

Route 12, Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

Jan. 14, 1976

Mr. James H. Lesar
1231 Fourth St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Jim:

In connection with the who briefed what writers on the King/Ray case for the FBI, I have consulted with an excellent source who asks for and is entitled to complete confidentiality. In one case it is what I knew and the other is what I suspected. The difference is that he knows.

Prior to his retirement, it was Lou Nichols.

Then until his retirement it was Deke DeLoach.

So the obvious question in connection with the suit and in connection with both the giving of information to writers by the FBI and the learning of who did it by the present FBI - which can't be a secret - we should at some point ask if they asked either who succeeded in this responsibility and whether or not

- a) he was asked
- b) he has or has access to files showing it
- c) is he the one who supplied the answer given us and
- d) for the benefit of the judge I think we should attach photocopies of the published credits by each of these writers to the FBI.

The last will establish to the judge and/or in the court record that it did happen.

Regardless of the judge's attitude, nobody could possibly believe that today's FBI couldn't come up with an answer.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

HW

FBI Shows Off Spy It Stole From the KGB

4 MAR 80 P.9



AP Wirephoto
COLONEL HERRMANN
What he used to look like

Court-Martial of Garwood Delayed

Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The Marine Corps announced yesterday that the court-martial of Private First Class Robert Garwood, accused of desertion and collaboration with the North Vietnamese, would be delayed a week because of heavy snow.

The court-martial had been scheduled to begin today, but 14 inches of snow last weekend caused transportation problems that forced the delay.

United Press

Washington
The FBI announced yesterday it made a double agent of a career KGB spy who quietly immigrated to the United States in 1968 and tried to disrupt America's first manned moon mission.

In an apparent attempt to embarrass the Russians during current tensions, FBI officials introduced the Russian officer to reporters at a briefing.

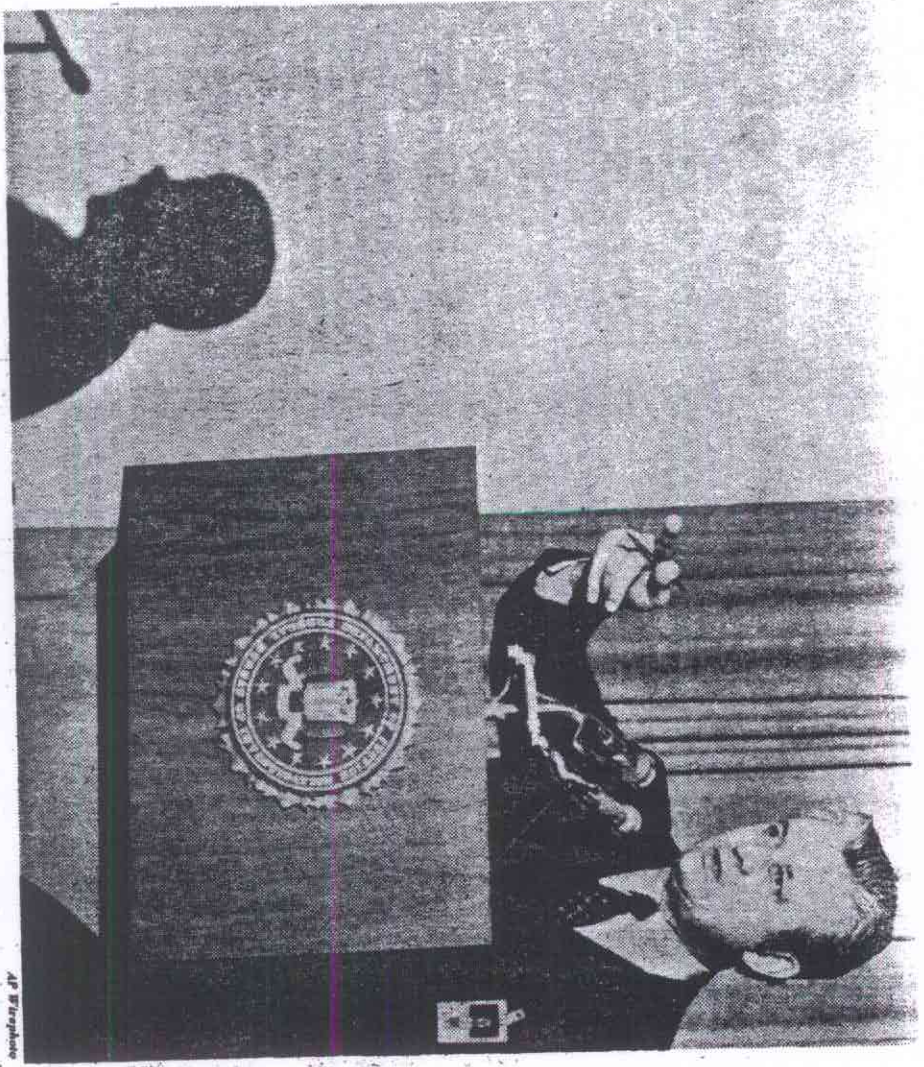
The ex-spy, identified as Colonel Rudolph Albert Herrmann, sat behind a screen with only his silhouette visible in the FBI auditorium and spoke in a thick Russian accent disguised by a voice modulator.

Herrmann is the highest-ranking illegal Russian resident spy publicly identified since the arrest in 1957 of Colonel Rudolf Abel. Abel was swapped back to the Soviet Union in 1962 in exchange for downed U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

FBI officials said Herrmann, whose identity and appearance have been changed for security reasons, never obtained military secrets or classified information.

His role, they said, was "equally important"—to monitor American political activity, gather information and serve as a backup espionage agent in the event U.S.-Soviet relations were severed and all Russian diplomats were forced to leave the country.

"I was on a political mission, not military," Herrmann said. "I would definitely study the results of primaries. I would study every



AP Wirephoto
FBI Executive Assistant Director Homer Boynton introduced Colonel Rudolph Albert Herrmann, shown only in silhouette behind screen at left, at a news conference yesterday

source to get the picture of how Americans were thinking about the candidates, who would be the winning candidate... and at the same time, already prepare myself for getting close to the candidate."

He said he joined in the entourage of one past presidential candidate, and talked with him briefly at San Francisco International Airport. He said the candidate was unsuccessful, but declined to identify him.

Herrmann said that after arriving in the United States in 1968 he posed as a freelance photogra-

pher and camera equipment salesman, living in Hartsdale, N.Y.

Soon after, KGB Center in the Soviet Union sent him a coded message with the text of an anonymous letter to send to U.S. authorities alleging that an Apollo space flight may have been sabotaged. He said he bought a used typewriter and sent the letter.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said yesterday the letter dealt with the December 1968 launch of Apollo 8—America's first manned moon mis-

sion, which came when the Russians also were believed to be working on a moon flight.

NASA spokesman Miles Wagner said the letter was ignored as one of a number of "crank letters" and "we just simply went ahead with the launch."

Herrmann, who said he is "about 45," said the FBI caught him in spying activities several years ago "due to blunder by my KGB contact"—"apparently a Russian U.N. official."

U.P. & A.P.