

Bloopers the CIA Tried To Censor

New York

The Central Intelligence Agency tried to censor from a forthcoming book slips of the tongue that seemed to betray high officials' ignorance of foreign affairs, a New York publisher has disclosed.

The CIA demanded last year that 339 passages be cut from the book, "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," written by Victor Marchetti, a former agency employee, and John Marks, a former State Department employee.

But a federal judge ruled that the publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., can bring it out with only 27 cuts despite the government's contention that publication would injure the national defense.

As disclosed by Knopf, though, some of the other earlier cuts that were demanded seem merely embarrassing to the agency or

Back Page Col. 1

From Page 1

the Nixon administration, such as this description of a cabinet level meeting held by the President.

"Vice President Spiro Agnew gave an impassioned speech on how the South Africans, now that they had recently declared their independence, were not about to be pushed around, and he went on to compare South Africa to the United States in its infant days.

"Finally, the President leaned over to Agnew and said gently, 'You mean Rhodesia, don't you, Ted?'"

Another deleted passage, which referred to former CIA Director Richard Helms at a National Security Council meeting in 1969, went as follows:

"His otherwise flawless performance was marred only by his mispronunciation of 'Malagasy' (formerly Madagascar) when refer-

ring to the young republic."

CIA

The CIA's blue pencil also affected disclosures in the book that are reported in the current issue of Time magazine, and were characterized yesterday as "doubtless authentic" by an intelligence expert in Washington.

Time says the book recounts that in the 1960s the agency helped the government of President Fernando Belaunde Terry of Peru to crush a local insurgent movement by building a jungle military installation and recruiting an anti-guerrilla unit.

The book also reports that the agency learned of an air-

plane-hijacking scheme by Brazilian radicals — but let the hijacking take place so as not to betray its knowledge of Brazilian guerrillas' activities, the magazine says.

Several other of the original cuts, as reported by Knopf, involved assertions that the CIA had sent "Special Operations" personnel to Bolivia "to assist local forces in dealing with the rebel movement." The book also reports that a CIA operative tried in vain to prevent Bolivian authorities from having Ernesto (Che) Guevara, the rebel leader, slain.

Also deleted was part of a passage saying the FBI practiced wiretapping against many foreign embassies in Washington "in cooperation with the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. (a Bell subsidiary)."

Knopf, the authors and the government have all filed notices of appeal since the March ruling that reduced the cuts to 27. The government, under pressure from opposing lawyers, had previously reduced its original list of 339 passages by half that number — including the ones now disclosed.

The legal status of the remaining deletions is unclear, pending further action, and Knopf fears that lack of time will require that these passages be left out of the

first edition of the book, which is to come out in June.

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