

Panel Aide Fired as Spy Of Germans

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A political scientist employed by the Atlantic Council, a prestigious private organization for the study of foreign policy, has been fired after admitting that he was a paid spy for East Germany.

James Frederick Sattler, who had worked as a consultant on various council study projects since 1972, was discharged last Friday after the Justice Department notified the council of his activities.

On March 23, Sattler registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent. In his registration statement, he admitted that he had been passing information to East German intelligence agencies since 1967 and, for his services, had been paid approximately \$15,000 and given "an honor decoration" from the East German Ministry of State Security.

Sattler could not be reached for comment, and it was not immediately clear why he had voluntarily supplied detailed information about activities that could

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expose him to prosecution under federal espionage laws.

Justice Department sources said only that Sattler had registered after becoming aware that he was the object of an FBI investigation. The sources added that the department has decided not to prosecute Sattler because of the unavailability of key witnesses.

In his registration statement, Sattler, 37, admitted that he was recruited in 1967 by an individual named "Rolf," who he later learned was an East German official connected with "the combined intelligence services of the Warsaw Treaty Organization." Sattler said he was told to secure employment "in a position with access to information of value to the Warsaw Treaty."

From 1967 through 1975, he added, "I transferred to my principals in East Berlin information and documents which I received from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and from individuals in institutions and government agencies in West Germany, the United States, Britain, Canada and France."

His statement left unclear whether any of the documents was classified or contained information that would be regarded as important in intelligence circles. Atlantic Council officials said their files forbid the use of classified materials in their studies and asserted that Sattler would not have had access to classified documents through his work at the council.

Sattler said he had been given the materials with a name provided by his principals and then planted the microdiscs in packages that he sent to Germany. Other documents had been taken and photographed with a camera, and the film was carried by mail to Berlin or handed to a courier.

"During my first visit to East Germany in November 1973," he said, "I was advised to attempt to obtain a position in the United States government with access to classified information. I was advised not to attempt to make contact with my principals in East Germany until my possible return in early 1976."

The Atlantic Council, founded by former Secretary of State Christian Herter in 1961, seeks to solve foreign policy problems by issuing position papers, conducting seminars and publishing a monthly news bulletin and a quarterly journal. It also does occasional studies on contract from departments of the federal government.

Although it has no official government connection, the membership of its board reads like a who's who of the so-called "Eastern foreign policy establishment." Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is a board member, and the board chairman is former Treasury Secretary Henry H. Fowler.

Francis O. Wilcox, the council's secretary general, said that Sattler had worked on a number of council studies including problems of European force reductions and East-West trade. He added that "Sattler's work had been very objective, and he seemed a very knowledgeable and capable student of international affairs."

Wilcox was able to provide only sketchy details of Sattler's background, but said he had studied in Germany and had been a lecturer in political science at various Canadian universities.

Wilcox also said that Sattler's "job with the council was expiring" and he was looking for a new one. He said he had been into several other countries, including some parts of Europe, but he did not know how far he got.