

# CIA Morale

WXPost JAN 17 1976

## Overseas

### Plummet

By Michael Getler

Washington Post Foreign Service

BONN, Jan. 16—The mushrooming publication of names of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency employees serving abroad has caused a marked decline in the already low morale of agency personnel overseas.

Western intelligence officials in several overseas locations, most of whom were still trying to stiff-upper-lip the CIA's public image problems just a few months ago, now privately acknowledge that there has been a dramatic drop in morale in recent weeks that is not only affecting the agency's ability to gather intelligence but that is causing severe personal strain as well.

"It's like Berlin right after the war," one veteran official said. "You suddenly start driving with one eye on the rear view mirror. The nervous tension slips back into your life and you bring all that home with you to the family at night."

Interviews in recent weeks with a number of officials close to the U.S. intelligence service indicated that the year-long expose of CIA wrong doing by Congress and the press had already created serious problems, not just in the office, but at home for an increasing number of agency workers.

The concern most often mentioned was about teenage children who now questioned how their father made a living and why, even if he wasn't a spy, did he work for the CIA.

That kind of problem, rarely discussed openly, has now been heightened for many families with the publication of names of CIA employees, most of whom are not spies, but who now feel the threat that an assassin or terrorist could strike haphazardly at their family.

Under different circumstances, the publication of employee names or addresses would be viewed with concern but not alarm, sources say. It has, in fact, happened before in some countries.

But the murder of CIA

See AGENCY, A7, Col. 1

CIA (D)

AGENCY, From A1

station chief Richard Welch outside his home in Athens on Christmas Eve "has given rather dramatic proportions to this thing. Publishing names is a very, very bad thing to be doing now. It's becoming fashionable and it's going to generate another murder," one senior official said.

The expectation that more murders will follow is widely shared by other intelligence officers.

"Nobody's panicked," said another veteran officer, "but the thing is gnawing away at us. The impact is beginning to show. The congressional review, the whole hoopla for more than a year now, was having a wearing-down effect. Now, rightly or wrongly, there is the new element of danger due to Welch and the publishing of names. There has been a quantum increase in depression and concern and nobody seems able to help or to stop what is undoubtedly ruining our ability to gather intelligence."

Another source said, "It's like they are using the (congressional) assassination report almost as a backdrop to the attempts against us. The agency has really been shattered. We are going to need a lot of forthright executive support to recover."

Where the CIA's most recent troubles will lead, in terms of its ability to operate overseas, is in doubt. Some officers feel that the widespread disclosure of employee identities will almost certainly serve to drive the agency underground.

"One can only stop it by doing a better job of hiding CIA personnel," says one officer.

The job of providing and keeping up a good cover, or hidden identity, however, takes an enormous amount of time, several sources say. This takes away from the time an agent can spend gathering intelligence and would weaken CIA abilities, they say.

Many of the veteran CIA employees are already known to their counterparts around the world. Officials acknowledge that a "Who's Who in the CIA" published in 1968 in East Germany and compiled by Communist intelligence identified many old timers well before the current rash of disclosures.

But chances are that new officers coming into the field will be given much better cover, it is felt, which will not allow them to be picked so easily out of State Department registers or embassy telephone books.

If there are other murders, some sources feel, people will leave the agency, as some reportedly already are on the brink of doing. But others feel there will be a protective conservative backlash, not only in the United States but even in Western countries where there is little sympathy at the moment for the CIA.

Although many individual disclosures over the past year of CIA domestic surveillance and assassination plotting have been more startling, the impact of the Welch murder and publication of hundreds of names, primarily by leftist publications, seem to be the straw that is breaking the back of CIA morale in the field.

In France and England, where more than 70 CIA names have been disclosed in

each country, there is little danger felt by CIA people.

The problem is much more serious in countries such as Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy. There are strong anti-American feelings afoot in these areas and political assassination is viewed as possible.

A similar fear exists here in West Germany, where no alleged CIA names have been published but where a troublesome but small band of terrorists operates.

Informants acknowledge that most of the names disclosed are in fact CIA employees, although a number of inaccuracies are said to have appeared on published lists, especially among the 44 names and addresses of alleged CIA agents in France published thus far by the leftist magazine Liberation.

There is concern in several U.S. embassies that in the rush to publish, legitimate diplomatic corps employees are being wrongly identified as CIA agents. There is also frustration at what is viewed as a public failure to understand that only a relatively small percentage of CIA employees are engaged in spying while most serve as analysts or liaison men with allied intelligence services.

Some serious pessimism is surfacing about the future, at least among some intelligence veterans.

One senior officer explained: "There is obviously some cold warrior in us because most of us still believe that the objective of

the Soviet Union has not changed in 30 years and that objective is to get the United States out of Europe. Right now, they are getting some help."

"It has surely put a crimp in the elan, the willingness of officers to meet and take advantage of an opportunity at any hour or place. A lot of us have dealt with defectors and even saved some people's lives, and it's been done with the conviction that the information helped maintain the vitality of the Western alliance.

"Now," he went on, "that commitment appears to have worn away, everything the West does is corrupt and wrong in the press. What is that huge Soviet army in East Germany going to do? That's a legitimate question that even the left-wing journalists blowing these names would also be interested in if the Russians ever took off for the West."

CIA men generally say there is really very little they can do to protect themselves, other than the extra adrenalin that flows just from being alert in times of tension.

"You can't go to work in a convoy and you can't take three goons with you everytime you have to meet someone," one explains.

Intelligence officials, including non-Americans, are wearying of the contention that what is happening now is part of a civic-minded attempt to curb agency activities that undermine American democracy and the governments of other countries.

Most officials see it as the work of the left wing and their sympathizers among disgruntled former CIA and foreign service employees.

The principal figure is Phillip Agee, formerly of the CIA, whose book "Inside the Company: CIA Diary" was published in Britain last year.

However, according to Phil Kelley, one of the journalists on the British publication Time Out, which has published some 65 alleged CIA names, Agee's assistance was only incidental in their case.

Kelley said Time Out's identification of CIA people in England was based mostly on techniques published by former foreign service officer John Marks in a November, 1974, article in the Washington Monthly called "How to Spot a Spook."

Kelley said Agee helped the Time Out reporters "refine their methods."

In Paris, Liberation claimed it came up with its list through the embassy directory, various identification codes and the help of other journalists in London and Washington who were "fed up with the clandestine activities of their government around the world."

The reference to other journalists was widely assumed to mean the Fifth Estate group in Washington that publishes the magazine Counter-Spy.

In France and England, the disclosures did not create much of a political stir or much reaction in the general press. In both countries, there seems to be a widespread view

that the CIA remains an American problem and there is reluctance among politicians to rush to its defense because of its poor image.

England's Manchester Guardian, however, in an editorial this week, called for a distinction between CIA's dirty tricks and "efforts to change other nations' governments for them," which it strongly condemns, and the agency's function as a collector of information, which the newspaper says necessarily must be done.

In Spain, disclosure of alleged agents this month came not from a fringe publication but from the country's most widely read weekly news magazine, Cambio 16.

### *Italian Paper Lists Alleged CIA Names*

WXPost from News Dispatches  
ROME, JAN. 7, 1976  
a  
Republica, a leftist newspaper that began publication three days ago, today printed what it claimed to be the name of the CIA station chief in Italy and seven of his associates.

The article was signed by Steven Weissman, who identified himself as a former editor of Ramparts magazine.

In Athens, Politika Themata printed the names of 14 Greek-Americans allegedly working for the CIA. The magazine is owned by Yannis Horn, publisher of the Athens News, which earlier identified Richard Welch as CIA chief in Greece.