

Tom Braden became an early head of propaganda operations when the CIA was formed. Braden, who once wrote an article titled “I’m Glad the CIA is ‘Immoral’” (and years later, recommended the abolishment of the CIA¹⁴), also headed up QKOPERA, the code name for the Congress of Cultural Freedom.¹⁵ This body was set up to combat Communist efforts to paint America as culturally bereft. The Congress sponsored artists, writers, poets, musicians and other cultural figures, some with their consent, and some without. The CIA did not limit itself to propagandizing about news items. The CIA sponsored Olympic athletes, scientists, and anyone who could be used to promote the notion of the superiority of American culture. The psychological warfare campaign was an all-out assault on people’s ability to think and feel freely not just in Communist countries, but all over the globe.

Highly regarded journalists were especially valuable to Wisner and the CIA’s efforts because they had the luxury of being able to write material that top policy makers would actually read. As former CIA officer Miles Copeland noted, “the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, Congressmen and even the Director of the CIA himself will read, believe, and be impressed by a report from Cy Sulzberger, Arnaud de Borchgrave, or Stewart Alsop when they don’t even bother to read a CIA report on the same subject.”¹⁶ And although the CIA did not have legal authority to propagandize Americans, that didn’t stop them from trying to fan winds abroad that would blow back across to America. The *New York Times* reported that the CIA had a formal operation known as KMFORGET in which stories planted by the agency in one country would be clipped and mailed to media in other countries, and “such efforts enhanced the likelihood that the stories would be seen by an American correspondent and transmitted home.”¹⁷ CIA operative Darrell Garwood shared the information that the CIA was very concerned about domestic perceptions of the Agency, despite the prohibition from it acting against U.S. citizens: “In order to achieve its self-perceived objectives, the CIA believed it was not enough to be immune from congressional or judicial control. The agency felt it was also imperative that anti-CIA sentiment and leftist leanings in general had to be defused and combated on every front. To this end, the CIA infiltrated the groves of academia, the missionary corps, the editorial boards of influential journal and book publishers, and any other quarters where public attitudes could be effectively influenced.”¹⁸ In the ’70s, the CIA was exposed as having illegally spied on Americans and having infiltrated many anti-war organizations. The CIA specifically targeted *Ramparts*, one of the few large circulation magazines to talk openly about the holes in the official story regarding the Kennedy assassination.

Stewart Alsop, who, along with his brother Joseph, was a CIA conduit for information on occasion, gave us a special perspective on the CIA’s targeting of reporters for assets: “The key relationship of the Washington press is, of course, its relationship with the government. But the relationship of the press with the press is also important—much more important than most outsiders realize.”¹⁹ Often, as a major story breaks, reporters who are removed from the