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# Paisley death said suicide

PIKESVILLE, Md. (AP) — The investigation of the death of former high ranking CIA official John A. Paisley will continue although authorities say they believe he had been despondent and probably shot himself.

Col. Thomas S. Smith, Maryland State Police superintendent, said Friday that seven detectives assigned to the case since Oct. 1 were unable to find any indication Paisley was murdered.

"All the information and evidence we have been able to develop so far indicates that Mr. Paisley probably died from a self-inflicted wound," Smith told a press conference.

Smith said, however, that the case has been classified "an undetermined death" and the investigation would be continued by two of the detectives.

"So long as there is a possibility something may have occurred, we will continue," he said.

The body of the 55-year-old victim was found floating in Chesapeake Bay near the Patuxent River Oct. 1, six days after his unattended 31 foot sailboat, Brillig, ran aground about 14 miles to the south.

Capt. Paul Rappaport, who headed the investigation, said he was killed by a single 9 mm. slug fired as the gun, still not recovered, was held against the left side of his head.

Rappaport said Paisley became very despondent two years ago, mentioned suicide and had recently consulted a psychiatrist or psychologist although friends reported he was coming out of the despondency.

He refused to discuss details of Paisley's mental state.

He said investigators were told by friends and associates that Paisley was an enthusiastic recreational sailor who had occasionally said "he would like to die in the water."

Paisley retired in 1974 as director of the CIA's Office of Strategic Research. He had done consulting work for the intelligence agency since then, according to Smith.

His decomposed body, clad in a shirt and trousers, had been weighted down by two scuba diving belts, one of which had been purchased in Washington Sept. 8, according to Rappaport. He said skin divers normally use only one belt at a time.

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## Paisley said working on USSR military report

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Former CIA official John Paisley, whose body was found floating in the Chesapeake Bay, was working on a top-secret report on the Soviet military, according to a copyrighted story in the Wilmington-News Journal Sunday.

The newspaper said a draft of the report is believed to have been on his sloop, the Brillig, at the time he died.

Maryland State Police are still investigating Paisley's death, and Col. Thomas Smith, the state police superintendent, said Friday that the evidence indicates that Paisley probably committed suicide.

The CIA has insisted that Paisley was not privy to anything of a sensitive nature.

"Paisley was our link to the agency. To do what we needed to do we had to have access to some very secret materials," said Richard E. Pipes, a Harvard professor and expert on the Soviet Union.

Pipes was chairman of the outside consulting group, called the B Team, assigned by the CIA to compare its assessment of the Soviet military with the CIA's own A Team.

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