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4 OCTOBER 1971

DEGREES IN PARANOIA

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# THE COLD-WAR COLLEGE

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Mr. Rice, a free-lance writer, has written many books and magazine articles. His latest book is *The C-SA Scandal*, published in May by Houghton Mifflin.

What do West Point, Annapolis, Colorado Springs and Boston, Virginia, have in common? The first three are the sites of the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force Academies. But Boston, (pop. 450) Virginia? That's the home of the Freedom Studies Center, which its organizers like to call the "Cold-War West Point" (see editorial: "Perfect Timing," *The Nation*, July 5). It serves as the headquarters for a vast and varied program of propaganda aimed at building public support for hard-line defense policies, increasing defense spending, and alerting the country to the menace of world communism.

It was supposed to be the United Freedom Academy, but the bill which would have authorized its establishment by the federal government never got through Congress. Backed by a group of conservative Congressmen in 1965, it reached the House Un-American Activities Committee, which approved it unanimously. The Johnson administration, however, along with the Departments of State, Defense and Justice, opposed the idea on the ground that it would duplicate and conflict with the work of existing government schools and agencies.

Though deprived of federal funds, the project's backers raised enough money from private corporations and foundations to get the Center started in 1966. This year they have launched a fund-raising campaign aimed at turning the Center into a full-scale "Cold-War College." A special appeal on behalf of the Center sent out by former Ambassador to Italy Clare Boothe Luce (whose Longlea Farm is also located in Boston, Va.) has brought in contributions from thousands of patriotic Americans.

While the Center still has no official federal support, it does have powerful friends in Washington. Its advisory board lists Vice President Spiro Agnew, Cabinet Secretaries John Volpe, Rogers Morton and George Romney, plus nine Senators (Mundt, Boggs, Harry Byrd, Dominick, Hansen, Hatfield, Long, Miller, Thurmond), twenty-eight Representatives and six state governors. Relations with the Pentagon are equally cordial. The Defense Department was instrumental in the Center's creation, and still provides high-ranking speakers and other forms of cooperation. At the Center's dedication ceremonies in 1966, the Joint Chiefs of Staff sent the Army's Director of Special Studies, an admiral from the Navy's Military Policy Division, a military color guard and a twenty-piece Navy band. J. Edgar Hoover sent his greetings, and President Lyndon Johnson wired: "You have my every wish for success."

One wonders how much President Johnson knew about this new venture to which he gave his blessing. The draft plan for Freedom Studies Center, Inc., 1966, mentions, ASC

Lansdale, a retired Air Force general who would have become its director had Johnson not picked him to run the U.S. counterinsurgency program in Vietnam. In the draft proposal Lansdale described the Academy as a center of "psycho-political warfare," and saw its potential students as "men of good will who—if they just knew how—are willing to strike a blow for liberty. . . . Such a blow, struck the right way and the right moment, could well change the course of history in favor of freedom." Lansdale envisaged sending teams of Academy graduates to foreign countries at the request of local political leaders, or "acceptable third parties." These freedom teams would "assist with practical advice on how to resolve problems of concern to freedom." Lansdale was not specific about what such problems might be, but those familiar with his thinking feel he meant the "liberation" of Soviet bloc countries, and the suppression of popular uprisings in non-Communist nations.

If all this sounds a bit like a private CIA, it should. Major General Lansdale is a former CIA official. The Center's directors of education and special projects are both former CIA men. One of the first guest speakers at the Center was ex-CIA chief Allen Dulles. In the words of its president, John Fisher, the Center's purpose is "to fill the gap between what the government can do, and what must be done," which describes equally well the activities of the CIA.

Though his background in foreign intelligence is minimal, Fisher has had considerable experience in domestic intelligence work. A former FBI agent, he joined Sears Roebuck in 1953 to run its "corporate security" program, which in that McCarthy era meant rooting out suspected Communist employees, rather than guarding against industrial espionage. Fisher then moved on to the staff of the American Security Council (ASC), an industrial blacklist organization that keeps tabs on alleged subversives for the benefit of member companies.

Since 1960 the ASC has shifted its emphasis from the threat of internal subversion to external military dangers. Using its own influential newsletter and radio program, it has become a powerful propaganda center for hard-line defense strategists, with close ties to the Pentagon and Congress. In recent years the House Armed Services Committee has commissioned studies from ASC on Soviet nuclear and maritime power. Both reports unsurprisingly called for sharp increases in U.S. defense spending. ASC also helped to mobilize nongovernmental support for the ABM, publishing its own book in defense of the system. None of ASC's studies mention that its corporate members include such major defense contractors as General Electric, North American Aviation, U.S. Steel, Republic Steel, Motorola and Honeywell. In 1969, the ASC and its publishing subsidiary ASC Press, spent more than \$1 million on a study of the ASC's relations, ASC