

Fuller version of story,
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Letter to Soviet Embassy

A Scoutmaster in FBI Files

Washington

Files stolen from the Federal Bureau of Investigation disclose that copies of letters mailed to the Soviet Embassy here by persons who wish to visit the Soviet Union can find their way into FBI dossiers.

That was what happened to Thomas E. Ingerson, a 32-year-old Boy Scout leader in Moscow, who plans to lead his six-boy troop of Explorer Scouts on a camping tour of Russia this summer.

DOCUMENTS

On November he wrote to the Russian Embassy, saying that his troop wished to visit camps of Russian Pioneer and Komsomol youth groups. His letter contained nothing more subversive than the re-

mark that his troop would not "travel like bourgeois tourists."

But documents that were stolen on March 8 from the FBI office in Media, Pa., and that have been widely distributed by the thieves, who call themselves the Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI, include a copy of Ingerson's letter.

Asked by telephone yesterday how his letter might have found its way into the files of a small FBI office outside Philadelphia, Ingerson replied that he has no idea. He did say that the Russian Embassy had not answered his letter but had forwarded it to a Philadelphia travel agency, the Astro Travel Service.

Astro replied for the Russians in a letter dated November 30, saying that it handles travel inquiries for the Soviet Embassy, Ingerson said.

SERVICE

Reached at his Philadelphia office by telephone yesterday, the owner of the Astro Travel Service, William Nezowy, said his agency specialized in handling travel requests for Soviet Bloc embassies. Nezowy said the Soviet Embassy send his agency "a considerable number" of the travel inquiries that it receives from Americans. He said he handled about 700 of these last year, together with similar letters from U.S. citizens to the embassies of Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslo-

vakia.

Nezowy said he had no idea how a letter referred from the Russian Embassy through his agency might have reached the files of the FBI office in media. Asked if he or any of his five employees could be feeding copies of letters to the FBI, he said, "God, no!"

PHYSICS

Ingerson, an associate professor of physics at the University of Idaho, said that he had not been reached by the FBI or anyone other than the Astro Travel Service about his letter to the Russians. When told that a copy of his letter had been pilfered from FBI files, he exclaimed, "My purpose in writing that letter was utterly innocent." He said that he was "an apolitical person."

In Chester, Pa., Muhammad Kenyatta, a black militant leader who was mentioned in some of the stolen documents, said yesterday that he received "considerably more information" than had been published so far in a packet sent to him by the stiff-styled "Citizens Commission."