

Russians Say an Ex-C.I.A. Man Who Spied in India Has Defected

By RAYMOND H. ANDERSON

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Oct. 24 — An American who identified himself as a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency was reported today to have defected to the Soviet Union.

An excerpt from a book written by the American, John Smith of Quincy, Mass., purporting to expose United States espionage activities in India, is printed in the latest edition of *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, the weekly organ of the Union of Soviet writers.

The book is considered by some observers in Moscow to be the latest volley in a spy-book duel between the Soviet Union and the West. It follows the publication in Britain last month of "Man From Moscow" by Greville M. Wynne, a Briton sentenced to eight years in a Soviet prison in 1963 as an accomplice of Col. Oleg V. Penkovsky, who was executed as a traitor. Mr. Wynne was released the next year in an exchange for a Soviet spy jailed in Britain.

The Soviet spy, Gordon A. Lonsdale, was sentenced in 1961 to 25 years in prison by the British as the "directing mind" of an espionage ring at the Portland naval base.

After his return to Moscow, Lonsdale published a book, "Spy," in 1965.

Authenticity Challenged

About the same time, the alleged memoirs of Colonel Penkovsky were published in the United States under the title "The Penkovskiy Papers." The book, the authenticity of which has been challenged, sheds light on the operations of Soviet intelligence.

In turn, the book of the self-styled Central Intelligence Agency man purports to expose operations of that agency.

The author, who has taken Soviet citizenship and now lives in Moscow, says that he was recruited by the C.I.A. while he was serving in the United States Embassy in New Delhi as a diplomatic code clerk.

He describes in detail a plot in which he says he played the key role in gaining access to the secret codes of an unidentified nonaligned nation.

The nation's pro-Soviet policies were troubling Washington, he says.

Mr. Smith identifies John Waller, John Marsh and other diplomats in the United States Embassy in New Delhi in the nineteen-fifties as fellow conspirators in the employ of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He asserts that the agency recruited agents among the top Indian military leaders, includ-

ing members of the army's General Staff.

Mr. Smith indicates in an introduction to the excerpt published today that insights about the activities of the C.I.A. are to be expected in his book.

"It is impossible to keep secrets from code clerks because of the nature of their work," he writes.

Mr. Smith says that, besides serving in the embassy in India, he worked in embassies in Ceylon, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The defector alleges that he was persecuted and forced to quit the diplomatic service because of nonconformist political views and disagreement with United States foreign policies.

Before he came to the Soviet Union, he writes, he wandered through many countries, including Australia, Switzerland and Italy.

Mr. Smith does not make it clear when he arrived in the Soviet Union. The United States Embassy in Moscow said that it had no information about him.

Tass Reports on Defector

MOSCOW, Oct. 24 (AP)—According to a summary in Tass, the Soviet press agency, Mr. Smith served in the United States Navy and went to work for the State Department in 1950.

He was said to have spent his first 17 years in Quincy, Mass., receiving his education at Thayer Academy in nearby Braintree. Then he worked at yards that manufactured warships before he volunteered for the Navy.

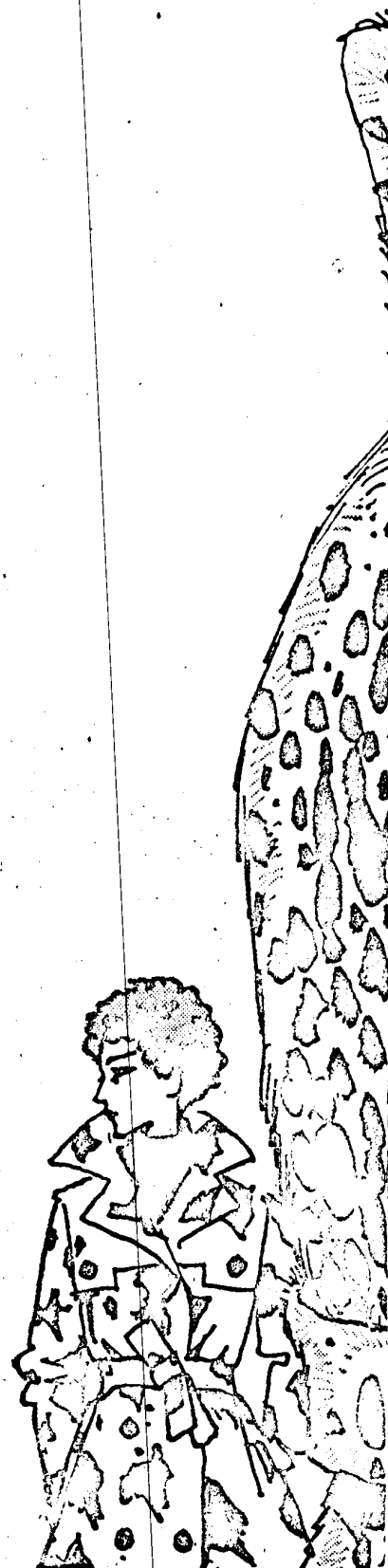
After studying at naval schools, Tass said, he was sent into permanent service at a special liaison department of the Navy, which was engaged in deciphering enemy codes. After the war, it said, he attended Washington University.

