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NIO/RI

~~NIO # 163-75~~

24 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT : Paper For Secretary Schlesinger on Leftist Influence Among the Military in Western Europe

1. This is the paper undertaken in response to Secretary Schlesinger's query two weeks ago. Analysts in OCI and [redacted] helped in its preparation, with the latter supplying the bulk of the detail in the appendix. [redacted]

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2. The information base from which the paper's conclusions are drawn is thin. This gives rise to some discomfort, even though there is wide consensus that the conclusions are valid.

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3. There is room for improvement all around.

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4. At present the trouble within the French military is the most interesting story.

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Assistant National Intelligence Officer for Western Europe

cc: DDCI  
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ER  
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1-SEC. SCHLESINGER



April 23, 1975

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Communist and Radical Leftist Influence in the  
Armed Forces of Western Europe

Summary

A review of available evidence on the activities of West European Communist parties and radical leftist groups\* indicates that -- except in Portugal -- they have little, if any, influence among the armed forces. Portugal is a special case; its experience over the past year is not likely to be repeated elsewhere in Western Europe. Indeed, the recent events in Portugal are likely to lead to increased vigilance on the part of its neighbors, lest their armed forces become similarly "infected."

This is not to say that the European left has been powerless to influence public attitudes that tend to weaken the military. Radical leftist groups have had some success in their attempts to exploit growing anti-military sentiment in Western Europe and to foster the notion that strong military forces are an anachronism in the era of detente.

\* In this paper, a radical leftist group is defined as an extraparliamentary group not affiliated with the Communist Party.

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