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TV Newsmen Spied On Russians in U.N.

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21—A former television correspondent has told the Senate intelligence committee that, while covering the United Nations in the late 1950's and early 1960's, he also reported regularly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the activities of the Soviet delegation to the United Nations.

The former correspondent, Sam A. Jaffe, confirmed in a telephone interview today that he had begun his relationship with the F.B.I. as an unpaid informant in the early 1950's at the F.B.I.'s behest and had worked in that capacity during his subsequent career with the

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Columbia Broadcasting system and, to a lesser extent, after joining the American Broadcasting Company.

He worked for CBS from 1955 to 1961 and then for ABC until 1965.

The substance and accuracy of Mr. Jaffe's testimony before Senate investigators was confirmed by authoritative sources, one of whom indicated also that the intelligence panel had obtained the names of a number of American newsmen who had entered into a similar rela-

tionship with the F.B.I. and Central Intelligence Agency in the past.

Clarence M. Kelley, the F.B.I. director, told a group of reporters at a breakfast meeting today that although the bureau, to his knowledge, now had no informants posing as representatives of news-gathering organizations, "We've had friendly newspaper people who might, on occasion, help us."

Mr. Jaffe said that he could not place precisely the date on which he was first approached by two F.B.I. agents from the bureau's New York City office about reporting on the Soviet diplomats stationed there, but that he believed it was sometime during his tenure as a correspondent between 1952 and 1955.

That arrangement, for which Mr. Jaffe said today he "was never paid a penny," continued after he joined CBS as a reporter at the United Nations in 1955, he said.

Sig Mickelson, who headed the CBS News Division during part of Mr. Jaffe's employment there, said today that he had had no knowledge of the reporter's relationship with the F.B.I.

Mr. Mickelson recalled, however, that in early 1960, Mr. Jaffe approached his superiors at CBS in New York and told them that he "thought he could get into" the Soviet Union to cover the trial of Francis Gary Powers, the American pilot whose U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Sverdlovsk the previous year.

Mr. Jaffe, who did cover the

Powers trial for CBS, disputed Mr. Mickelson's recollection, saying that it was CBS that had asked him to take the Moscow assignment because of his knowledge of Soviet affairs.

In any event, Mr. Jaffe said, when he arrived in Moscow he was surprised to discover that he alone among the American correspondents covering the Powers trial had been seated on the first floor of the Soviet courtroom near the defendant's dock and given a room on the same floor of the Moscow hotel where Mr. Powers's wife was lodged.

After the trial ended and he returned to the United States to resume his domestic reporting duties, Mr. Jaffe said, he was debriefed by his F.B.I. "control" agents on his experiences in the Soviet Union.

In 1961, Mr. Jaffe said, he left CBS to become the resident Moscow correspondent for ABC News, a post he held for the next four years. During that time, he said, he would be recalled periodically to ABC headquarters in New York and, each time, submitted to interviews with F.B.I. agents about conditions in the Soviet Union.

Nicholas Archer, now an ABC vice president in charge of television news and previously the network's news assignment manager, said that he, like Mr. Mickelson, had never had any knowledge of Mr. Jaffe's relationship with the F.B.I.

Mr. Jaffe said in the interview today that although he had never knowingly worked for the C.I.A. in this country or abroad, one aspect of his assignment to Moscow and led

him to wonder whether some of his expenses there had been underwritten by the United States Government without his knowledge.

Before leaving New York for the Soviet Union in 1961, Mr. Jaffe said, he was asked by ABC to open an account in his own name with a New York City Bank, into which funds would be paid by the network for transfer to a Soviet bank.

When he returned to New York from Moscow in 1965, Mr. Jaffe said, he reminded ABC executives that the account still contained nearly \$2,000 of the network's money, only to be told that ABC accountants could find no record of the account or of having paid funds into it over the previous three years.



Associated Press
Sam Jaffe in 1965, when working in Moscow.