

Moore claims he was duped

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BALTIMORE (AP)—A retired Central Intelligence Agency employe charged with trying to sell classified documents to the Soviet Union stuck by his story Thursday that he was set up by a man named "Joe."

Completing two days on the witness stand, Edwin G. Moore II repeated his contention that he thought the attempted sale was part of a CIA mission.

He also acknowledged, under cross-examination by Asst. U.S. Atty. Thomas M. Crowe, that part of a note written to former CIA Director William Colby was found in a briefcase in the defendant's Bethesda, Md., home.

The note, which was not signed and apparently never delivered to Colby, warned that documents would be passed to the "the other side" if the director failed to review promotion prospects for senior agency employes, according to earlier testimony.

Moore said he could not explain how the ripped portion of the note got into the briefcase, but added he saw it as part of an overall CIA plot to frame him.

"I'm not surprised, though, that this sort of things appears to have happened," the defendant said.

He later said that he occasionally became concerned at the sensitivity of documents that he claims he was given to forward to the Soviets.

He thought about going to see "a person who had reached a high point in the CIA...but Joe convinced me" not to, Moore said.

In the trial, Moore has identified his contact only as "Joe" and said the man spoke with a European accent.

When Crowe was finished, Courtland K. Townsend, Moore's attorney, asked his client two brief questions in redirect questioning.

Townsend: "Was the operation planned by you?"

Moore: "No, sir."

Townsend: "Who planned it?"

Moore: "It was planned by Joe."

Moore is accused of stealing classified CIA documents and trying to sell them to the Soviets. He has pleaded innocent to all five counts against him.

The FBI arrested him after a package of documents, including a photocopies of a CIA telephone directory, were found on the lawn of a Soviet residence in Washington.