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Wilson Says Stonehouse Not a Spy

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UPI)—Prime Minister Harold Wilson said today there is no truth in news reports that John Stonehouse, a former Labor Cabinet minister missing in the United States, was a spy for Czechoslovakia or the CIA.

Stonehouse, 49, former aviation minister, and member of Parliament, disappeared in Miami Beach last month when he left his hotel to go for a swim.

British newspapers said a Czechoslovak defector had named him and two other members of Parliament as Communist spies. There also were allegations Stonehouse had worked for the U.S. CIA.

"There is no truth whatever in these reports," Wilson said in a statement to Parliament.

"There is no truth whatever in reports that he was being kept under investigation or surveillance at the time of his disappearance."

Wilson made the statement following a surge of demands comment on newspaper and other allegations surrounding Stonehouse' career and disappearance.

The newspapers said British intelligence was studying the allegations in an attempt to discover the whereabouts of Stonehouse, last seen Nov. 21 when he left his Miami Beach hotel to go swimming.

Wilson said British security services told him as long ago as 1969 there was no evidence to support allegations by a Czechoslovak defector that Stonehouse was spying for the Czechoslovak intelligence service.

The newspapers said Stonehouse was named as a spy by Josef Frolík, former head of Czechoslovak intelligence in Britain. Frolík defected in 1969 after Warsaw Pact forces invaded Czechoslovakia. He went to the United States where he lives under an assumed name.