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Praeger Published '15 or 16' Books At C.I.A. Suggestion

Frederick A. Praeger, the book publisher, said yesterday that his concern had published "15 or 16 books" at the suggestion of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The books, he said, dealt fundamentally with facts, history and analysis of events of Communist-bloc countries or of nations susceptible of a fall to Communism.

The Vienna-born publisher, who has offices at 111 Fourth Avenue, saw nothing sensational or of a propaganda nature in the ventures. According to Mr. Praeger, his concern published considerably more books following the suggestion of "somebody connected with the Pentagon" or as a result of funding by the United States Information Agency than it did as a result of C.I.A. suggestions.

All of the books, he emphasized in a telephone interview, had to pass tests of accuracy, scholarship and integrity by his editors as well as of specialists in the particular field before being published.

Most of the books were published in the late nineteen-fifties, and the Praeger concern lost money on these books, the publisher said.

When asked if the C.I.A. ever financed a book venture in whole or in part, Mr. Praeger stated: "I have no comment." He gave the same answer when asked if the link with the intelligence agency continued to the present.

Mr. Praeger was emphatic in saying that the C.I.A. itself had never actually prepared or ordered the printing of any Praeger-published book.

The Praeger concern specializes in books for use in libraries or as supplementary university texts.