

# Redstockings hunt down the St

Gloria Steinem, founder and editor of Ms. magazine and president of the Ms. Corporation, has an association spanning ten years with the CIA which she has misrepresented and covered up. To some people, particularly feminists, the relationship seemed obvious, if nebulous and difficult to verify. Others will probably remain incredulous until Time magazine finally acknowledges it. And then there will be people who don't perceive the implications of such a liaison and still more who will simply shrug it off.

A group of women tied in with the origins of the modern women's liberation movement and concerned about its future, who call themselves "Redstockings," have been able to piece together enough documentation to convincingly expose and describe the 'Ms' Steinem-CIA connection. Moreover, the "Redstockings" have closely examined the financial backing and contents of Ms magazine and have arrived at the conclusion that the ideology put forth by Ms. has been positively harmful to the women's movement.

In a sixteen page press release distributed on May 9 at the (MORE) Journalism Convention in New York City, the "Redstockings" identify themselves as the initiators of such concepts as "consciousness-raising" and the "Miss America Protest," during the 1960's.

These were some of the first women to speak out publicly about their own abortions. Despite criticism from conventional quarters, they urged women to take control of their bodies, to get to know themselves and ignore the dictatorial status quo. The "Redstockings" also assert that they contributed, with relative anonymity, such slogans to the women's liberation movement as "Sisterhood is powerful" and "The personal is political." The coining of phrases like these launched the mass movement, in fact.

They are concerned because Ms. seems to be the voice of women's liberation, when in reality it has become a substitution for the movement itself. The "Redstocking" women point to a typical CIA-intelligence technique they see operating here, the systematic creation and/or support for a "parallel" movement of organization which provides an alternative to real radicalism. They attempt to show how this subtle, yet mammoth manipulation of women by clandestine elements of the corporate structure transpired.

The first revelations of Gloria Steinem's relationship to the CIA appeared in the New York Times in 1967, in an article stating that Steinem had part in launching a CIA front group which was called the "Independent Research Service". Just prior to this exposure Ramparts magazine had disclosed that the

organization was CIA funded. The purpose of the "Independent Research Service" seems to have been to subvert communist-minded youths, on an international basis.

The supposedly "Independent Research Service" was in fact totally dependent on the CIA. It is believed to have been formed in response to the Communist World Youth Festivals, occurring throughout the 1950's and 1960's.

These festivals were held in Communist countries until 1959, when the festival for that year was scheduled to take place in Vienna, neutral territory during the Cold War. The State Department did its best to discourage American youths from attending. Some did go, though, and in the meantime, the CIA covertly arranged for the "Independent Research Service" to organize an anti-communist delegation to attend and disrupt the festivals.

In 1967, Ramparts exposed the intricate laundering and funnelling process by which the "Independent Research Service" obtained money from the CIA. The funds passed through five different foundations (the Borden Trust, the Price Fund, the Beacon Fund, the Edsel Fund and the Kentfield Fund) on its way to the "Independent Research Service," as well as to the National Student's Association and other groups.

The final channelling was accomplished through the well-known Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr. This same law firm produced Joseph Welch as attorney for the Army in its confrontation with Joseph McCarthy and more recently, James St. Clair as Nixon's chief counsel during the Watergate scandal.

No one claims to know why Gloria Steinem was chosen to "found" and direct this group, but two early organizers of the "Independent Research Service" stated in a New Republic article of May 11, 1959, that, "Most of the sponsors have had considerable experience in domestic and international youth and student affairs." What in Steinem's past prepared her for this sort of work?

It is a matter of public record that Gloria M. Steinem graduated from Smith College and then received the Chester Bowles Asian Fellowship to the Universities of New Delhi and Calcutta, India, in 1956-58. All the "Redstockings" could glean of her activities in India is the alleged publication of a book in 1957, called *The Thousand Indias*.

Although the recent edition of *Who's Who in America* lists the title of the book, all attempts by "Redstockings" to find it in past or current listings of the Cumulative Book Index of the New York Public Library, Books in Print and the Library of Congress were unsuccessful. The very existence of Steinem's book cannot be determined, let alone its contents or the identity of the publisher.

