

# anti-communists face terrorism

The Secret Army, founded by Godfrey and other ex-minutemen, grew out of the dissipating Minuteman organization after Minutemen members were arrested for robbing banks. As long as it remained a terrorist and propaganda group against the left, it was left alone. The SAO is most powerful in the wealthy area of San Diego where Nixon wanted to have his convention.

Other right-wing groups are also an important part of the ocean community, including Alpha 66, the main group of Cuban exiles who invaded

5. To promote knowledge and skill in use of firearms by SAO members and the general public.

6. To form, in advance of actual need, a secret underground organization equipped to spy upon, harass and destroy troops of any foreign power that might occupy the United States territory.

7. To lend assistance and support to other resistance groups, domestic or foreign, opposing Communist expansion or subversion.

8. To pursue these programs as private citizens motivated only by

SAO defense strategy in the trials will probably be to blame the terrorism it is accused of on the FBI provocateur, Godfrey.

Hetter, for example, believes that his client is innocent of the bombing and points a finger at Godfrey. He also says that the SAO commander, Jerry Davis, said that Godfrey supplied 75% of the money for the SAO.

Door reporters Doug Porter and Ric Reynolds were contacted by Davis of the Secret Army who provided them with information



The Spur Valley Ranch Cafe, frequent hangout of Secret Army members. (Photo by Ric Reynolds.)

Cuba in 1961 in the Bay of Pigs invasion; the Minutemen; the White Socialist Party (Nazis), and the John Birch Society.

According to an article in the *Valley Grove News*, the Secret Army has an eight-fold purpose.

1. To prepare the means of personal defense and survival in case of enemy attack.
2. To resist and expose the spread of Communist influence and propaganda within the national boundaries.
3. To investigate infiltration of Communist sympathizers into American organization of government, business, labor, religion and education.
4. To resist by all means, the passage of laws regulating private ownership of firearms which detract from an individual's ability to defend his (sic) own family and personal property.

patriotism to remain free of governmental subsidies or control.

The Secret Army Organization has envisioned a three-stage program of resistance against Communism. These include: the underground network, guerrilla warfare, and conventional warfare.

The membership of the SAO is being trained to set up the underground network that they feel is necessary to support future guerilla activities. Current training includes techniques of sabotage, espionage, subversion, infiltration, escape and evasion counterfeiting recruitment communications, and propaganda.

San Diego radicals are more concerned about the SAO than they were with the Minutemen because the SAO seems to have a political thrust as well as a military one. No organization gains popular support without cogent and persistent political work.

about Godfrey. He confirmed that Godfrey worked for the radical Message Information Center under the name of Larry, that he had access to the Movement For a Democratic Military, and that he had a list of people belonging to the Peace and Freedom Party in San Diego which he obtained while working for them. Godfrey was in charge of the SAO's counter-intelligence unit.

Davis said that the SAO never wanted to become public but its cover was blown by Godfrey when he printed two Special Bulletins. One pointed out Bohmer as the man to get. Godfrey also suggested massive retaliation against the police department for their harassment of the SAO after the Sharp shooting.

Hetter links Godfrey with Tommy the Traveller, the Student for a Democratic Society member who set

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# charges

up several bombings in the East Coast for the FBI and blamed them on the left. The lawyer also believes that the SAO working members don't have the sophistication to pull off the operations that they are accredited with.

"My client, Yakopec, is a simple tool for the FBI. You know, they had enough information to arrest people after the Tharp shooting. They knew what was going on in all the violence. They had civilians do their dirty work. They only moved after a building, a business, was bombed. It wasn't a case of shooting somebody, it was damaging property."

Hetter hopes to turn the trial into an offense against the FBI. His goals merge with the SAO's and with the radicals. Both left and right are agreed that the federal government is the key oppressor and repressor.

This supposition achieves more credence in conversations with the US Attorney General, the FBI and the SDPD.

Harry Steward, US Attorney General who figured in the case of C. Arnholt Smith and the ITT scandal, said he couldn't comment on the case or on the reasons why no one was prosecuted over the two and one-half years of violence against radicals because of the trials. But he did say that "The FBI never presented any prosecutable cases to us." And the FBI refused to say anything to this reporter. Special agents Rex Shroder and Anthony Maloney said the pending case prevented them from making any comment on anything. Maloney did not want to talk to the press at all.

An interesting contrast to representatives of the federal government were the views of police investigator Sgobba. The cooperative amiable "Red Squad Chief" told me that "We really want to crack this thing, Ron. We're accused of persecuting the left and not the right. We've put a lot of work in this thing since January and we do want to arrest the guilty persons."

He said that it was quite possible the SAO was guilty of the numerous acts of violence against the left but that they had no proof. He blamed Godfrey and the FBI for withholding information critical to solve the crimes.

"If we could get evidence we'd charge people. If Godfrey did anything we'd charge him too," Sgobba said. He told the press to watch the "interesting trial" to determine the role of the FBI in provoking the violence.