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CLASS GIFT AND RING DANCE

T-shirts will be on sale this week in Wehner and the MSC Hallway from 9am to 4pm

## Nicholson's actions uncovered

### The spy cases

Harold Nicholson's arrest marks the second major security breach within the CIA since 1994. The cases compared:



**Aldrich H. Ames**  
CIA post  
Counterintelligence official  
Arrested  
February 1994

Allegedly  
Placed government secrets in "dead drops" around Washington for pickups by the KGB; met with Soviet agents around the world

**The tipoff**  
Wild spending patterns. Ames and his wife bought a \$540,000 home with one payment; he earned about \$70,000 per year



**Harold James Nicholson**  
CIA post  
Former station chief  
Arrested  
November 1996

Allegedly  
Turned over the identities of CIA officers trained during two years; sold information; CIA station in Moscow

**The tipoff**  
Gave questionable answers in a routine lie-detector test; concealed cameras in his office; him photographing secrets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thanks to rebellion in their Chechnya region, the Russians themselves inadvertently supplied the FBI with a key piece of evidence that Harold Nicholson spied for Moscow inside the CIA.

The Russians told the FBI officially that their agents were looking for information on Chechnya, where Russia was waging a debilitating war against separatist rebels. Soon thereafter, Nicholson began seeking such data even though he didn't need it for his CIA work, the FBI says.

Arguably a blunder in spy tradecraft, the incident suggests that Russian intelligence officers have not fully adjusted to the up-and-down friendship that has emerged between Russia and the United States since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

At the very least, they underestimated the ability of U.S. counterspies to put disparate clues together.

Meantime Tuesday, the United States lodged a formal protest with the Russians over Nicholson and reserved the right to retaliate. On Monday, the former station chief became the highest-ranking CIA officer charged with espionage.

One element of the FBI's case against the 16-year CIA veteran began last March 17 with an event that could not have happened during the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

That day, the official liaison officer of the Russian foreign intelligence service (SVRR) contacted the FBI seeking information on Chechen terrorism. "The SVRR liaison officer added that his request was part of a global tasking by SVRR headquarters to gather information about Chechnya," according to an affidavit by FBI Agent Michael Lonergan.

Those kinds of exchanges did not occur during the Cold War, said Ray Mislock, national security chief in the FBI's Washington field office. "There was no official liaison between the Soviet KGB and the FBI until the fall of 1991 just before the Soviet Union ceased to exist."

More incredible events fol-

lowed the official request for help, according to Lonergan's affidavit.

On April 26, Nicholson asked several CIA headquarters employees for background information on Chechnya. He claimed to need it for his job instructing CIA recruits, but no training exercises involving Chechnyan matters were conducted or planned by Nicholson.

In July, a CIA computer audit revealed that Nicholson was using his computer to search CIA databases for information using the keywords "Russia(n)" and "Chechnya." CIA officials said Nicholson had no need for such documents in his work.

When FBI agents searched Nicholson's portable computer on Aug. 11, they found, among data they believe Nicholson gave the Russians, "a near verbatim copy of an actual 'secret' CIA report regarding Chechnya," the affidavit said.

"I believe Nicholson gathered the Chechnyan information found on his computer in response to clandestine tasking from the SVRR, consistent with the SVRR's global tasking for such information" that his liaison officer had described to the FBI, Lonergan wrote.

Perhaps the Russians doubted

public promises by the CIA to improve counterintelligence work after the 1994 arrest of officer Aldrich Ames, the aging turncoat in agency.

"When they asked office Chechnyan information, would have had no reason to believe we would have been of Nicholson," said one who worked on the case, ing anonymity. But Nicholson fallen under suspicion in a routine polygraph tests found deceptive about contacts with eign spies.

"By most accounts, relations between the United States and Cold War," FBI Director Freeh said Monday, but seen no reduction in Russia on the United States.

On Tuesday, State Department spokesman Glynis said the United States demanded an explanation from Russian government.

"We view this as unacceptable and we reserve the right to take further actions," he said. Ambassador Yuli Voronov summoned to the State Department to receive the protest.

# How to spend your college years.

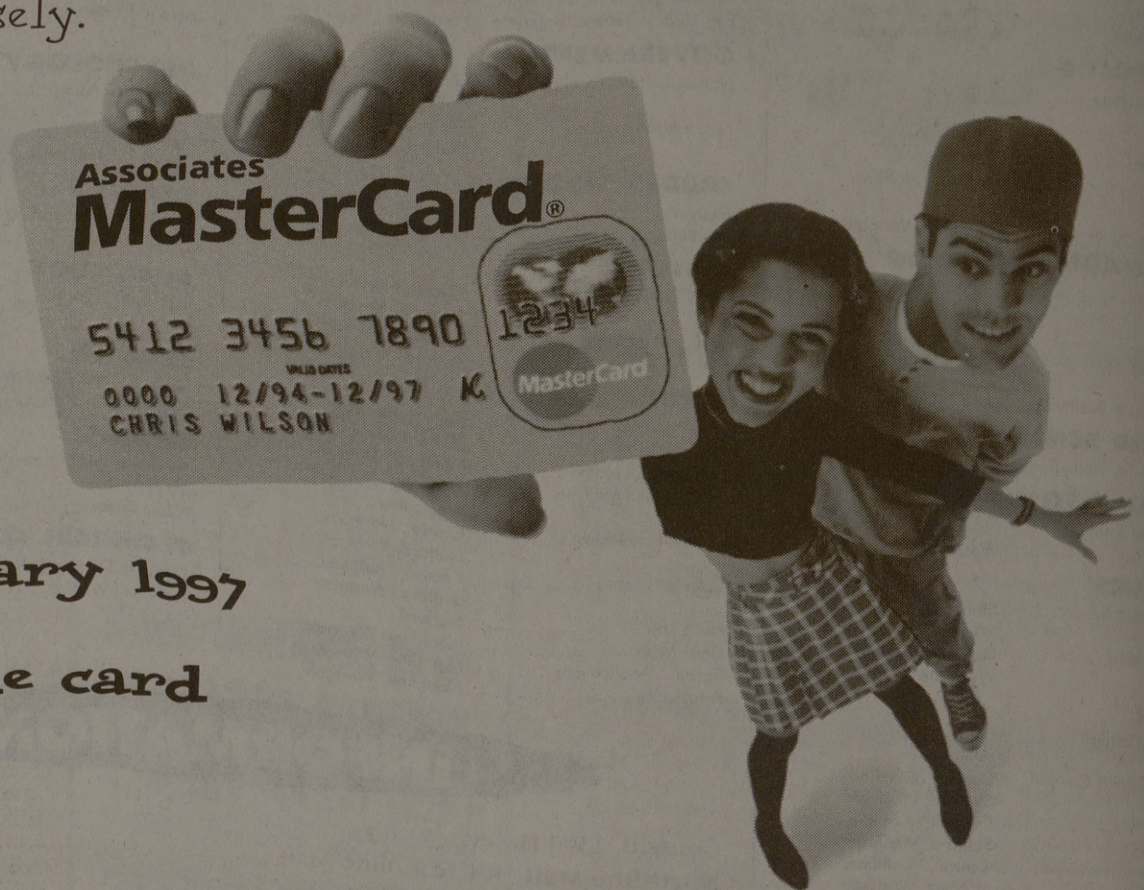
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