

Sergeant Found Guilty of Conspiring With Soviet

ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 25 (AP)—Sgt. Herbert W. Boeckenhaupt of the Air Force was convicted today of having conspired with a Soviet Embassy official to transmit defense secrets to the Soviet Union.

The lanky 24-year-old airman, wearing a dark business suit, kept his composure when an all-male jury returned its verdict in Federal District Court after seven and a half hours of deliberation.

His attorneys said they would appeal.

Boeckenhaupt could be sentenced to death. Judge Oren R. Lewis deferred the sentencing pending a report from the probation department.

"I'm not going to put you on probation," Judge Lewis said.

But he said that Boeckenhaupt was a young man and notwithstanding the nature of his crime, "we do have a benevolent country, as you know."

'I Want to Help You'

"I want to help you if I can help you help yourself," Judge Lewis said.

Boeckenhaupt, from Superior, Wis., was arrested last October at March Air Force Base in California, where he worked electronic code devices used by the Strategic Air Command. He was convicted of having conspired to transmit defense secrets and to obtain national defense information illegally.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified that he had admitted having communicated three times with Aleksei R. Malinin, a former assistant commercial counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

They said he had written Mr.



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Herbert W. Boeckenhaupt

in this country, after the airman's arrest and left the United States.

Boeckenhaupt's attorneys stressed that he had cooperated with the F.B.I. in the investigation of the case and said there was no proof that "this boy gave anything away." Boeckenhaupt has been held in the near-

by District of Columbia jail and was ordered returned there.

He was born in Mannheim, Germany, and came to the United States as a child with his American mother. His 19-year-old wife, Sherry, from Temple Hills, Md., who was in the courtroom for the sentencing, went quietly after the verdict was announced.

Malinin twice when he was attending a training school for cryptographic technicians at the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and once again after he was transferred to California.

Money Needed

They said that the letters had mentioned, among other things, the need for a lot of money to pay some bills and work on his car. They also said that the letters had mentioned code cards and plans for power equipment.

Mr. Malinin was declared persona non grata, or unwelcome