

Army Retreats in War on Dissidents

Bonn

The U.S. Army in West Germany withdrew instructions as a subordinate unit for a crackdown on dissidents yesterday after details were leaked to reporters by servicemen.

Documents entitled "Military Intelligence Counter-Dissidence Program," were issued by Eighth Infantry Division headquarters in Bad Kreuznach, near Wiesbaden, to "enable all major subordinate commanders to recognize, report and combat dissidence within their units."

The documents were leaked to the press and yesterday a statement by headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, said the documents had been "rescinded" and

were "inappropriate, as guidance on dissent contained in Army regulations is considered sufficient and soldier dissent within the command is presently at a very low level."

"This headquarters is not directing an intensified military counter-intelligence program against underground activities within the United States Army, Europe," the statement said.

The documents had listed indicators of dissent as including distribution of underground newspapers and complaints to superiors, news media or congressmen about living conditions, harassment or unfair treatment.

Reuters