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STAT



Enclosed is a ~~copy~~ clip of my story as it appeared in our St. Paul paper.

I haven't gotten copies of the California and Dakota papers, but I understand that it got good play in many of them.

Thank you for your help.


Baxter Omohundro

(St. Paul, Minnesota)

October 17, 1965

Red Propagandists Twist Words To Discredit U. S.

By Baxter Omohundro

Pioneer Press Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Within sight of the Kremlin, an elite corps of writers is practicing the blackest of the literary arts, the calculated twisting and misuse of other people's words.

Their aim: discredit American security, intelligence and information services.

Their raw material: articles and broadcasts originating in the United States.

Soviet use of free world journalism to Russian ends is a focal point in a recently revealed report prepared by the Communist propagandists' chief target, the U. S. central intelligence agency.

The CIA report says the Soviet verbiage benders are organized into a department of disinformation, which reports directly to top brass in the Russian government and is an arm of the KGB, the notorious Russian secret police.

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ORGANIZED IN 1959, the disinformation department's experts pore over thousands of publications and broadcast transcripts from the free world and turn out material carefully designed to discredit not only CIA, but the FBI and the U. S. information agency both overseas and in the United States.

The department, headed by a long-time master spy named Ivan Ivanovich Agayants and located in infamous Lubyanka prison, has shown "increased sophistication in recent years," according to the CIA report.

A good share of this sophistication seems to be in the adroitness with which the department pretzels honest American and other free world writings into articles making CIA and the FBI appear as organizations of imperialistic, blood-thirsty arch-villians.

Says the report:

"An examination of the books and

articles cited in any of the anti-CIA pamphlets reveals extensive use of Western source material, often taken out of context.

"The most recent Soviet articles on the agency are exclusively 'documented' from Western books, articles and newspapers."

Reputable American newspapers and magazines are cited 11 times in an anti-CIA pamphlet published in India, the report declares, and these citations were used to obscure the origins of propagandistic statements taken from Communist organs.

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THE REPORT AND a list of samples provided the Pioneer Press by CIA shows Russian use of attributions from such respected American sources as Stewart Alsop, Newsweek, the Washington Star, the department of state bulletin, U. S. News & World report, the New York Times and senator Earl Warren.

A favorite source, indicates CIA, is a best-selling book about the agency, The Invisible Government, by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross.

The unkindest cut of all for CIA is extensive out-of-context twistings of material from a book entitled The Craft of Intelligence.

The author is Allen Dulles, former head of CIA, whose book formed the basis for a lengthy article in the May, 1965, issue of the Russian Magazine Kommunist.

The Kommunist article cleverly intertwines legitimate quotations from the Dulles book with blatantly inaccurate paraphrasings.

An example of the latter: "Dulles places the criminal methods of intelligence-subversive work on the same level

with such legal means for implementing foreign policy as diplomacy."

The chapter in Dulles' book referred to by Kommunist says nothing of the kind. The chapter deals with Dulles' belief that there should be greater cooperation in security matters among the various government agencies, congress and news media.

The Kommunist paraphrasing of Dulles' work not only alters the entire thought of the chapter but also drops in words such as "criminal" and "subversive" which never appear in the original text.

Kommunist even changed the chapter title from Security in a Free Society to The Need for Intelligence in a Free Society.

Such Soviet plagiarisms of free world material long has troubled responsible U. S. publishers, whose hands are tied legally because the Russians refuse to sign international copyright agreements.

That the disinformation department's plagiarisms are getting under CIA's skin is indicated by the fact that the agency made its report public, although in the rather oblique way of having it pop up in the congressional record.

It was inserted in the record, with little comment, by Rep. Melvin Price, D-Ill.

Most of the U. S. sources cited by the CIA in its report and in the samples are reputable U. S. authors. Their writings cited are mainly responsible questionings or criticisms of CIA policies and activities.

The report leaves the faint but unmistakable impression that CIA believes there is one sure way U. S. writers could avoid being patsies for the Russians:

Abandonment of American journalism's traditional role as watchdog of government agencies so far as CIA is concerned.