

Worker arrested on spy charges

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A civilian computer expert working for naval intelligence was accused Wednesday of passing at least 50 intelligence documents to a South Korean agent.

American officials were scrambling to determine the scope of the security breach.

Robert Chaegon Kim, 56, was ordered held without bail, at least until Monday, when a pretrial detention hearing is scheduled in U.S. District Court here, a few miles from the nation's capital.

In a 20-page affidavit, the FBI said it has evidence that Kim, who worked for the Office of Naval Intelligence, passed dozens of classified records to Baek Dong-II, a South Korean navy officer, during a five-month span earlier this year. Officials have not discovered any evidence Kim was paid for his efforts, a senior law enforcement official said.

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anonymous
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who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Is it serious? Yes. Will the national security of the nation fall? No, I don't think so."

A video camera secretly installed in Kim's office taped him copying and printing classified records on his computer, the FBI affidavit said. Searches of his mail revealed that he was sending them to Baek, who works at his nation's Washington embassy, and telephone wiretaps indicated the two discussed the deliveries, the affidavit said.

If convicted of transmitting classified information to a foreign agent, Kim could face a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. But prosecutors were contemplating bringing espionage charges that could carry a life sentence, said a law enforcement source who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry tried to play down the potential international implications of the arrest, saying U.S.-South Korean relations "are strong and of the nature that they can endure any alleged wrongdoing by an individual."

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said the senior South Korean diplomat in Washington was summoned to the department Wednesday and was told the United States "is very disturbed at this development."

The South Korean Embassy said it would have no immediate comment.

Kim, a Seoul native, became a U.S. citizen in 1974. He began working for the Office of Naval Intelligence in 1978 and gained a "Top Secret" security clearance a year later, court papers said.

He worked on a computer system that gave him access to top-secret documents generated by other U.S. intelligence-gathering agencies, the affidavit said. The Pentagon official said the system also included information considered "above top secret."

"Kim regularly searches the system to find classified documents relating to military, political and intelligence matters in the Asia-Pacific region," the affidavit stated. "Kim copies and stores these documents in his work computer, removes classification markings, prints them on his office printer, and transmits them to Baek Dong-II."

Illegal immigration bill goes to Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cracking down on illegal aliens, the House passed two bills Wednesday — one focusing on law enforcement and the other letting states deny public school education to illegal alien children.

Only the first had a chance of getting President Clinton's signature.

The Senate was expected to reject the second bill — passed 254-175 — and Clinton has said he would veto the measure, even though it would allow currently enrolled illegal aliens to stay in school.

Supporters in the House said the bill would remove an incentive for foreigners to come here illegally and allow voters to decide whether they want to bear the expense of educating children who shouldn't be in the country.

"This bill says, 'Don't come to America and think the taxpayers of America are going to take care of you if you're here illegally,'" said House Speaker Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.

Opponents said it would punish innocent children for the behavior of their parents and push thousands of young people into the streets.

"This is a foolish piece of legislation," Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee said.

The far larger bill, which would nearly double the number of border patrol officers and speed deportation procedures, passed earlier in the day, 305-123.

"This bill secures America's borders, penalizes alien smugglers, expedites the removal of criminal and illegal aliens, prevents illegal aliens from taking American jobs and ends non-citizens' abuse of the welfare system," said Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, who introduced the legislation.

Some Democrats have urged Clinton to veto it as well, saying the legislation is too hard on legal immigrants and too soft on unscrupulous employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

The president has asked Republican leaders for some changes, said White House spokeswoman Kathleen McKiernan. Nonetheless, she called it "a major step forward."

"We still would like to see improvements in the provision concerning the treatment of legal immigrants and worksite enforcement," she said.

Seventy-six Democrats joined 229 Republicans in approving the bill and sending it to the Senate, which was expected to vote on it later this week. Voting against the bill were 117 Democrats, five Republicans and one independent.

Republicans — who worked for two years to bring the immigration bill to a final vote — said the bill was Congress' first serious action against illegal immigration in years.

"Every three years enough illegal aliens enter the country permanently to populate a city the size of Boston or Dallas or San Francisco," Smith said as the House voted on the measure that was a compromise of separate bills passed last spring by the House and Senate.

But Democrats called the bill a ruse that does not attack the true causes of illegal immigration. Some also suggested that Republicans were using the issue to score points with voters weeks before the election.

"The problem with this bill is that it coons the American people into thinking major new steps are going to be done," said Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif.

having her character marry and move away.

More recently, Howard Rollins' drug use repeatedly got him into legal trouble and he was eventually written out of "In the Heat of the Night." Carl Weathers was brought in to co-star with Carroll O'Connor.

"Frasier" is a consistent ratings winner for NBC and its season premier last week placed 12th in the Nielsen ratings. The show is produced by Grub Street Productions in association with Paramount Network Television.

Grammer, who had to postpone a trip to New York and an appearance at the Friars' Club when he checked into the Ford center, has had other problems with substance abuse.

He was taken to court in 1990 for probation violations stemming from a 1987 arrest for drunken driving and a 1988 arrest for cocaine possession.

Results of a blood alcohol test administered after Saturday's accident are still pending.

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Rep. Newt Gingrich
House Speaker



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Frasier' stars checks into Betty Ford

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer checked into the Betty Ford Center for his arrest for alleged drunken driving, and his popular NBC sitcom was put on hold.

Grammer, who has won two Emmys as the pompous psychiatrist Frasier Crane, has a history of substance abuse. He was arrested Saturday after he overturned his \$66,000 Dodge Viper outside his home in suburban Encino Hills.

According to a statement issued Wednesday by the show's producers, the 41-year-old "voluntarily admitted himself" to the Betty Ford Center for substance abuse, and his colleagues at the studio and network support his decision and wish him a speedy recovery.

The break in production probably won't affect the show's Tuesday night broadcasts because baseball playoffs replace it on NBC for at least the next two weeks. A few new episodes have already been filmed and are ready to air after that.

The statement said "Frasier," which recently won the Emmy for top comedy series, will resume its fourth season production in October — but did not say whether Grammer would be included.

A show spokeswoman declined to elaborate on the type of treatment or the expected length of Grammer's stay at the Rancho Mirage clinic, which has treated such celebrities as Elizabeth Taylor and Don Johnson.

Typically, a stay lasts between 25 and 32 days, center spokesman John Boop said. Center policy does not allow Boop to comment on individual cases.

Other television shows have had to deal with an actor's substance abuse, perhaps the most publicized being Mackenzie Phillips, who was dropped from "One Day at a Time" in 1980 because of her cocaine addiction.

She kicked the habit and returned in the fall of 1981. Her absence was explained by

having her character marry and move away.

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