

Body of American Missing in Prague Is Found in River

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 20—A body identified as that of Charles H. Jordan, an American official of a Jewish relief organization, was found today in the Vltava River in Prague, the State Department announced.

An examining physician in Prague said the body had been in the water for several days. He was unable immediately to give the cause of death.

Mr. Jordan, a New Yorker, was executive vice chairman and director general of the American Joint Distribution Committee, which has long helped needy Jews overseas. He was 59 years old.

On vacation with his wife, Mr. Jordan vanished from his Prague hotel Wednesday night after telling her he was going out to buy a newspaper. His disappearance precipitated a wide police search.

A State Department spokesman said the United States Embassy in Prague had reported that a civilian rowing on the

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U. S. Embassy Informed

The finder notified the police, who reported the discovery to the American Embassy. Norbert J. Krieg, a United States Embassy official, viewed the body on the riverbank and identified clothes, jewelry and general features as those of Mr. Jordan. [Sources in New York said Mrs. Jordan and a nephew had positively identified the body.]

Before arriving in Prague on Monday, the Jordans had toured Hungary and Rumania. They were scheduled to go to Israel tomorrow where Mr. Jordan was to address social and community workers on Wednesday.

Mr. Jordan's nephew, Paul Kaplan, a student at Marietta College in Ohio, arrived in Prague Thursday as prearranged to join the Jordans on their vacation trip.

The Joint Distribution Committee has been frequently denounced in the Communist press as a "subversive Zionist agency." But neither Washington officials nor Louis Broido, the committee's chairman in New York, had word of any

move against the organization by Czechoslovak Communist authorities.

The Jordan address in New York is 340 East 64th Street.

Investigation Is Pressed

By IRVING SPIEGEL

Louis Broido, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, asserted yesterday that his agency was pressing its inquiries to determine the cause of Mr. Jordan's death.

Mr. Broido said the committee had sent a special representative to Prague to intensify this effort.

Leaders of other major American Jewish organizations, in statements, called on the State Department to exercise its influence in urging Czechoslovak authorities to investigate every aspect of the death.

Sources here reported that Mr. Jordan's wife, Elizabeth, and a nephew, Paul Kaplan, identified the body on the river bank a few minutes after the first identification had been made by the embassy official.

The American Jewish Committee, a pioneer human-relations agency, called on the Czech Government to solve what it called "this horrible crime" and to bring "its perpetrators to full justice regardless of their identity."

The statement added: "We also urge the United States Government to press the appropriate Czech officials in this matter with the utmost seriousness and to demand a full inquiry by an impartial body into all circumstances of the death."

Richard Cohen, assistant executive director of the American Jewish Congress, another major group devoted to safeguard the civil rights of Jews, urged the State Department to immediately demand of the Czech authorities "at the highest level" an investigation into "the disappearance and tragic death" of Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Cohen declared the Czech Government "bears a heavy responsibility to ascertain all of the facts surrounding the death."

He said that the Czech Government's responsibility "assumes even more ominous proportions in view of its recent actions toward Israel and its own Jewish community."

One such action was the invalidation by Czech postal authorities of two postage stamps they had previously issued, Mr. Cohen said. One stamp showed a 700-year-old synagogue in Prague, and the other depicted the Jewish state museum. Another action, Mr. Cohen said, was Czechoslovakia's severance of diplomatic relations with Israel during the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In recent weeks, following the Israeli-Arab war in June, there has been periodic harassment of Jews and Jewish

organizations in Eastern Europe. Last week, a leading Czechoslovak writer, Ladislav Mnacko, learned while on a trip to Israel that he had been deprived of his citizenship, expelled from the Communist party and shorn of all honors because of his public attack on the Middle Eastern policy of Prague.

Leaders of American Jewish groups have repeatedly called attention to what they described an intensified anti-Israel campaign by the Soviet press, which has increased the fears of Soviet Jews. This, Jewish leaders said, was the result of the Israeli victory over the Arab armies.

In a statement of tribute to Mr. Jordan, Mr. Broide said that the Joint Distribution Committee had operated for 53 years throughout the world "without any political or other purpose than to relieve the distressed and rescue those who have been or facing danger."

For more than half of that time, Mr. Jordan was a "great, tireless worker on our staff," Mr. Broido said, "he spent his life helping Jews all over the world."

Mr. Jordan was born in Philadelphia, and joined the "Joint," as the organization is familiarly known, in 1941 as director for the Caribbean area, with headquarters in Havana. Later, he saw service in the Navy before rejoining the agency as director of Far Eastern activities with headquarters in Shanghai. He studied at the University of Berlin and the School of Social Work of Columbia University.

Mr. Jordan's humanitarian activities with the Joint Distribution Committee was not his first post. Before joining the agency,

he had already seen service with the Jewish Family Welfare Society of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia County Relief Board, the Jewish Social Service Association in New York City, the National Committee of Foreign Physicians and the National Refugee Service.

Had Worked in Paris

In 1948, he moved to Paris to take charge of the immigration department of the "Joint," overseeing the emigration and integration of hundreds of thousands of displaced Jewish persons.

From 1959 to 1961, he served as co-chairman of the International Committee for World Refugee Year, sponsored by the

United Nations. Earlier this year, he had been elected chairman of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service.

A tall, husky man, he was a popular figure at the annual United Jewish Appeal conventions. He was quick to supply figures of how much aid money was needed, without the benefit of a prepared chart, and time and again was sought out for advice on how to cope with assistance programs by both Jewish and non-Jewish welfare agencies.

In the midst of an almost round-the-clock schedule, he always found time to collect paintings, sculpture and stamps and to listen to music.