

Tass Claims Ex-CIA Agent Has Defected

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet newspaper said today a former agent for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency from Quincy, Mass., identified as John Smith, has become a Soviet citizen and now lives and works in Moscow.

The U.S. Embassy said it had never heard of him.

The weekly newspaper Literary Gazette has begun publishing his story, Tass news agency reported before the paper itself was distributed.

A TASS summary said Smith served in the U.S. Navy, studied at Washington University and in 1950 went to work for the Department of State. It alleged that he did espionage work from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India.

A "first installment" of the story claimed Smith spent his first 17 years in Quincy and was educated at Thayer Academy in nearby Braintree, then worked at yards that manufactured warships before volunteering for the Navy. After studying at naval schools, Tass said, Smith was sent into permanent service at a special liaison department of the Navy, which was engaged in deciphering enemy codes. After the war, it said, Smith went to Washington University.

THE STORY went on: Smith was dispatched by the State Department to the U.S. Embassy in India for his first "major espionage assignment" called "Operation Lighter."

Smith saw the light and began to be critical of American policy, came under suspicion and had to leave the service. He lived in Australia, Africa, Switzerland, Austria and Italy before "at last he resolved to settled in the U.S.S.R."