

Soviet Doubts Political Plot in Kremlin Shooting

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MOSCOW, Feb. 4—Soviet investigators were reported today to have uncovered no evidence of a political conspiracy behind the shooting incident in the Kremlin last month.

Informed Soviet sources said that, on the basis of preliminary findings, the possibility of a plot had been ruled out, in part because of what they describe as the amateurish behavior of the gunman, identified only as a Lieutenant Ilyin who had been absent without leave from his Soviet Army unit in Leningrad.

He is said to be undergoing medical and psychological tests to determine his sanity and his motives. Rumors that the officer had attempted to take poison during his arrest and other reports that he was dead have been denied by the informed sources.

Detailed investigations are said to be under way into the service record of the officer, reported to be in his twenties. Officials are also reported to be investigating his relatives, friends and acquaintances and searching for possible religious or political influences. There have been rumors that he was a member of a fanatical religious sect.

Gunman, an Army Officer, Considered Too Irrational to Be Part of Conspiracy

Lieutenant Ilyin, who was wearing a policeman's uniform, was seized on Jan. 22 immediately after he had fired several shots at an official motorcade carrying astronauts and members of the Soviet leadership.

The shots slightly wounded a motorcycle rider escorting the procession and seriously injured the driver of a car in which four astronauts were riding. The driver died of head wounds.

Officer Deceived a Relative

The assailant is presumed to have fired at the astronauts' automobile in the belief that the closed car was carrying top Soviet officials. It was in the second position in the motorcade behind an open convertible in which four other astronauts, who were being honored for an orbital flight and docking, were waving to crowds.

According to the informed sources, Lieutenant Ilyin obtained the uniform by deceiving a relative in the Moscow police

force. It was the policeman's day off and the lieutenant was said to have asked for the uniform on the pretense that he had come to Moscow especially to see the astronauts' parade and wanted to be certain of getting close for a good view.

The unsuspecting relative agreed, according to this account, though the loan of the uniform evidently violated regulations. The fact that Ilyin was an army officer is presumed to have helped allay any doubts the relative might have had.

Soviet authorities are said to reason that a conspiratorial group intending to assassinate Soviet leaders would have planned the shooting better.

According to the sources, Ilyin, though wearing a policeman's uniform actually did not take a position close to the roadway and had to push his way through a crowd before taking aim.

Lack of conspiratorial planning was also seen in the officer's having fired two pistols, simultaneously, "in the manner of a two-gun cowboy," as one source put it. This was said to have explained his allegedly poor aim.

Soviet authorities clearly have been taken aback by the shooting, a rare event in recent Soviet history, and are making no official statements pending completion of the careful investigation. The expected release of a progress report has been canceled. The only announcement thus far has been a brief statement by Tass, the Soviet press agency, made public the day after the incident when news began to spread in Moscow.