

Californian Guilty as Soviet Spy

Los Angeles

Christopher John Boyce, the son of a former FBI agent, was convicted yesterday on espionage, theft and conspiracy charges for stealing and selling top-secret U.S. defense documents to the Russians.

A jury of eight men and four

women deliberated less than one day before finding Boyce guilty on all eight counts. The espionage charges carry a possible life sentence.

Boyce sat slumped in his chair silently, his thumb to his chin, as the verdicts were read.

The arrests of Boyce, 23, and

Andrew Daulton Lee, 25, childhood friends from the suburban Palos Verdes area, ended an alleged two-year spy caper.

Lee, an unemployed cabinet-maker who has claimed he worked for the Central Intelligence Agen-

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cy, went on trial earlier in the day in another courtroom.

Boyce, a former courier and security clerk at the TRW aerospace plant in nearby Redondo Beach, was arrested in January by FBI agents in Riverside, where he had enrolled in a college course in Russian foreign policy.

Testimony during much of his 2½-week trial concerned documents from a TRW study for the CIA on "Project Pyramider," a proposal to orbit three covert communication satellites to agents in "denied areas."

Prosecution witnesses said the information was vital to the national defense. Boyce's defense sought to establish that the proposal was obsolete and was never given serious consideration.

Boyce, the final defense witness, claimed he was blackmailed by Lee after telling his former friend about alleged CIA activities in Australia and writing a letter about them.

He said Lee gave the letter to the Russians without his knowledge and then threatened to expose him to his employers at TRW and also implicate his father, the chief of security at the McDonnell Douglas plant in neighboring Long Beach.

In his closing arguments Wednesday, prosecutor Richard Stilz charged that Boyce and Lee had agreed from the beginning to sell the data to the Russians and claimed Boyce became involved in



UPI Telephoto

CHRISTOPHER BOYCE
He could get a life term

the scheme because he was excited by the intrigue.

Boyce said he pretended to play along with Lee and the Russians, taking pictures in the CIA communications vault at TRW only of documents he was sure could not be useful to them.

He said the Russians wanted him to get a job in the State Department, admitted accepting \$5000 from them after a meeting in Mexico and said the Soviets probably thought he would supply them with information in the future.

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