According to the account, Mr. Smith and an agent called "Pete Petersen" taped conversations of the Indian military. Meanwhile, it said, his wife, "Mary London Smith, who worked with the C.I.A., supposedly told him about "many secret agents of the C.I.A. among the Indian military."

Soviet Motive Assailed

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 — United States intelligence officials suggested today that the Soviet Government was publicizing the memoirs of an alleged American defector from the Central Intelligence Agency to offset publicity about the recent defection of a Soviet intelligence official, Lieut. Col. Yevgeny Y Runge.



WERE U. S. DIPLOMATS BLIND TO THE CRISIS?

WASHINGTON—The contention has been advanced that the State Department downgraded the possibility of war in the Middle East and found itself totally unprepared when the crisis came to a head.

Such a view was expressed by the former U. S. chargé d'affaires in Cairo, David G. Nes. Mr. Nes was the acting chief of the U. S. Embassy in Cairo. His was the responsibility for evacuating American personnel from Egypt, a job he brought off without a hitch.

But when Mr. Nes reached his home in Baltimore, he voiced a few observations which stunned some of his colleagues at the State Department. In conversations with newsmen, Mr. Nes made these points—

- Despite warnings from Cairo early this year, the State Department made no efforts to deter Gamal Abdel Nasser from his military adventure.

- Washington ignored repeated pleas from the Cairo Embassy to send a top-flight trouble shooter to Cairo.

- When a new U. S. Ambassador arrived in Egypt and was asked about the impending crisis, he replied: "What crisis?"

State Department reaction to the Nes statement: Warnings had been received of trouble to come, but there was little the U. S. could do about it.

REAL COST TO ISRAEL ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Just how badly was Israel hurt, in terms of killed and wounded, by the Mideast conflict?

When judged against Arab losses—as shown by the chart on this page—the Israeli casualties seem minor.

In relation to population, however, Israel's losses appear in a different light. Compare, for example, Israeli casualties in the war's six days with U. S. casualties in six years of fighting in Vietnam, measure them against the populations of the two countries, and this picture emerges—

- In battle deaths, on a population basis, Israel's were nearly five times as high as those of the U. S.

- In wounded, on the same basis, Israel's were three times as high.

The figures that back this up—

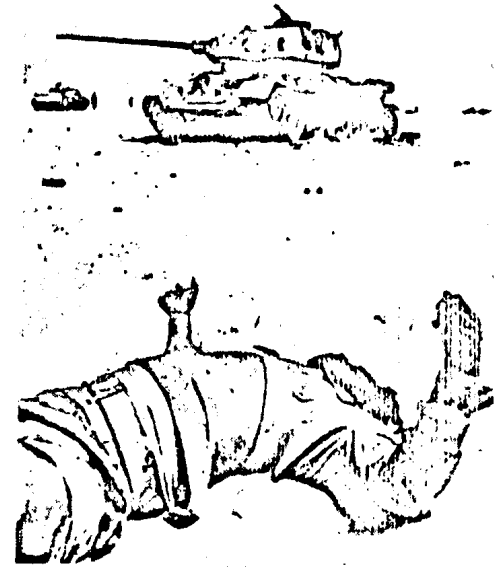
The U. S. population is about 76 times that of Israel.

