

THE BOOK REPORT

Louis Hagen's Dossier on Operation of Spy Agencies

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Espionage is taken for granted in the two Germanies, a kind of minor industry. Cab drivers will point out Pullach, the old SS settlement, which is the headquarters of the German Federal Intelligence Service in a Munich suburb. The CIA carries on against the Soviet KGB and GRU (Soviet Military Intelligence). It is estimated that we spend \$4 billion a year on our intelligence service; the Russians even more.

Characters who look as though they've come out of a Le Carre novel are to be found. But chances are the real spies and counter-spies could not hope for a part in a spy film.

World Powers

Since the end of World War II, the two Germanies have been the arena of confrontation between the two world powers. East Germany was the high point of the Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe. America's support for an independent West German State thwarted Soviet expansion in Western Europe.

Louis Hagen's **THE SECRET WAR FOR EUROPE: A Dossier of Espionage** (Stein & Day: \$5.95; illustrated) has more excitement and adventure than most spy fiction. It is also a sound and sensible examination of the organization and operation of intelligence agencies. It is Hagen's contention that this flow of information, this constant chess game which occasionally erupts into headlines of kidnappings and defections and revelations of double agents, keeps the Cold War from heating up too much.

He goes so far as to claim that "Espionage, after the threat of nuclear war, is today the strongest contri-

butor to the maintenance of peace . . . more efficient in its end-results than all the associations, international and national, whose avowed purpose this is."

How does espionage do this? It provides "the essential mechanism of balance," a mechanism "that can detect and register minute changes in the scientific, military and political fields which may upset the equilibrium, so that immediate counter-measures can be taken to restore the balance."

But Hagen is realistic. He recognizes the dangers in the "looking-glass war," for too often the methods of the authoritarian are taken over by the libertarian. Professionals on both sides tend to operate more like each other than is healthy. In Germany, espionage hysteria led to the notorious Spiegel affair, in which editors critical of the Adenauer regime were arrested for "treason," a case thoroughly discussed in this dossier.

The history of this period is fascinating. Hagen lived for two years in Germany (his cover: a job as producer for a film company), interviewed General Reinhard Gehlen, the almost legendary head of the West German intelligence agency, who deftly switched his intelligence

network from military intelligence on the Eastern Front to working for America.

Gehlen's reputation as a crack intelligence chief was somewhat diminished when it was learned that a couple of former SS men high in his organization were also working for the Soviets as double agents. Heinz Hefke, who had been actively running the Russian desk of West Germany's counter-intelligence for 10 years, was revealed by an East German defector to be a Soviet agent.

Former Chief

Hagen also interviewed the mysterious Otto John, the former chief of West German counter-espionage, who defected to the East, and has now returned to the West. His story is a particularly revealing one in terms of motive and ideology. And there are numerous other cases, including the espionage carried on by Russian and Ukrainian exiles, the East German network, the Frenzel case.

Some of this material has been touched on before but I know of no other book which is so comprehensively detailed and which penetrates, as Sir Kenneth Strong, Gen. Eisenhower's wartime intelligence chief, says in his preface, so deeply into the method and political bases for espionage.

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Hagen, Louis

SOC. 401.2 The Secret War
for Europe

Gehlen, Reinhard