

Six months later

S. Sun 4/1/79

New evidence clouds Paisley 'suicide' verdict

By TOM HUGENT and STEVE PARES
Sun Staff Correspondents

Washington—Six months after the body of a former CIA nuclear weapons expert, John Arthur Paisley, was found floating in the Chesapeake Bay, new evidence, together with misleading statements about Mr. Paisley's role with the government, tend to cast doubt on investigators' verdict of "apparent suicide" in the case.

This evidence includes a firsthand account by a United States coast guardman who says that he saw an opened package of lunch meat, a container of mustard and a knife smeared with mustard lying on a sink-top counter in the Brillig, Mr. Paisley's 31-foot sloop.

In addition to the food, the coast guardman, who requested his identity not be revealed, said he saw a sailing chart, located near the ship's wheel, on which a sailing course had been partially mapped

out, as well as a life preserver that had been left alongside.

"It looked to me like he had been interrupted in the middle of lunch," said the coast guardman. "It looked like he had filled in part of the chart and then had decided to get something to eat. So he took off his life preserver and went below, down to the galley."

The witness was one of two guardmen who were the first people to board the deserted Brillig a few hours after it was found washed ashore at Point Look In, near the mouth of the Potomac River in St. Marys county, last September 23.

In addition to this account, a three-month Sun investigation has produced new evidence that indicates a struggle may have taken place aboard the Brillig in the hours before Mr. Paisley's disappearance.

That evidence includes a statement by Mr. Paisley's widow, Maryann, who visited the sloop soon after it was found and who said that "a table had been pulled away from the wall. Several screws had been pulled loose, and it was tilted at an angle which would have made it impossible to use" Mr. Paisley, according to several sources, was writing a report during



JOHN ARTHUR PAISLEY
... body found in bay

his final sailing excursion, and the table was the only adequate writing surface aboard.

The Maryland State Police, whose investigation concluded that Mr. Paisley's death was an "apparent suicide," earlier said that one witness—an intelligence colleague of his who has since left for Australia—told them the table had been pulled loose from the wall months before the Central Intelligence Agency analyst's disappearance.

But another witness interviewed by See PAISLEY, A1, Col. 1

2 APR 79 HW
BALTIMORE SUN

Index

Bridge.....B6	Latteries.....C6
Business.....A16	Movies.....B6
Comics.....B7	Obituaries.....A14
Crossword.....B7	Shipping.....A16
Editorials.....A16	Sports.....C6
Gardner.....B6	TV-Radio.....B6

3 sections

