

Book by Ex-C.I.A. Man Links Latins to Spying

By RICHARD EDER
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Jan. 13—A former employe of the Central Intelligence Agency has published what he describes as a detailed, almost day-by-day account of his work and that of his colleagues in three Latin-American countries.

The author, Philip Agee, who has been interviewed widely before publication, served successively in Ecuador, Uruguay and Mexico from 1960 to 1968. He then resigned and, after going briefly into business in Mexico City, began a series of trips to France, Cuba and Britain, seeking research materials and a publisher.

He found both in London. At the beginning of this month, Penguin Books published his manuscript, entitled "Inside the Company: C.I.A. Diary." Straight Arrow Press, a San Francisco publishing house linked to Rolling Stone magazine, is planning to bring it out in the United States this spring. No contract has yet been signed, however.

The book, in the form of a diary, describes the author's disillusion, both with C.I.A. methods in particular and more largely with United States policy around the world. The writer, originally a conservative Catholic, has become a revolutionary socialist.

Mr. Agee says that his book is intended as a contribution to the cause of world revolution. He sees in the C.I.A. an agency designed to frustrate revolution and protect capitalism. The book contains a list of nearly 250 persons he identifies as C.I.A. officers, local agents, informers and collaborators.

Besides revealing the names of dozens of members of the agency staff, most of whom operated from United States embassies in Quito, Montevideo and Mexico City, the book identifies local businessmen, labor and student leaders and politicians as C.I.A. agents.

In Ecuador, for example, Mr. Agee says that the agency had men in leading positions in several of the major political parties — including the Communist party — and controlled virtually the entire top leadership of one group, the Popular Revolutionary Liberal party.

Mr. Agee lists as collaborators such figures as two former Presidents of Mexico — Gustavo Diaz Ordaz and Adolfo López Mateos — and the current president, Luis Echeverría, Alvarez. In Mr. Echeverría's case, according to Mr. Agee, the relationship existed only while he was Minister of the Interior.

In Mr. Agee's usage, the term "collaborator" appears to indicate a more voluntary imparting of information or assistance than in an agent's

case. Presumably, the "collaborator" dealt with the C.I.A. because he considered the agency the most appropriate representative of the United States Government for a particular purpose, not because he was under the agency's control.

In his index, Mr. Agee refers to George Meany, head of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., as an "agent collaborator." Questioned about this today, Mr. Agee said that he was referring to the close cooperation between Mr. Meany's organization and the intelligence agency, and that perhaps simply "collaborator" would have been a more appropriate term.

A considerable if grudging tribute to the book was paid by Miles Copeland, formerly a high-ranking C.I.A. man himself. In a review published in The Spectator, Mr. Copeland assailed Mr. Agee for, in effect, betraying all his former associates. But, he added:

"The book is interesting as an authentic account of how an ordinary American or British 'case officer' operates." Mr. Copeland went on to say: "Wall of it, just as his publisher claims, is presented with 'deadly accuracy.'"

