

## SELECTED DEFINITIONS RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE AND COVERT ACTION

*From SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY, the International Relations Department*

**Agent:** "In intelligence usage, one who is authorized or instructed to obtain or to assist in obtaining information for intelligence or counterintelligence purposes." (Joint Chiefs) [Not to be confused with case officers of the CIA who are not called agents, nor with a Special Agent of the FBI which is the term that agency uses to describe all of its staff officers.]

**Agent of a Foreign Principal:** (1) any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant, or any person who acts in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign principal or of a person any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign principal, and who directly or through any other person -

(i) engages with the United States in political activities for or in the interests of such a foreign principal;

(ii) acts within the United States as a public relations counsel, publicity agent, information service employee or political consultant for or in the interests of such foreign principal;

(iii) within the United States solicits, collects, disburses or dispenses contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for or in the interest of such foreign principal; or

(iv) within the United States represents the interests of such foreign principal before any agency or official of the Government of the United States; and

(2) any person who agrees, consents, assumes or purports to act as, or who is or holds himself out to be, whether or not pursuant to contractual relationship, an agent of a foreign principal as defined in clause (1) of this subsection. (Foreign Agents Registration Act)

**Agent of Influence:** 1) A person who is manipulated by an intelligence organization to use his position to influence public opinion or decision-making in a manner which will advance the objective of the country for which the organization operates or 2) An individual who can be used to influence covertly foreign officials, opinion molders, organizations, or pressure groups in a way which will generally advance United States Government objectives, or to undertake specific action in support of United States Government objectives. (Official Intelligence Community definitions in Carl)

**Asset:** Any resource - person, group, relationship, instrument, installation, or supply - at the disposition of an intelligence organization for use in an operational or support role. Often used with a qualifying term such as agent asset or propaganda asset. (Joint Chiefs)

**Black propaganda:** Propaganda which purports to emanate from a source other than the true one. (Joint Chiefs) and usually containing information known to be false.

**Bum:** To sacrifice an agent in order to protect another or for some political purpose. (Joint Chiefs)

**Bum notice:** An official statement by one intelligence agency to other agencies, domestic or foreign, that an individual or group is unreliable for any of a variety of reasons. (Joint Chiefs)

**Case Officer:** A professional employee of an intelligence organization who is responsible for providing direction for an agent operation. (Carl)

**Clandestine Operations:** Activities to accomplish intelligence, counterintelligence, and other similar activities sponsored or conducted by governmental departments or agencies, in such a way as to assure secrecy or concealment. It differs from covert operations in that emphasis is placed on concealment of the operation rather than on concealment of identity of sponsor. (Joint Chiefs)

**Cold war:** A state of international tension, wherein political, economic, technological, sociological, psychological, paramilitary and military measures short of overt armed conflict involving regular military forces are employed to achieve national objectives. (Joint Chiefs)

**Counterintelligence:** That aspect of intelligence activity which is devoted to destroying the effectiveness of inimical foreign intelligence activities and to the protection of information against espionage, individuals against subversion, and installations or material against sabotage. (Joint Chiefs)

**Countersubversion:** That aspect of counterintelligence designed to detect, destroy, neutralize or prevent subversive activities through the identification, exploitation, penetration, manipulation, deception and repression of individuals, groups or organizations conducting or suspected of conducting subversive activities. (Joint Chiefs)

**Cover:** Protective guise used by a person, organization, or installation to prevent identification with clandestine activities. (Joint Chiefs)

**Covert operations:** Operations which are so planned and executed as to conceal the identity of or permit plausible denial by the sponsor. They differ from clandestine operations in that emphasis is placed on concealment of identity of sponsor rather than on concealment of the operation. (Joint Chiefs)

**Cut-out:** A go-between who is the case officer's contact with the agent.

**Dangle:** An agent who is placed in a position where he will be recruited by another agency in which he then becomes a spy or mole.

**Double Agent:** Agent in contact with two opposing intelligence services only one of which is aware of the double contact or quasi-intelligence services. (Joint Chiefs)

**Elicitation:** Acquisition of information from a person or group in a manner which does not disclose the intent of the interview or conversation. A technique of human source intelligence collection, generally overt, unless the collector is other than he purports to be. (Joint Chiefs)

**Espionage:** Actions directed toward the acquisition of information through clandestine operations. (Joint Chiefs) The CIA generally refers to this as "clandestine collection."

**False Flag:** A form of agent recruitment in which the recruiter pretends to represent a country or organization other than the real one.

**Front:** "Finally, consider the peculiar kind of group that Willi Munzenberg labeled 'innocents' clubs' and that since have become known as 'front groups'. Their essence is the division between the few who know the organization's purpose and the many who do not, plus a pyramidal structure in which the lower levels have many 'innocents,' and few who are 'in on the secret,' while at the higher levels the proportions are reversed. Here the task is threefold: to manage the leadership class, to keep the innocents content, and to promote the group's credibility with the target. " (Codevilla)

**Gray Propaganda:** Propaganda which does not specifically identify any source. (Joint Chiefs)

**Honorable Correspondent (French intelligence jargon):** Men and women to whom [the intelligence service] could turn from time to time in order to carry out an operation. They acted out of sympathy, out of memories of the Resistance, or a passion for this secret world, or patriotism... There were hundreds of them. (Faligot)

**HUMINT:** Human intelligence, that is processed information collected from human, as opposed to technical (TECHINT) sources. Includes, but is not limited to, espionage.

**Honey Pot:** A female agent who uses sex as a recruiting tool. Male equivalent is known as a **Romeo**.

**Insurgency:** An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through the use of subversion and armed conflict. (Joint Chiefs)

**Intelligence:** The product resulting from the collection, processing, integration, analysis, evaluation and interpretation of available information concerning foreign countries or areas. (Joint Chiefs)

**Propoaganda:** Any form of communication in support of national objectives designed to influence the opinions, emotions, attitudes, or behavior of any group in order to benefit the sponsor, either directly or indirectly. (Joint Chiefs)

**Psychological war (PSYWAR):** The planned use of propaganda and other psychological actions having the primary purpose of influencing the opinions, emotions, attitudes, and behavior of hostile foreign groups in such a way as to support the achievement of national objectives. (Joint Chiefs)

**Sanitize:** Revise a report or other document in such a fashion as to prevent identification of sources, or of the actual persons and places with which it is concerned, or of the means by which it was acquired. Usually involves deletion or substitution of names and other key details. (Joint Chiefs)

**SIGINT:** An umbrella term which includes most processed information obtained through interception of electronic signals.

**Safe House:** An innocently looking house or premises established by an organization for the purpose of conducting clandestine or covert activity in relative security.

**Swallow:** Russian name for female sexual agents specially trained in the arts of love to be used for seduction of recruits. See Honey Pot/Romeo.

**Walk-in:** A person who volunteers information or willingness to serve as an agent by walking into a foreign embassy or establishment.