Israel had 679 killed in the Mideast war—an impact equal to 51,604 deaths in the U. S. population. American battle deaths in Vietnam have been 10,956.

Israel had 2,563 wounded—equal to the impact of 194,788 casualties in the U. S. population.

THE SCORE ON MIDEAST WAR LOSSES

These are the losses suffered by each side in the Israeli-Arab conflict, as compiled from both official and unofficial sources. Some figures are firm. Most are estimates.



—Wide World Photo

CASUALTIES

Israel 679 killed, 2,563 wounded, 16 captured

Arab countries 15,000 killed, 50,000 wounded, 11,500 captured
Egypt's losses are estimated at 7,000 to 10,000 killed, many thousands wounded, 10,500 captured. Jordan's: 15,000 killed and wounded. Syria's: 35,000 killed, wounded and captured.

AIRCRAFT

Israel 21 planes destroyed

Arab countries 441 planes destroyed

TANKS

Israel 61 destroyed

Arab countries 670 destroyed, 100 to 300 captured intact

NAVAL FORCES

Israel No losses reported

Arab countries 2 or 3 Egyptian submarines sunk
A few Egyptian rocket boats damaged

ECONOMIC LOSS

Israel 100 million dollars in military equipment, lost business, salaries, etc.

Arab countries 700 million dollars in weapons, aircraft, supplies and ammunition, plus hundreds of millions in interrupted oil sales, Suez Canal revenues and tourist spending

IN ADDITION: Israel, through capture, gained a great arsenal. Up to 300 Russian-built tanks, taken from the Egyptians, are judged to be immediately usable. Also captured by the Israelis:

- A complete missile base, equipped with Soviet surface-to-air rockets
- Hundreds of field guns, more than 70,000 tons of ammunition
- Thousands of trucks and other vehicles
- A large part of the supplies and equipment of seven Egyptian divisions

SCIENCE

ECOLOGY

Fighting for Aldabra

Almost 10% of the wildlife on the tiny raised atoll of Aldabra, 400 miles east of Africa, can be found nowhere else on earth. Owing to its isolation, Aldabra's ecosystem has remained unique. Soaring with 7-ft. wingspreads at altitudes of more than half a mile, hundreds of thousands of frigate birds, which use Aldabra as their major Indian Ocean nesting site, blot out the rays of the sun. Thousands of rare giant land tortoises, some 4-ft. across and weighing as much as 600 lbs., creep across the pitted coral and ridged limestone surface of the island. Tiny flightless rails nestle amidst Aldabra's bushy scrub and mangrove forests, while above them swoop red-footed boobies, sacred ibises and fruit-eating bats. Twenty of the island's plant species are nonexistent elsewhere in the world; so are a host of its insect inhabitants.

Aldabra, with only a tiny human colony on one of its islands, is to scientists a unique natural laboratory for the study of evolution; as early as 1874, Charles Darwin fought successfully to keep the atoll unsullied by man. Now British scientists once again have to fight for Aldabra. The opposing force: Her Majesty's Defense Ministry, which late last year announced that Britain was weighing the possibility of developing the island as a major airbase and satellite tracking station in cooperation with the U.S.

Collision Hazard. Building such a base on Aldabra would be an ecological disaster, said Britain's Royal Society of scientists in a memorandum to Defense Minister Denis Healey last May. Healey responded noncommittally, so the society mounted an eleven-man midsummer expedition to the island to prove its point.

This month, seven members of the group returned after studying Aldabra's

wildlife and the hazards posed to it by the construction of such a base. To establish an airstrip on Aldabra would require dredging and damming the atoll's 18-mile-long lagoon, creating a harbor and building a 13-mile causeway from the harbor to the airstrip. Such an invasion of bulldozers, concrete mixers and men, said the scientists, would irreversibly damage the ecosystem of the island. They added that the frigate birds would constitute one of the worst aircraft-collision hazards in the world. The frigate is a sea bird that spends its adolescent years far from the island, returning to mate only after it is mature. Each year, a new crop of adults arrives for the mating ritual, thus posing a problem to aircraft that could last longer than a decade even if an extermination program were undertaken.

