CIA Work With Youths At Festivals Defended

Washington Post Staff Writer

Gloria Steinem, a New York free-lance writer, acknowledged in an interview yesterday that she worked closely with the Centrol Intelligence Agency to organize groups of American young people to attend World Youth Festivals in Vienna and Helsinki in 1959 and 1962.

She strongly defended her actions and had great praise for the CIA agents with whom she collaborated. "I found them liberal and farsighted and open to an exchange of ideas," she said.

"I never felt I was being dictated to at all."

Miss Steinem was director of the Independent Research Service, a group that spon-sored the trips of several hun-dred young Americans to Vienna and Helsinks. Its ac-tivities have been financed by a number of fundations, in-cluding the Independence Foundation of Boston, already cited by the National Student Association as a conduit of CIA funds.

First Admission

This was the first admission by anyone connected with the Research Service that it had collaborated with the CIA.

Miss Steinem said yesterday United Press International that she had worked extensively with CIA agents in this country and at the two Youth

She said the budget for Research Service activities at the Helsinki Festival was more than \$100,000. She declined to say how much of that was CIA money.

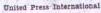
Several hundred young Americans went to Helsinki with Research Service aid to offer an alternative to the Communist line of the Festiv-

The Research Service also helped pay for a daily news-paper put out in three languages during the Festival by a largely American staff but under the ultimate control of



Robert Kaiser

Gloria Steinem had praise for the CIA while recounting her collaboration with them in organizing student groups to attend international meetings,





was helping to pay for their Student Association.

planned the best ways to op-lice. "There was always legitito do what we wanted to dopresent a heal thy, diverse view of the United States."

She said the Research Service was started without CIA funds, but that the Agency offered to help.

"The CIA was the only one with enough guts and fore-sight to see that youth and teachers who were farther

trip.
She also said that no member of either Research Service
Shaul, now a lawyer in Akron, Ohio, told The Washington Post yesterday that he delegation had passed informa- knew CIA money was helping tion to the CIA, "We only to finance the Research Serv-

"There was always legitimate money involved, too,"
Shaul said. "To this day I
don't know how much CIA
money there was,"
Shaul said of the Research
Service delegation that his

funds, but that the Agency approached her soon after the organization was set up and who were representative of America."

"We had Minnesota school There have been eight ant," she said.

Shaul said, "as well as mem-She first decided that youth bers of Students for a Demo-

There have been eight world Youth Festivals since World War II. The first six were held behind the Iron Curtain. They have all been controlled by Communists.

Miss Steinem send yesterday that "almost none" of the people who went to Vienna or Helsinki with the Research Service knew that the CIA mer preseident of the National about the CIA connection.

a Finnish editor. All Conrtolled by Reds

Service knew that the CIA mer preseident of the National about the CIA connection.