Scientist gets 3 years in spy case

From Associated Press dispatches

BALTIMORE — A Rockville, Md., mathematician has been sentenced to three years in prison for his part in transmitting a defense document to the Soviet Union.

The document was a study of the United States' ability to reinforce NATO in the event of a Russian attack on Western Europe.

Sahag K. Dedeyan, 41, was sentenced Friday by U.S. District Judge Alexander Harvey for failing to report that his cousin, Sarkis O. Paskalian, a Soviet spy and Manhattan jeweler, had photographed part of the document.

Dedeyan could have been sentenced to 10 years in prison and a $10,000 fine. Paskalian, 36, pleaded guilty to spy charges in September 1975 in Brooklyn, N.Y., federal court and was sentenced to 22 years in jail.

Both were arrested on June 27, 1975. Dedeyan was apprehended at his home 1½ hours after Paskalian was taken into custody in New York.

According to court papers filed by the FBI, Paskalian photographed the document in Dedeyan's home in March 1973 with a camera furnished by Eduard B. Chatchyan, then an official of the Soviet mission to the United Nations.

Dedeyan was convicted in July after a trial centering on a document that the defendant prepared while employed by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory at the time he worked on the study.

Although Dedeyan did not testify, statements he gave to the FBI were introduced in evidence.

He said in the statements that it was not until several months after the March 1973 incident that he learned that Paskalian was an agent and had photographed the document.

Expert military and civilian witnesses at Dedeyan's trial differed over the document's relationship to national security.

The defense contended throughout the nine-day trial that Dedeyan, who was not authorized to classify material, had marked the report secret and that, therefore, there was no crime since the report was not properly classified.

The judge told the jury that the [illegible] under which Dedeyan was charged did not concern classification [illegible] to national [illegible]