

# Effort to Silence Critics Seen in Scientology Data

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Church of Scientology documents seized by the FBI indicate that the church has been waging an extensive, sophisticated campaign to identify, attack and discredit its "enemies," including Internal Revenue Service and Justice Department investigators, other public officials and inquiring journalists.

The "attack and destroy" campaign carried out by the Church of Scientology's "Guardian's Office" to silence critics has involved illegal surveillance, burglaries, forgeries and many forms of harassment, according to sources close to an intensive federal investigation of the Scientologists' activities.

Sources said the "covert operations" documented in the Scientologists' own internal memoranda and directives, which were seized by the FBI under court subpoena last July, include the following incidents:

- Scientologists obtained the personal stationery of a woman, typed a bomb threat on it, mailed it to a Scientology office and reported the threat to police. The woman, who had written a book critical of Scientology, was arrested, charged with making a bomb threat, and then charged with perjury when she denied doing it. She suffered a nervous breakdown before the case eventually was dismissed.

- Scientology agents staged a fake hit-and-run accident designed to compromise the mayor of Clearwater, Fla., who had criticized the Scientologists' purchase of a Clearwater hotel. A woman Scientology agent driving a car in which the Clearwater mayor was riding here ran into another Scientology agent posing as a pedestrian in Rock Creek Park, sped away from the scene, and urged the mayor not to report the "accident." The Scientologists then tried to use the incident against the Clearwater mayor in his campaign for reelection.

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- The Scientologists attempted to discredit a Clearwater reporter by forging the rough draft of a newspaper story under his name, purportedly linking Florida politicians to the Mafia. They then passed the faked story to state legislators whom the reporter was covering. Earlier, the reporter had written stories critical of the Scientologists.

- Scientology Church members were placed in at least three government agencies, the Justice Department, Internal Revenue Service, and Drug Enforcement Administration, to gather intelligence and steal documents dealing with agency actions relating to the Scientology Church.

- A campaign was mounted to harass prosecutors who have been handling Scientology cases, including calls and background investigations ranging from grades in school to personal habits.

Asked last night about these alleged operations, Gregory Layton, a spokesman for the Church of Scientology, said the government evidence is a compilation of "false reports" put out by the government as part of "20 years of harassment." Layton said the church has extensive documenta-

tion to refute the existence of the incidents described in this story.

The Scientologists have contended in court documents, in press releases and in interviews that they are the victims of extensive harassment by the federal government, which is attempting to suppress their religion.

They have filed complaints against federal investigators working on the case, repeatedly accused the FBI of "Gestapo" tactics in carrying out raids, and sued virtually every federal official they have identified as being involved with the case.

The Scientologists' broadest suit pending in federal court here accuses numerous government agencies of conducting a 20-year campaign to infiltrate and harass the religious group in violation of the First Amendment. They say the current federal investigation into alleged illegal break-ins and buggings by the Scientologists is only the latest and most visible act by the government against them.

The Church of Scientology was begun by L. Ron Hubbard, a former science fiction writer whose book "Dianetics, The Modern Science of Mental Health," has become a best-seller. The church asserts that man is essentially a free spirit, and in order to achieve his true nature, an

individual must rid himself of emotional constraints through counseling conducted by members of the church.

The fees for this and other services sustain the church, which is fighting a continuous battle against the federal and local governments to preserve its tax-exempt status. The church's wealth is such that it paid cash for a \$2.3 million headquarters building in Clearwater.

FBI agents seized truckloads of

Scientology documents in simultaneous raids on church headquarters here and in Los Angeles last July 8.

The warrant was based on information provided by a former church official who claimed the church had heavily infiltrated the government and that he himself had broken into government offices here and copied documents, and had seen copies of a transcript of an IRS meeting that the Scientologists had bugged.

The church immediately began a legal assault on the warrant's validity here and in Los Angeles that immediately prevented prosecutors and FBI officials from using the documents in their investigation.

U.S. District Chief Judge William B. Bryant ruled that the warrant was too broad and the search was therefore illegal. He was reversed by the U.S. Court of Appeals, and that appellate ruling was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Scientologists then began a new legal assault on the manner in which the searches here and in Los Angeles were executed. A Los Angeles judge ruled about a month ago in favor of the government concerning the Los Angeles raid and investigators began reviewing the California documents in detail.

A similar suit against the manner in which the Scientologist headquarters here near Dupont Circle was raided is being heard by Judge Bryant. The latest hearing in that proceeding is scheduled for today.

The documents in government possession include internal memorandums allegedly taken from IRS, Justice Department and Drug Enforcement Administration files and details of covert actions in Scientology memos and orders, according to informed sources.

In one document, Scientologists had reportedly done their own legal research concerning the definitions of "break-in" and "burglary" under California law and had determined that one was a felony and the other a misdemeanor. The document then concluded that the church's most successful "actions" had been felonies instead of misdemeanors, one source said.

According to the testimony of a former Scientologist, the church has a "fair game" doctrine that requires the church to attack and destroy its enemies.

The government's principal informant, who sought to leave the church, believed that he, too, had become fair game, according to government sources.

The Scientologists' confidential papers, according to sources, are filled with the words "identify," "attack," "destroy" and "enemies," and projects against government agencies were given code names like "Snow White," "Hunter," and "Witch."