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ON PAGE V-1

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Professor's Disappearance in Indonesia Baffles Wife

By PAUL DEAN, *Times Staff Writer*

Raede, who Anglicized his name to John W. Raede, pronounced Reed, as part of the transition to American citizenship and his career as professor of modern languages at Westmont College in Montecito, an area of Santa Barbara, has been reported missing while vacationing alone in Indonesia.

Last month, Mrs. Raede flew to Indonesia to goad the search for her husband. Her contacts were American missionaries, U.S. Embassy officials, local police and even the governor of West Sumatra. She returned with the brown vinyl suitcase her husband had left in his hotel room. But no solid answers.

Friday—funded by a \$2,500 check donated by Westmont College where Raede has worked for 15 years—she will travel again to Indonesia.

Whenever an American vanishes overseas there is the Citizens' Emergency Center of the State Department in Washington, D.C. For three months it has been tracking Raede's disappearance, linking his family to government sources, keeping up with information filed through the department's Indonesian desk, asking questions and filtering answers.

No possibility—whether it be a theory that Raede was devoured by tigers or an Indonesian psychic's feeling that the professor is wandering "a long tunnel" without exits—is left unconsidered.

And not being ignored is the possibility that Raede's unexplained disappearance might be linked to some international intelligence activity.

"I cannot confirm that Dr. Raede has any intelligence connections or that his trip to Indonesia was for any other purpose than that of a tourist," said a Washington spokesman for the State Department's consular affairs section.

CIA Alerted

That statement was issued on a Tuesday. Yet a day earlier another government source told *The Times* that the Central Intelligence Agency has indeed been alerted to the possibility of a clandestine purpose to Raede's trip. "There is nothing corroborative (of suspicions) but it is being pursued," the source said.

What investigation, if any, the CIA will be making as a result of this lead cannot be confirmed. "We are unable to help you," was the CIA's only response to a *Times* inquiry.

The thought that Raede, a master of more than a dozen languages, including Russian and Chinese, could have been leading the double life of educator and intelligence agent is intriguing but considered by many to be the longest of guesses.

His wife, daughter Julie Maser and son Guy do not subscribe to the belief. Nor do Westmont College faculty members close to Raede for more than a decade. "He spoke many languages and could have been misidenti-

fied (in Indonesia) as being with the CIA or engaged in spying activities," agreed Paul Delaney, chairman of Westmont's modern languages department. "But I think there is more reason to expect some criminal activity (surrounding the disappearance) because he is an older man, therefore vulnerable, a Christian who could have become the victim of Moslem frustrations or fanaticism, and an American, which would produce the assumption that he is rich."

The office of Rep. Robert J. Lagomarsino (R-Ventura) has been monitoring search efforts at the request of Mrs. Raede. "I've discussed this (intelligence activity) with some State Department people," aide Craig Johnson commented, "but it's not an avenue we feel is worth pursuing."

Hans Wolfgang Raede was born in what now is East Germany in 1913 and majored in law at the University of Berlin. Raede left Germany in 1934 for sound reasons—he was an anti-Nazi engaged to a Jew. Following stays in Budapest and Vienna, Raede and his new wife moved to France in 1939. He joined the French army at the outbreak of World War II, fought in North Africa and later worked with the French underground.

"I was not a terrorist who went with bombs," he told an interviewer for a campus periodical two years ago. "I did service where my knowledge of language was useful. I translated texts, spoke with prisoners and other Germans who had some kind of relationship with the French underground."

In 1943, in Paris and living with false papers, Raede and his wife were arrested by the Gestapo. He was sent to jail and lived. His wife was sent to Auschwitz and died. Then the work camps and Galina, a 15-year-old Russian shipped to Germany as part of a forced labor program.

Why Raede was never executed by the Gestapo was a mystery he could barely explain.

"The mere fact that I was a German, had served in the French army and that I was a political refugee was enough . . . let alone my involvement with the (French) resistance," he told the campus interviewer. "They could have tried me, they could have executed me. . . . They never tried me because they just forgot about me. . . . They sent me to do some work and then forgot."

After World War II, Raede, now preferring a French version of his name, Jean Raede, moved to Paris with Galina. He worked as an interpreter for the U.S. military.

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