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PM-PHILLIPS SKED 5-13
CIA RETIREE SUES MAGAZINE OVER JFK LINK
BY DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- RETIRED CIA OFFICER DAVID A. PHILLIPS IS SUING WASHINGTONIAN MAGAZINE FOR $70 MILLION FOR ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATING HIM IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN 1963.

PHILLIPS' SUIT CAME TO LIGHT TUESDAY IN A GOSSIP COLUMN IN THE WASHINGTON STAR. HE THEN TOLD UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL HE FILED THE SUIT IN A MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD., COURT ON MAY 1 "TO LET THE LEGAL PROCESS GO FORWARD."

PHILLIPS SAID HIS SUIT IS PART OF A MOVE BY FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST SCURRILOUS CHARGES.

"WE COLLECTIVELY FEEL THAT WE HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS, NO MORE NO LESS THAN THE RIGHTS OF ANY OTHER CITIZEN," HE SAID.

"WE FEEL WE HAVE BEEN MALIGNED."

PHILLIPS, 58, WAS A SENIOR CIA OFFICIAL IN LATIN AMERICAN POSTS AND IN MEXICO CITY WHEN LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THERE ASKING CUBAN AND SOVIET HELP IN RETURNING TO MOSCOW. OSWALD WAS TURNED DOWN BY THE CUBAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES AND RETURNED TO DALLAS, WHERE FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS CONCLUDED HE FIRED THE SHOTS THAT KILLED THE PRESIDENT.

THE WASHINGTONIAN ARTICLE SAID A CIA AGENT IDENTIFIED AS MAURICE BISHOP MET WITH OSWALD IN DALLAS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION.

THE ARTICLE DREW PHILLIPS' NAME INTO SPECULATION ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE MYSTERIOUS MAURICE BISHOP AND NOTED ALLEGED PHYSICAL SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PHILLIPS AND AN ARTIST'S SKETCH OF THE ANONYMOUS AGENT.

"THIS IS THE FIRST LAW SUIT UNDER A NEW CONCEPT CALLED 'CHALLENGE,'" SAID PHILLIPS. "IT IS AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS' LEGAL ACTION FUND, NOT A DEFENSE FUND, TO SUPPORT EVERY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WHO FEELS HE HAS BEEN MALIGNED."

PHILLIPS ENDED A 25-YEAR CIA CAREER IN 1975 WHEN HE RESIGNED AS CHIEF OF THE AGENCY'S WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIVISION. AFTER LEAVING THE CIA, HE FOUNDED THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS.

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