

(b)(3):10 USC
424,(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i),
(b)(6)

April 22, 1991

U.S. MISSION ON ØSTERBROGADES KASERNE IS REPORTED
TO HAVE KNOWN ABOUT SECRET CIA WEAPONS TO DENMARK

old story?

Jyllands-Posten this morning front-paged the following report from Washington by Henrik Thomsen, Christian Juul Jessen and Thomas Larsen:

Hidden in official weapon shipments to Denmark, the American intelligence service CIA has apparently managed to get secret military equipment into Denmark in 1953. The top-classified CIA operation has been disclosed in an American military document of which Jyllands Posten has got possession.

The Danish government has so far rejected rumors that CIA should have established a network of depots and sabotage groups that were to fight in case of a Soviet invasion of Denmark. Exposure of similar organizations under the codename "Operation Gladio" in other European countries led to political scandals last year.

"The government has no knowledge of such an organization in Denmark," said Defense Minister Knud Enggaard last February.

The brief note, which apparently had been placed in an accessible corner of the United States' national archive by a mistake, has, however, now become a proof of secret CIA activities in Denmark. The note is referring to a memorandum from Brigadier General G. C. Stewart, who was responsible at that time for the American arms aid for allies, to the chief of MAAG on Østerbrogades Kaserne in Copenhagen. MAAG -- i.e. the Military Assistance Advisory Group -- was heading the rearmament of the Danish defense after the war.

The hand-written message is dated February 10, 1953, and ran as follows: "Re assistance to CIA concerning cooperation with CIA on special shipments to Denmark via MAAG's channels."

There is after that a reference to a file with "following information" which still is classified. "MAAG's channels" were a fleet of cargo boats for shipment of military equipment. The document does not say which type of material CIA was helped to get into Denmark, or where it was placed.

MORE

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Jyllands-Posten also carried a report on page 4 with additional information.

The exposure of the American intelligence service's secret shipment channel to Denmark is rekindling the suspicion that CIA has deployed weapon depots on Danish territory during the Cold War, according to the newspaper.

A network of hidden supplies was the cornerstone in the Americans' so-called Operation Gladio with the purpose of arming command groups in Western Europe, so that they could fight in wake of any Soviet invasion.

The newspaper then repeated some information, which has been printed previously, and concluded:

Large weapon arsenals have been found in other parts of Europe in wake of the exposure of the Gladio groups. This led to the speculations that boxes with weapons and ammunition also are ready in Denmark.

Jyllands-Posten's exposure of CIA's agreement on secret shipments to Denmark strengthens this theory. But the decisive documents on this matter are still hidden in the American intelligence service's archives which will not be opened until after 30 years at the earliest.

(P22B-C)