

## Few Women in Espionage

**THE ESPIONAGE BUSINESS IS** about as glamorous as a terminal cancer. Espionage seldom uses women, the notable exceptions notwithstanding.

They are brought in occasionally as mere decoys for male enticement or as routine informers. There was one case involving Polish women under the control of the Soviet KGB espionage apparatus in Warsaw.

**ALL SPOKE ENGLISH** and were proteges of one Ursula Marie Discher, who successfully entrapped tried-and-convicted foreign service officer Irwin N. Scarbeck of our Warsaw embassy. These jejune decoys (technically called "swallows") compromised ten U.S. Embassy Marine guards responsible for embassy security, locking of safes, etc. But, universally, espionage managers fear a woman may become emotionally involved and they shun the female's important use.

Actually, women are more often involved in a reverse way. Not too long ago the wife of an American foreign service officer at a key post in Europe made a trip to Moscow. KGB agents hiding in her Moscovia Hotel bedroom spurted her with an odorless gas which leaves one unconscious but otherwise unharmed. Undressing her, they make her the victim of ghastly embarrassing photographs which they used to force her husband to supply classified information. The husband himself exposed this to the State Department, but it cost him his foreign service career.

Similarly, the KGB photographed former British Navy Comdr. Anthony Courtney, a member of Parliament, during a bedroom intimacy with a British woman in Moscow. Except for anonymous threats, neither Commander Courtney nor his companion had any knowledge of this until on the floor of Parliament he urged the expulsion of a number of Soviet spies from the Soviet's London Embassy.

Within 24 hours the embarrassing photographs reached selected Members of Parliament and one packet was put under the door of the Prime Minister's No. 10 Downing Street residence.

Identical pressures engulfed West German Rear Adm. Hermann Luedke, NATO's deputy chief for logistics.

Indicating the scope of such entrapment, five other suicides promptly followed: West German intelligence Maj. Gen. Horst Wendtland, the Defense Ministry's Gerhard Boehm and Lieut. Col. Johannes Grimm, Economics Ministry official Hans-Heinrich Schenk, and press office librarian Edeltraud Grapentin.

**THE PRIZE** — and priceless — information sought by any espionage apparatus is: What are the enemy's intentions and capabilities? This requires penetration at the decision - making, policy - making level. Every government is penetrated by enemy agents. Every intelligence service — including ours — operates on the basic assumption that its own government is penetrated.