

OTO and CIA



AN INVESTIGATION

by Richard V. Gorton

OTO AND CIA

**SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE ABOUT
A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT INVESTIGATION**

BY RICHARD V. GORTON



**LUMINIST PUBLICATIONS
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This pamphlet is dedicated to the memory of Hymenaeus Alpha 777, Major Grady Louis McMurtry, who fought bravely for his country in the invasion of Normandy and in the Korean conflict—a true soldier and patriot, and a Gnostic Saint of the Ecclessia Gnostica Catholica.

“Your friends can be your worst enemies.” —H.A. 777

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INFINITY OF YEARS

Come hither, come thither, and I will tell ye a tale
Of one man's journey being a denizen in Hell.
He sailed on a boat called "Infinity of Years"
On a river foaming from billions of tears
That rained from black clouds formed of millions of fears.

He sought the truth through the shadows of lies
Cast in an iniquity from the Stone of the Wise.
They damned him; they cursed him for unveiling the disguise
Of their Rex Harlequin whose strings were pulled by design.

He brandishes a sword from the embers that dwell
In the consciousness of souls that forever repent
The conspiracy of silence which became a prerequisite
That enslaved all true believers in this false Orient.

He bellows from the vast torrents at sea, screaming,
"This Aeon of Horus demands that we all must be free!"
From the secret perversions of a fake liberty
That blinds us and binds us to tyranny
While being cast away from our true destiny.

Richard Vaughan Gorton
Winter, 2011

⌘ ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS

Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.) is a serious and secret religious order, pledged to the high purpose of securing the Liberty of the Individual and his or her advancement in Light, Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, and Power through Beauty, Courage, and Wit, on the Foundation of Universal Brotherhood.

It is a body of Initiates in whose hands are concentrated the wisdom and secret knowledge of all Oriental Orders, and is the first of the Great Orders of antiquity to accept the Law of the New Æon emanating from the A.∴A.∴, which is: Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law, reorganizing in accordance therewith.

The letters O.T.O. represent the words Ordo Templi Orientis (Order of the Temple of the Orient, or Ancient Order of Oriental Templars). The letters O.T.O. have also a secret meaning for initiates.

The aims of O.T.O. can only be understood fully by its highest initiates; but it may be said openly that it teaches Hermetic Science or Occult Knowledge, the Pure and Holy Magick of Light, the Secrets of Mystic Attainment, Yoga of all forms, Gnana Yoga, Raja Yoga, Bhakta Yoga, Tantric Yoga, and Hatha Yoga, and all other branches of the secret Wisdom of the Ancients.

In its bosom repose the Great Mysteries; its brain has resolved all the problems of philosophy and life.

It possesses the secret of the Stone of the Wise, of the Elixir of Immortality, and of the Universal Medicine.

Moreover, it possesses a Secret capable of realizing the world-old dream of the Brotherhood of Man.

—Bylaws of Ordo Templi Orientis
August 2003 e.v.

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1. Email from the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)

From: Kinsey, Brian S. <...>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 9:15 AM
To: <...>
Subject: FOIA Request for Ordo Templi Orientis

Mr. Gorton:

Your request submitted through the Black Vault E-FOIA request submission tool has been received. Please provide a mailing address.

Brian S. Kinsey
Freedom of Information Act Staff
Defense Intelligence Agency
DAN-1A (FOIA)
Washington, DC 20340-5100

2. Letter from the Defense Intelligence Agency

OCT 31 2005 [date stamp]

U-4,500/DAN-1A (FOIA)

Dear Mr. Gorton:

We have received your Freedom of Information Act request for records concerning Ordo Templi Orientis and assigned it case number 0023-2006. Please use this number in all future correspondence with us about this matter.

There is a substantial delay in processing requests, and it is impossible for us to forecast when your case will be completed. We solicit your patience and understanding and assure you that we will process your request as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Brian Kinsey, 202-231-3916 with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Margaret A. Bestrain
Chief, Public Access Branch

3. Letter from U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20005

JUL 30 2007 [date stamp]

Reference: F-2007-01674 (DIA #FOIA-00023-2006)

Dear Mr. Gorton:

In the course of processing your 12 November 2005 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for records pertaining to Ordo Templi Orientis, the DIA located CIA material and referred it to us for review and direct response to you.

