay-behind nets in the event of future war. Requested by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, these projected OPC operations focused, once again, on Western Europe and were designed to support NATO forces against Soviet attack."

{United States Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (Church Committee), US Government Printing Office, Washington DC. April 26, 1976. Final Report, Book IV, Supplementary detailed staff reports on Foreign and Military Intelligence, p. 36}

C) On August 2, 1990, the Italian parliament ordered the head of the Italian executive, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, 'to inform the parliament within sixty days with respect to the existence, characteristics and purpose of a parallel and occult structure which is said to have operated within our secret service of the military with the aim to condition the political life of the country.' On August 3, 1990, Andreotti revealed Operation Gladio officially, when to the Italian Commission investigating non clarified massacres he declared: 'I will present to the Commission a very precise report which I have asked the Defence Department to prepare. It is about the activities based on NATO planing that have been started for the eventuality of an attack and occupation of Italy or parts of Italy. ... I will provide the Commission with all the necessary documentation, be it on the problem [of a secret army] in general, be it on the specific findings made by judge (felice) Casson in the context of his investigations into the Peteano massacre.'

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On October 24, 1990, Andreotti handed a ten pages long document 'The so called 'Parallel SID' - The Gladio Case', to the Italian commission in which he confirmed that in November 1956 the Italian secret service SIFAR and CIA had signed

'an accord relative to the 'organisation and activity of the post-occupation clandestine network', an accord commonly referred to as Stay Behind, in which all preceding commitments relevant to matters concerning Italy and the United States were reconfirmed. These were the basis for the operation code named 'Gladio'. Once the clandestine resistance organisation was constituted, Italy was called upon to participate ... in the works of the CCP (Clandestine Planning Committee) as of 1959, operating within the ambit of SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) ...; in this committee the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and other NATO states were already represented. In 1964 our Italian secret service also entered the ACC (Allied Clandestine Committee), a body assigned the problem of co-ordinating 'the networks of evasion and escape' between the various nations. The United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and West Germany were already members of this committee.'

(Formerly classified, this document of Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was leaked to the Italian press, and thereafter published in several newspapers, articles and books. Compare: Ferraresi, Franco: *A secret structure codenamed Gladio*. In: Italian Politics. A Review. 1992, p. 30. And: Brozzi-Gentile, Jean-Francois: *L'affaire Gladio*. Editions Albin Michel. Paris 1994, pp. 253-259)

Convinced that it would not be wise to repeat denials and contradictions, I thank you for your consideration of my request

Sincerely

lic. phil. D. Ganser