

CIA Official Under Probe Reports \$19,000 Gem Theft

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A high-ranking official of the Central Intelligence Agency is under investigation for possible violations of security regulations by keeping "exposed classified documents" in his home, the CIA said today.

But the official—Hans V. Tofte—has complained to District police that some \$19,000 in jewelry has been missing since two CIA agents raided his home on July 24 and carried off the classified documents.

The bizarre story emerged in statements to the police by Tofte and his wife and in an unusually detailed statement to the press by a CIA spokesman. Both accounts left a number of questions unanswered.

The CIA account of the case, issued after details had been revealed in a story by Clark Mollenhoff yesterday in the Minneapolis Tribune, said:

"Mr. Hans Tofte, an employe of the CIA, had sometime ago listed his home at 1667 35th St. NW, for sale by the J. C. Chatel Realty Co. The realty company arranged for Mr. Kenneth R. Slocum, 2811 P St. NW

(the correct address is 2911 P St.), also a CIA employe, to see this property.

"Mr. Slocum was not aware of Mr. Tofte's agency affiliation at the time he visited the property. In company with his wife, and as a private individual, on Saturday, July 23, he was shown through the residence by Mr. Tofte's mother-in-law, through arrangements made by the realty company.

"During the course of the visit, Mr. Slocum noticed by chance classified agency material in one of the rooms being shown and reported this promptly to agency security officials. Since the presence of exposed classified documents in a private home constitutes a violation of agency security regulations, Mr. and Mrs. Slocum and Mr. Charles B. Speake, 4570 MacArthur Blvd., NW, a security representative of the CIA, returned to the residence on Sunday, July 24.

"They were again admitted by Mr. Tofte's mother-in-law and took custody of the classified material. Subsequently, Mr. Tofte advised a security official

of CIA that some jewelry belonging to his wife was missing. He was encouraged to report this immediately to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District, which we understand is now investigating the reported loss.

"CIA is cooperating fully with the authorities of the 7th Precinct in its investigation."

Mrs. Tofte reported to the 7th Precinct on Tuesday, July 26, that \$19,000 in jewelry was missing from the first floor of the home and some manuscript material from the third floor.

A CIA spokesman said today that, while formal charges have not been filed against Tofte, he "is under investigation for possible violation of security regulations."

The CIA statement did not mention the missing jewelry, the spokesman said, "because that would be too ridiculous for comment. What would we want somebody's jewels for?"

The fact that the theft report covered both the jewelry and "manuscript material" — pre-

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sumably the material the CIA said its agents had taken—posed a special problem for the police.

To Talk to All

Asked if he intended to talk to Slocum and Speake, Kline said: "We're going to talk to everyone whose name comes up in this."

A CIA spokesman said the agency would have no comment on a statement in Mollenhoff's original article that Tofte had opposed the selection of Richard Helms as the new head of the CIA because he did not think a professional intelligence officer should hold the position.

Still unexplained is the manner in which Slocum, who according to the Toftes, came to look at a basement apartment, happened to see the allegedly classified material on the third floor of the home. Mrs. Tofte told police the material was securely wrapped and hidden under both a blanket and a tarpaulin.

Listed as Grand Larceny

Police Lt. John Kline visited the Tofte home and questioned whether the jewelry and manuscript material had been stolen or merely "lost in the shuffle" as the Toftes prepared to move to a new home. No theft report was made at the time and no lookout was broadcast. But Kline said this morning that the case was now being listed as grand larceny.

Tofte told police on July 30 that on Sunday night, July 24, he was "escorted to CIA headquarters at Langley and informed to some extent of the . . . action."

Although Tofte's position at the CIA was not made public, he is a 59-year-old veteran of 16 years in the agency and makes a little less than \$25,000 a year, which would put him in the upper echelons of the agency.

In his statement to police he said it was customary for officials of his rank to take material from the agency in order to work on it at home.

Toftes said this morning that he intended to talk today to "some very high ranking offi-

cial — some old friends of mine—" and might have a further statement to make later.

His statement to police indicated that he had had difficulty getting to talk to anyone but security officials at CIA last week.

It was not until Thursday, he told police, that he was able to see his immediate superior, Tracy Barnes—a high-ranking CIA official who served as liaison with the State Department during preparations for the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion.

And it was not until last Friday that he saw Lawrence Houston, chief counsel of the CIA, who told him that police had been informed of his status as a CIA employe.

Tofte, a native of Denmark, was honored by the Danish, British and Yugoslavian governments during World War II and was a leader in CIA operations in Korea and Japan during the Korean War.