

Dorothy Thompson

On The Record

What Can Be 'Supersecret' About the United States?

New York.—Several people, it seems to us, have recently been speaking out of turn. We don't know what possessed Sir Winston Churchill to recall at this date his order in 1945 not to destroy but to stack German arms because one might need them against the Russians. Whether he was right or wrong then, his airing of the order now raises a hob in Great Britain and lends some substance to Soviet charges that not they but the Western Allies started preparing World War III!

We don't see why former President Herbert Hoover felt it necessary to say in Bonn that the function of Germany is to provide a bulwark against the "Asiatic Hordes," by which he must mean Russians and the Slavs, who can hardly be called "Asians."

What They Confirm

More serious are the articles by Richard and Gladys Harkness in the October 30, November 6 and November 13 issues of The Saturday Evening Post, entitled "The Mysterious Doings of the CIA" (America's "Supersecret" Central Intelligence Agency.) They probably tell the Communists nothing they don't already know. But they confirm charges the Communists are perpetually making—that the United States is engaged in conspiracies to overthrow Communist or unsatisfactory governments by force, is spending "hundreds of millions" on underground activities all over the globe; that "about one out of three of the people arrested by Communist governments" actually is a spy; and that American agents are responsible for blowing up bridges, derailing trains, and other acts of sabotage.

Since this publication, written and released with CIA collaboration and consent, thirteen Americans have been imprisoned in Red China as spies.

The United States has protested that the men, missing since the Korean struggle, are prisoners of war, and their trial an infringement of International Law, as it is if the Chinese charges are untrue. But are they untrue? After reading the Post articles nobody could be sure.

The articles reveal just about everything except names, addresses, and codes: how agents are recruited and trained; how many buildings CIA occupies in Washington; how many employees it has—half as many as the State Department—and how few members of Congress know what "black" expenditures they are voting for.

Even more serious is the published admission of engineering violent coups against governments.

The CIA financed, engineered, and armed the forces that overthrew the pro-Communist Government of Guatemala.

It claims a directing hand in ousting King Farouk of Egypt and installing a military junta of young pro-American officers.

It was directly responsible for overthrowing Mossadegh in Iran. Participants are directly named, including the American Ambassador.

American Puppets

Here is published evidence emanating from the CIA itself that the present regimes of Egypt, Iran, and Guatemala are American puppets. Just exactly how will this admission help these regimes, who are dealing with Communist and non-Communist opponents? In Iran, ousted Mossadegh still has an enormous underground following. Zاهدi, the new Premier, is not widely popular. Will the CIA's story, circulated among his opponents, inspire increased popular confidence? Or will it confirm the charges of the Tudeh (pro-Communist) Party that America is Great Britain's less adept successor in Persia?

And how will this account read in Pravda?

Such "Secret" activities can blow us into kingdom come as a world Power, if they are publicized in such a fashion. Either they are "supersecret" or not secret at all. Enough has already been revealed to lend substance to every Communist charge, and justification to the arrest of any American or suspected native citizen anywhere.

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