

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1976

Italian Paper Names Six in U.S. Embassy As Agents of C.I.A.

Special to The New York Times

ROME, Jan. 16—An Italian newspaper today published the names of six American Embassy officials whom it described as agents of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The list was the latest in a series published in Greece, England, France and elsewhere of American Embassy officials said to be working for the C.I.A. After the disclosure in Athens, unknown assassins murdered Richard Welch, the chief of station, in a shooting on Dec. 23.

The newspaper, *La Repubblica*, which says it is aimed at left-wing intellectuals, started publishing this week as Italy's first tabloid. It is a joint venture by Mondadori Editore, the large Milan publishing house, and *L'Espresso*, the mass circulation weekly magazine. The editor, Eugenio Scalfari, is a former Socialist member of Parliament.

The article said that the American Embassy in Rome included a "vast and secret" C.I.A. operation that functioned under the name of "U.S. Army Southern European Projects Unit." The embassy directory

does list such a unit, described by officials there as a group "handles administrative matters for the military."

La Repubblica said the unit employed up to 14 civilian agents of the C.I.A.

The C.I.A. has been receiving special attention in the Italian press since the disclosure last week in Washington of a clandestine operation to pay \$6 million to Italian politicians to bolster non-Communist forces because of the urge of the Communist Party, Italy's second largest. The political impact has been small so far, largely because most Italians did not find themselves surprised by the news.