

A Move to Head Off Blocking of Book?

CIA Agents' Names Circulated

By Jeff Stein

Special to The Washington Star

Photocopied page proofs of a new book that lists the names of hundreds of CIA officers in Western Europe were circulated over the weekend to a handful of journalists here and abroad in anticipation that the Justice Department might move to block its publication.

The book, "Dirty Work: The CIA in Western Europe," was written and edited by an ex-CIA officer, Philip Agee, and a journalist, Louis Wolf.

A 386-page appendix to the 2½-inch-thick book, a copy of which was obtained here, lists the names, career histories and, in many cases, the current positions of 841 men and women the book says are undercover CIA officers in American embassies throughout Western Europe.

The book also includes a guide for readers on how to pick out CIA officers from publicly available lists of State Department and military personnel.

A majority of the names listed, according to the authors, had previously appeared in print, mostly in left-wing European periodicals. But the authors also attribute a compilation of some names to sources in various U.S. embassies.

A CIA SPOKESMAN, Dale Peterson, said that as far as he knew, no decision had been made on whether to seek an injunction against the book's publisher, Lyle Stuart of Secaucus, N.J., to prevent its being issued later this month.

"To the best of my knowledge, the decision remains at the Justice Department at this point," Peterson said. "They were looking into the ramifications as late as Friday but no decision had been reached. . . ." Peterson added, "Obviously, we would look favorably upon any action" by the Justice Department.

A Justice Department spokesman, Robert Stevenson, said that "at this point we have not" made a decision on whether to take action on the book's publication.

Justice Department and CIA officials have expressed dismay over the impending publication, and Peterson said, "Obviously it would be very harmful" to the agency.

A SOURCE CLOSE to Agee said over the weekend, however, that anyone who took the time to learn how to thoroughly read State Department biographical lists could compile a "Who's Who" of CIA officers under cover in embassies on their own. He also said that Wolf and not Agee had done most of the research for the name lists.

"Dirty Work" also includes some 18 articles on the CIA and its operations in specific countries, including Italy, West Germany, France, Portugal and Sweden. Most were reprinted from European magazines and newspapers. An article by former State Department intelligence officer John Marks, "How to Spot a Spook," is reprinted from a 1974 issue of The Washington Monthly.

Perhaps in anticipation of a new round of attacks on their work, Agee, Wolf and the contributors devote considerable space to discussion of the murder of Richard Welch.

Welch, a career CIA officer, was assassinated in



PHILIP AGEE: Once a CIA operative

1974 outside his home in Athens, where he was CIA station chief. A now-defunct anti-CIA magazine with which Agee was associated, "Counter-Spy," had printed Welch's name.

AGEE AND the magazine's staffers, mostly ex-military intelligence personnel, came under attack by Welch's family and then-CIA Director William Colby for printing the CIA man's name, and thus indirectly contributing to his murder, which a Greek leftist group later took credit for.

But in an article reprinted from The Washington Post, Morton Halperin wrote that Welch had been warned by the CIA itself that his residence was widely known in Athens and that he should consider moving. Welch rejected the advice.

In the new book Agee anticipated similar charges that ripping the cover off CIA officers in Europe could lead to their deaths.

"Of course, this book will again raise the cry that we are 'trying to get someone killed,'" he writes. "But as it happens, violence is not really needed. By removing the mask of anonymity from CIA officers, we make it difficult for them to remain at overseas posts."

"WE HOPE THAT the CIA will have the good sense to shift these people to the increasingly smaller number of safe posts, preferably to a desk inside the CIA headquarters at Langley, Va. In this way the CIA will protect the operatives named — and also the lives of their potential victims."

Since writing his 1973 book, "Inside the Company: CIA Diary," Agee has lived in several European countries and has been deported from France, West Germany, the Netherlands and England. Those nations said at the time that Agee was a menace to their national security.

A source close to the former undercover operative says he now lives in Rome.

At least five copies of "Dirty Work" were thought to have been distributed over the Labor Day weekend — two in the United States, the remainder in Europe.

Barring a court order, the book will go on sale this month at a retail price of \$24.95. Half-price copies by mail order were advertised in the first issue of "Covert Action Information Bulletin."