

FBI Is Asked to Investigate Strange Death of CIA Man

Washington

Birch Bayh, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said yesterday that "troubling questions" remain in the death of former CIA official John A. Paisley. He asked for an FBI investigation.

The Indiana Democrat ordered the information of the panel's own investigation turned over to Attorney General Griffin Bell "because of the FBI's primary jurisdiction over counterintelligence matters within the United States."

Paisley's decomposed body was found floating in Chesapeake Bay on October 1. It was weighted with two diving belts. Behind the left ear was a gunshot wound. A week earlier, Paisley's 31-foot sloop Brillig, was found drifting in the bay.

Police called it suicide. But Paisley's estranged wife was not convinced it is his body.

Maryland police have since reconsidered, listing the cause of death as "undetermined."

Paisley, 55, had retired as deputy director of the CIA's Office of Strategic Research, but was an agency consultant. He was reportedly working on an assessment of Soviet military strength.

Senator William Roth, R-Del., who requested the Senate investigation, said he will keep pressing for a public accounting of the case.

Roth and other senators have asked whether there is any link between Paisley's death and the theft of a sensitive CIA operating manual of a satellite that monitors the Soviet nuclear arsenal.

Paisley could figure in Senate debates on ratification of a new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty if any connection is found between his death and the theft.

Justice Department spokesman Terry Adamson said the FBI has been monitoring the police investigation and the information has

been given to Deputy Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti.

The probe of Paisley's death has taken several bizarre turns.

The body was identified by a dentist's analysis. It was then cremated, reportedly at a CIA approved funeral home, and was never viewed by family members. Before cremation the FBI removed the hands from the corpse for fingerprints.

Police said the body was in size 30 undershorts. Paisley wore size 34. Paisley weighed about 175 pounds. The corpse weighed 144.

Maryland police complained that the boat and Paisley's apartment had been "contaminated" by visits from Paisley's wife and CIA agents before his disappearance was reported.

Papers related to Paisley's CIA work were found aboard the Brillig.

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