

As a member of OSS in China during World War II, I read with interest Tom Braden's article in The Post of April 27. Although it is a nice ego trip to read Braden's laudatory remarks of the exploits of OSS, I don't think the organization at the height of its power had more than 3000 military and civilians combined.

In the China Theater with which I was familiar, I can't think of one positive accomplishment by OSS that helped the war effort. Oh, yes, there were daring exploits. There was the parachute drop to rescue Gen. Wainwright and others who were being held in North China by the Japanese. This action looked good from a publicity standpoint, but the rescue had been worked out in advance with the Japanese.

• Psychological warfare known as M.O. (morale operations) was a failure in China because the most recent in-

formation on the Japanese that the U.S. had was pre-World War II. In addition, Americans were conspicuous because of their color and except for a few "old China hands" could not converse in or read Chinese.

If what Tom Braden and others have indicated about CIA is true—that its key people were from OSS and its modus operandi reflected the same—then I would hope that the organization would be dismantled and that its overt and covert operations would be abolished. Its strictly intelligence operations, which are not really secret at all, could be handled in the State Department as a research and analysis unit.

I don't know the annual budget of the CIA, but estimates of \$800 million to \$1-billion do not seem unreasonable. This appears to be an excellent area for Congress and the President to cut costs to the government.

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