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Red China Defection lead no pickup A248, 259

THE HAGUE, Netherlands AP - The top diplomat from Red China in The Hague has defected and won temporary asylum in the Netherlands, the Dutch Justice Ministry said Friday.

The Dutch radio gave a cloak-and-dagger aspect to the case with a broadcast report that he quit the Peking regime after being ordered home to account for the death here of a Chinese scientist said to have sold a secret nerve gas formula to U.S. agents.

The Justice Ministry said Liao Ho Shu, temporary charge d'affaires to the Netherlands, asked and was granted permission for a limited stay in the country. There was no word on when Liao defected, but the ministry said he had left the Hague for an unannounced destination.

Liao was second secretary here three years before taking over for Charge d'Affaires Li En-chiu in July 1966.

The Dutch government expelled Li after the Chinese abducted the scientist, Hsu Tsu-tsai, from a hospital where he lay critically injured and took him to their legation where he died.

The Dutch broadcast gave no details on Liao's role in the affair or of his reported recall order.

The death of Hsu, a rocket expert visiting the Netherlands for a congress on welding techniques, touched off an international barrage of spy charges and countercharges.

Hsu was found sprawled on a sidewalk outside the Peking legation on July 16, 1966. He was taken to a hospital with a skull fracture and spinal injuries. Some reports said he had been run down by a Red Chinese car and others that he had been thrown out of a window.

An official Dutch investigator said the injuries were suffered in "a fall, premeditated or not."

As Hsu was being wheeled into an operating room, four Chinese appeared and took him back to the legation. The Dutch called that a violation of rules of diplomacy and ordered the expulsion of Li, the charge d'affaires.

Red China retaliated by declaring Li's Dutch counterpart in Peking unwelcome. It charged the Dutch were acting under U.S. orders and that "the death of Hsu Tsu-tsai has been caused by the activities of secret U.S. agents and their accomplices who persuaded him to defect."

Peking's New China News Agency said Hsu, "incited by U.S. agents to desert and betray his country," had been injured by jumping from the building in an attempt to run away.

Later in 1966, a book by three Dutch newsmen said Hsu had given an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency a microfilmed formula for a fatal nerve gas developed by a Polish scientist and spirited to the Netherlands by a Chinese double agent.

The book, "The Chinese Affair," said the Hague was the terminus of a major Red Chinese spy line in Europe.

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