

Hoover Looks 'Left,' 'Right'

FBI Hands Full With Revolutionaries, Extreme Groups

By RICHARD WILSON

WASHINGTON — J. Edgar Hoover said so much in recent testimony before Congress, and so little of it was reported, that reviewing the scope of it in capsule form gives a bewildering picture of a nation in dangerous turmoil.

Hoover is keeping track of a staggering array of revolutionists, of both the right and left, incendiaries, spies, provocateurs, and militants who increase in their numbered thousands year by year.

Dark Shadows

How is one to judge these darkening shadows of violence and disruption? Not, surely from the paranoiac's view of an encircling conspiracy. Yet, the totality and diversity of the appeal to violence can cause the skeptical reader of Hoover's report to Congress to wonder where the limits of tolerating insurrection lie.

Few of Hoover's critics would deny that he is a pretty good investigator. Too good, some think. In any event, he is increasingly busy with the appeal to violence.

Here, in capsule form, are a few of his findings:

Students for a Democratic Society and the New Left have openly turned to violent plans and tactics. These range from all manner of violent demonstrations to the use of bombs and incendiary devices with the aim of creating an era of chaos which will destroy the present form of government.

New Left Funders

Funds to finance the New Left activities come from wealthy benefactors, several foundations, an organization of college professors, small donors in the \$10 to \$50 range, those identified as either past or present members or sympathizers with the Communist Party, student organizations, fund-raising drives. A "very prominent foundation" in New York City, Hoover reported, contributed more than \$250,000. Other New Left donors included a Cleveland industrialist "who has long been a Soviet apologist," a wealthy

New York lecturer and writer, the wife of a millionaire attorney in Chicago, a New England heiress.

Five black power organizations advocate or practice various forms of insurrection: The Black Panther party, The Republic of New Africa, The Nation of Islam, The Revolutionary Action Movement and The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the latter having developed recently into "a



WILSON

full-blown all-Negro revolutionary movement."

Hoover expresses suspicion without offering very convincing evidence of foreign influences, some arising from Cuba. Contrary to the general supposition that Castro's Cuba has lost its revolutionary drive, Hoover reports the revolutionary movement there is going strong and is sparing no effort to expand the Communist takeover to the rest of Latin America. Castro, says Hoover, is supplying men, material and logistical support to help overthrow existing regimes in Latin-American countries.

Relentless Reds

As for internal U.S. espionage and subversion, there is no letup on the part of Communist countries in their efforts to penetrate our national defense interests. Hoover reports that a defector has disclosed to him that 70 to 80 per cent of all personnel assigned to Soviet diplomatic establishments work in the intelligence field.

The Chinese, Hoover claims,

are becoming a problem. He suggests that some of the 300,000 Chinese residing here are susceptible to recruitment for espionage and propaganda work. He is bothered by 40,000 Hong Kong-based Chinese seamen, at least a few of whom are believed to be serving as couriers. Thousands of them enter United States cities each year, and Hoover notes that over 700 jumped ship in U.S. ports in 1968 to vanish into the nation's Chinese communities.

Rightists 'Puny'

By contrast, Hoover finds the rightist appeal to violence rather puny. The Minutemen are down to about 500. Fourteen Klan-type organizations have about 8,500 members, with thousands of sympathizers. The Nazi party is beset by internal strife. It is evident that the effort to break up these groups is having some effect. Hoover is continuing to infiltrate the Klan at all levels.

One wonders why, if the violent right can be so suppressed, the violent left cannot be suppressed. The answer is not too hard to find. A vague, but real, social sanction protects the violent left. People who find the Klan vulgar and repugnant beyond words can find moral, social and intellectual justification for the causes of the bloody left. Thus the contributing college professors, heiresses, foundations, and the enthralled youth.

But there should be no confusion where the danger lies. It lies with the more numerous, better organized, more zealous, stronger motivated violent left with its techniques of guerrilla warfare and terrorism, its neo-Marxist doctrines, and its heroes, Che and Mao. Even discounting Hoover's alarming prospectus, the problem is real and not much is being done about it except by Hoover.

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