

S-1 # 11-4-68

MONDAY

NEW ORLEANS

WORLD ROUNDUP

Briton Pleads Guilty to Spying

LONDON (AP)—A British airman pleaded guilty today to spying for the Russians and said they were interested in finding any Royal Air Force officers who kept mistresses or joined wife-swapping parties.

Chief Technician Douglas Ronald Britten, 36, was sentenced at London's Old Bailey courthouse to 21 years imprisonment for passing "highly sensitive security information" to the Soviet Union for the past six years.

Britten "betrayed his country and his trust solely for money," said Atty. Gen. Sir Elwyn Jones, the prosecutor.

But the tall, bespectacled radio operator told police he himself was blackmailed by the Russians after he took to drink as his marriage broke up in money worries.

Britten, who admitted five charges under the official Secrets Act, said in the statement read in court that he contacted Soviet agents in Britain and Cyprus, using passwords and messages hidden in beer cans with false bottoms.

One Soviet agent, Britten said, pressed him for the names of any officers in his camp who swapped wives, or any wives who "prostituted themselves to local males."

Jones said Britten was first approached by a Soviet agent at a London museum in August, 1962. He was arrested last Sept. 13.

According to Britten, the payment he received for information amounted to the equivalent of \$1,800 or \$1,900. But Jones said there were strong indications that he actually got more.

In a separate trial, British seaman Robin Douglas Cloude, 29, was sentenced to five years for giving information to the Russians.

Cloude, an able seaman serving on the frigate Duncan, admitted the charge, under the Official Secrets Act. He said he went to the Russian Embassy in London last May after the navy refused to give him a loan to buy a house.

Cloude pleaded guilty but later insisted: "I did not pass on any classified information."

THURSDAY EOD