Healey has remained noncommittal. "No decision has yet been made on the use of Aldabra for defense purposes," he said. But the scientists were obviously unwilling to settle for bureaucratic vagueness. One biologist dryly noted that, of course, the giant land tortoise could always survive in the London Zoo. "The Union Jack flying over Aldabra is evidence of our custodianship of a biological treasure house," the magazine *New Scientist* reminded Healey. "It is not a license to kill."

EXO BIOLOGY

Gasbags of Venus.

After four-month journeys through space, Russia's Venus 4 and the U.S. Mariner 5 spacecraft will both reach Venus this week. No matter what the space probes find, most scientists have already written off the possibility that Venusian life exists; the planet's apparent surface temperature is approximately 800° F., above the melting point of lead.

Just the same, say Astronomer and Exobiologist* Carl Sagan and Biophysicist Harold Morowitz, it is conceivable that earth's nearest planetary neighbor

could be home to living organisms. In balloonlike form, Venusian life could float in the dense atmosphere, never approaching the searing surface.

In the Clouds. Of the planetary environments investigated so far by telescope and space probe, the scientists write in *Nature*, conditions in the atmosphere of Venus resemble those on earth more than anywhere else. In the lower Venusian clouds, they say, there is carbon dioxide, water and sunshine—prerequisites for photosynthesis. The temperatures are chilly, but above freezing. If small amounts of minerals were stirred up to the clouds from Venus' surface, the scientists believe that an indigenous biology—based entirely on biochemical principles observed on earth—could exist.

Because the organisms would encounter severe cold if they drifted farther up in the clouds, or extreme heat if they descended too far toward the surface, Morowitz and Sagan speculate that they must be regulated to hover at an essentially fixed altitude. Thus, the organisms could well take the form of a gasbag or float bladder containing hydrogen gas—which the organism itself could produce by decomposing water.

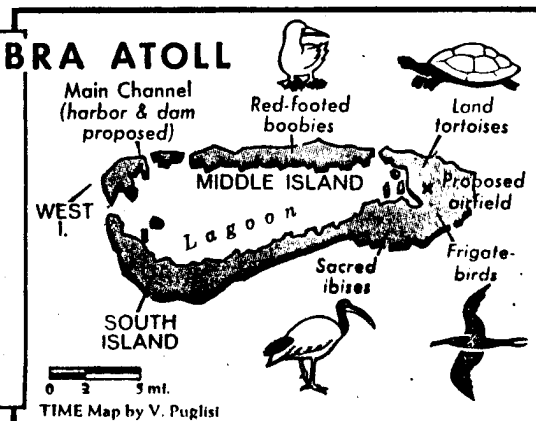
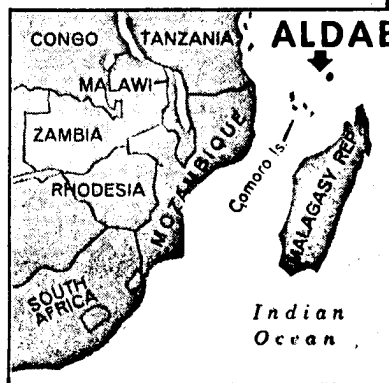
Greenhouse Effect. Depending on the thickness of the membrane, they calculate, the organisms could range from the size of a pingpong ball to more complex and thicker-skinned gas spheres many times larger. Despite their internal hydrogen, Sagan jokes scientifically, there would be little danger of miniature *Hindenburg* disasters; there is little or no free oxygen in the Venusian atmosphere to support an explosion of hydrogen.

To critics who point out that it would be difficult for life to arise spontaneously in the atmosphere, Morowitz and Sagan have a ready answer: it did not. Instead, they postulate, ancient Venus had a much thinner atmosphere; its surface, now superheated by the greenhouse effect of a thick carbon-dioxide-filled atmosphere, was once cool enough to spawn life. As more gas was spewed into the atmosphere by volcanic action, however, the surface temperatures gradually became unbearable and could have driven the more buoyant organisms into the clouds, where they evolved and may well exist today.

ROYAL SOCIETY



GIANT LAND TORTOISES
Better there than the zoo.



TIME Map by V. Puglist