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This Spy Book Keeps Capital Buzzing

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EXAMINER-NEWSWEEK SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Nothing is more precious to a spy than his cover. Sometimes years in the making and always vulnerable to exposure at the slip of a tongue, it is the secret agent's one and only passport to success.

Small wonder, then, that the publication in English in Communist East Germany of a small, redjacketed book called "Who's Who in the CIA" is sending tremors through the U.S. intelligence community.

The book lacks the intricacy of a John Le Carre thriller or the dash of a James Bond dossier. But its claim is stark and dramatic enough: "A biographical reference work on 3000 officers of the civil and military branches of the secret services of the U.S.A. in 120 countries."

'A FARCE'—CIA

To the layman, the roster of names might seem laughable. Included are Lyndon Johnson, "Professor" Hubert Horatio Humphrey, George Meany and a man called Smith, who is referred to only as having been an Air Force major expelled from the USSR in 1964.

The CIA, while conforming to tradition and refusing comment, has let it be

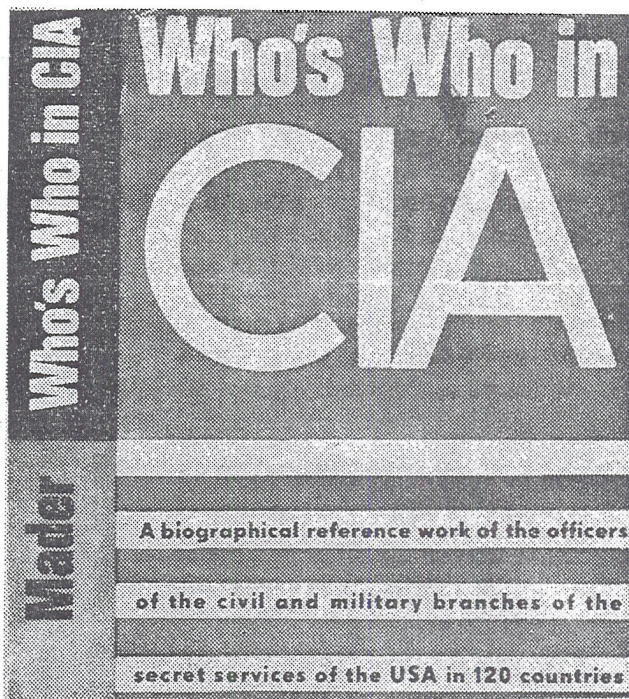
known that it considers the book a farce.

"It is definitely a Soviet operation," says one undercover source. "They released parts of it in various countries to try to make a stir. Most of the people in it are not, and have never been, in the CIA."

To be sure, the book seems to be nothing more than a clumsy attempt at make foreign governments believe every American is a spy.

DEAD 3 YEARS

It is riddled with glaring errors: One man is listed as an active agent although he died in an auto accident more than three years ago. Employees of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research are included although they



CIA "DIRECTORY" IS A BEST-SELLER

Is it a hoax, or Red-originated propaganda?

—Newsweek Service Photo

have nothing whatsoever to do with the CIA.

But it does contain just enough of a germ of truth to be discomfiting to real spies. The cocktail-party set in Georgetown, Washington's spook-conscious residential area, have made a game of spotting agents' names in the book.

"The CIA is buying it, everybody is buying it," says a salesman in Georgetown's Savile Book Shop, which sold out its full stock of the book in one day. "It is obviously considered valid to some extent. Generally speaking, it hits the mark."

"It has even become sort of a Social Register in reverse — some people who

weren't included are upset because they thought they should be."

"Who's Who" first surfaced in Eastern Europe in 1967.

The author is Dr. Julius Mader, who has a reputation as an East German journalist but who lists his address as West Berlin. Bader is considered by Western officials to be cozy with the Russians, if not directly in their employ.

In the triple-think world of Washington, some avid readers are spreading the word that the book is actually a plant by U.S. intelligence forces — an attempt to confuse the other side by feeding it false information.

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