

Ex-CIA Man's Death Believed a Suicide

SFChronicle

OCT 5 1978

Pikesville, Md.

Former Central Intelligence Agency employee John Paisley apparently killed himself, but investigators have not yet ruled out the possibility of murder, a state police spokesman said yesterday.

State police said Paisley, whose body was found floating in Chesapeake Bay on Sunday, had been shot once behind the ear at close range with a .38-caliber pistol. His body had 40 pounds of scuba diver's weights wrapped around the waist.

"It appears to be a suicide by all indications," Corporal Jerry Eisenmann said. "There were no signs of a struggle. The weight belt was fastened in the front of his body, as it would have been normally.

"But we don't know. We don't have a weapon. We're not striking out either one. It's an unusual occurrence death by gunshot at close range on the left side of the head."

The Wilmington, Del., News Journal reported yesterday that the CIA feared Paisley may have been murdered by the Soviet secret police because of his connection with the agency's satellite surveillance system.

Herbert E. Hetu, a CIA spokesman, termed the report "ridiculous."

"Why would they murder him because he knew about the satellite

surveillance program?" Hetu said. "I know as much about satellite surveillance as he did and I have no fear."

Hetu said Paisley was "an analyst; he wasn't a spy." He confirmed that Paisley was working as a consultant with the CIA when he died.

Hetu also denied the News Journal's report that the CIA was taking an active role in the investigation.

"We are an overseas intelligence collecting organization. We don't do domestic investigations," Hetu said.

Associated Press

U.S. Asks for Help With Buoys

Washington

Confronted with a problem of setting some instruments used in monitoring the ocean, the government has turned to an amusement park for help.

The National Ocean Survey is deploying a half-dozen special buoys along the Maryland and Delaware coastline to measure wave conditions.

Associated Press