

# CIA brewing Chile-sty

The following "open letter to the Portuguese people" was written by Philip Agee, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency and author of the book, "CIA Diary: Inside the Company." Agee, who has recently visited Portugal, worked for the CIA for 12 years, engaging in counter-revolutionary activity in Ecuador, Uruguay and Mexico. His experiences, he says, led him to become a "revolutionary socialist" and his subsequent expose of the CIA, naming hundreds of undercover agents and operations, has seriously hurt the agency. The "letter" was distributed by Fifth Estate, an anti-CIA group.

By PHILIP AGEE

The revolutionary process in Portugal is being attacked by the guardians of capitalist countries' interests, of which the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is the most notorious and powerful. I see the signs daily. These counterrevolutionary activities are similar to what I did in the CIA for more than 10 years during the 1950s and 1960s. I send this letter as part of a continuing effort by many Americans to end imperialist intervention and support to repression by the U.S. government.

In the Azores as well as in mainland Portugal, in the Catholic Church, in political parties and even within the armed forces, the CIA and its allies are working to create enough chaos to justify an attempt by the so-called moderates to take over the revolutionary government.

Since the fall of fascism in Portugal, I have tried to follow developments and have twice visited your country. While my study of the visible signs of CIA intervention is still incomplete, there is good reason to alert you to what I have seen. Last week a U.S. senator announced that the Communist Party of Portugal is receiving \$10 million per month from the Soviet Union, a figure he attributed to the CIA. Two days later Deputy CIA Director Gen. Vernon Walters (who visited Lisbon to survey the political situation in August 1974) confirmed the senator's claim. Secretary of State Kissinger, for his part, publicly warned the Soviet Union recently that assistance by them to the Portuguese revolutionary process was endangering detente. These statements suggest that the American people are being prepared for another secret foreign adventure by the CIA.

I will describe below what I believe are CIA operations, along with a list of names and residences in Portugal of as many of the CIA functionaries I can identify.

The size of the overall U.S. government mission in Portugal is shocking, especially its heavy dominance by military personnel. The mission totals 280 persons of whom about 160 are Americans, with the rest being Portuguese employees. Of the Americans, 105 are military personnel assigned mainly to the Military Assistance Advisory Group, the office of the Defense Attache, and the COMIVERLANT command of NATO.

## HIDDEN AGENTS

Of the approximately 50 American civilians in the mission, about 10, I believe, are employees of the CIA. No less than 10 additional CIA functionaries are probably working in Lisbon and other cities, having been assigned ostensibly for temporary duties so that their presence is not included on embassy personnel lists, nor reported to the Portuguese foreign ministry.

One must also assume that additional CIA operations officers have been placed under cover in American military units in Portugal, where their experience in political operations—far superior to that of their military colleagues—will be most effective. While efforts to divert the revolution through Gen. Spínola have failed, new efforts are being made daily in the struggle to stop the revolution.

Without doubt, the CIA officers in other U.S. embassies, most likely in Madrid, Paris and London, have personnel assigned to Portuguese operations that are undertaken in those countries rather than in Portugal proper. The most sensitive operations of the CIA probably are occurring in other European cities rather than in Lisbon.

Who specifically are responsible for operations against Portugal? The CIA is only one of the various U.S. agencies working against the revolution, under the guidance of Ambassador Carlucci. Although Carlucci is not a CIA agent, he must carefully direct and coordinate all U.S. counterrevolutionary operations, including those of the military services. His top-level team includes: Herbert Okun, his minister/counselor and deputy chief of mission; John Morgan, the chief of the CIA; Adm. Frank Cooley, chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group; Col. Peter Blackley, chief of the Defense Attache Office; Charles Thomas, counselor for political affairs; and Navy Capt. James Lacey, senior U.S. military representative on the COMIVERLANT NATO Command. Each of the U.S. military units, along with CIA and State Department personnel, are responsible for one or more of the specific counterrevolutionary programs.