We reviewed the material and determined that it is currently and properly classified and must be withheld in its entirety on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). I have enclosed an explanation of these exemptions for your reference and retention.

You have the right to appeal these decisions by addressing your appeal to the Agency Release Panel within 45 days from the date of this letter, in my care. Should you choose to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

Thank you for your patience while we processed this referral.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Scott Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator

4. Enclosure from Central Intelligence Agency

Explanation of Exemptions

Freedom of Information Act:

(b)(1) applies to material which is properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of national defense or foreign policy;

...

(b)(3) applies to information pertaining to the CIA Director's statutory obligations to protect from disclosure intelligence sources and methods, as well as the organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries or numbers of personnel employed by the Agency, in accordance with the National Security Act of 1947 and/or the CIA Act of 1949;

...

5. Letter to Scott Koch, Information and Privacy Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency

September 13, 2007

Ref No. F-2007-01674 (DIA #FOIA-0023-2006)

Dear Mr. Scott Koch:

This letter serves as my official appeal of the Central Intelligence Agency's decision to withhold the entirety of my FOIA request for records pertaining to Ordo Templi Orientis which was filed with the Defense Intelligence Agency on 12 November 2005. I was instructed to file this request in your care within 45 days of the date of your letter, and I am sending this document overnight for review by the Agency Release Panel.

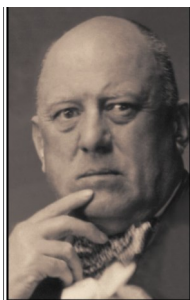
The basis for my appeal is that the Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO) is a tax exempt religious institution, and thus should be entitled to all documents covered by the FOIA, as to withhold them would be a direct violation of the first amendment to the United States Constitution which guarantees the free exercise of religion.

It is noted that in your letter FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3) are listed as the primary reasons for withholding the records pertaining to OTO. (b)(1) states that this applies to material which is properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, while (b)(3) states that this applies to information pertaining to the CIA Director's statutory obligations to protect from disclosure intelligence sources and methods, as well as the organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries, or numbers of personnel employed by the Agency, in accordance with the National Security Act of 1947 and/or the CIA Act of 1949.

It is difficult, to say the least, to freely practice one's religion without knowing whether the person sitting next to you is a covert member of the CIA, allowed to use whatever methods are deemed necessary for surveillance or other operations. Moreover, such acts are a violation of Amendment IV of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers

and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures.

However, as the principal founding member of the present day OTO was Aleister Crowley (1875-1947) whose exploits in British intelligence circles during WWI and WWII are increasingly being documented to the public in both book and television format, it is understandable that the CIA may have an interest in his organization.



Jack Parsons (1914-1952), a rocket scientist who co-founded the Jet Propulsion laboratory in Pasadena and has a crater on the moon named after him for his research in solid rocket fuels, was also a member of the OTO who may have come under the review of the CIA, especially when he attempted to seek employment in Israel during the late 1940s.

But as both these members are deceased, and their interactions with government intelligence agencies at home and abroad occurred so long ago, why would it still be necessary to withhold information that in a free society should be freely disseminated? The concern I have is that CIA operations with the OTO may be continuing in the present, or that they have taken place within the last few decades.

It should also be noted that Major Grady L. McMurtry (1918-1985) met with Aleister Crowley several times during WWII, at the time when McMurtry was preparing for the invasion of Normandy. He later served our country admirably in Korea. In the late 1960s McMurtry was able to revive the OTO by the use of emergency powers given to him by Crowley, and by the publication of Crowley's Thoth tarot card deck. The OTO has continued to grow to its present organizational level throughout the world in the last 40 years. One question of concern is whether McMurtry was contacted by the CIA while he was in the employment of the State Department in the 1960s as part of the CIA's "Alternative Programs" which were designed to set up and/or infiltrate New Age groups and religions. It is noted that these programs



were abolished in the 1980s, but it is unknown if any new programs to infiltrate minority religions have taken place since that time. Again, I ask in my appeal for complete disclosure of such activities from the 1960s to the present time.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my appeal. Although it may take another two years to receive a response, rest assured patience is a virtue I have long ago acquired. Copies of this appeal will go to my congressional representatives and select media outlets so that this appeal process will be under their scrutiny as well.

