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FR 10-7638/1

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Church League of America

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation submitted for DCI approval. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph six.

2. The attached letter, dated 1 October 1958, from Mr. W. F. Brain, Lay Assistant to The Right Reverend John E. Hines, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, requests information on the Church League of America, Edgar C. Bundy, and a book entitled, "Collectivism In The Churches."

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5. On 7 October 1957, Edgar C. Bundy, who signed himself as General Chairman, wrote to the Agency under the letterhead of the National Laymen's Council, Church League of America, 1407 Hill Avenue, Wheaton, Illinois, and enclosed an October 1957 copy of a publication entitled, "News and Views." This publication indicated that the Church League of America is a tax exempt organization under the authority of the U. S. Treasury Department. Mr. Bundy's letter was acknowledged on 6 November 1957 advising Mr. Bundy that his letter with its attachment was referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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6. Inasmuch as Mr. Brain's letter appears to be one which affects the internal security of the United States, it is recommended that you affix your signature to the attached letter. This office will refer Mr. Brain's letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



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~~Sheila Edwards~~
Director of Security

Attachment: As stated

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ER 10-7638/a

ER

16 OCT 1958

Mr. W. F. Brain
Lay Assistant to the Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Texas
520 San Jacinto Street
Houston 2, Texas

Dear Mr. Brain:

We have your letter of 1 October 1958, in which you have requested information on the allegations made in a book entitled, "Collectivism in the Churches" by Edgar C. Bundy.

Since the Central Intelligence Agency is specifically prohibited by law from inquiring into internal security matters, we have referred your letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is regretted that we are unable to assist you further in this matter.

Sincerely,

C. P. Cabell
General, USAF
Deputy Director

OS/PSD [redacted]; jem(9Oct58)
Rewritten: O/DECI/KM:kp (16Oct58)
Distribution:

- Orig - Addressee
- 1 - FBI (w/basic) (via ms. [redacted])
- 1 - DECI
- 1 - PSD File (w/cy basic)
- 1 - AAB-direct
- 1 - ER (w/cy basic)
- 1 - Reading

STATINTL

RECEIVED SECURITY FILE

70-7638

THE DIOCESE OF TEXAS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
528 SAN JACINTO STREET
HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

October 1, 1958

Mr. Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

At the direction of The Right Reverend John E. Hines, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, I am looking into certain allegations made by a book entitled "Collectivism In The Churches". The author of this book is Mr. Edgar C. Bundy and it was published by the Church League of America, Wheaton, Illinois, in the year 1958.

The book in question charges that the National Council of Churches, to which most Protestant denominations belong at the national level, is dominated by communists and serves as a sounding board for communist propoganda. The book makes the same charges with regard to the World Council of Churches and the organization which preceded the National Council of Churches, the Federal Council of Churches.

We feel that the allegations contained in the book are grossly irresponsible to the point of being damaging to the extreme to our denomination as well as to others. At the same time, we are eager to face the facts whatever they may be in order that corrective action may be taken. The only reason we dignify this book in this fashion is because it has been made the center of certain efforts in this area to discredit not only the National Council of Churches but our own leadership as well.

I recognize that the following request is most unusual. Let me assure you, however, that we are not creating a tempest in a teapot. We must deal positively with these allegations. For this reason, if your policy permits you to do so, will you please acquaint me with any findings of the Central Intelligence Agency which would cast light on this matter one way or the other. We would also like to have your permission to make your comments public.

Sincerely,



W. F. Brain
Lay Assistant to the Bishop

WFB/js
attach.