

PRAGUE REPORTS JORDAN DROWNED

Autopsy Said to Disclose No Signs of Violence on Body

By PETER GROSE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 —

An official Czechoslovak pathologist concluded today that Charles H. Jordan, senior officer of an American Jewish relief organization, died by drowning after his disappearance in Prague Wednesday night.

The pathologist said he found no signs of violence on the body, according to information received by the State Department.

Western physicians arrived in the Czechoslovak capital a few hours after the police autopsy to perform an independent examination.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the United States Embassy that the full report on the discovery of Mr. Jordan's body would be submitted to embassy officials tomorrow.

The body was found yesterday in the Vltava River in Prague. Last night, Mr. Jordan's nephew, Paul Kaplan, identified the body from a ring worn by the dead man and bits of his clothing. The 59-year-old American, who was visiting Czechoslovakia with his wife as a tourist, had not been seen since he left his hotel, saying he was going to buy a newspaper.

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Mr. Jordan was executive vice chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, a prominent international organization that provides aid to needy Jewish refugees. He and his wife had been touring Eastern Europe. The nephew, a student at Marietta College in Ohio, flew to Prague Thursday expecting to join the tour.

American officials have established no motives of a personal or political nature to explain Mr. Jordan's disappearance or his subsequent death.

Czechs Disclaim Knowledge

Czech authorities disclaimed any knowledge of the case when it was reported to them Thursday, and they assured the United States Embassy of fullest co-operation in determining the circumstances surrounding Mr. Jordan's disappearance.

Early this morning, the Czech Foreign Ministry called the United States consul in Prague, Norbert J. Krieg, to inform him that an autopsy was under way at that time.

Mr. Krieg was the first American to see and identify the body yesterday, when he was summoned to the riverbank as soon as the discovery was made. Arriving at the hospital this morning, he was told the examination had been completed just five minutes earlier.

The Czech authorities agreed to hold everything in readiness for a second post-mortem examination by outside pathologists.

Dr. Alexander Gonik, representative of the Joint Distribution Committee in Geneva, and Prof. Ernest Hardmeyer of the Legal Medical Institute of Zurich are to perform this examination.

Officials of the refugee agency are understood to have tried to find an American pathologist in New York who could fly to Prague quickly, but were unable to locate anyone suitable yesterday. They then asked Dr. Gonik to find someone in Switzerland who could move without delay.

Mrs. Jordan, who lives at 340 East 64th Street in New York, is remaining in Prague with Mr. Kaplan, according to United States officials.

A State Department spokesman said that, to his knowledge, Mr. Jordan was not employed by any agency of the Federal Government.

Autopsy Finding Rejected

By IRVING SPIEGEL

Louis Broido, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, close associates and friends of Mr. Jordan rejected yesterday the Prague autopsy finding that he had died by drowning.

Mr. Broido said that on Sunday he requested the Czechoslovak authorities to delay the autopsy until the arrival of medical representatives of the committee.

"The fact that the Czechs refused to delay the autopsy, we find a highly suspicious circumstance," Mr. Broido said, "so suspicious that we cannot escape the conclusion that the Czech Government is covering up for something which they must have had knowledge."

In rejecting the Czech report of drowning, sources here pointed out that the Esplanade Hotel, where Mr. Jordan was staying with his wife, was at least three miles from the Vltava River. In a trans-Atlantic telephone call to Mr. Jordan's associates in the Joint Distribution Committee's offices here, Mrs. Jordan said that her husband was cheerful when he left the hotel on Wednesday night.

At that time he told his wife

that he was going out to get a newspaper and would return shortly. He was wearing slacks and sports shirt. Mrs. Jordan said that her husband had looked forward to going to Israel, where he was scheduled to address the International Conference of Jewish Communal Service in Jerusalem tomorrow before returning to the United States.

Mr. Broido said that a number of Mr. Jordan's friends as well as members of the Joint Distribution Committee staff had received letters and postal cards mailed by him on the day he disappeared. All the cards, Mr. Broido said, "sounded normal and cheerful."

Gaynor Jacobson, executive director of the United Hias Service, a worldwide Jewish migration agency, said he had received a card. Mr. Jacobson, a close friend, lives in the same apartment house where the Jordans lived.