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CIA Aid Reported For Catholic Event

Turin

The newspaper Stampa Sera reported yesterday that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency contributed \$3 million to the Roman Catholic Church's 1950 Holy Year.

A Vatican spokesman called the report "pure invention." He added, "American bishops and the faithful in the United States may have helped their pilgrims in financing their trips, but the Vatican knows nothing about it." The Holy Year is a year-long celebration held every 25 years.

The newspaper, owned by the Fiat automobile company, based its report on information from U.S. government files. Details, it reported, will be published in the weekly news magazine Panorama later this week.

Last week's edition of Panorama contended that the Vatican — and Pope Paul VI while he was Pope Pius XII's Substitute Secretary of State — collaborated with U.S. intelligence services from 1942 until 1950, passing on strategic Japanese secrets and aiding anti-Communist groups in Italy. Vatican spokesman Federico Alessandrini called that report a "political fiction."

Associated Press