

National

Chief says spy suspect not offered immunity

United Press International
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — An Air Force legal chief says he offered an honorable discharge to a young officer accused of passing secrets to the Russians, but insists he never authorized immunity from prosecution for him.

Testifying Tuesday in the pre-trial hearing of 2nd Lt. Christopher Cooke, Brig. Gen. C. Claude Teagarden also confirmed that he refused to make his discharge offer in writing.

"Frank, it is not going to be in writing," Teagarden recalled telling Capt. Francis Pedrotty last May. "Either he takes the polygraph (lie detector test) or he doesn't. Either the statement is true or not."

Teagarden was expected to be back on the witness stand for the seventh day of the hearing Wednesday. F. Lee Bailey, Cooke's lead defense lawyer, plans to cross-examine him.

Bailey maintains Teagarden verbally promised immunity and that Cooke, 26, of Richmond, Va., fully cooperated. Therefore, he says, all 14 charges against the former deputy missile officer should be dropped.

Earlier this week, prosecutors argued that the immunity offer — relayed to Cooke through an Air Force interrogator — came about as the result of a "series of misunderstandings." They said there was no authorized offer.

Teagarden, staff judge advocate for the Strategic Air Command,

told the military court he had offered to arrange for an honorable discharge for Cooke if an initial statement he made last May on his contacts with the Russians were proved truthful and if he passed a lie detector test.

Cooke, former deputy commander of a Titan II missile silo in Kansas, is charged with 11 counts of unauthorized visits or contacts with officials at the Soviet Embassy in Washington and three counts of attempting or actually communicating national security secrets to them.

If convicted on all counts, he could face 52 years at hard labor, discharge from the service and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Warped



By Scott McCullar

Shirley Temple immortalized

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — Shirley Temple Black is still very much alive, but she has become a major part of American nostalgia.

The former child movie star this week signed an agreement with the Norman Rockwell Museum, Inc., which now has the right to reproduce Shirley Temple

film characters and scenes from her 20th Century-Fox movies onto collector plates, figurines and other collectible items.

"This is the first time the museum has diversified away from the manufacture of Norman Rockwell-related items," said Mike Cooper of the museum headquartered at Northbrook, Ill.

As a dimpled, curly-haired youngster, Miss Temple was the movies' box-office champ for four consecutive years in the late 1930s and is the youngest person ever to win an Academy Award.

"An accurate representation is important to me, and I'm sure, to those who remember my films,"

she said at the signing. "I believe the quality of the museum's current designs will ensure faithful reproduction of the Shirley Temple film characters."

Original Shirley Temple items from the late 1930s in mint condition already are prize collectibles, often bringing hundreds of dollars.

Feline freight flies home first class

United Press International
HOUSTON — An English cat that had a perilous crossing of the Atlantic in an air-tight shipping container has been sent home to its owner in far more fashionable style — sitting on a tartan blanket on a British Caledonian DC-10.

And to make it even better, the fare for the return trip was the same as for the first one, free.

"She was put in a box in the rear hole," an airline spokesman said Tuesday. "It's quite comfortable. She is sitting on tartan blanket and

getting along very well."

The well-traveled cat, Lucky, wandered into a 40-foot-long oceangoing cargo container in England about five months ago and ended up in central Texas. The cat was trapped in a virtually sealed container but somehow managed

to survive with no food and little air.

After widespread publicity about the cat's miraculous survival, British Caledonian offered to take her home. The return trip took just under nine hours.

Linda Sinclair in Morecambe, Lancashire was happy to be getting her long lost cat back.

"It's a miracle," she told reporters. "People really are wonderful and so are cats."

Lucky's complicated, accidental travel began in April when she wandered away from home. The fat, black and white female wandered into a containerized cargo box being loaded with antique furniture outside the warehouse of J.C. McNamara in Heysham, Lancashire.

The furniture had been bought in February by Gary Fingleman of Austin and Houston for sale in Gary's Auction House in Lockhart, near Austin. Fingleman said the watertight

cargo container was loaded at McNamara's during the week before April 28, the day it was sealed shut with nothing to eat or drink inside and only the trapped air to breathe.

Then the container was transported to London where it sat on the docks until loading onto a ship for Texas. Then it made the two-week voyage to the Port of Houston, where a U.S. Customs paperwork snag delayed it three weeks.

Finally, on June 15, the container cleared Customs and was trucked to Lockhart. Fingleman said his men opened the container about June 18, 52 days after it was sealed.

"When we unloaded it, the cat just kind of stumbled out," Fingleman said. "We took it to the vet and the vet checked it over. We fed it baby food for two weeks until it got to where it could eat by itself."

"I don't know how it ever lasted. The vet that saw it said it was amazing."

Discouraging vandalism is lion's main purpose

United Press International
LITTLE CHICAGO, Minn. — Nobody bothers Fred Wroblewski's abandoned Rice County farmhouse anymore thanks to a 300-pound lion named Spike.

The 3-year-old lion lounges on top of a wrecked Thunderbird, which bears spray-painted signs saying, "Keep Out," "No Trespassing," and "Man Eater Lion."

"I've called the sheriff seven or eight times about vandalism and they never do anything," Wroblewski, who operates a body shop in Northfield, said Tuesday.

"Now, I'm not breaking the law and the people call the sheriff and they're out there looking at (Spike) every day. The only reason Spike is out there is to keep the people out."

The lion Wroblewski bought a few months ago, has been castrated, declawed and defanged.

"I wrestle with him all the time," Wroblewski said. "He's a

real gentle fellow. He just likes to sit around on that old car. "He's got his own T-Bird and his own house. Maybe people are just jealous they don't have that."

But Wroblewski's neighbors are neither jealous nor amused by Spike's presence.

"This might be fun and jokes and games to somebody 100 miles away from here," said Phyllis Fyler, who lives across the gravel road from Spike's new jungle.

"But when it's your family, you think twice about laughing. Spike, who is restrained by a 30-foot steel chain, wanders around the house, munching dry dog food or meat scraps left for him.

20 Republicans buy posh hotel

United Press International
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Twenty Republicans have purchased a Washington hotel so they will have a place "to get together and see our friends."

Nashville businessmen Jack C. Massey and Joe M. Rodgers were among the group that put up \$19 million toward the purchase and renovation of the Embassy Row Hotel, one of Washington's swankest hotels.

The idea to purchase a hotel came up around the time of President Reagan's election when many of the nation's 865 Republican "Eagles" convened in Washington, according to Rodgers. The Eagles are big donors to Republican campaigns.

"We discussed the need for a Republican hotel in Washington," Rodgers said. "We discussed the idea with other Eagles and they all thought it would be a good idea." The Republican group purch-

ased the hotel from Watergate Development Corp., an Italian-based firm.

"It will be the kind of hotel where you can put your shoes outside your door and someone will come by and shine them," Rodgers said.

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