Very truly yours,

Richard V. Gorton

6. Letter from Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator

October 4, 2007

Mr. Richard V. Gorton
3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, California 91604

Dear Mr. Gorton:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your recent letter to the Central Intelligence Agency regarding your appeal. I appreciate you keeping me advised.

Because of the huge volume of mail my office receives, we do not take specific action on requests unless someone writes directly to me. Since you copied me on your correspondence, we will keep your information on file in the event you need our help later.

If you would like me to act on your behalf, please write directly to my San Francisco office and outline specifically how we could help you.

Again, thanks for writing and for keeping me informed.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

7. Letter to Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator

October 11, 2007

Dear Madame Senator,

Thank you for your letter dated October 4. I have enclosed copies of the correspondence originally mailed to your office. Specifically I would like your help with a congressional review of my FOIA request for records pertaining to Ordo Templi Orientis filed with the Defense Intelligence Agency in November of 2005.

...

I am already in contact with Senator Barbara Boxer's office and will be assigned a caseworker from her San Francisco office in the following week. As I fully expect another denial from the appeal I filed with the CIA, it is essential that both U.S. Senators are on the same page as regards my request for a congressional review of this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future...

Best wishes to you and the Democratic Party in the 2008 national elections. It is hoped that whoever our standard bearer is, that person will bring more openness and honesty into our government, and will prevent abuses of power that the CIA now brings to bear on American citizens who worship a minority religion.

Sincerely yours,

Richard V. Gorton

8. Letter from Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator

October 19, 2007

Dear Mr. Gorton:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your appeal with the Central Intelligence Agency. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and giving me an opportunity to see if my office can be of assistance.

I have asked Harry Berezin in my San Francisco office to assist you. Mr. Berezin has contacted the Central Intelligence Agency on your behalf. You will hear back from my office when a response is received from the agency, which usually takes from six to eight weeks.

Again, thank you for contacting me. My San Francisco staff will do all they can to help you.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

9. Letter from the Central Intelligence Agency

15 October 2007

Reference: F-2007-01674

Dear Mr. Gorton:

We received your 13 September 2007 letter appealing our 30 July 2007 response to your Freedom of Information Act request to the Defense Intelligence Agency for records pertaining to Ordo Templi Orientis. The DIA located CIA material and forwarded it to us for review and direct response to you.

Specifically, you appealed our determination to deny this material in its entirety on the basis of Freedom of Information Act exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

Your appeal has been accepted and arrangements will be made for its consideration by the appropriate members of the Agency Release Panel. You will be advised of the determinations made.

In order to afford requesters the most equitable treatment possible, we have adopted the policy of handling appeals on a first-received, first-out basis. At the present time, our workload consists of approximately 200 appeals awaiting completion. In view of this, some delay in our reply must be expected, but I can assure you that every reasonable effort will be made to complete a response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[initialed]

for Scott Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator

10. Letter from Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator

January 4, 2008

Dear Mr. Gorton:

This is to let you know that I received your request for my assistance. At this time my office has not received a reply from the agency about your case.

Please know that Harry Berezin, a Constituent Services Representative in my San Francisco office where I handle these matters, will try to assist you in resolving your problem. Mr. Berezin has contacted the Central Intelligence Agency on your behalf to follow up on the original letter we sent in October 2007. My office will be in touch with you after a response is received.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

11. Letter from the Central Intelligence Agency Office of Congressional Affairs to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

22 January 2008

Attn: Harry Berezin

Dear Senator Feinstein:

This is in response to your letter of 19 October 2007 regarding your constituent, Mr. Richard Gorton. Mr. Gorton contacted your office requesting assistance in obtaining a review of a FOIA inquiry sent to the central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Gorton's inquiry remains within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and your letter has been forwarded to CIA's Information and privacy Coordinator. That office will process the appeal and respond directly to Mr. Gorton.

I trust the above information will assist you in responding to Mr. Gorton. Thank you for writing on his behalf.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Nancy D. Faucette
Chief of Staff
Office of Congressional Affairs

12. Letter from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

January 29, 2008

Dear Mr. Gorton:

I am forwarding on to you the response I have received from the Central Intelligence Agency.