In order to preserve imperialist interests in Portugal, the revolution must be diverted from its current directions and the U.S. government is not alone in its efforts. I strongly suspect that Kissinger many months ago urged the leaders of Western European governments to intervene themselves directly to reverse the Portuguese revolutionary process, arguing that the problem is essentially European and that the CIA has been limited in its capabilities by recent revelations. In 1948, when the Communist Party of Italy was about to win the elections, the U.S. government alone threatened to halt aid for reconstruction and even to launch a military invasion. In recent days, the EEC presidents themselves have threatened to withhold financial assistance from Portugal unless their style of democracy is established. Other similarities between postfascist Portugal and post-World War 2 Europe are striking. In Greece, France and Italy, the U.S. government established governments submissive to American economic interests while simultaneously providing alternatives to left-wing governments led by the same political forces that provided the backbone of the resistance in World War 2.

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Is there an orchestrated effort in some quarters to destroy the effectiveness of the Central Intelligence Agency?

There are those in Washington and elsewhere who think they detect signs of this. And they point, quite rightly in our judgment, at what appear to be indications in the media of a deliberate attempt to serve up all the unfavorable news possible about the CIA—authenticated or not.

### Critical Report

At the same time it is evident that the Washington media are not interested in presenting the CIA in a favorable light.

Accuracy in Media, Inc. (AIM), a conservative organization in the capital which monitors newspapers, television and radio for signs of news inaccuracies, distortions and omissions, recently issued a highly critical report of coverage of the CIA.

AIM took particular note of a speech made recently before the American Security Council by Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters which was ignored almost entirely by the news media.

In his speech Walters declared that it may be possible to conduct intelligence operations "in a goldfish bowl," but he added that if we do it, it will be like going to the moon. "We will be the only ones ever to have done it."

A "goldfish bowl" operation seems to be what is wanted by the liberal inquisitors in Washington, and Walters, who is deputy director of the CIA, is clearly apprehensive about it.

AIM noted that the *Washington Star* on the day Walters made his speech devoted 70 columns to investigations of

the CIA, but not one line about Walters' remarks. A *Star* reporter, who was at the luncheon, said he found nothing new in Walters' remarks. Hence no story.

"It would appear," the AIM report said, "that in the minds of some journalists the only thing that is newsworthy is material that is critical of the CIA."

"Statements that put our intelligence activities in proper perspective, defending what has been done, are simply not deemed to be worth reporting."

AIM quotes a speech made last February by Peter Arnett of the *New York Times* as reflecting the media attitude toward the CIA.

"It seems to me," Arnett was quoted as saying, "that this is going to be the year the the 'spooks' (CIA) get theirs, or they have to start answering questions . . . Many reporters that I know are starting to go to Washington and are trying to find all the security people, all the discontented CIA officers and others who could feed the grist for the mill to find the story of what went on."

I THINK there are going to be some embarrassing stories about this in the next few months and the next year."

General Walters, in his speech to the ASC, recalled that 20 years ago the United States believed that it was faced with a ruthless and implacable enemy who was determined to destroy us by any means in its power. The CIA at that time sought to counter the Soviet bid for world dominion.

As of today, Walters had this to say: "I think we are facing a very tough situation. I think the tactics may have changed, but I don't think the

long-term goal has changed very much."

According to the AIM report, Walters noted that many people now expect the intelligence service to operate with a degree of purity that will not be reciprocated by our enemies. He compared this to fighting by the Marquis of Queensbury rules against an opponent with brass knuckles.

As a result of the current wave of calumny against the CIA, the agency's ability to operate is being severely impaired. Said Walters:

"People who used to give us whole reports are giving us summaries, and people who used to give us summaries are shaking hands with us."

"People who used to help us voluntarily are saying don't come near me. This must be a delight to the American-wrongers. For the people who believe that the U.S. represents the best hope of mankind for freedom in the world, it is not an encouraging factor."

### Steadily Losing Ground

Perhaps we have only to look at Portugal to see what the attacks upon the CIA are doing to the world balance of power. The Soviet Union reportedly is pumping \$10 million a month into the Communist party of that country. There is evidence that the United States now feels inhibited about trying to counter this activity.

The destructive attitude of the Washington news media undoubtedly is contributing in one way or another to the continuing encroachments of the Soviet Union, despite the widely hailed virtues of detente.

We are losing ground steadily just about everywhere, and it seems that there are plenty of people in Washington who, in effect, are eager to cheer for the enemy.