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U.S. Issues Visa to Soviet Agent for 'Private Business'

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Victor Louis, the Soviet journalist believed to be associated with Soviet intelligence organizations and frequently used by the Soviet government to perform delicate missions abroad, arrived in the United States on a "private" visit, it was learned here yesterday.

The U.S. government's decision to issue a visa to Louis

prompted speculations among Soviet experts as to the nature of his trip.

Louis made a surprise visit to Israel last month and conferred with Simha Dinitz, political adviser to Prime Minister Golda Meir. The fact that Soviet authorities had sanctioned the trip indicated that Louis may have been used to establish unofficial contacts with Israel. The Soviet Union broke diplomatic relations

with Israel after the June 1967 war.

Louis visited Taiwan two years ago and met a senior member of Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist party in an apparent effort to re-establish contacts between Moscow and Taipei.

Louis' whereabouts in the United States could not be immediately determined. Reliable sources said he arrived this week and planned to visit

Boston, New York and possibly Palo Alto, Calif., before coming to Washington.

State Department spokesman Charles Bray confirmed yesterday that the decision to issue a 30-day visa to Louis was made "about 10 days ago." Bray said, "we assume he is in the United States."

"When we issued him a visa we were satisfied that he had legitimate private business here," Bray said. He added

that Louis had "no appointments in the State Department or elsewhere" in Washington.

Louis, whose real name is Vitaly Yevgenyevich Lui, is accredited in Moscow as a correspondent for the London Evening News, but he rarely writes for that newspaper. He had told reporters that he went to Israel for medical treatment and that his trip had "nothing to do with the

Soviet Union's establishing relations with Israel."

Few experts take his explanation of the trip seriously. An ordinary Soviet citizen cannot visit Israel. Louis had also visited Spain, which has no relations with Moscow, and his visit to Taiwan angered China, which accused the Russians of plotting.

Louis aroused interested abroad when he sold in 1967 an unauthorized manuscript of

Svetlana Alliluyeva's book and a series of previously unpublished photographs of Stalin. His name also has been linked with "Khrushchev Remembers."

Louis was the first person to reveal the ouster of Nikita Khrushchev in 1964. In 1969 he wrote a story about Soviet plans to attach Chinese military installations in Central Asia, a maneuver obviously calculated to rattle Peking.

At 43, he is an urbane and charming gentleman who can often be seen at Moscow's diplomatic cocktail circuit. He and his British wife, whom he met in Moscow, live on a lavish scale in a mansion 15 miles outside the Soviet capital.

He also maintains a five-room apartment in the city, owns several cars including a \$6,000 Porsche, and maintains a swimming pool and tennis court at his country estate.