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NEW YORK, MARCH 11 (AP)-A U.S. DIPLOMAT SAID TO HAVE BEEN A SOVIET SPY FOR 18 YEARS WAS ALLOWED TO RESIGN THREE YEARS AGO "FOR FEAR HIS PROSECUTION WOULD TRIGGER A MAJOR STATE DEPARTMENT SCANDAL," THE NEW YORK JOURNAL AMERICAN SAID TODAY.

THE MAN WAS ALLOWED TO "DISAPPEAR" IN EUROPE, WHERE HE AND HIS MISTRESS "ARE NOW REPORTEDLY OPERATING FREELY....," THE NEWSPAPER SAID IN A COPYRIGHT STORY BY GUY RICHARDS.

THE STORY SAID:

"THE HOPE OF KEEPING BURIED FOREVER THE STORY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL AMERICAN TURNCOAT, AND THAT OF HIS AMERICAN MISTRESS WHO WORKED IN THE WARSAW EMBASSY, IS ONE OF THE PRIME MOTIVES BEHIND THE ALMOST DESPERATE ATTEMPTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TO KEEP COL. GOLENIEWSKI FROM TESTIFYING BEFORE THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE.

"OTHER REASONS BEHIND THOSE ATTEMPTS ARE FEAR OF HIS DISCLOSURE OF 19 AMERICANS WORKING FOR THE KGB (SOVIET SECRET POLICE) 12 IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, FOUR IN THE CIA AND THREE IN U.S. SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES."

WASHINGTON SOURCES SAID ON MARCH 3 THAT COL. MICHAL GOLENIEWSKI, 41, A POLE WHO DEFECTED FROM THE SOVIET SECRET POLICE IN 1961, PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT LED TO THE ARREST OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT SOVIET BLOC SPIES OPERATING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT OR FURTHER ELABORATION.

THE JOURNAL AMERICAN SAID THE DIPLOMAT-TURNED-SPY JOINED THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN 1938 AND WAS RECRUITED BY RUSSIAN SECRET POLICE IN 1943. HE WAS NOT IDENTIFIED.

THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED ON MARCH 3 THAT GOLENIEWSKI NAMED FOUR U.S. DIPLOMATS IN WARSAW WHOM HE SAID WERE BLACKMAILED INTO SPYING FOR RUSSIA AFTER CLANDESTINE AFFAIRS WITH POLISH GIRLS. SEX WAS ALSO USED TO TRAP A FIFTH DIPLOMAT, WHO RESIGNED, THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

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