

NYTimes CIA

# C.I.A. Role in Europe Is Issue In Britain's Vote on Market

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LONDON, May 25—Financial support reportedly provided years ago by the United States Central Intelligence Agency to European groups has emerged as an issue in the present campaign here over British membership in the Common Market.

Several politicians urging the British to vote to withdraw from the Market in the referendum on June 5 have started to raise questions about CIA involvement in European causes. Their allegations have been met with denials from the leading groups backing British membership.

One member of Parliament, Richard Body, an anti-Market Conservative, asked Prime Minister Harold Wilson in a letter today to look into the "mystery benefactors" who provided funds for the European Movement, created after World War II to foster European cooperation. A similar request came from Christopher Frere-Smith, chairman of the Get Britain Out Campaign.

The flurry of charges involving the American intelligence agency started last week with the publication of an article in the weekly magazine Time Out, which mixes sociological and political comment with detailed listings of plays, movies and other events in London. Under the headline "Uncle Sam Goes to Market," it said the present job of Cord Meyer Jr., who is head of the C.I.A. office in London, "may be to insure Britain's entry into the Common Market."

Various reports have appeared in the United States about the C.I.A.'s involvement in European groups formed after the war to encourage unity

during the height of the cold war. But there has been no evidence of such activity in recent years.

Time Out said that during the period 1947 to 1953 up to \$1-million passed from the C.I.A.-controlled American Committee on a United Europe to the European Movement.

Ernest Wistrich, current director of the European Movement in Britain, said that his organization "has not and is not receiving any funds from foreign sources."

According to the magazine, Thomas H. Braden, a former C.I.A. official and now a columnist, "engaged in a major operation in the nineteen-fifties and nineteen-sixties to secretly build up the groups which are now pushing Britain into Europe." It said Mr. Meyer also directed much of the financing operations in 1954.

The Sunday Times of London quoted Mr. Braden today as saying that he was responsible for much of the C.I.A.'s "covert funding" in Europe and that it was American policy at that time secretly to back organizations fostering European unity. Mr. Braden was quoted as saying that Winston Churchill, a founding president of the movement, and Paul Henri-Spaak, who became chairman in 1950, knew and approved of the C.I.A. money.