I hope that this response is helpful and that the information outlined in it will clarify the situation for you. If you have further questions, or if there is any way my office can help you in the future, I hope you will contact me again.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

13. Letter from the Central Intelligence Agency Office of Congressional Affairs to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

4 February 2009

Attn: Mirella Nieto

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Central Intelligence Agency has received your inquiry concerning your constituent, Richard Gorton, regarding his Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal.

After careful review of Mr. Gorton's appeal, the FOIA office located a letter dated 14 February 2008, in which Mr. Gorton's appeal was denied. The FOIA office mailed this letter to Mr. Gorton approximately one year ago and it is unclear why he never received it. Attached you will find a copy of the letter, which we feel will be beneficial to your constituent.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Karen Lewis
Office of Congressional Affairs

14. Letter from the Central Intelligence Agency

FEB 14 2008 [date stamped]

Reference: F-2007-01674

Dear Mr. Gorton:

This responds to your 13 September 2007 letter in which you appealed the 30 July 2007 determination of this Agency in response to your Freedom of Information Act request to the Defense Intelligence Agency for records pertaining to Ordo Templi Orientis. Specifically, you appealed our determination to deny you access to one document in its entirety on the basis of Freedom of Information Act exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

The Agency Release Panel has considered your appeal and determined the document must continue to be withheld in its entirety on the basis of Freedom of Information Act exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). Therefore, the Agency Release Panel has denied your appeal. For your information, Agency regulations are set forth in part 1900 of title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

In accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, you have the right to seek judicial review of this determination in a United States district court.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Scott Koch
Executive Secretary
Agency Release Panel

15. Letter to Frater Superior and Grand Master Sabazius, Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO)

December 28, 2009 e.v.

Anno CV e.n.

Moon in Gemini

Dear Frater Superior and Grand Master Sabazius:

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Greetings and salutations this Yule season, and I hope this correspondence finds you both well. As you know, I have been pursuing a Freedom of Information Act investigation to refute allegations made in the book *Blood on the Altar: The Secret History of the World's Most Dangerous Secret Society* by Craig Heimbichner, published by Independent History & Research. Bluntly, the book states the Order is a CIA front organization. I began my research back in 2005 with the initial request made with the Defense Intelligence Agency... After two years, I received my initial response, stating that the material on the Order must remain classified, and giving exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3) as its reasoning.

I appealed the decision primarily on constitutional grounds based on the right to practice one's religion without government interference. My appeal was accepted, but denied on the same grounds. I was informed by the CIA that I had the right to seek judicial review in a United States federal court.

As I do not have the funds necessary for such a judicial review, I wrote to the ACLU after completing an over the phone intake survey. I have yet to hear from them.

Over the years I have trusted a small number of elder Thelemites and brothers from my Scottish Rite lodge for their insight and opinions as to what is meant by the exemptions, and speculation as to what the CIA might be up to in regards to a separate agenda. After careful consideration and continued research, I have accepted these theorems: (1) The Order exists under the auspices of the CIA; otherwise we would not exist. (2) There are initiates of the Order who are personnel employed by the CIA. (3) The one document being withheld is commonly referred to as a "directive" which implies a course of action in regards to the Order.

...

Thank you both for your time and consideration of this vitally important matter. I believe beyond all else that the Order must be free of all outside agendas to pursue the Great Work. The exemptions listed in the CIA denials raises questions of our legitimacy. We cannot serve another Master, and we cannot be beholden to the will of non-Thelemites.

Love is the law, love under will.

Fraternally yours,

[signed]

Frater Riotimus K.E.W. 93 93/93

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION—CHAIRMAN
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

October 19, 2007

Mr. Richard V. Gorton
3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, California 91604


Dear Mr. Gorton:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your appeal with the Central Intelligence Agency. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and giving me an opportunity to see if my office can be of assistance.

I have asked Harry Berezin in my San Francisco office to assist you. Mr. Berezin has contacted the Central Intelligence Agency on your behalf. You will hear back from my office when a response is received from the agency, which usually takes from six to eight weeks.

Again, thank you for contacting me. My San Francisco staff will do all they can to help you.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

.DF:hb

FRESNO OFFICE

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

SAN DIEGO OFFICE

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100



U-4,500/DAN-1A (FOIA)

OCT 31 2005

Mr. Richard V. Gorton
11288 Ventura Blvd.
Suite 233
Studio City, CA 91604

Dear Mr. Gorton:

We have received your Freedom of Information Act request for records concerning Ordo Templi Orientis and assigned it case number 0023-2006. Please use this number in all future correspondence with us about this matter.

