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## National

# Helmich pleads guilty to save wife and son

United Press International  
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Confessed spy Joseph George Helmich Jr. says the Army was the only family he knew and he "knowingly and willingly" betrayed its secrets to the Soviets to keep from being court-martialed over a few hundred dollars in bad checks.

In a surprise move, the 44-year-old ex-Army warrant officer stood up Monday at the outset of the second week of his espionage trial and pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiring to peddle military code information to the Russians.

In return, the government dropped three charges of actual espionage against him.

Defense attorney Peter M. Dearing said Helmich wanted to "terminate" the trial "because of the pressure on his wife and 10-year-old son."

Helmich was accused of selling — for \$131,000 — a maintenance manual, technical information and key lists for the KL-7 Cryptosystem, a coding machine still used by the Army today.

As a result of his plea deal, Helmich will be eligible for parole in 10 years at the most, while conviction on all four counts would have meant up to 40 years in prison.

He also pledged to submit to further questioning by the FBI — "anything the government wants to do to him short of putting him on the rack," his attorney said.

U.S. Attorney Gary Betz said: "Justice is served and completely served by accepting this plea. This man is an absolute traitor to this country. He caused serious harm to our country at a time when we had servicemen fighting in Vietnam."

U.S. District Judge Susan H. Black, who quizzed Helmich at length about his plea, set sentencing for Nov. 5.

Exactly what harm Helmich did by selling the military code information has never been defined. Betz referred to testimony from military officials that the information would have allowed the Vietnamese to know "our war plans, to read our mail."

But Helmich — who has an IQ of 147 — told Black that "the degree of injury to the United States would have to be limited at this point in the history of our communications."

Helmich was the second-in-command of an Army communications relay station called "the blockhouse" in Paris in the mid-1960s. Later, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was the "crypto custodian" for the 50th Signal Battalion.

In testimony Friday, FBI agent James K. Murphy quoted Helmich as saying in a sworn statement last February that he went to

the Soviet Embassy in Paris when he got into financial difficulties and his commanding officer threatened him with a court-martial if he didn't clear up his debts in 24 hours.

"I'd been in the Army since I was 17 and it was the only family I had known," Helmich told the judge Monday. "I got into some financial problems and I was about to be thrown out by a court-martial."

He admitted he went to the Russians to peddle information "knowingly and willingly. No one held a gun to my head," he said, but "there was a lot of psychological pressure."

Money, in the long run, proved his undoing. He spent the \$131,000 the Russians gave him so lavishly and swiftly that it drew suspicion, but nothing was proven.

But last year, long after he had left the service, he was seen going into the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, to find out about matching funds he was told were set aside for him in a Swiss bank account.

He was penniless. The FBI reopened the case and Helmich gave them the details of his dealings.

Black asked him about the Swiss funds.

"There were none, your honor," Helmich said in a low voice.

Dearing, standing beside him, added, "They had lied to him, your honor."

## Almanac keeps traditions alive

United Press International  
CONCORD, N.H. — The 190th Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting a snowy but warmer than usual winter for much of the country.

Abe Weatherwise, the almanac's fictional forecaster, claims he has been 80 percent accurate since his yellow-jacketed almanac was first printed in 1792.

Unlike the forecasts of colonial days, the data are now put into a computer along with "Time-honored weather trend observations." Weatherwise takes that information and converts it into the time-honored verse that makes up his long-range forecasts.

The almanac predicts a major cold wave and snowstorm will move into the East and extend into the Southern states during late December and early January. Above average snowfalls are predicted for parts of New England, the Midwest, the Ohio Valley and the northern Rocky Mountain region during the 1981-82 winter.

Milder-than-normal temperatures will occur throughout most of the country during the winter. The Western and Great Plains states will enjoy a warmer and drier winter despite a wet February and March east of the Rockies.

Spring will be colder than

normal and summer and early fall will be dry, Weatherwise says.

Along with keeping Weatherwise alive, the almanac maintains other traditions. A small hole is still punched in the upper left corner so farmers can put it on a hook next to the stove or in the bathroom for reading on cold winter's nights. The usual charts on the stars, the tides and the gestation table for animals are also included.

Featured articles deal with the joys of owning a pet crocodile ("They don't eat very much") There are menus from a cook book used by the residents of Shishmarf, Alaska, including tasty treats such as owl, bear feet, seal flipper and ice cream made from reindeer fat ("The berries can be added to it").

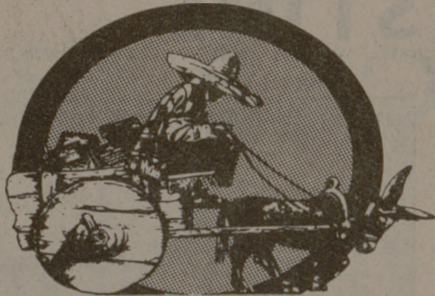
In keeping with the onslaught of winter, the almanac also contains a four-page article on folklore cures for the common cold.

Standing on one's head underwater, wearing a bag of onions, inhaling dry licorice leaves, growing a mustache, or drinking yourself to intoxication will not help to cure a cold, the author says.

But a bowl of chicken soup will clear up sinus passages faster than other hot beverages, the article maintains.

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## Water pollution in cities may pose future problem

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency says preliminary data show 23 of the nation's urban areas may have water pollution problems that will be hard to solve.

In releasing the information Monday, the EPA emphasized the data are sketchy and in some cases outdated. In no case, it said, is the water unsafe to drink.

"These documents were not prepared for public release but for

use by the EPA regional offices in conjunction with the states in follow-up field studies to determine if these areas have toxic pollutant problems," EPA Administrator Ann Gorsuch said in letters to the mayors of cities served by the waterways.

Gorsuch said the agency was required to release the data under a Freedom of Information Act request from an environmental group, the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The information was "based on many assumptions, including several critical assumptions now known to be incorrect," Gorsuch said. "In addition, the agency has recently become aware of errors in the water quality data used in the ambient analysis."

The urban areas with waterways that may need additional clean-up protection beyond the use of "best available technology" by those who discharge into the streams are:

Baton Rouge, La.; Beaumont, Texas; Birmingham, Ala.; Charleston, W.Va.; Charlotte, N.C.; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Dayton, Ohio; Des Moines, Iowa; Gary, Ind.; Kingsport, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky.; Memphis, Tenn.; Marquette, Mich.; Saginaw, Mich.; St. Paul, Minn.; Springfield, Mass.; Syracuse, N.Y.; Lima, Ohio; and Youngstown, Ohio.

In addition, the agency said, theoretical "pencil and paper" projections indicate drinking water problems could occur in 11 of the cities — Beaumont, Birmingham, Charleston, Charlotte, Lima, Louisville, Pascale, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Youngstown.

"We have recommended follow-up field studies for each of these areas," Gorsuch said. "Many of these studies are under way."

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# OFF CAMPUS AGGIES BONFIRE MEETING

All off campus cutting crews that have attended meetings this week and ANYONE interested in working on the 1981 Bonfire are to attend this meeting to find out about crew assignments and meet the off campus crew chiefs.

**ROOM 701 RUDDER TOWER**  
**8 p.m. Wednesday Sept. 30**

\* TONIGHT \*

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**  
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## JUDICIAL BOARD INTERVIEWS

**2 GRADUATES 2 JUNIORS**  
**2 SENIORS 2 SOPHOMORES**

Duties include constitutional, legislative and election regulations interpretations as granted by the Student Body Constitution and University Rules and Regulations.

APPLY BY 5 P.M. FRI. OCT. 2 216 C MSC