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Soviet 'honey trap' lured 2nd Marine

By Bill Gertz
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A second U.S. Marine security guard suspected of spying for the Soviet Union was seduced by a female Soviet employee at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, administration sources said yesterday.

"It was another honey trap," said one administration source of the Soviets' use of sexual entrapment in intelligence operations. U.S. officials now have expanded their investigation.

The sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the discovery was made by Naval Investigative Service officials during a four-month probe of Marine Sgt.

Clayton J. Lonetree, a former Moscow embassy guard charged last month with spying for the Soviets.

NIS officials have widened their investigation of the Lonetree case following the discovery that a second Marine guard, Cpl. Arnold Bracy, had an affair with a Soviet national while stationed in Moscow. Administration sources identified the Soviet national as a cook at the U.S. Embassy.

Cpl. Bracy, who also doubled as an embassy mechanic, was arrested at a Marine base in California last week and was transferred Tuesday to solitary confinement in Quantico, Va., where he is being held on suspicion

of "possible involvement in espionage-related activities," a Marine spokesman said yesterday.

Marine Lt. Col. John Shotwell, the spokesman, declined to elaborate on the charges against Cpl. Bracy, but he said military regulations require that a bail hearing be held within a week.

Col. Shotwell declined to say if the two Marine guard cases are linked, but he said service records reveal that Cpl. Bracy, 21, and Sgt. Lonetree both were stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow during an eight-month period. Cpl. Bracy served as an embassy guard between July 26, 1985, and Sept. 18, 1986; Sgt. Lonetree worked as a guard there from Sept. 27, 1984, to March 10, 1986.

CBS News reported that, according to administration officials, on certain nights Sgt. Lonetree and Cpl. Bracy were the only embassy guards on duty.

Officials also are investigating the two Marines to find out if they were involved with the same woman, or may have collaborated in a conspiracy, the sources said.

Col. Shotwell said further information on the case would be made available if the Marine commandant at Quantico finds enough evidence to order an investigation under Article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. An Article 32 investigation is the military equivalent of a grand jury probe.

At the State Department, spokesman Charles E. Redman said yesterday a "full-scale counterintelligence investigation" of the Bracy case was underway.

"We are treating this as a very serious breach of our security," Mr. Redman said. "Also being done is a worst-case damage assessment so that every aspect of security at our embassy in Moscow will be investigated as a result of these two cases."

When Sgt. Lonetree was arrested in December, intelligence officials said the operation was limited to one American and three Soviet KGB agents, identified by the Marines as Violetta Sanni, an embassy translator, Alexei G. "Uncle Sasha" Yefimov and Yuri V. "George" Lysov.

One source said the second arrest represents a major new development in what could prove to be one of the most serious U.S. intelligence losses.

"Potentially, what you've got is another Howard case," one source said. Another said the damage could be worse.

Edward Lee Howard was a former CIA operative fired from the agency in 1983 after he had been trained to run intelligence operations in Moscow. He defected to the Soviet Union last year and officials suspect he supplied Moscow with details of U.S. operations and agents.

The source said that while secured areas of U.S. embassies are off limits to foreign nationals, Marine security procedures require that two guards must be present to gain access to top-secret embassy areas.

Asked to estimate the magnitude of the possible intelligence loss, another source replied, "All I can say is that it's very big."

The Marine Corps started formal court-martial proceedings against

Sgt. Lonetree Jan. 30. He faces 19 separate charges alleging that he provided information to Soviet agents about the identities of U.S. agents stationed in Moscow. He is also suspected of providing the Soviets with details of embassy floor plans and the locations of office workers in Moscow and Vienna.

If convicted by a military court, Sgt. Lonetree faces a maximum penalty of death under a military espionage statute enacted by Congress recently.

Sources said Sgt. Lonetree was seduced in Moscow by Ms. Sanni, identified by one U.S. official as a beautiful "blonde femme fatale" who worked for the KGB.

Marine guards are stationed at all U.S. embassies abroad and are responsible for security against unauthorized entry. They also guard secret sections of the embassy and protect classified documents kept in special locations.

About 200 Soviet nationals at one time were employed at the U.S. embassy in Moscow and consulate in Leningrad. But the Soviet government forced them to quit last fall during a diplomatic row over spying.

A State Department official, however, said yesterday that about a dozen "third country nationals" have been kept on as Moscow embassy staff workers.

Meanwhile in Long Island, N.Y., Cpl. Bracy's mother, Frieda Bracy, told United Press International that she spoke with her son prior to his arrest.

"He told me he was being questioned about some sort of espionage and that he was innocent," Mrs. Bracy told UPI. "I was upset as a mother, but I have faith in God, and I believe he is innocent. With God's help, it will be proven."

The State Department has been under pressure from some members of Congress to replace Soviet nationals inside U.S. diplomatic facilities in the Soviet Union as a result of espionage activities by such employees.

A Senate Intelligence Committee report last year revealed that the Soviets sometime during 1985 and 1986 planted electronic listening devices inside typewriters at the Moscow embassy.

As a result, some of the most secret U.S. communications at the embassy were intercepted by electronic equipment that picked up typewriter transmissions from the devices through embassy walls and windows.