

recent book, "Thieves' World: The Threat of the New Global Network of Organized Crime" (1994, Simon & Schuster), was praised by Stephen Handelman, of the Harriman Institute of Advanced Soviet Studies at Columbia University, as making "a significant contribution to post-cold-war debate" by affirming "that the growing interdependence among nation-states and financial institutions has made it easier for crime syndicates to cooperate across national boundaries."

In an earlier book, "Octopus: the Long Reach of the International Sicilian Mafia" (1990), she examined the Sicilian Mafia and charged gangster-chieftains based in Palermo with creating a multinational empire with the United States as its longtime main target.

In her 1984 book "The Time of the Assassins," Mrs. Sterling examined the attempt by a Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca, to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981. She contended that Mr. Agca had "come to Rome as a professional hit man, hired by a Bulgarian spy ring." She presented what she called "massive proof that the Soviet Union and its surrogates have provided the weapons, training and sanctuary for a worldwide terror network aimed at the destabilization of Western democratic society."

Mrs. Sterling's contention about a Bulgarian role in the attack was disputed, but writing in 1991, she maintained that Italian courts in 1988 had "expressed their moral certainty that Bulgaria's secret service was behind the papal shooting."

She also attracted wide attention with her 1981 book "The Terror Network," which traced connections among terrorist groups around the globe. William Abrahams, who edited the book for Holt, Rinehart & Winston, said that while she was writing it, the Italian Government posted a guard at her house to protect her.

A decade later, the New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis reported that William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence in the Reagan Administration, had held up a copy of "The Terror Network" before a group of official intelligence experts and had "said contemptuously that he had learned more from it than from all of them."

Mrs. Sterling's first book was "The Masaryk Case" (1969), about Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister who was reported to have leaped to his death in 1948 from a window of his Prague apartment. She concluded that he had been killed by Soviet or Czechoslovak Stalinists to keep him from defecting to the West.

In her decades abroad, she also wrote articles for The New York Times, Atlantic Monthly, The Reporter magazine, Life, Reader's Digest, Harper's, The New Republic, The Washington Post, International Herald Tribune and The Financial Times.

Mrs. Sterling was born Claire Neikind in Queens, received a bachelor's degree in economics from Brooklyn College, and worked for a time as a union organizer among electrical workers.

In 1945 she received a master's degree from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, which awarded her a Pulitzer Traveling Scholarship.

She went on to work in Rome for what she described in a 1981 interview as "a fly-by-night American news agency." She learned Italian, and when the agency went out of business, she returned to the United States and joined the staff of The Reporter magazine, which began publication in early 1949.

Mrs. Sterling recalled that when she applied for the Reporter job, Max Ascoli, the magazine's Italian-born publisher and editor, said, "If anybody's going to write about Italy around here, it's me."

In 1951, she married Tom Sterling, a writer. She remembered that "Max Ascoli's wed-

ding present to me was a six-month assignment in Rome."

Mrs. Sterling's six-month assignment lasted 17 years, ending only when The Reporter ceased publication in 1968. By then, the Sterlings were accustomed to life in Italy, where Mr. Sterling had written some of his more than a dozen books. So Mrs. Sterling, keeping Italy as her base, began writing her Masaryk book.

She is survived by her husband; a son, Luke, of Cortona; a daughter, Abigail Vazquez of San Francisco; two grandchildren, and a sister, Ethel Braun of Manhattan.

[From the Washington Post, June 18, 1995]

CLAIRE STERLING, INVESTIGATIVE WRITER,
DIES

(By Bart Barnes)

Claire Sterling, 75, a U.S. journalist and author of investigative books that explored connections between the Soviet government and terrorist organizations around the world, died of cancer June 17 at a hospital in Arezzo, Italy.

In a journalistic career that spanned almost five decades, Mrs. Sterling covered and wrote about armed revolutionary movements in Third World countries, U.S. gangsters, World War II refugees and political assassinations. She was based in Italy for most of that period, and from there she wrote stories for The Washington Post and other newspapers. But her work also took her to Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Her books included "The Masaryk Case" (1969), in which she argued that the 1948 death of Czech Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk was murder, not suicide; "The Terror Network" (1981), in which she argued that the Soviets were sponsoring and supporting terrorist organizations in several countries; and "The Time of the Assassins" (1984), in which she accused the Soviet Union of complicity in the 1981 attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.

She began her career in journalism shortly after World War II, working in Italy for the now-defunct Overseas News Service. It was an era when women were rare and often unwelcome in the news business, and Mrs. Sterling became known as an adventuresome and energetic reporter who sometimes used creative methods to get her stories.

