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Officials widen embassy probe after 3rd arrest

WASHINGTON (AP) - A third Marine who worked as a security guard in Moscow and Leningrad and in the U.S. Embassy in Rome has been arrested on suspicion of espionage, causing American officials to broaden their investigations into security breaches in American diplomatic missions.

Sgt. John Joseph Weirick, 26, of

Eureka, Calif., was arrested Tuesday night and held in the brig at Camp Pendleton, Calif., said Robert Sims, chief Defense Department spokesman. He is suspected of espionage while working as a security guard at the American consulate in Leningrad in 1981 and 1982, Sims said.

Sims declined to elaborate on the specific nature of the allegations concerning Weirick beyond saying the Marine had become involved with Soviet women while posted in Leningrad.

But other Pentagon officials, speaking anonymously, said military investigators now believe that Weirick "got some money from the Russians" and "may have allowed access to the consulate; more limited than Lonetree, but access."

The arrest of Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree in December triggered the current military investigation, which so far has led to three other arrests. Lonetree and Cpl. Arnold Bracy, who worked together as Moscow embassy guards in 1985 and 1986, have been charged with espionage.

Staff Sgt. Robert S. Stufflebeam was charged Wednesday with three counts of improperly fraternizing with Soviet women. He has not been accused of espionage, but was arrested as a result of the Lonetree probe.

Pentagon sources have said Lonetree and Bracy allegedly became involved sexually with Soviet women while working in Moscow. The women then introduced the two guards to Soviet agents, the sources said.

The Marine Corps has accused Lonetree and Bracy of allowing Soviet agents to enter the U.S. Embassy on numerous occasions and escorting them through high-security offices and communications facilities.

One source said Wednesday that Weirick's arrest indicated that the spy scandal that has rocked the Moscow security force over the past four months might really be symptomatic of a much deeper breakdown in embassy security around the world.

Sims said Weirick worked briefly at the Moscow embassy before being posted in Leningrad and later as a guard at the embassy in Rome. As a result of his arrest, the security of the Leningrad and Rome facilities is under investigation, he said.

The Marine Corps said Weirick also had worked at the U.S. Embassy in Geneva, Switzerland, before he went to Moscow. But the sources said they knew of no investigation being directed at the Geneva facility.

Sims said Weirick was arrested Tuesday night at the Marine Air Station in Tustin, Calif., where he was working as a helicopter mechanic.

Kremlin calls bug charges fabrications

MOSCOW (AP) — Charges that the KGB has bugged the new American Embassy are "dirty fabrications" intended to ruin next week's visit by Secretary of State George P. Shultz and poison U.S.-Soviet relations, the Kremlin said Wednesday.

Vladimir F. Petrovsky, a deputy foreign minister, also accused President Reagan of making "hostile remarks" about the Soviet Union during a White House news conference Tuesday, but he did not say which remarks he meant.

"Such lowly tricks are used whenever serious things are in the offing," Petrovsky said at a news briefing.

Reagan told reporters he had ordered his intelligence review board to determine whether the uncompleted new embassy was so compromised by Soviet listening devices that it must be torn down and rebuilt.

Schultz is due here Monday. His three days of talks with foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and other Soviet officials are expected to focus on a possible agreement to scrap medium-range missiles deployed in Europe.

His visit also could set the stage for another summit between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, whose second meeting took place last October in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Petrovsky told the briefing: "It is an open secret the objective prerequisites are taking shape for headway in resolving the issues which determine Soviet-American relations and for reaching accords in the key area of security."

"It appears that some people in Washington are displeased with such a prospect, so they are working up psychosis in a bid to poison the atmosphere in which Soviet-American talks are to be held."

He said Kremlin officials will hold a news conference today to reveal

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Coalition pledges to acquire taxes for school rooms

AUSTIN (AP) — A coalition of 43 groups worried about the future of Texas' public education said Wednesday it would work for any kind of taxes, even income taxes, to keep school rooms open.

"We must make sure that public education funding has enough revenue to maintain the commitment," said Will Davis, chairman of the School Finance Symposium.

"As members of the symposium we are willing to support taxes. Any kind of taxes are acceptable to us..."

— Will Davis, Symposium chairman

ments made by the Legislature to school reform, and to cover costs associated with enrollment growth," said Will Davis, chairman of the School Finance Symposium.

The organization is staging a "Save Our Schools" drive April 17-27 when local school boards, teachers and parents will try to impress upon their legislators that public education is in a crisis.

"We have concentrated on

three severe consequences (if schools are not properly funded)," Davis told a news conference. "The first area is job loss; the second area, program loss and the third is the actual closing of schools."

Davis said the 17 percent cut proposed for public education by some could mean the elimination of one out of every four jobs, about 60,000, in school district personnel.

Reducing programs could mean districts would be forced to delete essential services such as kindergarten, bilingual education, special education, vocational education, and programs for the disadvantaged or gifted.

"If a district did not want to lay off employees or curtail these programs, it would have the alternative to ignore the required school year and just close the school early," Davis said.

Davis said recent reports show Texas is 34th among the states in its per capita tax burden.

"As members of the symposium we are willing to support taxes," he said. "Any kind of taxes are acceptable to us, including the income tax."



Photo by Doug La Rue

Come And Get It!

Erik Dietz, a freshman mechanical engineering major, and Andy Williams, a freshman general studies major, try to get a head start on the

dinner crowds at Sbsia Dining Hall as they take a flying leap from the steps of a Hart Hall ramp early Wednesday evening.