According to the recent "Redstocking" press release, in a February 21, 1967, interview in the New York Times, Steinem was described as a "full-time 'Independent Research Service' employee in Cambridge, Mass., from 1959 until after the Helsinki Youth Festival in 1962." Under media pressure, Steinem could not disavow her CIA association but she gave a distorted view of her activities at the festivals. Steinem claims all the group did at the two festivals was establish a newspaper, news bureau, cultural exhibits and jazz clubs.

The group's most important work, she said, was convincing youths from Asia, Africa and Latin America that there were some Americans who understood and cared about their situation. Steinem emphasized, "I was never asked to report on other Americans or assess foreign nationals I had met."

The "Redstockings" charge that this statement is an alarming lie. In a "Report on the Vienna Youth Festival," printed with Steinem's name on it as Director of the "Independent Research Service," there are 13 pages devoted exclusively to biographies, political affiliations and even some superficial analyses of persons from all countries participating in the festival.

Youths were monitored in much the same way at the 1962 World Youth Festival in Helsinki. In addition to the news and cultural events put on by the "Independent Research Service," the Helsinki Festival was marked by four nights of "spontaneous" rioting against the festival, during which 40 people were arrested. It was reported by Newsweek, in August 1962, that "Pravda, of course, blamed the disturbances on well-financed CIA and FBI agents..."

## Steinem accused of subverting women's movement

(CUP) -- The past is catching up with Ms. Magazine editor Gloria Steinem, who has been accused by radical feminists this past summer with subverting the women's movement.

The charges stem from complaints of radical feminists that the "soft" feminist content of Ms. Magazine is counter-productive to the movement, and that it creates the false impression that the women's movement and radical politics are separable.

But most importantly, the charges have to do with Steinem herself, and her past involvement with the Central Intelligence Agency.

A radical feminist group called "Redstockings" released a report last May detailing Steinem's activities with the "Independent Research Service" (IRS) in the late 50's and early 60's.

IRS, the "Redstockings" pointed out, was a CIA front group funded to disrupt and monitor activities at the Communist World Youth Festivals, and Steinem was its full-time Director.

Steinem did not deny the charge that the CIA funded her group, but responded at first by claiming she saw nothing wrong, and by calling the accusation that she was subverting the movement ridiculous.

She said the CIA did not tell her group what to do, and that she did not make reports on who attended or what went on at the Youth Festivals.

But the Redstockings came into possession of a 13 page report by Steinem written after one of the Festivals which detailed the names of participants, political affiliations and other political intelligence about those who attended.

Steinem's attempt at ignoring the charges failed, and the issue came to a head in August when a women's conference at Sagaris, Vermont dissolved into factions over whether to accept funding from the Ms. Foundation, as planned by the organizers, without an adequate rebuttal from Steinem.

Steinem sent a letter to the conference explaining her case, and admitted in it for the first time that accepting the CIA funding "was a mistake." But she also attempted to take an offensive move by accusing her attackers of engaging in a "McCarthyite attempt" to discredit her.

Not everyone was impressed with Steinem's rebuttal. In fact, a third of the women then withdrew from the Sagaris conference and held an alternate meeting nearby.

Betty Freiden, a Steinem ally turned antagonist, was one of them. "By dismissing the Redstocking charges as McCarthyism" she said, "I don't think she (Steinem) shows respect for the women's movement. She doesn't answer the charges sufficiently and it's dangerous to dismiss real evidence of infiltration."

Real evidence of infiltration is what some of the women at the Sagaris meeting said they found at the conference itself. Two or three women who were passing back and forth between the pro and anti-Steinem factions were accused of breeding misinformation, causing confusion, and generally acting as "agents provocateurs". They denied working for the government or any agency.

Barbara Seaman, a writer on women's health matters who left the conference early, claimed "the women's movement is being ravaged, and no-one is getting any work done. It is clear to me that there are agents working to bust us up."

Steinem herself did not attend the conference, and stayed at her post at Ms. magazine where a rift over the Redstocking charges has reportedly developed.

She did find time, however, to attend the UN International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City earlier in the summer. There Steinem became a focal member of the faction promoting the US position that women's problems could be solved in isolation from other social problems.

Third World, socialist and communist delegates insisted that improvement in the situation of women first requires broad social and economic change.