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Spy's Visit to Secret U.S. Air Base Told

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 25 (Reuters)—The former Swedish air force colonel, Stig Wennerstroem, serving a life sentence for spying for Russia, was able to gain access to an American strategic air base where even some United States air force personnel were not allowed, a report issued today said.

The report consisted of the final 900 pages of pre-trial testimony released by the Swedish government after security screening.

Wennerstroem, Swedish air attache in Washington from 1952 to 1957, admitted spying for Russia for 15 years.

Goes to Air Base

An unnamed Swedish major who served with him in Washington told investigators in March, 1956, that he went with Wennerstroem to an American strategic air base where it was practically impossible for foreigners to gain entry.

"There were no restrictions on our visit, we even got into the inner, special security area.

"Once inside we were regarded as entitled to see everything, which we did.

"Wennerstroem was by means of these studies able to get a clear picture of different kinds of air tactics, equipment,

training, and the prevailing organization method.

Value to Russia

"He could also get an idea of what aircraft there were, and the number of planes in different organizational units. This was of the greatest value to the Soviet Union," the major said, according to the report.

The major said Wennerstroem was an expert at handling the Swedish embassy's photographic apparatus but often complained his finger and thumb were sore from winding the film in the camera.

Because of this he used to wear a glove while photographing documents, the officer said.

Wennerstroem told investigators that American intelligence contacted him before he went to Moscow as air attache in 1948, according to the report.

Visits College Libraries

When in Moscow and Leningrad he obtained information about metallurgy for them in college libraries, but did not tell them the source when he handed it to the Americans.

Wennerstroem said he did not charge the Americans anything for the information because he had access to unlimited Russian funds.

"It seemed really funny to me, as I had Russian orders to establish the best possible contacts. Thanks to my contacts on the American side this was made much easier," he said.