

CIA 'TRAITOR'

Former Spy Victor Marchetti: 11 Years of Truth and Fantasy

By Phil McCombs 12/15/80
Washington Post Staff Writer

Victor Marchetti, former CIA spy turned agency critic, lies on his back in the semidark. Visions of retribution dance in his brain. His eyes are closed; one arm rests on his forehead. On a desk beyond the sofa where he lies is a typewriter with a piece of paper cranked into it and spotlighted by a lone lamp.

"I'm a very violent man..." His voice is soft, breathy with alcohol in the prelunch noon. He is talking about a plumber. The plumber came to his house recently to put in a water heater, but he was doing it wrong.

So, Marchetti says, he pointed a loaded .45 pistol at the plumber's beer belly and said, "I'll blow your belly all over the floor if you don't do what I told you to do and do it right." ... He did it right and got out of here.... When you make a threat, you've gotta be able to deliver."

The whistle blower, 11 years out. More than a decade unplugged from the engines of society and the bureaucracy that keeps so many people going from day to day. You've got to be strong to survive.

When Marchetti quit the CIA, he was a top official who had spent 14 years fighting the Cold War on the inside. He wrote a novel, "The Rope-Dancer," which

See MARCHETTI, A2, Col. 1



By John McDonnell—The Washington Post
Whistle blower Victor Marchetti with his books on the CIA.