In Italy, she boarded a Palestine-bound ship with Jewish war refugees, taping her U.S. passport to her arm, which she had encased in a cast as if it were broken. The ship was intercepted by British authorities, and she was taken to an internment camp. But she was released when she produced the passport proving her U.S. nationality.

During the 1950s, she wrote about independence movements in North Africa, and she often traveled with bands of armed insurgents, including once when she was five months pregnant. When her husband expressed concern about this, she told him not to worry—the rebels had promised not to blow up any trains she was on.

Mrs. Sterling was born in New York. She graduated from Brooklyn College and received a degree in journalism from Columbia University.

After a short stint with the Overseas News Service, she joined the staff of Reporter magazine in 1949. She interviewed New York mob boss Lucky Luciano and wrote an unflattering profile of Clare Booth Luce, the U.S. ambassador to Italy during the Eisenhower administration. She wrote stories from sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

After Reporter folded in 1968, Mrs. Sterling wrote articles for Harper's magazine, did freelance writing and wrote books.

In 1968, she covered the brief period of social and political liberalization in Czechoslovakia under the leadership of Alexander Dubcek, which became known as the Prague Spring. In the course of reporting that story, she began looking into the 1948 death of Masaryk, the foreign minister, who had been found dead in the courtyard of Prague's Czernin Palace, apparently after falling from a window. The death had been ruled a suicide.

From previously published material, interviews and new documents, Mrs. Sterling concluded that Masaryk, a popular political figure and a leader of the Czech government in exile during the wartime occupation by Germany, had been murdered by Communist agents, probably to prevent his defection to the West. She speculated in her book "The Masaryk Case" that he had been overpowered by security agents, suffocated with pillows and flung from the window.

Her second book, "The Terror Network," was based on an article she had written for Atlantic Monthly in which she explored similarities between the kidnappings and murders in the 1970s of former Italian premier Aldo Moro by the Italian Red Brigades and of West German industrialist Hans-Martin Schleyer by the German Red Army Faction.

In this book, Mrs. Sterling traced what she said were extensive political and military links between terrorist organizations, all of which, she suggested, received material but clandestine support from Moscow. "In effect," she wrote, "the Soviet Union simply laid a loaded gun on the table, leaving the others to get on with it." The book was well received by the newly inaugurated administration of Ronald Reagan, but liberal critics complained that Mrs. Sterling's argument was unsupported by conclusive evidence.

In "The Time of the Assassins," Mrs. Sterling investigated claims by Mehmet Al Agca that he was acting on orders from the Bulgarian secret service in his 1981 attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II. In 1986, an Italian jury acquitted three Bulgarians and three Turks of conspiracy in the plot for lack of proof. Mrs. Sterling continued to insist that the Soviet Union was behind it.

She married novelist Thomas Sterling in 1951. They lived in Rome and Cortona, Italy. In addition to her husband, she is survived by two children, Luke Sterling, a painter who lives in Cortona, and Abigail Vazquez of San Francisco; and two grandchildren.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on that memorable evening in 1972 when I learned that I had been elected to the Senate, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

It has proved enormously beneficial to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited during the nearly 23 years I have been in the Senate.

Most of them have been concerned about the magnitude of the Federal debt that Congress has run up for the coming generations to pay. The young people and I always discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That's why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 22, 1992. I wanted to make it a matter of daily record precisely the size of the Federal debt which as of yesterday, Wednesday, June 21, stood at \$4,898,068,854,045.71 or \$18,593.15 for every man, woman, and child in America.

THE RECALL OF THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I learned with regret last week that the People's Republic of China has recalled its ambassador to the United States, Li Daoyu, because of the visit of Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui. I am disappointed that the Chinese government has chosen this step as a form of protest over Lee's visit.

President Lee came to the United States on a private visit after he was invited to speak at his alma mater. He was granted a visa as a simple act of courtesy and his trip does not represent a change in our government's one-China policy. The United States believes strongly that notable speakers from around the world should be free to travel here to speak their views. I feel that Beijing's reaction to Lee's visit is both excessive and unproductive. Lee's visit was a small matter and should be seen as insignificant for overall Sino-United States relations.

There is a great reservoir of friendship between the peoples of China and the United States. I think of that friendship as an iceberg. Right now we may see problems at the tip, but underneath is a large, enduring solidness. I feel certain that sturdy base will help us outlast minor irritants to the relationship, such as this one. It is my deep wish that Beijing would simply agree to disagree with Washington on this matter, return Ambassador Li to his post quickly, and move on to the truly important matters we have between the two countries.

AMERICAN CENTER PLZEN

Mr. PELL. On May 6, 1995, I was honored to be part of the delegation headed by Ambassador Madeleine Albright and accompanied by Gen. Charles G. Boyd, commander in chief, U.S. European Command, to represent President Clinton at ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Plzen in the Czech Republic.

