

Trial Told Phone Book Listed Secret Agents

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BALTIMORE, April 20—Two 1973 Central Intelligence Agency phone books that former CIA employee Edwin Gibbons Moore II is accused of trying to sell to the Soviets contain names of agents who have since gone into undercover roles overseas, according to testimony today at Moore's trial.

One of those agents currently is involved in the "electronic monitoring" of phone conversations of officials in a Far Eastern country, according to the testimony of Robert W. Gambino, the CIA's security head.

Gambino, who was being questioned by prosecutor Thomas L. Crowe, said that the telephone books would be highly useful to the Soviet Union. The books, confiscated from Moore's home at 4800 Ft. Sumner Dr., Bethesda, allegedly were offered to the Soviets along with other classified documents for \$200,000 last December.

Gambino did not identify the Far Eastern country where the unnamed agent is involved in "electronic monitoring," nor would he say whether the country is regarded as friendly to the United States. "Today's friend is tomorrow's enemy," he said.

He testified that the agent's work in that country "consists of obtaining communications through electronic means, conversations between officials of a foreign government." He said the purpose is "to provide our leaders with political and economic information."

He claimed that "perhaps even the exposure of the CIA operation in that country could cause a change in government."

Other agents listed in the phone books currently are involved in monitoring secret information concerning the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and in other overseas operations, Gambino said. Had the books been available to the Soviets, those agents' jobs and lives might be in danger today, he said.

Moore, 56, has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to charges of es-

pionage and the unauthorized possession of classified documents and government property.

An office worker, Moore joined the CIA in 1952 but took leave without pay in 1961 after being charged with arson in the burning of a motel he owned in North Carolina. After being acquitted of that charge, Moore was rehired in 1967 by then CIA Director Richard Helms.

Gambino testified today that Helms ordered a complete investigation into charges that the CIA was connected with the 1961 fire at the motel, although that report apparently was either not made or its results were never circulated.

The CIA security head also testified that he did not know why Moore had been permitted to leave the agency to fight the arson charge without signing the required security oath demanded of all other employees.

Additionally, Gambino said he did not know why Moore was rehired in 1967 while a memo in his record indicated that the chances of his returning as a worthwhile employee "nil."

Gambino said Moore was sent to Vietnam in 1970 to work at his usual GS9 grade job in supply and procurement, and that he returned 18 months later, sooner than normal, suffering from what a CIA psychiatrist diagnosed as "paranoid-like" symptoms.

Moore retired because of medical disability in 1973. Gambino, whose testimony took up most of the day, said that there was nothing in Moore's record to indicate that Moore may have worked as a "contract employee" of the CIA after his retirement.

Gambino, who was being cross-examined by defense attorney Courtland K. Townsend Jr., conceded that at least one Watergate burglar, Eugenio Martinez, had worked as a CIA contract employee without notice of that employment appearing in his CIA personnel record.

Moore's trial in U.S. District Court here is scheduled to continue Thursday.