

G.I. HELD IN PLOT TO SPY FOR SOVIET

F.B.I. Says Air Force Man Met Twice With Embassy Aide Near Washington

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—The Federal Bureau of Investigation disclosed tonight that a 23-year-old German-born staff sergeant in the United States Air Force had been arrested and charged with conspiring to commit espionage with a Soviet diplomat.

The bureau said Sgt. Herbert William Boeckenhaupt had been arrested at March Air Force Base in California, where he is stationed. A base spokesman said Sergeant Boeckenhaupt worked as a communications repairman and held top secret clearance.

The F.B.I. said Sergeant Boeckenhaupt was accused of conspiring with Aleksey R. Malinin, assistant commercial counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, to deliver to the Soviet Union "information relating to the national defense of the United States."

Secret Meetings Alleged

Sergeant Boeckenhaupt, who came to the United States in 1958 with his family, was stationed at the Pentagon from April, 1964, to August, 1965. The incidents listed in the F.B.I. charges dealt with alleged secret meetings with the Soviet diplomat in June, 1965, and April, 1966.

Soon after the F.B.I. announcement, the State Department declared Mr. Malinin persona non grata—an unwelcome person—and requested that he leave the United States as soon as possible.

James W. Pratt, deputy director of the State Department's Office of Soviet Affairs, called in Alexander I. Zinchuk, the Soviet Minister Counselor, who is acting in the absence of Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. Mr. Pratt told Mr. Zinchuk that Mr. Malinin's activities were "clearly incompatible with his status in this country and therefore his continued presence here was not acceptable," the States Department press officer, Carl Barch, said.

Mr. Malinin is expected to

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leave within three days, Mr. Barch said.

The Russian is not a diplomat in the strictest meaning of the word and is not listed in the Blue Book, the State Department's diplomatic list. But he enjoys diplomatic immunity, Mr. Barch said.

He said Mr. Malinin was the 21st Soviet diplomat to be expelled from this country for similar charges since World War II.

This is the fourth major spy case reported by the F.B.I. since last July.

The bureau refused to say whether any money was involved in the Boeckenhaupt-Malinin meetings. Nor would it say whether any information was passed.

The Justice Department filed the charges against the sergeant in United States District Court at Los Angeles. The Government recommended \$50,000 bail.

The F.B.I. director, J. Edgar Hoover, said the bureau and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations "have been conducting an extensive investigation into Boeckenhaupt's activities for the past several months."

Sergeant Boeckenhaupt has been in the Air Force since July 9, 1960. He had lived with his family in Superior, Wis., where he attended Superior Central High School before enlisting. He is married and lives at Riverside, Calif.

His Duties Not Disclosed

The F.B.I. said the sergeant met with Mrs. Malinin in June, 1965, in a rural district of Arlington, Va., a Washington suburb. There, the bureau said, Mr. Malinin questioned Sergeant Boeckenhaupt concerning his duties at the Pentagon.

The F.B.I. would not say what the soldier's duties were at the Pentagon, nor would it say that his present assignment was at March Air Force Base, where he has been stationed since last April.

The F.B.I. said Sergeant



S. Sgt. Herbert William Boeckenhaupt was arrested.



Associated Press Wirephotos
Aleksei R. Malinin, Soviet diplomat with whom Boeckenhaupt was accused of conspiring in espionage plot.

Boeckenhaupt met again with the Russian last April in a bowling alley parking lot in suburban Fairfax County, Va. There, the Bureau said, Mr. Malinin gave Sergeant Boeckenhaupt a 35-millimeter slide that contained the location of "drop areas" and meeting places.

The bureau said also that the sergeant wrote a letter to an address in England in May, 1966, and received a reply in September. But the bureau would give no information about the significance of the exchange or what was in the letter.

Mr. Malinin, 45, entered the United States on Sept. 12, 1963, and has been assigned to the Soviet Embassy since December, 1963. The F.B.I. said he was married and had been living at Suburban Falls Church, Va. It said his two children lived in the Soviet Union.

Sergeant Boeckenhaupt was born at Mannheim, Germany. He derived United States citizenship through his parents, who are naturalized.

At March Air Force Base a spokesman said the sergeant had top secret clearance and worked as a communications repairman assigned to the 33d Communications Squadron.

The spokesman said the man's duties in the Pentagon had been to receive, process and relay radio traffic to and from ground agencies and aircraft in flight.

In August, 1965, he began a communications repairman course at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and graduated last April 7. He was then transferred here.

His records show he married Sherry Lynn Piazza of Oxen Hill, Md., last April.