

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

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(COPLEY-CIA)

(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - PENTHOUSE MAGAZINE WAS PREPARED TODAY TO RELEASE AN ARTICLE ALLEGING "INTIMATE TIES" BETWEEN THE COPLEY NEWS SERVICE AND THE CIA.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE ARTICLE, IN THE AUGUST EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE, CONCERNS "THE INTIMATE TIES BETWEEN AN AMERICAN WIRE SERVICE AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY".

DETAILS OF THE ARTICLE WERE WITHHELD PENDING A NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY, BUT UPI LEARNED THE NEWS SERVICE WAS COPLEY.

"WE NEVER HAVE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE CIA," CHARLES OHL, EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR AND MANAGING EDITOR, SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW. A SPOKESMAN AT COPLEY'S SAN DIEGO HEADQUARTERS SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE ARTICLE BUT WAS AWARE IT WOULD BE PUBLISHED.

THE ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY DAVE ROMAN, A FORMER SAN DIEGO NEWSMAN, AND JOE TRENTO, WHO LOST A PRIMARY RACE FOR CONGRESS AS A DEMOCRAT LAST YEAR.

DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, TRENTO CHARGED A RELATIONSHIP EXISTED BETWEEN COPLEY AND THE CIA. HE SAID COPLEY'S LATIN AMERICAN EDITOR, WILLIAM GIANDONI, PROVIDED INFORMATION TO THE CIA ON GUATEMALA.

ALLEGATIONS ALSO WERE MADE AGAINST RETIRED MARINE LT. GEN. VICTOR KRULAK, PRESIDENT OF THE NEWS SERVICE FOR NINE YEARS UNTIL HE RETIRED LAST MONTH.

OHL SAID GIANDONI, THE NEWS AGENCY'S LATIN AMERICAN EDITOR IN SAN DIEGO, HAD WRITTEN THE CIA IN 1950 VOLUNTEERING HIS SERVICES WHILE WORKING AS A REPORTER IN MEXICO.

GIANDONI TOLD UPI: "I GOT A FORM LETTER BACK TELLING ME THEY HAD NOTHING AVAILABLE. AND THAT WAS IT."

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