

Two Tell of Marks on Neck Of Former CIA Man's Body

By Baline Harden

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Solomons, Md., June 27 — The body of former CIA official John A. Paisley, found near here last October in Chesapeake Bay, had markings around the throat indicating "foul play," according to statements made today by a county coroner and by the owner of an area marina.

Dr. George Weems, coroner of Calvert County, said he viewed Paisley's bloated body when it was first brought ashore by the U.S. Coast Guard on Oct. 1, and noticed markings on the neck indicating it has "been squeezed or had a rope around it."

"They were the type of things you see when people are strangled," said Weems, who has been coroner here for 20 years. Weems made his statement today at a press conference called by Bernard Fensterwald, a Washington lawyer hired by Paisley's widow, Maryann.

Harry Lee Langley, owner of Langley Point Marina, said he also saw the markings on the body when it was brought to the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory near here. "It was either a helluva (rope) burn or his throat had been cut," Langley said.

A report of the autopsy performed by Maryland state Medical Examiner Dr. Russell K. Fisher does not mention any markings on Paisley's throat. Fisher could not be reached immediately for comment.

Paisley was found with a bullet hole



JOHN A. PAISLEY

... death still being probed

in his head. A state police investigation concluded that the former CIA official "probably was a suicide victim," although the case has not been officially closed.

In a separate development, Mutual of New York Life Insurance Corp.

announced today that after a six-month investigation of whether the body found last October was that of Paisley, it will pay off Paisley's \$100,000 life insurance policy to his widow.

A Mutual of New York spokesman said today the company had delayed payment because of doubts raised by Maryann Paisley about whether her estranged husband was dead.

"We are now satisfied that all the hard evidence shows this was the body of John Paisley," the spokesman said.

Paisley, the former director of the CIA's Office of Strategic Research, disappeared Sept. 24 after setting sail alone from here in his 31-foot sloop, the Brillig. A week later the body of a man identified by Maryland State Police as Paisley—weighted down by two diving belts—was recovered from the bay.

At the time of his death, Paisley had access to top secret information about Soviet military capabilities. A spokesman for the Senate Intelligence Committee, which has been looking into Paisley's death since last fall, said yesterday the committee is continuing its investigation and a report will be issued shortly.

At the press conference here this afternoon, the two men who said they saw marks on Paisley's body indicating "foul play" had differing accounts of why they waited more than a half-year to make their information public.

See PAISLEY, B5, Col. 1

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PAISLEY, From B1

Dr. Weems, who said that he and Langley were fishing on his boat when word came that a body had been found in the bay, said he did not mention the marks on Paisley's neck earlier because "I wasn't asked to."

Weems, who said he performed a preliminary examination of the body, said he made no mention of the neck mark in his report that he forwarded to the state medical examiner. He said it was not his job to make a thorough examination of the body.

The coroner said he had no idea why Dr. Fisher failed to mention the neck mark in his autopsy. Weems refused to characterize what he saw as murder, saying only, "I call it foul play." Langley, who said that he knew Paisley from seeing him around his marina, claimed he was told by unnamed officials at the time the body was brought ashore to keep quiet about what he had seen.

"They told me Mr. Paisley was CIA. Shortly after this happened, I thought this was all government, all secret. I thought I don't want to get into all this," Langley said. He said he finally called Paisley's widow, who lives in McLean, three weeks ago after hearing news reports that said she had not yet received her husband's life insurance.

Paisley, according to lawyer Fensterwald, was insured for \$200,000. His group insurance with the CIA for \$30,000 has already been paid, Fensterwald said. He said Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance Company and Mutual of New York have refused to pay off on their policies because of questions

about the identification of the body and the cause of death.

A spokesman for Mutual of Omaha said today that his company had paid its claim, which he said was "considerably less than \$100,000," earlier this year.

The Washington Post learned today that Mutual of New York, which announced it will shortly pay off Paisley's \$100,000 policy, made its decision after insurance investigators spent six months examining evidence found on the body.

The investigators, sources said, were satisfied that five fingerprints taken from the body found in the bay were those of Paisley. Sources said the insurance company also checked a dental plate found on the body with a dentist who recognized it as a plate he had made for Paisley.

Questions about oversized underwear found on the body were resolved, sources said, when investigators learned that a friend of Paisley had recently bought him several pairs of underwear that were too large.

Fensterwald, who said today he still is not sure that the body found in the bay was Paisley's, claimed he is certain Paisley was murdered.

"Jumping off a boat with gun in hand, pulling the trigger while in the water, is, to be charitable about the matter, a weird way to commit suicide," Fensterwald said.

Paisley's 22-year-old son, Eddie, said today that after talking with Langley and Weems he believes his father was dragged from his boat with a rope and killed.