Having served as a foreign service officer in Prague in 1946 after World War II, it was a particular personal honor to be present at such a warm outpouring of appreciation and gratitude shown by the people of the Czech Republic toward the gallant contributions made by the service men and women of Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

While in Plzen I was also honored to participate in the opening of American Center Plzen, with Prime Minister Klaus, the United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Adrian Basora,

Ambassador Albright, and General Boyd. The creation of the American Center in Plzen was the personal accomplishment of a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer from Barrington, RI, John R. Hess.

The Center is a tribute to the enthusiasm and commitment of John Hess and the citizens of Plzen. Significantly, it was completed without having to commit any U.S. tax dollars. I asked Mr. Hess if he would send me a report on the creation of American Center Plzen, so that his work could serve as an example to others reaching out to our neighbors around the world. I ask unanimous consent that his report on American Center Plzen be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the report was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPORT ON AMERICAN CENTER PLZEN

This is a report requested by U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell about my activities as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in establishing American Center Plzen without use of American taxpayers money. Senator Pell was in Plzen at the time of the Center's opening.

The idea of having an American Center for American-Czech business and cultural exchange in Plzen began with then Deputy Mayor of Plzen, Zdenek Prosek when in 1993 he discussed the thought with the U.S. Ambassador, Foreign Commercial Service, USIS, and representatives of the Czech American Enterprise Fund (CAEF). All thought well of the concept. CAEF liked the plan because there would be business investment opportunities for them and the others because it could help to create U.S. and Czech business growth as well as expand U.S. and Czech cultural understanding. The purpose of the Center would offer something to both the United States and to Plzen. A Center would make it easier for U.S. businesses to establish themselves in Western Bohemia as investors and for export possibilities. It would also enhance and build upon the warm feelings held by the West Bohemian people toward the U.S. resulting from General Patton's liberation of this area in 1945. Plzen would benefit as the Center will open access to U.S. business for joint ventures and could obtain the balanced economy sought by city leaders. CAEF offered to donate the equivalent of \$35,000.00 as "seed money" for the project to cover any first year operating deficits. The United States Embassy clearly stated that no U.S. funds were available for the purpose of establishing the Center. Advisory assistance would be offered.

The city of Plzen made it known that it would bear all costs. Deputy Mayor Prosek (now Lord Mayor) told the Embassy and CAEF that the City would donate a historic building in the city center and would restore it at Plzen's expense. Plzen certainly did that spending the equivalent of \$1,250,000 on the renovation as well as donating the building. Mayor Prosek also stated that a Foundation would be created with a Czech Director to operate the Center under Czech law and would be self supporting. It was agreed among the parties that a Peace Corps Business Volunteer as a catalyst to ensure that the project would be designed and implemented in a manner to assure success would be assigned to Plzen.

As that volunteer I discussed with project planners and architects hired by the city the layout of the building to meet the purpose of the project. It was agreed among the project designers, the architects, and myself that

the building must be competitive for well into the 21st Century and must meet western standards. The building would have a social center, a meeting room for seminars, permanent offices, temporary offices for companies seeking partners, an information area, and a place for cultural displays. The building has over 100 communication outlets for phones, faxes, and computers. It is centrally air conditioned and handicap accessible. In addition, all offices have raised floors for ease of cabling. Ability to communicate was a major thrust and attention to computer, fax, and telephone access was a priority of the building infrastructure. The City also wanted the building completed in time for the 50 year Liberation Ceremony to take place in May 1995.

A working committee consisting of ten people was formed and met regularly to review plans. The committee assisted in hiring the Director for the Center as well as talking with the U.S. and Czech business communities about the Center. The makeup of the committee included five Czechs and five Americans. Four Czechs were from Plzen and one Czech and three Americans were from Prague.

Plans for the building were completed in June 1994 and were approved by the City. Building restoration began in September 1994 and was completed in late April 1995. The City paid all the expenses for the building. No U.S. taxpayer money was a part of the building renovations. The building is expected to be self sufficient financially by January 1997 through rental charges for offices, meetings, special services, etc.

The Foundation has been established and has two Boards, one advisory which includes American Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic, Peace Corps, an American Embassy person, and Chamber of Commerce Plzen. The voting Board is chaired by a Czech who is also Chair of the Business Innovation Center in Plzen. There are four Czechs and one American on the voting Board.

A few American and Czech companies have made donations of operating equipment such as fax machines and computers to the Center which are greatly appreciated.

A Peace Corps Business Volunteer will continue as an advisor to the Center until late January 1996. Peace Corps does not plan to assign another volunteer to this project after that date.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, am I correct that the Senate now turns to S. 440?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 440, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 440) to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the designation of the National Highway System, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I see in the Chamber joining me the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, the