Shultz to seek monitoring agreement with Soviets during talks in Moscow

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz, acting on a new Soviet overture, will seek agreement in his Moscow talks next week on tighter monitoring of underground nuclear blasts.

The purpose is to set the stage for a new U.S.-Soviet treaty to limit the only kind of tests the superpowers have been permitted to carry out since 1963, U. S. arms control director Kenneth L. Adelman said Wednesday.

A policy shift by the Soviets opened the door to Shultz's overture in his scheduled meetings with Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

"It shows that on nuclear testing the Soviets may be buying on to our agenda," Adelman said in an interview.

In the shift, the Soviets offered to postpone their demand for a ban on all underground tests and to concentrate first on setting new limits on the number of tests or the explosive force.

Treaties concluded in 1974 and 1976 imposed a ceiling of 150 kilotons on U.S. and Soviet underground blasts. President Reagan, in reports to Congress, has accused the Soviets of exceeding the ceiling and venting radioactive material into the atmosphere.

All other tests — underwater, in the atmosphere, and in outer space — were banned in 1963.

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who sought to induce Reagan to join in a total ban, was turned down and thus ordered tests resumed after a 19-month suspension. The third Soviet explosion was reported last Friday.

The United States, meanwhile, has continued to set off nuclear devices underground in Nevada. One aim is to test weapons that might be part of a "Star Wars" system to shoot down Soviet missiles.

Adelman said the Soviets informed the United

States that they no longer were insisting on an immediate and total ban at the meeting in Geneva last month between specialists from the two superpowers.

"We do welcome that," said Adelman, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

But, he said, the United States wants to "put first things first" and would concentrate on getting better verification of the tests that are conducted.

Referring to Shultz's talks with Shevardnadze and possibly Gorbachev in Moscow next Monday through Wednesday, Adelman said, "They could agree in Moscow."

The United States and the Soviets already had agreed that the first step toward new limitations should be Senate ratification of the 1974 and 1976 treaties that set the 150-kiloton level for both military and civilian blasts.

FBI chief Webster says he forgot memo speculating about North October note expressed suspicion before story broke

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Justice Department official expressed suspicions as early as last October — nearly a month before public disclosure of the Iran-Contra affair — that Lt. Col. Oliver North eventually could come under criminal investigation, FBI Director William Webster told Congress Wednesday.

Webster acknowledged reading an Oct. 30 FBI memo which outlined speculation by the Justice Department official concerning the activities of North, who later was fired from his post as a National Security Council aide at the White House.

But Webster said he had forgotten about the memo by Nov. 21, when Attorney General Edwin Meese III, declining Webster's offer of FBI help, undertook an informal inquiry into secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

By the time the Meese probe turned into a formal criminal investigation on Nov. 26, documents crucial to the inquiry already had been destroyed or altered, according to government investigators.

Webster made his comments at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on his nomination to be head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

During Wednesday's testimony, Webster pledged to keep Congress informed of CIA covert activities. He said holding back on matters

such as the Iran arms deal — as the Reagan administration had — violates the spirit of a law on the subject, and he said he would resign rather than go along with such a situation as CIA director.

He also said he would not be a member of the president's Cabinet, unlike former CIA Director William Casey, on grounds that the agency should be a gatherer of intelligence rather than an advocate for any particular policy.

As for the Meese investigation, senators asked Webster if, in retrospect, it would have been better if the attorney general had called the FBI in the first place.

Webster said that he had thought at the time there might be criminal activity involved, he "absolutely" would have gotten the FBI involved.

However, he asked, "Could the FBI agents have done a better job of conducting such an inquiry or looking for materials? I'm not sure I'm in a position to answer that."

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said he didn't think President Reagan had looked into all the legal actions that Meese had or might have taken during the period from Nov. 21-25, but he said Reagan believes that Meese "did the right thing and was very helpful... that Ed Meese did an excellent job."

The memo, which is in the possession of the special counsel investigating the Iran-Contra affair, was disclosed by the Senate committee as it opened Wednesday's hearing.

The memo was written after discussions between a Justice Department official and the FBI, and Webster said his initials on the paper show that he read it. It outlines department concerns that certain unrelated information not be routed to North because of "speculation" that he might come under criminal investigation by a special prosecutor, Boren said.

The department official was not named during the hearing, but sources close to the matter, commenting on condition they not be named, said the memo was based on conversations with Mary Lawton, head of the Office of Intelligence Policy and review at the Justice Department.

Such a memo potentially could have alerted the FBI to the possibility that criminal activity might be occurring with regard to the Contras, but Webster said he "really did not have that in mind" when he talked with Meese.

"I didn't remember that piece of paper, or have it in my mind," responded Webster. Pressed on the

matter later, he said the memo was only "speculative comment" and was "not taken seriously by anyone else who was actually working the investigation."

Webster said that while the memo did not alarm him, some in the administration had concerns about what they felt was North's "gung-ho" personality and lack of judgment.

Meanwhile, Meese's chief spokesman, Terry Eastland, said Wednesday that the attorney general had known nothing of the memo. "There was no reason for him to know," he said. "This was handled through the normal channels in the appropriate way."

Meese conducted his inquiry the weekend of Nov. 21 with the help of a few top political aides rather than with career Justice Department criminal attorneys. The interviews were not under oath and no formal transcript was made.

Because of troubles with the AP wire hookup, few breaking state and national stories appear in today's issue of *The Battalion*. The stories on the front page were provided by the *Bryan-College Station Eagle*. *The Battalion* regrets any inconvenience.