

An Odd Couple



Jack Anderson

A WASHINGTON odd couple, Spiro Agnew and Tongsun Park, have quietly teamed up in London.

Agnew was drummed out of the vice presidency in 1973, and Park fled from a Justice Department investigation two years later — the former for allegedly accepting bribes, the latter for allegedly paying bribes.

They have now combined their talents in pursuit of international business deals. Park's private papers contain cryptic reference to joint Agnew-Park ventures in the Middle East.

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WE HAVE also established that Agnew has received messages at the Korean entrepreneur's London office. On at least one occasion, Park personally accepted a telephone message for the former vice president.

More specifically, an elusive businessman named Sami Shamoon has sent joint cables to Agnew and Park about a steel venture in Iran.

One cable, dated Nov. 25, 1975, assured the odd couple that the Iranian steel business "will grow very big since 100,000 residential flats are coming up only in Teheran. With dams and other projects, steel construction is extremely and definitely vast. If you agree, we can have a joint venture together."

In a separate cable, an aide advised Tongsun Park of a Shamoon cable "addressed to both you and Governor S.A. as a most urgent and important message." It is clear from other evidence that the mysterious "Governor S.A." is

Spiro Agnew, who was once governor of Maryland.

Park's private records also tell of bulk yarn deals in Iran. A travel itinerary indicates that Agnew, Park and Shamoon made at least one business trip together to New York City.

Our attempts to get an explanation of the Agnew-Park connection from the principals were fruitless. We were told that both men were out of the country. We tried to reach Agnew through Pathlite, Inc., a Maryland firm that lists him as its president. All our questions were answered with a polite "no comment."

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PARK'S American company, Pacific Development, Inc., had no telephone. We tried Park at a London number provided by one of our sources. The phone was answered "Eastern Navigation," but we were told Park was not there. We left messages for him in London and for his attorney in Washington.

We also traced the mysterious Sami Shamoon to London, but he has an unlisted number.

Footnote: In past columns, we have chronicled Park's shenanigans, which have often left his creditors holding the bills for his financial fandangos and posh lifestyle. We pieced the story together from his private papers, which were saved from the shredder. Reporters Lew Perdue and Ken Cummins are now collecting these papers for a book on Washington scandals, which they will write with author Robin Moore.