

CIA 3.01.3 Journalists
P-Trento, Joe
P-Roman, Dave
(orig under
IAPA)

PENTHOUSE FEEDBACK

is a serious dialogue between readers and editors concerning the editorial content of *Penthouse* — its aspirations and its areas of interest. Letters for publication should carry name and address (in capitals, please), although these will be withheld, on request, by the Editor. Send to Penthouse Feedback, Penthouse International Ltd., 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Views published are not necessarily endorsed editorially.

CIA and IAPA

I am concerned about an article in your August issue entitled "The Spies Who Came in from the Newsroom" by Joe Trento and Dave Roman. In it the Inter American Press Association is described as "pure CIA." This statement is a malicious fabrication that we find extremely irresponsible, particularly since no source is named. A letter to the editor would not be sufficient. A retraction reaching all readers would be in order.

The IAPA is a nonprofit organization that depends exclusively on dues-paying members for its existence. An attack such as this article has launched could seriously undermine our present and potential membership.

As the enclosed folder shows, the members of the IAPA are publications and individuals associated with journalism. Our present membership includes major dailies and magazines throughout the Western Hemisphere—from Alaska to southernmost Argentina. To mention just a few: the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Miami Herald*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *La Prensa* and *La Nación* in Argentina, *O Estado* and *Jornal do Brasil* in Brazil, *Novedades* and *Excelsior* in Mexico, and many others.

The IAPA was founded in 1942, in Mexico City, and through the years it has battled against governments that seek to control the press, whether or not such governments have been friendly to the United States. I refer to such dictatorships as those of Perón, Trujillo, Perez Jimenez, Somoza, Castro, and others.

We pride ourselves on independence from all governments. This is the source of our strength. Your article could damage the prestige that we have built up over thirty-five years. I might add that dictator-controlled governments have accused us—with equal irresponsibility—of being an instrument of Moscow.

The IAPA and the International Press Institute recently established a World Press Freedom Committee with a two-fold purpose: (1) to oppose Soviet-inspired initiatives, especially in UNESCO, to promote government control of the press, and (2) to assist Third World countries in the development of their media. Here again your article could undermine our efforts to finance and convincingly develop the World Committee's program.

I trust that you realize the enormity of what you have done and that a frank and

eral Manager, Inter American Press Association, Miami, Fla.

I have received a copy of the August issue of *Penthouse* together with your press release promoting the article in which Joe Trento and Dave Roman maintain that the Copley News Service is a CIA blind.

Since Jim Copley is dead and, therefore, unable to be interviewed, I would rather pursue the statement in the article that the Inter American Press Association is "pure CIA." I would appreciate it if you would find out from the two authors how they reached the conclusion that an organization of newspaper men that has battled many more right-wing dictatorships in Latin America than left-wing dictatorships is a secret U.S. government agency.

I would also appreciate it if you would let me know about the Fund for Investigative Journalism—how it is financed, who are the chief contributors, and by whom it was incorporated.—*Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Editor and Publisher, The Tulsa Tribune, Tulsa, Okla.*

Joe Trento and Dave Roman reply:

We find it difficult to believe that you are unaware of the relationship between the CIA and the IAPA. That fact has been verified not from one but from several intelligence sources. In addition, numerous Latin American officials, including the president of Peru, have made the same charge.

Various leaders of the IAPA, such as former IAPA president Jim Copley, have had intimate dealings with the CIA. Another excellent example is Agustin Edwards, publisher of Chile's *El Mercurio*, who, in close association with the CIA from 1963 to 1973, worked to prevent Salvadore Allende from coming to and remaining in power. Edwards, who procured \$1,600,000 in CIA funds, was president of IAPA until November 1969, when his newspaper became embroiled in the CIA's infamous Track II programs against Allende.

The Track II program, as you no doubt will recall, involved former President Nixon's attempt, in the fall of 1970, to prevent Allende from being inaugurated as president of Chile after his election to that office by the people of Chile. Former President Nixon—following a two-hour meeting at the White House on September 15, 1970, which included Agustin Edwards, Henry Kissinger, John Mitchell, and Donald Kendall (Pepsico)—ordered CIA director Richard Helms to do anything short of outright invasion of Chile. Helms requested to keep the matter a secret from the State

continued

Department and the ambassador to Chile. As you are aware, Helms and other CIA personnel are at present the subject of a grand jury investigation involving perjury. Furthermore, Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak (Ret.), president of Copley News Service and former adviser to the joint chiefs of staff on counterinsurgency in Latin America, was a member of the IAPA's technical committee and governing board.

Our research has clearly demonstrated that the IAPA functioned under a dual standard in its so-called defense of press freedoms. On the one hand, infringements of the press when it involves right-wing governments are usually opposed by mere denouncements. When, however, the violation or infringement emanates from a left-wing source, the IAPA has been extremely heavy-handed. As a point of information, there were more freely operating newspapers under Allende than there are under the present government.

While the IAPA gives token slaps on the wrist to such right-wing dictatorships as that of President Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru, its main thrust is against left-wing dictatorships in Latin America, such as those of Cuba, Venezuela, and Jamaica.

We have been advised that the IAPA accepted CIA scholarship money, some of which, we have been told, was directed to a Copley employee. Based on what we have learned from various intelligence sources, the Senate Intelligence Committee record, the secret history of the Council of the Americas, and the public record of the relationship between the CIA and the IAPA, we stand by our article.

The Fund for Investigative Journalism is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, incorporated in 1969 in the District of Columbia. The fund is financed by foundations and individuals.