

Ex-CIA Employee Arrested for Espionage

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By Lawrence Meyer
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A package that law enforcement officials first thought contained a bomb was left Tuesday evening on the grounds of a Soviet diplomatic installation in Northwest Washington and led to the arrest yesterday of a former CIA employee on espionage charges.

According to the FBI, the package contained classified United States government documents and an unsigned note stating the documents were examples of what could be bought for \$200,000. The note, the FBI said last night, also

gave instructions for "clandestine payment" of the money.

FBI officials arrested Edwin G. Moore, 56, of 4800 Fort Sumner Dr., Bethesda, yesterday afternoon as he allegedly attempted to pick up a package that Moore "believed contained U.S. currency," the FBI said.

Moore was arraigned before a United States magistrate last night on charges of unauthorized possession of material relating to the national defense and theft of government property. A CIA spokesman declined to answer questions other than

to confirm Moore had worked for CIA and had retired in August 1973.

FBI officials declined last night to identify the Soviet installation at which the package, described as a manila envelope about half an inch thick, was left. An FBI spokesman would say only that the package was not left outside the Soviet Embassy on 16th Street between L and M Streets NW.

According to Boynton, the note accompanying the documents was addressed to the "Soviet resident," a

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term that Boynton said normally refers to the senior intelligence official in the Soviet Embassy.

Boynton said the highest classification on any document in the package was "secret" and that only some of the documents carried that classification. Boynton said he assumed the documents had been turned over to the CIA for analysis.

According to Boynton, Moore had

held a position having "something to do with logistics" for the CIA, but Boynton again did not elaborate.

Boynton said Moore was arrested yesterday shortly after 3 p.m. near his home.

Boynton said the FBI is not aware of that any other persons are involved in the incident.

Also contributing to this story were Washington Post Staff Writers Robert Meyers, Richard E. Prince, Joe Ritchie and Eric Wentworth.

At 3 p.m. yesterday the FBI arrested former CIA employee Edwin G. Moore on espionage charges after he tried to sell the Russians classified records for \$200,000. In the early edition of this morning's WxPost the text of the story ran about 9 column inches, including page 1 and carryover. For this the Post had five reporters on the story. Short as the story is for one of that import it is shorter than it was originally. One Boynton is quoted several times but his last name only is given. Indications are that he was quoted earlier and in the earlier quote identified. The story does not identify him. What little the Post carried could have been acquired in no time at all by a single reporter on the telephone. The one innocent explanation would be that the arrest was kept secret until close to press time. This also would account for all the manpower not represented in the brief text. The man had engaged in apparently wholesale theft of classified records. The caper he tried was crazy, leading me to believe he is. But the play in the Post is remarkably little if the story did not break too late for more space and attention to it. HW 12/23/76