

Swiss Think-Tank Exposes 'NATO's Secret Army'

by Claudio Celani

On Dec. 15, the Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* published an extraordinary article on "The NATO Secret Army," covering in detail the secret organization called "Gladio," discovered in 1990 in Italy, which had been built by Anglo-American intelligence at the beginning of the Cold War, as the core of a potential guerrilla force able to operate behind enemy lines—referred to as a "stay behind" force—in case of a threatened invasion and occupation of Western Europe by Warsaw Pact military forces. However, as it was discovered, Gladio also performed another function, that of supplying special forces-type of capabilities and weapons, in a strategy of maintaining political control of NATO member countries, on behalf of certain political networks. At least in the case of Italy, as the article states, it is amply documented that Gladio was involved in the "Strategy of Tension" of right-wing terrorist bombings.

Such a statement is not new, and *EIR* has published exhaustive articles on the subject (see Claudio Celani's four-part series on the Strategy of Tension in Italy, in the March 26, April 2, April 9, and April 30, 2004 issues of *EIR*). After the train bombings in Madrid, Spain, on March 11, 2004, *EIR* published the call by Lyndon LaRouche to investigate Gladio-type networks as the likely perpetrators of the attacks. More recently, LaRouche's wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (Büso), a German political party, called for re-opening the investigation of the murders of Alfred Herrhausen and Detlev Rohwedder, on the basis of new information which supports a different motivation for their assassination, other than the official version, which blames the Red Army Faction (RAF). Herrhausen, the chairman of Deutsche Bank and advocate of a Eurasian development policy, was killed on Nov. 30, 1989, shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Rohwedder, who headed the Treuhand agency, tasked with overseeing the transformation of former Communist East Germany's state-run industry, was assassinated on April 12, 1991. (See *EIR*, Dec. 10, 2004.)

Now, *EIR*'s exposés are supported by a call coming from unexpected quarters, namely the chief press organ of the Swiss banking community. As a source close to Swiss intelligence circles commented, "The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* would never have published such an article during the Clin-

ton Administration. Now, however, it is perceived that under the George W. Bush Administration we are already in a new global Strategy of Tension." In other words, a faction in the financial community, which is not only Swiss but international, is reacting to the manifest insanity of the second Bush "43" Administration both in strategic and financial-economic policies. The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*'s call for re-opening the Gladio file, has many implications for the terrorist capabilities used to implement such policies, capabilities which have been used to force nations to accept colonial policies, and which are possibly active behind the cover of "Islamic terrorism," and useful for the string-pullers in the synarchist circles who control the Bush-Cheney Administration.

Gladio, a Two-Faced Organization

The author of the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* article, Daniele Ganser, is leading a research project on NATO's secret armies at the Center for Security Studies at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETH). He has published a book entitled *NATO's Secret Armies: Operation Gladio and Terrorism in Western Europe* (London: Frank Cass, 2005). Ganser's project has a page on the website of the ETH; this website also advertises an international conference on "Intelligence in Waging the Cold War," to take place in Oslo, Norway, on April 29-30, 2005.

As Ganser reports, the existence of Gladio was discovered in 1990, after Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, in response to a prosecutor's request, decided, unlike his predecessors, not to treat certain aspects of an investigation into right-wing terrorism as a state secret, and thereby revealed the existence of a secret military organization, Gladio, named after the short sword used by Roman legionnaires (it is also on the emblem of the British Special Forces), and run by a section of military intelligence under orders of NATO headquarters. Because of this exposée, Gladio was then officially disbanded, and a membership list was even published. Eventually, Andreotti paid for his bold move with a decade-long judiciary persecution, but this is another story.

Plenty of parliamentary and judiciary investigations have since established that Gladio members were involved in the right-wing terrorist attacks of the 1969-80 period of Strategy



EIR's call for reopening the 'Gladio file,' NATO's secret terrorist capability, has been picked up by the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, press organ for the Swiss banking community.

of Tension, as well as in the “red” terrorism culminating with the kidnapping and assassination of Aldo Moro in 1978. But, although two former Gladio commanders, Gen. Paolo Inzerilli and Gen. Gerardo Serravalle, testified that Gladio structures existed in all NATO member countries, and that the coordinating bodies of all stay-behind organizations were the so-called Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC) and the Clandestine Planning Committee (CPC), linked to NATO’s Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), and although Manfred Wörner, NATO Secretary General in 1990, confirmed in a closed meeting with NATO ambassadors the existence of the secret stay-behind networks, NATO has consistently publicly denied the existence of either Gladio, or an ACC and CPC committee. The same goes for both the CIA and British MI6, although both Inzerilli and Serravalle, as well as other Italian military intelligence officers, have testified that the birth of Gladio was a CIA-MI6 “joint-venture,” and that ACC and CPC meetings in Brussels were effectively chaired by a CIA officer.

Gladio was modelled on the British Special Operations Executive (SOE), founded in 1940 to carry out guerrilla and sabotage operations behind enemy lines, in territories occupied by the Wehrmacht. At the end of the war, the SOE was disbanded, and its cadres and functions were absorbed by British Air Force Special Air Service (SAS). Gladio was the product of CIA money and British intelligence brains. Gladio was filled with former Fascists and Nazi elements, in the context of the deal reached between Allen Dulles, the future CIA head, and SS Gen. Karl Wolff, to recycle Nazi and Fascist networks into postwar military and intelligence structures. As General Serravalle, head of Gladio from 1971 to 1974, reported to a Parliament investigation committee, he resigned

from his Gladio command once he realized that the organization was full of neo-fascists.

