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CIA Subsidized Book Publication, Newspaper Says

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency funded the publication of a series of topical political books through the now-defunct Forum World Features syndicate in London, the Manchester Guardian reported yesterday.

The Guardian report, which did not indicate what sources it was based on, added that there is no evidence that the authors—or, in fact, the publishing houses that printed the books—were aware of the CIA connection.

It had previously been reported that Forum World Features, which closed its doors in April of last year, ran a news service that distributed articles to newspapers around the globe.

Yesterday's Guardian report was the first indication of a book-publishing activity.

Officials of Forum World Features denied, before the organization folded, that it was connected with the CIA, although they admitted that it was an offshoot of a news service run by the agency. They insisted, however, that they had severed that connection.

Although Forum World Features has closed down, the Guardian said, the book-publishing operation is still continuing through a related company, Rossiter Publications Ltd. The Guardian said that Rossiter also took over Forum's rights to previously published books. It did not indicate whether the CIA funding was continuing.

The Guardian's prime example of book publication had to do with "Chile's Marxist Experiment," by Robert Moss. The paper said that the Chilean government had bought 10,000 copies of the book for distribution through Chile's embassies in Washington and London. It said that copies were being given away free by the London embassy, adding that the Chilean press attache in London explained: "We give the book away because it is an objective study and it is also good for us."

In addition, the Guardian said, Chile had the Moss book published in Spanish by a publishing house owned by the Chilean government.