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CU PROF MISSING SINCE 1969

CIA Head Agrees to Review of Riha File

By FRED GILLIES

Denver Post Staff Writer

Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has agreed to review CIA files on the disappearance of Prof. Thomas Riha.

Turner's review is in response to a recommendation made Aug. 1 by U.S. Dist. Judge Richard P. Matsch of Denver. Matsch had asked Justice Department attorneys to request the Turner review to help resolve a long-standing battle for information on the missing University of Colorado professor.

Riha, an associate professor of Russian history at CU, vanished without a trace on March 15, 1969.

SINCE EARLY 1976, Martin D. Buckley of Denver, attorney for Riha's estate, has waged a battle for access to CIA records on Riha.

In July 1976, Buckley filed a lawsuit against the CIA to compel full disclosure of its data on Riha. That action was taken on behalf of Zdenek Cerveny of Boulder, Riha's nephew and conservator of Riha's estate.

Documents furnished by the CIA to the Riha estate before and after filing of the lawsuit have been questioned sharply by Buckley.

The CIA, Buckley said at the August hearing in Denver, has deleted much information from the Riha documents and has withheld other documents entirely. And Buckley challenged the CIA's claim

that disclosure of the withheld information would jeopardize national security or national defense.

THE ESTATE, BUCKLEY said at that time, has no way of knowing whether it has received all CIA records and reports on Riha. Those records were requested by Buckley under the Freedom of Information Act.

Buckley also said the estate doesn't know whether the supplied documents are credible, particularly a document concerning a reported sighting of Riha in Czechoslovakia in late 1973.

Under a recent court order issued by Matsch, Turner has until Oct. 10 to complete his review of the CIA's Riha file.

Buckley said Tuesday he was pleased that Turner is willing to review the Riha file.

"Based on what I've read about Turner, he will be conscientious in his review," Buckley said.