

THE PRIVATE COLD WAR IN WESTERN EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



BRUSSELS
22 MARCH 2016



A comprehensive historical investigation has recently shed light on the murder of Belgian communist leader Julien Lahaut in August 1950. The research revealed the implication of an anti-communist network organised by right-wing activist and resistant André Moyen. The crime, unprecedented in Belgian history, was set against a Cold War background. The investigation also exposed significant links between Moyen's network and different Belgian financial, political, judiciary and military milieus.

The conference's starting point is the convergence between these conclusions and a new trend in international research on the Cold War. This research reveals the importance of private entities involved in anti-communist activities and the transnational features of some of these organisations. Indeed, the Moyen network was far from isolated, as hundreds of anti-Soviet associations were active

in this ideological struggle since the end of WWII.

The conference will focus on research comprising the first decades of the Cold War (1940s and 1950s) until decolonization, in order to analyse clandestine private organisations and private-public collaborations, as well as grey areas between those two spheres. It will also discuss the connection between private groups and clandestine groups who were nevertheless supported by official entities, also generically called "stay behind" networks. As these relationships bring about important questions about Western democracies they have been the object of renewed interest.

The conference will also tackle future research perspectives and available sources in Belgium for the benefit of younger researchers.

ORGANISERS

The Private Cold War in Western Europe is a joint initiative by CegeSoma and several of its « Justice & Populations » PAI partners (UCL, RMA and Humboldt Universität), as well as two institutions specifically dedicated to the study of intelligence services: The Belgian Intelligence Studies Centre (BISC), and The Netherlands Intelligence Studies Association (NISA).

BISC

BELGIAN
INTELLIGENCE
STUDIES
CENTRE

UCL
Université
catholique
de Louvain



PROGRAMME

Chairs: Robin Libert (Belgian State Security Service) & Nico Wouters (CegeSoma)

- 9h15** Welcome and introduction - Robin Libert (Belgian State Security Service & Rudi Van Doorslaer (CegeSoma)
- 9h30** "Is It Safe Now? Reflections on Research into Cold War Anti-Communism" - Giles Scott-Smith (ULeiden), keynote speaker
- 10h** « 'La vie si pure du combattant de la guerre secrète' : the anticommunist network of André Moyen » - Françoise Muller (UCL)
- 10h20** question and answer session
- 10h40** coffee break
- 11h** « The Fighting Group Against Inhumanity: The Incarnation of Anticommunism in a Divided Germany 1948-1959" - Enrico Heitzer (Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum, Brandenburg Memorials Foundation, Oranienburg, Germany)
- 11h20** "The Fight over a Government Monopoly on Security and Intelligence in The Netherlands around 1950" - Bob De Graaff (UUtrecht; Netherlands Defense Academy)

11h40 question and answer session

12h lunch break (1h)

13h "Paix et Liberté : a Private Organisation and Network ?" - Ludwig Bernard (Researcher associated to UMR SIRICE, Paris)

13h20 "The Start of the Dutch Stay-Behind Organisation" - Dick Engelen (AIVD, retired)

13h40 "The Recruitment of Civilian Agents for the Belgian Military Stay-Behind Organisation (SDRA VIII) : a testimony" - Bernard Legrand (SGRS, retired)

14h question and answer session

14h30 Coffee break

14h50 Table-ronde et débat avec la salle : « Sources et perspectives de recherche en Belgique » / Rondetafel gesprek en debat met het publiek : « Bronnen en onderzoekperspectieven in België » - Kathleen Van Acker (Defensie - CDH), Robin Libert (Veiligheid van de Staat), Emmanuel Gerard (KU Leuven), Xavier Rousseaux (UCL/IEA Paris), participants/deelnemers ; Rudi Van Doorslaer (CegeSoma), modérateur / moderator

15h40 Conclusions - Marc Cools (UGent, VUB)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue: CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation, 29, 1070 Bruxelles

Time : 9:15 am - 16:00 pm

Subscription compulsory at cegesoma@cegesoma.be before 17 March 2016

Subscription fee : 20€ (incl. conference map) to be transferred to BE12 6792 0045 0092 (BIC: PCHQBEBB) (ARA / AGR_Cegesoma - Ruisbroekstraat 2, Rue de Ruysbroeck - 1000 Brussel).

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The language of the conference will be English, except the round table (French-Dutch)