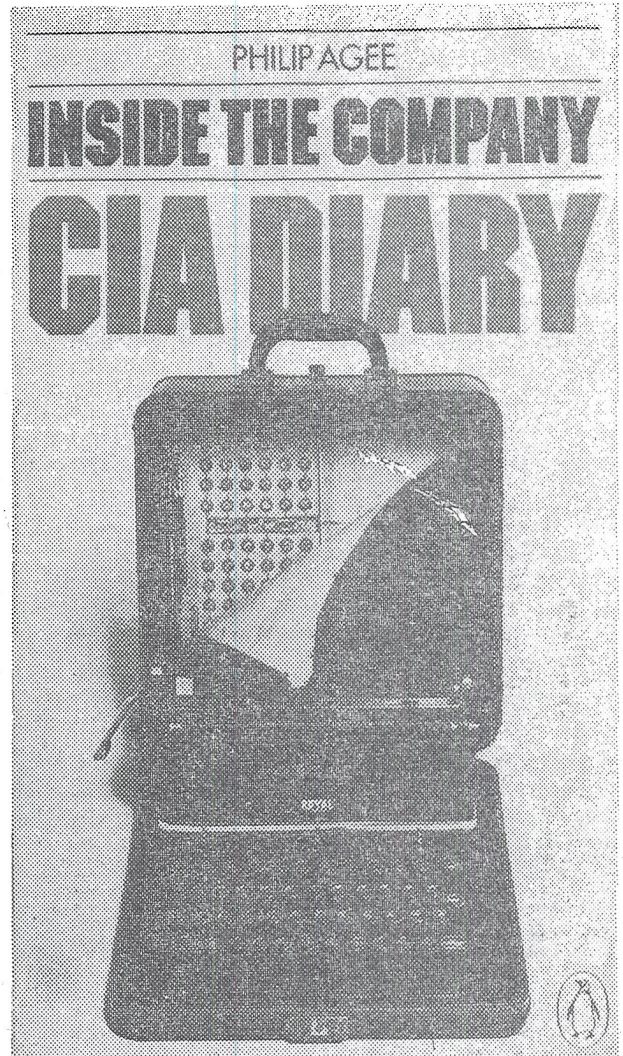
In the years Mr. Agee spent working in Latin America, the main objective of C.I.A. stations around the hemisphere was to counteract the effects of Cuban influence.

He tells of his own awkward attempt to recruit the leader of an Ecuadorean-Castroite group, José Mariá Roura. When Mr. Roura was freed from jail and expelled, Mr. Agee arranged to sit next to him on the plane. C.I.A. stations, he writes, made it a point to get the close cooperation of local airline executives.

The plane was virtually empty, however, and Mr. Agee felt it would be too obvious to sit right next to his quarry. So he sat several rows away, trying miserably to think up an excuse to strike up a conversation.

"I felt more and more glued to my seat," he writes. "I was going into a freeze and beginning to think up excuses, like bad security, to offer later for not having talked to Roura. But somehow I had to break the ice, and I finally stood up and began walking back to Roura's seat, in mid shock as when walking into a cold sea."

Mr. Agee did manage to get talking, and thought that "we seemed to be developing a little empathy." However, Mr. Roura refused to take up the suggested contacts, and later Mr. Agee learned that the Ecuadorean had complained about his C.I.A. seat-mate and threatened to kill him if he ever saw him again.



Cover of book by former American spy, published by Penguin in London. A San Francisco publishing house may bring it out in the U.S. this spring.

Most of the work was duller, however. A lot of time was spent reading mail between Ecuador or Uruguay and Cuba. Local postal officials were a priority target for C.I.A. recruitment.

Another target was local builders. When a Czechoslovak or Soviet delegation was due to take up residence, C.I.A. teams would arrange with the builders to install microphones before they arrived. Managers of hotels and apartment houses were enlisted.

Mr. Agee writes about bugging an apartment in Montevideo that was to be used by an Argentine woman arriving on behalf of a far-left group. It turned out that a main purpose of the visit was to meet her lover, and the tapes duly took it in.

He writes of making a regular visit to high Uruguayan police authorities, with whom the C.I.A. was cooperating to put down revolutionary groups.

Mr. Agee and his colleagues had turned over the names of suspects to Col. Ventura Rodriguez, the chief of police. Upon a second visit, he wrote:

"As Rodriguez read the report, I began to hear a strange low sound which, as it gradually became louder, I recognized as the moan of a human voice. I thought it might be a street vender trying to sell something, until Rodriguez told Ramirez"—another police of-

ficer—"to turn up the radio. The moaning grew in intensity, turning into screams."

Mr. Agee was horrified at what his work had led to. "I don't know what to do about these police anyway," he writes. "They're so crude and ineffectual. Hearing that voice, whoever it was, made me feel terrified and helpless. All I wanted to do was to get away."