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Probe Reported in Ex-CIA Man's Acts

Capital Paper Says Committee Eyes Possibility of Dealings With Reds

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (AP) — The Washington Star said today the House Committee on Un-American Activities is looking into the case of a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employe who committed suicide after leaving the hush-hush intelligence agency.

It said the man, Nick Clark Wallen, "Reportedly held a number of clandestine meetings with an assistant Soviet military attache here early last year."

The Soviet diplomat was identified as Lt. Col. Anatoli A. Popov, whose visa the State Department revoked shortly after Wallen's death here last April 25.

A committee informant, advised of the Star story, said the House group was studying available information on use of diplomatic immunity as a cloak for espionage, and that the Popov case would fall in that category.

He said there has been no evaluation of the case so far, including no determination as to whether Wallen did have contact with Popov or whether such contact was improper.

A STATEMENT

Committee chairman Walter (D-Pa) was not available for comment. The Star's account, under the byline of L. Edgar Prina, said the committee "May issue a statement on its investigation this week." It continued:

"A CIA spokesman said Wallen, who was 35 years old at the time of his death, was a research specialist. He started work at the agency Jan. 17, 1955, and resigned for personal reasons on Dec. 12 the same year, the spokesman said.

"Other sources said that Wallen's separation from the CIA was forced and was in effect a dismissal.

"From some time in January, 1956, until shortly before his death, Wallen is said to have held meetings with Lt. Col. Anatoli A. Popov of the Soviet embassy. Whether this reported association began while he was still on the CIA payroll is not known.

"The State Department canceled Popov's visa with a validity of two months after the Wallen suicide. The Soviet embassy notified the department of Popov's departure for the

U.S.S.R. on July 3. He had been stationed here since Dec. 28, 1953.

REPORTED GOAL

"It is understood that Popov tried to persuade Wallen, a captain in the Army Air Forces during World War II, to get a job in the Defense Department and then turn over information to the Russians in return for cash payments."

The Star said that while Wallen's sister, a resident of New Jersey, refused to believe that he took his own life, the Arlington coroner reached a verdict of suicide and no autopsy was ordered.

Police said the complicated method by which the intelligence specialist was killed and a note that he left convinced them it was suicide.

Wallen died of gas asphyxiation with his head inside a plastic bag to which a hose had been attached, the Star said.

Shortly after her husband's death, Wallen's wife went to England to live with her parents.

The note left by Wallen declared his love for his wife, complained that he had found no success in life, that events had conspired against him and that he, therefore, was taking the easy way out, the Star added.