

Page 107/166

## 2 Expelled Americans Accused By Soviet Union of CIA Activities

MOSCOW, Sept. 30 (AP)—Two Americans, one a diplomat, were accused by Russia today of working for the Central Intelligence Agency and engaging in "hostile activities." The charges were promptly denied by U.S. officials.

The Soviet labor newspaper Trud said one of the accused—Nicholas H. Riegg, 26, of Concord, Calif., a 1963 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania—had been expelled this month.

(In Washington, the State Department denied Riegg worked for the CIA.)

### Secretary Expelled

The second American, Donald R. Lesh, 34, of Sun City, Ariz., a U.S. Embassy secretary, was expelled Sept. 14, but no specific charges were made against him until today. The U.S. Embassy here denied the charges against Lesh, who was accused of being a contact man for Riegg and subverting African students in Moscow.

The disclosures focused new attention in the case of Thomas R. Dawson, 24, of Annapolis, Md., a Peace Corps volunteer being held by Soviet authorities for possible trial. He was arrested Sept. 11 when he wandered across the Russian border from Iran. There has been speculation that the Soviet Union might put Dawson on trial, but a U.S. Embassy spokesman said today there had been no Soviet statement to this effect.

In Washington, the State

Department said renewed efforts had been made both in Washington and in Moscow to obtain release of Dawson.

### Paper's Charges

The Soviet newspaper said Riegg had tried to come to Russia as a student twice, once to Leningrad and once to Minsk. Failing this, he visited the country as a tourist in 1964 and 1966, the newspaper said. It said he had been trained for his work by CIA agents in Stockholm and had brought in anti-Soviet literature.

In Concord, Calif., Riegg's brother, Robert D. Riegg, said he was certain that Nicholas never would be involved in such activities. He said Nicholas wanted a career in international relations.

According to the Embassy here, Riegg turned up at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest on Sept. 12 and reported what had happened to him. He then said that four days earlier he was "entrapped" by Soviet plainclothesmen in Kharkov, in the Ukraine about 400 miles south of Moscow, and charged with the economic crime of trying to sell some of his clothes. He was held incommunicado overnight, was

denied permission to get in touch with his Embassy and threatened with prison. After signing a statement, he was taken before a "peoples judge"—meaning a layman—and expelled.