As Ganser reports, “Besides the Russian enemy, the secret army also had to fight an internal enemy: the strong Italian Communist Party (PCI), and the smaller Italian Socialist Party (PSI).” To ensure that these parties did not become part of the government in democratic elections, “the ‘Strategy of Tension’ terrified and alarmed the Italian population through terror assaults, as the result of which the population demanded a strong, authoritarian State, and more domestic security.”

To be accurate, one should add to this simplified version, that with the help of right-wing-controlled media, anyone who tried to end Italy’s existence as a regime of “limited sovereignty,” as established under the Yalta agreements, was slandered as “communist” or “communist friendly,” and thus targetted for elimination. Such was the case, for instance, with industrialist Enrico Mattei, who was an anti-communist, but who was eliminated because he fought for energy independence. The case of Aldo Moro was similar; he was a Christian Democratic leader who was accused of allying with the communists, but in reality was conducting an effort to decouple the PCI from its Moscow connection and help its leadership to transform it into a fully pro-Western, democratic party.

In 1990, when Gladio was exposed in Italy, Ganser writes, parliaments and public opinion of all NATO countries asked their governments to publish the truth about stay-behind networks in their countries; remarkably, “only Italy, Belgium, and Switzerland forced their secret armies to be investigated by parliamentary commissions, and had their investigatory conclusions presented publicly.” In other countries, Ganser continues, a curtain of silence was pulled down on the matter.

Of special interest is what Ganser reports on Germany: “In Germany the opposition SPD (Social Democratic Party) wanted to gain votes by including the theme of the NATO secret armies in their election platform against the ruling CDU (Christian Democratic Union) of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in order to win the upcoming first united German election with re-united suffrage after the fall of the Wall. After it became known that former SS-related German stay-behinds were active, SPD security expert Hermann Scheer characterized the secret army in Germany as the ‘Ku Klux Klan’ and proposed prosecuting them. Then the CDU pointed out to Scheer, that SPD Defense Minister Helmut Schmidt, who later became Chancellor, during his time in government had also, together with the CDU, ensured that the stay-behind secret was investigated behind closed doors.”

No official report was produced by the commission. But according to Ganser, already in 1981 German authorities had discovered evidence of the existence of a German Gladio structure. In an article published on the ETH web page, Ganser writes that after the Munich Oktoberfest terror attack, on Sept. 26, 1980, a member of the the Nazi group Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann which, according to the police,

was responsible for the attack, revealed during interrogation that they had been supplied explosives by a certain Heinz Lembke. "Subsequent events suggested that Lembke was a member of the German stay-behind army. On Oct. 26, 1981, foresters by chance stumbled across a large buried arms cache, filled with guns and other combat equipment, near the German village of Ülzen in the Lüneburger Heide area. Following the sensational discovery, forest ranger Heinz Lembke was arrested, and guided the police to a massive arsenal of 33 underground arms caches related to the group's activities. The police concluded that Lembke was an arms collector who had acted alone; the connection to the German stay-behind network was not investigated."

However, an anonymous article on Gladio in the Austrian periodical *Österreichische Militärische Zeitschrift* commented in 1991 that "this brilliant solution featured one flaw. The arms caches contained, besides automatic weapons, chemical combat equipment, and about 14,000 rounds of ammunition, 50 anti-tank guns, 156 kg of explosives, 230 explosive devices, and 258 hand grenades. It is remarkable, that a state with extensive security measures against terrorists should not have noted the theft or diversion of such a large amount of combat equipment."

Ganser points out: "The material found in the Lembke arms cache suggests that it was part of the supplies of the German stay-behind army. Lembke himself never confirmed that this was the case. In prison he told his interrogator that he might reveal the next day who was supposed to use the guns and explosives. But on that next day, Nov. 1, 1981, Lembke was found hanging on a rope from the ceiling of his prison cell." The question to be raised is: If a stay-behind network existed in Germany, what happened to it after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact? What is its state today? In the national interest of Germany, it is of great urgency that a parliamentary committee be established, to accomplish the task that the closed-door committee did not do in 1990.

As Ganser wrote in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* article, "The NATO secret armies were not only a security network, but also terror cells. The difference shows that in national contexts, the data from country to country varies strongly. Whoever works on the basis of Italian data, must conclude that the NATO secret army terror cells were similar to the sleeper-cells of al-Qaeda, suddenly spreading fear and terror to manipulate people, and to fight political enemies."

The association with al-Qaeda is not accidental. One is reminded immediately of the March 2004 Madrid bombings. Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero announced in December 2004 that his predecessor during the bombings, José María Aznar, destroyed all records of government and security deliberations in the aftermath of the March 11 attack, which was first attributed to the Basque separatist ETA, and eventually to an al-Qaeda cell. Was it in reality a Gladio cell? And what about the unclarified cases in Germany, like those of Herrhausen and Rohwedder?