

Dubcek's Accuser Shows No Proof

Spy Fails to Back Charge That CIA Paid Former Czech Leader

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PRAGUE—A Czechoslovak spy's "proof" that Alexander Dubcek is secretly receiving money from the CIA through Radio Free Europe appears to be little more than a batch of emigres' letters containing no clearly identifiable reference to the ousted leader of the 1968 Prague Spring.

In an interview at the Foreign Ministry here, Capt. Pavel Minarik, a Czechoslovak intelligence agent who infiltrated RFE and worked there seven years, repeated his widely publicized charge that Dubcek and his associates were paid by the CIA to make statements critical of the present government in Prague.

The accusation against Dubcek and other charges made by Minarik after he returned to Czechoslovakia in January have been published throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union as part of a campaign against Radio Free Europe and other Western organizations that broadcast to the East.

But the material that Minarik offered during the two-hour interview as "proof" to substantiate his charges in no way implicat-

ed Dubcek or any of his close associates. When this was pointed out, Minarik said he had "some other documents" that he could not show at this time.

Most of the documents he produced were letters written by Czechoslovak emigres to each other or to officials of RFE, a U.S.-operated station in Munich, West Germany, that broadcasts to Eastern Europe.

In the letters, Minarik pointed to obscure phrases such as one asking that funds be "sent in the agreed upon way" and another saying that "money for Sasha has already arrived." Sasha is a nickname for anyone named Alexander but Minarik insisted this was a reference to Dubcek.

Only last month, in a rare press conference with Western reporters, Czechoslovak Prime Minister Lubimir Strougal, when questioned about Minarik's charge, said he assumed that Minarik "would certainly have proof of this assertion."

Wearing a blue blazer and khaki trousers, the bespectacled, 30-year-old agent appeared calm and relaxed throughout his interview.

He said he was sent by the Czechoslovak intelligence

service in September 1968, a month after the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, to infiltrate RFE, which was then financed by the CIA.

He hinted, for the first time, that he had provided evidence against a U.S. citizen, Fred Eidlin, who was arrested in Prague in 1970 and convicted on espionage charges.

Minarik said he had a "close personal relationship" with Eidlin who, he said, often discussed CIA matters with him.

Eidlin, according to an RFE spokesman in Munich, worked for the station as a Czechoslovak policy adviser from August 1968 until December 1969 and was not a CIA agent. Eidlin, who was arrested while on a private visit to Czechoslovakia, was freed and left the country after serving one year of a four-year sentence.

Minarik said he had been an actor before going to Munich at the age of 23, and this training enabled him to play the role of a defector, simulating anti-Communism despite his loyalty to the Communist Party.

Besides Dubcek, Minarik had accused former Foreign

Minister Jiri Hajek and former party leaders Karel Kosik and Frantisek Kriegel of receiving CIA money.

Minarik offered as one of the most important documents a letter written by Pavel Tigrid, an emigre politician who edits the quarterly Svedetsvy, published in Paris.

The letter purports to describe a meeting between emigre representatives and RFE officials in Munich on June 20, 1975.

The letter says the consensus at the meeting was that outside publication of works by dissidents in Czechoslovakia "gives a great impetus to the domestic authors . . . and if this is supported by some remuneration, the better."

Minarik said that emigre groups working with the CIA provide instructions for dissident intellectuals in Czechoslovakia who, in turn, write anti-government material that is then smuggled to the West, where it is distributed to journalists and broadcast by RFE.

None of the documents, however mentioned Dubcek or other senior officials nor are there any indications that they have ever been in contact with the emigres.