

Rogue Paradigms

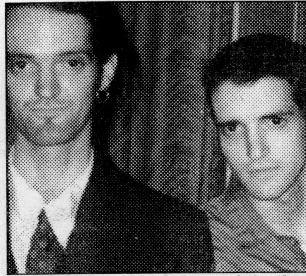
Gonzo Science

How the CIA Manipulates the Media

Jim Richardson and Allen Richardson

In the 1950s, in order to promote anti-communism, the CIA started a worldwide propaganda operation to discredit and suppress anything left wing and to showcase the fabulous right wing.

To obscure the CIA origins of the propaganda, and for that matter, to obscure the fact that it was propaganda at all, the CIA created a "front" organization in Western Europe called the Congress for Cultural Freedom. Through the CCF, the CIA controlled the content of more than 30 periodicals. In addition, the CIA "subsidized" (i.e. bought influence in) the West German news agency known as DENA, the international writer's association known as PEN, the International Federation of Journalists, a handful of French newspapers (and Latin American ones too, including CIA-owned Latin American radio stations), the West German media tycoon Axel Springer (the German version of Randolph Hearst), and



Gonzo Scientists

CIA's way, it would just hire or bribe individual journalists, columnists and editors.

Taken as a whole, the CIA was running the largest news organization in the world during its 1970s peak, through which it would publish propaganda, news distortion and fake anticommunist stories, not to mention the suppression of news items unfavorable to them. Any one story planted by the CIA would easily get picked up by other papers that ran it verbatim without questioning the source. In this way the CIA spread lies about its activities around the world.

Or spread no news at all. A case in point is the deafening media silence surrounding the CIA-engineered overthrow operation in Ecuador from 1960 to 1963. Even if any American reporters had stumbled across the operation, they probably would have just backed off. Such was the culture of press deference to the government during that time (and in many cases, these selfsame press people were financially supported by, or even commissioned officers of, the CIA).

the London-based news feature service Forum World Features, which supplied stories to 140 newspapers around the world including a whopping 30 in America alone, like the *Washington Post* and other heavy hitters. When this was not been enough to spin things the

A partial list of newsworthy CIA shenanigans in Ecuador includes bombing churches in order to blame the leftists, screwing up the labor unions, buying off government officials at every level (from colonels in the National Police all the way to the Ecuadorian vice-president), instigating deadly riots for political gain, and finally, ushering in a brutal right-wing military *junta* and giving them a long list of suspected leftists and their families to "question." The American people knew nothing the entire time—"Oh, I see Ecuador has a new government. Pass the toast."

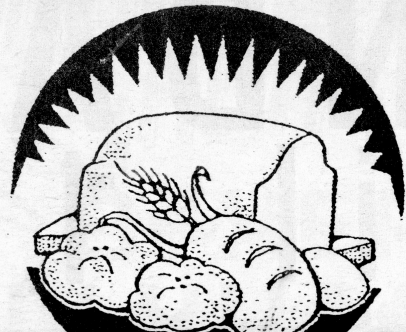
There was at least one reporter who knew about the CIA operation. He was an Ecuadorian reporter on the CIA payroll and he functioned as the area's principal propaganda tool. The CIA paid him to use the ol' "Fake Ad trick," wherein communists and extreme leftists would appear to publicly endorse things that they really did not. This functioned to get at least one politician out of the way two years before the actual tanks surrounded the Presidential Palace.

History shows that press deference to CIA shenanigans cyclically gives way to press aggressiveness. But then there's a backlash as the deferent status quo swings back into style. Just ask National Public Radio senior news analyst Daniel Schorr, who published a classified, suppressed Senate committee report on CIA abuses in 1976. Schorr's career took a little detour when he refused to divulge who he had gotten the report from (it was apparently a CIA source). Schorr was hauled in front of the Senate and threatened with prosecution eight times, but he didn't talk. In obtaining that report, Schorr had run his own little secret operation, and he kept his secrets. However, the brouhaha cost him his job at CBS, and that served to make an example of him to his media fellows.

There is a tension between the freedom of investigative reporters and the bureaucracy of keeping secrets for the sake of freedom. The President (who is often under the illusion that the CIA is responsive to his control) sometimes gets involved. President Ford and his deputy chief of staff Dick Cheney considered siccing an FBI investigation on reporter Seymour Hersh for a transgression against CIA secrecy (this is ironic since Ford himself, as a member of the Warren Commission, had no problem blabbing its secret deliberations to FBI head J. Edgar Hoover). Hell, Richard Nixon and his longtime CIA cronies made abortive plans to kill reporter Jack Anderson!

Duluth's Co-op bakery

Co-op Bakery



Tony's Trading Post

Taxidermy 🐾 Bear Claws 🐾 Antlers
Ironwood Carvings 🐾 Fossils Skulls 🐾 Framed Art
Arrowheads 🐾 Beads 🐾 Pipes Birchbaskets 🐾 Native
American Art 🐾 Fur Rugs 🐾 Home Furnishings