There is a substantial delay in processing requests, and it is impossible for us to forecast when your case will be completed. We solicit your patience and understanding and assure you that we will process your request as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Brian Kinsey, 202-231-3916 with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Bestrain
Chief, Public Access Branch

Explanation of Exemptions

Freedom of Information Act:

- ✓ (b)(1) applies to material which is properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of national defense or foreign policy;
- (b)(2) applies to information which pertains solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Agency;
- ✓ (b)(3) applies to information pertaining to the CIA Director's statutory obligations to protect from disclosure intelligence sources and methods, as well as the organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries or numbers of personnel employed by the Agency, in accordance with the National Security Act of 1947 and/or the CIA Act of 1949;
- (b)(4) applies to information such as trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person on a privileged or confidential basis;
- (b)(5) applies to inter- and intra-agency memoranda or letters which are predecisional and deliberative in nature, or consist of attorney work-product or attorney-client information;
- (b)(6) applies to information, the release of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of other individuals; and
- (b)(7) applies to investigatory records, the release of which could: (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings, (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of others, (D) disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) disclose investigative techniques and procedures, or (F) endanger the life or physical safety of an individual.

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

JUL 30 2007

Mr. Richard V. Gorton
11288 Ventura Boulevard Suite 233
Studio City, CA 91604

Reference: F-2007-01674 (DIA #FOIA-00023-2006)

Dear Mr. Gorton:

In the course of processing your 12 November 2005 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for records pertaining to **Ordo Templi Orientis**, the DIA located CIA material and referred it to us for review and direct response to you.

We reviewed the material and determined that it is currently and properly classified and must be withheld in its entirety on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). I have enclosed an explanation of these exemptions for your reference and retention.

You have the right to appeal these decisions by addressing your appeal to the Agency Release Panel within 45 days from the date of this letter, in my care. Should you choose to do this, please explain the basis of your appeal.

Thank you for your patience while we processed this referral.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Koch".

Scott Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

15 October 2007

Mr. Richard V. Gorton
11288 Ventura Boulevard Suite 233
Studio City, CA 91604

Reference: F-2007-01674

Dear Mr. Gorton:

We received your 13 September 2007 letter appealing our 30 July 2007 response to your Freedom of Information Act request to the Defense Intelligence Agency for records pertaining to Ordo Templi Orientis. The DIA located CIA material and forwarded it to us for review and direct response to you.

Specifically, you appealed our determination to deny this material in its entirety on the basis of Freedom of Information Act exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

Your appeal has been accepted and arrangements will be made for its consideration by the appropriate members of the Agency Release Panel. You will be advised of the determinations made.

In order to afford requesters the most equitable treatment possible, we have adopted the policy of handling appeals on a first-received, first-out basis. At the present time, our workload consists of approximately 200 appeals awaiting completion. In view of this, some delay in our reply must be expected, but I can assure you that every reasonable effort will be made to complete a response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Koch".

for Scott Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

FEB 14 2008

Mr. Richard V. Gorton
11258 Ventura Boulevard Suite 233
Studio City, CA 91604

Reference: P-2007-01674

Dear Mr. Gorton:

This responds to your 13 September 2007 letter in which you appealed the 20 July 2007 determination of this Agency in response to your Freedom of Information Act request to the Defense Intelligence Agency for records pertaining to Ordo Templi Orientis. Specifically, you appealed our determination to deny you access to one document in its entirety on the basis of Freedom of Information Act exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

The Agency Release Panel has considered your appeal and determined the document must continue to be withheld in its entirety on the basis of Freedom of Information Act exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). Therefore, the Agency Release Panel has denied your appeal. For your information, Agency regulations are set forth in part 1900 of title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

In accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, you have the right to seek judicial review of this determination in a United States district court.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Scott Koch
Executive Secretary
Agency Release Panel

The results of a
Freedom of
Information Act
(FOIA) investigation
into links between
Ordo Templi Orientis
(OTO) and the
Central Intelligence
Agency (CIA)