

C.I.A. Will Seek to Excise Parts of Book by Ex-Aide

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 20 — The Central Intelligence Agency has told the American Civil Liberties Union that it will oppose the publication of about 100 pages of allegedly classified material contained in an account by a former C.I.A. official of the agency's internal workings.

Melvin L. Wulf, legal director for the A.C.L.U. in New York City, said today that he had been notified by the agency that officials there planned to excise "near to a hundred pages" from a 530-page manuscript by his client, Victor L. Marchetti, a former assistant to the C.I.A.'s deputy director.

Mr. Wulf submitted the manuscript to the intelligence agency for review on Aug. 27, under the terms of a Federal court order handed down a year ago.

That occasion marked "the first time in the history of the United States," according to Mr. Wulf, that an author had been required by judicial order to submit a manuscript to the Government for prior censorship.

Security Peril Denied

Both Mr. Wulf and Mr. Marchetti, who are the only two individuals outside the C.I.A. to have seen the manuscript in its entirety, said that they believed it contained nothing that would jeopardize the national security.

But a knowledgeable Government official described some of the material in an outline for the Marchetti book, tentatively titled "The Cult of Intelligence," as dangerous, and said that, if the agency had allowed its publication, it "would have blown us out of the water in a lot of places—identities, oper-

Mr. Wulf said that he expected to receive from the C.I.A. next week a letter detailing the passages to which the agency objected. He said that he and Mr. Marchetti would then meet with representatives of the Alfred A. Knopf Company, the prospective publisher, to decide on their response.

Mr. Marchetti said in a telephone interview that although he wanted to wait until he knew precisely which passages the agency was focusing on, "my feeling is to fight back as hard as we can to publish."

Mr. Wulf said that he anticipated the possibility of going "back to court [to] try again to raise the generic question of their power to do this." Mr. Marchetti added that if the courts upheld the C.I.A.'s opposition to the material it was possible that he "would go to jail before I would permit them to quash the book."

Employment Agreement

When the C.I.A. discovered last year that Mr. Marchetti intended to write both the book and a magazine article on intelligence operations, it secured an injunction, based on a draft of the article and an outline for the book that prohibited him from presenting his writings to a publisher without allowing the agency to review the contents.

The Government maintained in its argument for the injunction that the agency was entitled to such prior review under an employment agreement signed by Mr. Marchetti in which he agreed not to disclose classified information obtained by reason of his employment with the agency.

The injunction, which stipulates that fiction, as well as non-fiction materials written by Mr. Marchetti must be submitted for review, was upheld by a Federal appeals court decision in August of last year.

The court also maintained that the issue was not one of Mr. Marchetti's First Amendment rights of free speech, as Mr. Wulf has argued, but rather one involving the terms of the contract that Mr. Marchetti entered into with the agency "by accepting employment with the C.I.A. and by signing a secrecy agreement."

The Supreme Court later declined to hear an appeal of

the appellate decision, which stipulated that Mr. Marchetti could seek judicial review of any disapproval of a manuscript, or portions of one by the C.I.A.

Mr. Marchetti, who spent 14 years with the C.I.A. before retiring in 1969, has previously published one novel, "The Rope Dancer," which concerns the activities of a fictional "national intelligence agency," and an article in the April 3, 1972, issue of The Nation magazine that was critical of some of the agency's activities.

He said today that he was currently working on a second novel that was based on a "purely fictional" insane asylum operated by the agency where wayward or "burned-out" operatives were sent to recover.

Although Mr. Marchetti submitted "The Rope Dancer" to the C.I.A. for review, another former agency employee, E. Howard Hunt Jr., wrote several dozen novels under different pseudonyms, during his service with the agency, many of which dealt with the exploits of fictional intelligence operatives.

A knowledgeable source said yesterday that Hunt, who pleaded guilty in January to charges of bugging the Democratic party's Watergate offices, was never required to submit his works for review because the agency was unaware that they were being published.