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Kazan Now Reveals He Is 'Partly Guilty'

WELLESLEY, Mass., Feb. 5 (AP) Vladimir Kazan-Komarek, freed by the Czechoslovakian government after being convicted on spy charges, said today he is "partly guilty" of the charges.

Kazan refused, however, to say what activities he was engaged in.

"I think," he said, "it is my duty now to consult with the State Department and discuss the eventual clearance."

The Czechs had charged him with "attempted overthrow of the government and espionage" in running a foreign intelligence service from the fall of 1948—a few months after the Communists took control of Czechoslovakia—until December, 1950.

The spy ring reportedly passed East Europeans to the West and smuggled arms and radio transmitters into Czechoslovakia.

Other members of the 28-member group, arrested during the 1950s, either were executed or given prison terms.

Kazan today denied to newsmen that he ever did any work for the Central Intelligence Agency. He said the Czechs did not charge him with working for the CIA.

The only hint he gave regarding the charges was this statement:

"There were implications of the French backing the whole thing up."

A source close to the Kazan family, asked about the "partly guilty" statement, said "he was probably telling the truth. It's a matter of record now that he did do some work—he did bring some people out of the country . . . he did have some activities along those lines."

Kazan, who was freed yesterday after strong pressure from Washington, said he wanted to check with the State Department before saying anything more because "I know to what extent they were batting for me."

Kazan operates a travel agency in Cambridge. He was arrested by Czech police Oct. 31 when an airliner carrying him from Moscow to Paris made an unscheduled stop in Prague. He had been attending a travel agents' conference in Moscow.

"When we landed," he said, "they told everybody to get off . . . when the plane was ready to take off, they called the name of each passenger and he boarded, until I was the only one left. I started out, but they pushed me back to the line. Then I was all alone, and two guys came up and said, 'let's go.'"