

Phony Red 'Rules' Continue to Live On

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WASHINGTON — Despite being labeled "spurious" by J. Edgar Hoover and denounced at various times by numerous public officials, a document called the "Communist Rules for Revolution" continues to live on, oft-challenged but not forgotten.

Supposedly formulated in 1919 at a meeting of Communists in Dusseldorf, Germany, the bogus "rules" tell how to subvert a country by turning the minds of its youth away from religion and clean living and toward sex and debauchery.

Publication of the phony document in various small newspapers, in advertisements and in propaganda flyers distributed by such right-wing groups as the John Birch Society has resulted in at least one group's being deluged with requests for information.

CHARLES R. Baker, director of the nonprofit Institute for American Democracy — which attempts to keep tabs on the doings of right-wing groups — said his organization had "been besieged recently" with letters from people who wanted to know more about the "rules."

As a result, said Baker, the next issue of the IAF monthly newsletter, "Homefront," will be devoted almost entirely to exposing the document for the phony he declares it is.

As recently as last April 17, FBI Director Hoover branded the document as false in testimony before a congressional committee holding hearings on his agency's appropriations.

Asked if he knew about the "rules," Hoover responded:

"OUR FILES reflect this document has been rather widely distributed during the past several years, particularly by groups opposed to firearms registration." After explaining where the FBI got the document, Hoover added:

"Significantly, our files reflect no other information regarding these 'rules' and, therefore, we can logically speculate that the document is spurious."

Another public official who has attempted to lay the bogus document to rest is Sen. Lee Metcalf, D-Mont., who introduced it into the Congressional Record earlier this year along with this comment:

"The extreme right wing in America also follows rules, and one of these rules is to make maximum use of false, misleading and fear-inspiring quotations."

HE NOTED that many of the groups that had paid for placing anti-Communist advertisements including the "rules" quoted as their source other newspapers, which in turn had carried advertisements paid for by right-wing groups.

As described by Metcalf,

the routine follows the basic strategy often used by both the Left and Right to spread falsehoods that suit their purposes: Get the lie into print, usually via a paid advertisement, then quote whoever prints it as the source.

It is felt that one likely reason for the widespread reappearance of the "rules" at this particular time is that in emphasizing sex, the document plays on adult fears about the loosening of long-held moral strictures that characterizes today's youthful or "hippie" culture.