

Md. Official Disputes Paisley Coroner's Views

By **Flora Dunham Spencer**,
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Maryland State Medical Examiner Dr. Russell Fisher says that marks on the neck of the body of former CIA analyst John Paisley were "normal skin

slipage" and not evidence of foul play.

The marks, which seemed to deepen the mystery surrounding Paisley's death, were not mentioned in an initial report by Calvert County Coroner Dr. George Weems, who examined Paisley's waterlogged corpse Oct. 1, five days after Paisley's disappearance on a solo sailing trip.

But Weems and marina operator Harry Langley told a news conference Wednesday that Paisley had a deep mark on his neck from ear to ear, as well as a bullet hole in his left temple and diving weights strapped around his waist.

Maryland State Police have termed the death "apparent suicide" but allowed insurance investigators and others hired by Paisley widow to conduct their own investigations.

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, attorney for Paisley's estranged widow, Maryann, asked Weems and Langley to make public their observations. He said in a telephone interview that the insurance company that had written a \$100,000 policy on Paisley's life as of now "intends to pay," but would not do so if Paisley's death was finally ruled a suicide.

Fensterwald said he would meet with representatives of the Mutual of New York Life Insurance Co. early next month to settle details of the payment to Paisley's widow.

"I can only conclude they (the insurance company) have decided he was murdered," said Fensterwald, who with Mrs. Paisley believes the 55-year-old former senior Soviet arms analyst was slain.

Fisher, the state medical examiner, stated flatly yesterday that the marks on Paisley's neck were "misinterpreted . . . by one total amateur and another man who has seen a few bodies."

"Hell," said Fisher, "his hair had all fallen off. They misinterpreted a mark where skin had slipped off. That's what happens to a body which has been in the water."

FISHER ADDED that he conducted the autopsy

with the assistance of Dr. Richard Adams. Fensterwald said yesterday that he was refused permission to talk to Adams and said, "I wondered why."

The insurance company conducted a long investigation of the death, concentrating on the identity of the body, and concluded it was that of Paisley. But Fensterwald said he believed the policy would not be paid out if the insurers believed the death a suicide.

Paisley set sail in his 31-foot sloop *Brillig* on Sept. 24 and the body identified as Paisley's was recovered a week later with a 9-millimeter bullet wound in the head and the diving weights strapped to it.

"I don't give a damn what anybody says," said the angry Fisher. "Paisley died of a bullet in the head. Weems did not have time to adequately examine the body." He added that neck tissues did not exhibit the crushing that would have come from strangulation.