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Assassination Attempt 320

WASHINGTON AP - A Soviet Army lieutenant who borrowed a policeman's uniform fired the shots at a motorcade carrying government leaders and cosmonauts last week, then died almost immediately, the Washington Post said today.

The Post, in a dispatch from Moscow by Anatole Shub, identified the man as a Lt. Ilyin of the Soviet Army Engineers, based at Leningrad.

It said he took poison and was slugged by Kremlin guards who foiled the assassination attempt inside the Kremlin's Borovitsky Gate Jan. 22.

"Usually reliable sources" told The Post Ilyin left his assigned post in Leningrad on Monday Jan. 20 without reporting back to his unit to return his pistol. A nationwide search began the next morning.

On Tuesday, it was reported, he arrived in Moscow and stayed with an unidentified relative, a militia, or police, captain.

Wednesday, the day of the parade, he asked to borrow the militia uniform saying he wanted to be able to watch the parade more closely. It allowed him to shoot onlookers out of the way and clear the range for his shots.

The dispatch said official investigations have yet to reveal whether he left any note disclosing his motive, or whether he acted alone or as part of a conspiracy.

"There were even rumors, spread by well-placed Soviet informants," the story said, "that the shooting may have been part of a broader plot organized in Leningrad against the top Kremlin leadership."

It has never been made clear just who the shots were intended to hit.

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