

## St. Louis Professor, Deported by Mexico, Denies Spy Charge

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ST. LOUIS, Aug. 26 — A political science professor who has extensive contacts among guerrilla and leftist sources in Latin America was deported from Mexico this week and accused, he said, of being a foreign intelligence agent.

Kenneth F. Johnson was held in custody by Mexican immigration officials for two and a half days and extensively interrogated, he said, before being released on Thursday. His wife and 4-month-old daughter were also held in custody for 48 hours.

Mr. Johnson is an associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri at St. Louis and the author of a book that is critical of the Mexican Government. He said he was in Mexico to conduct interviews with political dissidents for a revision of the book, called "Mexican Democracy: A Critical Review."

Some of the interviews were with top leaders of the Party for National Action, a far-left underground political party.

The 39-year-old professor and his family were arrested Monday night at their hotel suite in Mexico City by immigration agents and taken to a prison complex where he was interrogated, Mr. Johnson said in an interview.

"They wanted for me to admit I really was working for the Central Intelligence Agency, Russia or Cuba," he said. "I would not do that."

He said he was released after signing a statement in which he admitted being technically guilty of a diplomatic charge of intervening in the internal affairs of Mexico.

A top Mexican official reportedly said, however, that Mr. Johnson was expelled because of "some irregularities in his papers." The official said Mr. Johnson was in Mexico on a tourist permit but was found to be working, which is illegal.