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FBI Admits Trying to Stir Red-Mafia Feud

Washington

The FBI revealed yesterday it used dirty tricks for two years in the 1960s to try to provoke a fight between the Communist party and the Mafia, but the whole effort flopped.

The saga of Project "Hoodwink," as the FBI called it, unfolded in records of the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's use of phony letters and other tricks to disrupt organizations he considered security threats.

A memo dated Oct. 4, 1966, proposed a long-range effort to turn the Communist party against the Cosa Nostra so "both groups would spend their time, energies and money attacking each other."

Hoover approved it the next day.

But for two years spurious letters got no visible results. Fake Communist pamphlets attracted

no attention. Letters to the editor of *The Worker*, a Communist party publication, were not printed.

On July 31, 1968, the FBI abolished Hoodwink in a memo that said none of the efforts had "produced substantial results." The Communists and the Mafia were still ignoring each other.

A 45-page bundle of Hoodwink files was released to a group of reporters as another installment of the FBI's entire files on its 15-year disruption program called "Cointelpro."

United Press