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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM NewsWatch

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SUBJECT Spy Recruiting

MARY ALICE WILLIAMS: To the Russians, he was the perfect spy, until he got caught. CNN's Carl Rochelle examines what the Soviets look for when they recruit a foreign agent.

CARL ROCHELLE: Spy suspect John Walker, according to his ex-wife, was in financial difficulty. The problem, apparently a bar he bought near Charleston, South Carolina. This was about the time he allegedly began to sell government secrets to the Soviets.

According to a former KGB agent, financial problems are what the Soviets look for when trying to recruit spies.

STANISLAV LEVCHENKO: When they see obvious vulnerability, which usually mean money, probably some family problems, probably also some mortgage trouble, then they try to recruit them as soon as possible and control them entirely.

ROCHELLE: Convicted spy William Bell, who worked for the Hughes Corporation, a defense contractor, did it for money, a loan from a Polish Communist agent so he could buy a condominium.

MAN: ...and then he had him in a position where he was pretty much hooked. Then he began putting pressure on him to get classified documents, which Bell furnished to him for something like \$170,000 in gold.

He did receive money, but the first inducement turned out just to be a social contact.

ROCHELLE: KGB agents also look for potential turncoats at high-tech fairs, such as this one held in Washington last

week. The displays of equipment attract specialists trying to keep up with the latest in the industry.

Levchenko says when the agents go there, they have done their homework and they know who they believe is vulnerable.

But Dr. John Boyce, a retired Admiral who organized the fair, said they are always on the lookout for agents.

DR. JOHN BOYCE: We have had instances where known agents have come into controlled events such as this. They are public domain. They have been cleared previously. And they are immediately reported. If there is any conversation that takes place with our people, those conversations are reported back through the proper channels.

ROCHELLE: John Walker is accused of recruiting the other members of his alleged spy ring. That, says former KGB agent Levchenko, is what the Soviets like, because it keeps their role to a minimum. And he said the Soviets prefer those willing to sell out their country for money.