

Double agent's wife appeals to Carter

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The wife of a Russian defector-turned-American double agent appealed to President Carter on Thursday to end a real-life spy story by interceding with the Russians, whom she believes kidnaped her husband 18 months ago.

The State Department confirmed that Nicholas Shadrin was acting as a double agent for the FBI when he disappeared in Vienna, Austria, on Dec. 20, 1975, after going to meet two agents of the Soviet secret police.

"We want him back," State Department spokesman Hodding Carter III told reporters. "He's an American citizen whose welfare concerns us."

The White House said Shadrin's wife, Blanka, "has our sympathy and active support," and promised to "continue our best efforts" to secure information about her missing husband. However, spokesman Jody Powell refused to discuss the case further.

But Mrs. Shadrin's lawyer, Richard Copaken, disclosed that two secretaries of State had spoken with Soviet officials about Shadrin, and former President Gerald R. Ford himself wrote to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev — all to no avail.

Mrs. Shadrin, a native of Poland who defected with her husband in 1959, appeared on ABC-TV Thursday and said, "I vividly remember President Carter's inaugural speech that our commitment to human rights is absolute and I beg President Carter to get my husband back."

Shadrin was employed as a Soviet naval analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency, the intelligence-gathering arm of the Pentagon. He became an American citizen by a special act of Congress in 1965.