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CIA

An Old Plot to Kill Nixon Revealed



— Jack Anderson

THE SOVIET KGB had a contingency plan to kill Richard Nixon if he had been elected President in 1960, a high Russian intelligence officer has told the CIA.

The Nixon murder plot was described to numerous CIA agents by Anatol Golytsyn, a former KGB major, who defected to the United States from his post in Helsinki, Finland, in the early 1960s.

He gave American agents other valuable intelligence, which has turned out to be completely accurate. Our sources, therefore, believe his story about the Nixon assassination plan.

Golytsyn's own view was that the plot, although bizarre, was deadly serious. He attributed it to the late Nikita Khrushchev, then the cock of the Kremlin, whom Golytsyn understood to be somewhat deranged. In those days, Mr. Nixon had the reputation as an implacable foe of the Soviet Union.

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vealed, CIA sources confided Golytsyn's KGB assassination tales to us.

The former KGB officer was one of the highest ranking Soviet defectors in CIA history. The United States paid him \$200,000 in compensation and spent at least \$500,000 more to protect him, our sources say. Part of the money was spent on an ingenious scheme to sneak him and his family into the United States. Our sources say that the taxpayers got their money's worth from Golytsyn.

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DURING 18 months of debriefing, Golytsyn blew the cover on one dangerous Communist spy operation after another. Our sources say he helped identify members of the notorious "Sapphire" Soviet ring, which became the model, in part, for the novel and movie "Topaz."

In time, the strong-willed Golytsyn tired of CIA surveillance and decided to take his complaints to the late Robert Kennedy, then the Attorney General. The defector was housed within walking distance of Kennedy's home in northern Virginia and visited with him either at his home or in another private place, our sources recall.

Our sources say Golytsyn was last reported living in the United States under a superbly contrived false identity.

Footnote: A CIA spokesman had no comment on Golytsyn's disclosures.

(Written with L. Whitcomb)

See also Anderson column 18 Mar 75, filed CIA.