

Senate Told by FBI Probe Unjustified In Paisley's Death

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The Justice Department told the Senate Intelligence Committee yesterday that the facts surrounding the death of former CIA official John A. Paisley last year did not justify a counterintelligence investigation by the FBI.

Paisley's body was found in October in Chesapeake Bay with a bullet in the head. The former director of the CIA's Office of Strategic Research, who at the time of his death had access to top-secret information about Soviet military capabilities, disappeared Sept. 24 after setting sail alone in his 31-foot sloop. A week later the body of a man identified as Paisley, weighted down by two diving belts, was recovered from the bay.

At the request of committee chairman Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), who said that "a number of troubling questions remain" concerning Paisley's death, the FBI in January began an analysis of briefings from the Maryland State Police, the Coast Guard, the CIA and friends and family of Paisley.

"They [the FBI and the Justice Department] didn't see enough facts to justify an investigation," said Spencer Davis, a spokesman for the Senate Intelligence Committee. He said the committee will make some "additional limited inquiries" in the case before releasing a public report.

Sources close to the Paisley investigation said yesterday that the Senate committee was still "troubled" by evi-



JOHN A. PAISLEY
... Hill panel still "troubled"

dence indicating that Paisley was a friend of Soviet citizen Yuri Nosenko, who defected to the United States on Jan. 20, 1964. Nosenko is regarded by some intelligence experts as one of the most important Soviet defectors to this country and by others as a Soviet double agent.

See PAISLEY, C11, Col. 1

FBI Says Paisley Case Facts Did Not Justify Investigation

PAISLEY, From C1

The sources said the committee also was concerned about a possible relationship between Paisley's death, the cause of which Maryland police still classify as "undetermined," and his role as coordinator of a 1976 study of Soviet weapons.

Paisley served as coordinator between CIA weapons experts, known as the A team, and groups of outside experts, known as the B team, who made separate analyses of Soviet military capabilities.

Paisley's estranged wife Maryann, also a former CIA employe, has said she doubts that the body found in the

bay was that of her husband. She has hired Washington lawyer Bernard Fensterwald to investigate her husband's disappearance.

Fensterwald said yesterday that because of alleged discrepancies between the height, weight, waist size and hair color of the body found in the bay and those of Paisley, he is "pretty well convinced" the body found was not Paisley. The body has been cremated.

The lawyer said that "in the next three days" he will seek classified information, under the federal Freedom of Information Act, from the CIA and the Defense Department about Paisley.