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## Soviet Diplomat With KGB Ties Defects to U.S.

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A Soviet diplomat who reportedly was a senior officer of the KGB intelligence service has defected to the United States after disappearing while on a trip to Rome last month, U.S. intelligence and diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources confirmed reports that Vitally Dzhurtchenko, who held the rank of counselor with the Soviet Foreign Ministry, has been cooperating with the Central Intelligence Agency since shortly after his disappearance Aug. 1.

The sources also said he is understood to have been a KGB official or at least familiar with KGB operations in such areas as Western Europe and Latin America. The sources were unable to say where Dzhurtchenko is.

They also declined to speculate about what effects his potential information might have on Soviet intelligence activities, and they professed no knowledge of speculation that his disappearance might have triggered the recent rash of other defections between East and West.

Dzhurtchenko, who went to Rome in late July, vanished after ostensibly going to see Vatican museums. His disappearance went largely unnoticed in this country.