

FBI Agent Suspected Of Being Spy, Book Says

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FBI officials suspected that one of their New York agents was spying for the Soviet Union in the late 1960s, according to the memoirs of a former bureau executive.

"By the time I left the FBI in 1971, the Russians still had a man in our office and we still never knew who he was," wrote the late William C. Sullivan in a book to be published in September entitled "The Bureau: My 30 Years in Hoover's FBI."

Another former intelligence official confirmed Sullivan's account of the incident and said the bureau was never able to determine whether there was a traitor in the ranks.

"There was concern for a period of time about the Soviets having somebody in the New York office," said this source, who requested anonymity. "An extensive investigation was made — it was very hush-hush — but to my knowledge, a determination was never made."

Another former bureau official said Sullivan "was always convinced that we were penetrated, but it's hard to tell whether we were or not."

ASKED ABOUT Sullivan's account, FBI spokesman Homer Boyton declined comment "until we have a chance to review the book."

Sullivan was the bureau's third-ranking official when he was forced to retire in 1971 after a long and bitter feud with then-Director J. Edgar Hoover. Previously, he had been assistant director in charge of intelligence operations for 10 years.

Sullivan was killed in 1977 in a hunting accident near his New Hampshire home. He had compiled much of the book before his death and his collaborator, New York writer and television producer Bill Brown, completed the manuscript.

The former intelligence offi-

cial said they were never sure whether the New York office was penetrated or not. But one noted that the Soviets wanted their own agents in the United States to believe that the FBI and other agencies had been penetrated. This was a Soviet method of discouraging its agents from defecting secretly, this source said.

Sullivan also said in his book that the FBI once discovered a Russian assassin in Washington and forced him to return angrily to Moscow without completing his mission.

SULLIVAN SAID the bureau learned that the Soviet assassin had arrived in Washington and was "posing as a businessman who was in the United States to buy aluminum for export to Russia."

The FBI set out to learn his true mission. "We set up our own phony aluminum company and got in touch with him by proposing an attractive business deal."

Pretending to be aluminum salesmen, two agents offered the Russian a bargain price "and then told him the price could go lower if he would just tell them what his real business was."

Sullivan continued:

"The Russian looked at the two salesmen closely, then shouted 'you're FBI,' and headed for the door. One of the agents, a red-head, stopped him by blocking him at the door and punching him full in the face.

"He was put back in his chair but he never admitted to anything more than being an aluminum salesman. They finally let him go, and as he was on his way out, one of the agents said to him, 'Get the hell out of this country, and fast!'

"At the door he turned to the agent and said, 'You reheated son of a bitch, when we take over, you're going to be the first man I kill!' The Soviet assassin left that same day on a Russian plane headed back for Moscow."