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Diamond Cutter Pleads Guilty in Spy Conspiracy

NEW YORK, Sept. [illegible] (UPI) — A diamond cutter accused of passing classified information to the Soviet Union pleaded guilty in federal court today to [illegible] he conspired to [illegible] espionage.

[illegible] Paskalian, [illegible] York City [illegible] before U.S. District Court Judge Mark Costantino, who ordered him held on $100,000 bail pending sentencing. He faces a maximum life prison term.

Paskalian, 36, was arrested June 27 along with Sahag K. Dedeyan, 41, a Rockville, Md., mathematician who allegedly supplied documents detailing North Atlantic Treaty Organization military capabilities. The two men are distantly related and both were born in Beirut, Lebanon.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Baltimore said Dedeyan is currently free on bail. The spokesman said Dedeyan's case is pending before a grand jury.)

"I took some information from Mr. Dedeyan and turned it over to Soviet agents," Paskalian said when questioned in court by Costantino. He said the document contained [illegible] information relating to military [illegible]

Specifically, Paskalian was charged with photographing a 70-page classified document called "Vulnerability Analysis: U.S. Reinforcement of NATO" at Dedeyan's home, 16200 Grist Mill Dr.

Dedeyan, who had top secret clearance to work on defense data at Johns Hopkins University and at Operations Research, Inc., a government contractor in Silver Spring, Md., was charged with failing to report that Paskalian had photographed the document.

Paskalian said the Soviets gave him a camera that he returned with exposed film in it.

Complaints were also filed against two secretaries at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations and a Soviet delegate to a U.N. human rights conference. They were named as co-conspirators but not defendants in the case, the FBI said.

According to the complaint, Paskalian photographed the 70-page document without Dedeyan's knowledge but told him several months later. Dedeyan was paid $1,000, according to the complaint.

Paskalian was allegedly paid $1,5000 by Eduard B. Charchyan, one of the Soviet secretaries. Charchyan had left the country by the time Paskalian and Dedeyan were arrested.