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Army Publication Outrageous Goof

WASHINGTON — In an outrageous goof, the U.S. Army has published a madcap 433-page encyclopedia which sees the world through John Birch Society glasses and ties the Nixon administration to the "communist conspiracy."

Entitled "Communist Party, U.S.A.," it lumps the administration, the United Nations, the Supreme Court, Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Health, Education, and Welfare Assistant Secretary James Farmer and many others into the same communist cauldron.

The 1,045-copy edition was so extreme that when Army Signal Center Commander Brig. Gen. Richard Horne III—whose unit published the book—finally read it, he ordered every copy immediately recalled.

Horne quickly ran down the 137 copies given to school instructors and to his staff. The general thought he had collected most of the others, but one of the volumes was smuggled to this column.

The thick book cost \$2,425 to print, plus many more dollars to prepare. It was issued by the Center's "Office of Doctrine Development, Literature and Plans," a sort of Stone Age "think tank," to judge by the encyclopedia.

THE DOCTRINE developers begin ominously:

"The Communist threat is not, as some would have us believe, a red herring—it is a red barracuda awaiting its chance to destroy us."

What value the book may have is destroyed when it makes "red barracudas" of the Kings, Farmer, cartoonist Jules Feiffer, writer George

Plimpton and other liberals who have often harshly condemned the Soviet system.

The text reaches the height of absurdity by quoting a Communist defector—who once claimed he was heir to the Czarist throne—as an expert on State Department matters. The State Department was full of Reds in the 50's, says the volume, and "very little has changed."

"The Executive branch was and is the most vulnerable for Communist infiltration," conclude the writers, speaking of the present administration where the most famous Red-hunter of them all, Richard Nixon, is firmly in the White House.

The experts of Fort Monmouth Signal headquarters also dismiss the United Nations as "Soviet-oriented," an opinion that will no doubt surprise the Soviets.

And the U.S. Supreme Court gets an ear-boxing from the Signal Corps pundits for making it easy for the communists to "infiltrate all branches of government."

In fact, the only three organizations in America free of communist odors, to judge by the book, are the FBI and those relics of the McCarthy era, the House and Senate Internal Security committees.

Brig. Gen. Horne told my associate Les Whitten that he had destroyed all volumes he could find except for two file copies.

"I felt that the material . . . could very easily be misunderstood," he explained. "It was never used . . . by students."

Horne contended he did not know for sure who wrote the book and no disciplinary action has been taken.

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tive Young Americans for Freedom; Sen. Barry Goldwater, D-Ariz., who has asked the Justice Department to investigate McGovern and Hatfield although Goldwater himself has done the same lobbying for YAF; Sen. George Murphy, R-Calif.; Sen. Ed Gurney, R-Fla.; Rep. Bill Brock, R-Tenn., and Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill., all of whom used their letterheads to raise money or lobby for right-wing causes.