Soviet Plan to Kill Nixon Reported

By Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

The Soviet secret police had a contingency plan to kill Richard Nixon if he had been elected President in 1960, a high Soviet intelligence officer has told the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Nixon murder plot was described to incredulous CIA agents by Anatol Golytsyn, a former KGB major, who defected to the United States from his post in Helsinki, Finland, in the early 1960s.

He gave American agents other valuable intelligence, which has turned out to be accurate. Our sources, therefore, believe his story about the Nixon assassination plan.

Golytsyn's view was that the plan, although bizarre, was deadly serious. He attributed it to the late Nikita Khrushchev, then commanding the Kremlin, whom Golytsyn understood to be somewhat deranged. In those days, Nixon had the reputation as an implacable foe of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet major also told CIA agents that the hot-tempered Khrushchev had talked about eliminating the brilliant ballet dancer, Rudolf Nureyev, after he defected to the West. The worried Golytsyn tried to warn Nureyev of the possibility, according to our sources, although they don't know whether the warning ever reached Nureyev.

For years, Golytsyn's spectacular revelations have been hidden in the CIA's files. But after stories about the CIA's assassination attempts hit the headlines, CIA sources confided Golytsyn's KGB assassination tales to us.

The former KGB officer was one of the highest ranking Soviet defectors in CIA history. The United States paid him $200,000 in compensation and spent at least $500,000 more to protect him, our sources say. Part of the money was spent on an ingenious scheme to sneak him and his family into the United States.

By comparison, a far more publicized defector, Peter Deriabin, was paid only $25,000. Our sources agree, however, that the taxpayers got their money's worth from Golytsyn.

During 18 months of debriefing, Golytsyn blew the cover on one dangerous Communist spy operation after another. Our sources say he helped identify members of the notorious "Sapphire" Soviet ring, which became the model, in part, for the novel and movie "Topaz."

Britain's Kim Philby and Sweden's Stig Eric Wennerstrom, two of the most celebrated Soviet international agents, were exposed with the help of Golytsyn, as well as lesser spies in Germany, France and NATO.

In time, the strong-willed Golytsyn tired of CIA surveillance and decided to take his complaints to the late Robert F. Kennedy, then the Attorney General. The defector was housed within walking distance of Kennedy's home in Northern Virginia and visited with him either at his home or in another private place, our sources recall.

Golytsyn also drafted a long letter laying out his problems to Kennedy and expressed his pique to John McCone, then the CIA head. This upset the CIA agents who had gone to such lengths to protect him as renting cars to visit him so the tag numbers couldn't be traced back to "security" cars.

Our sources say he was last reported living in the United States under a superbly corived false identity.

Footnote: When a forest fire was reported near Nixon's California residence in the 1960s, CIA agents close to Golytsyn thought at first that the KGB might have caused it. A CIA spokesman had no comment on Golytsyn's disclosures.

Shan Connection—The colorful Shan guerrillas have made another signed, secret offer to sell most of the Southeast Asian opium crop to the U.S. government at the prevailing black market price. The sale would dry up 20 per cent of the heroin supply now reaching the United States.

The Shan hillmen are willing to back up their offer, moreover, by attacking any other convoys that try to bring opium out of the back country.

The offer has been relayed to Washington through Rep. Lester Wolff (D-N.Y.), chairman of a House narcotics subcommittee and the House's leading expert on Burma-Thai-Laos opium production.

It has been submitted to the House Foreign Affairs Committee in a secret subcommittee report, signed by Wolff, Rep. Morgan Murphy (D-Ill.) and Rep. J. Herbert Burke (R-Fla.).

A similar offer was rejected by the U.S. government in August, 1973.

(C) 1975, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.