

DEC 28 2000

Ms. Daniele Ganser

Reference: F-2000-02528

Dear Ms. Gansser:

This acknowledges receipt of your 14 December 2000 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information pertaining to "Operation Gladio." Specifically, your request concerns the following:

- "1. The United States Government's original decision(s), probably taken during the 1947-54 period, to sponsor, support, or collaborate with, any covert armies, networks, or other units, established to resist a possible invasion of Western Europe by communist-dominated countries, or to carry out covert action operations in Western European countries...**
- 2. Any United States Government policy assessments or reviews, undertaken after 1945, of the United States Government's decisions to sponsor, support or collaborate with such covert entities.**
- 3. With reference to the above, please include in [our] search any records relating to the activities known as 'stay-behind,' particularly in Italy, France, Turkey, Belgium and Switzerland."**

For identification purposes we have assigned your request the number referenced above.

The CIA can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request. Such information--unless it has been officially acknowledged--would be classified for reasons of national security under Executive Order 12958. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records would also relate directly to information concerning intelligence sources and methods. The Director of Central Intelligence has the responsibility and authority to protect such information from unauthorized disclosure in accordance with Section 103 (c)(6) of the National Security Act of 1947 and Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949. Therefore, your request is denied under FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3); an explanation of these exemptions is enclosed.

The CIA official responsible for this determination is Kathryn I. Dyer, Information and Privacy Coordinator. By this action we are neither confirming nor denying the existence or nonexistence of such records. You may appeal this decision by addressing your appeal to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 45 days from the date of this letter. Should you choose to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

We regret that we cannot assist you with your request.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Information and Privacy Coordinator.A smaller black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the Information and Privacy Coordinator.

Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure