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STATINTL

Police Release Follis' Body

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AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands—The body of Dr. Richard H. Follis Jr. of Washington, D. C., whose disappearance and death were attributed to accidental drowning in a canal, was to be turned over to U. S. authorities today.

The ruling of accidental drowning was given yesterday by Police Commissioner Piet Landman after an autopsy. Landman said he suspected all along that Follis had accidentally drowned.

Landman noted that at least

one such drowning a month occurs in the city, which is criss-crossed by canals.

Bruises Hint Tripping

The autopsy uncovered slight bruises on Follis' legs, just above the ankles, apparently caused by his tripping on a low metal guard rail that runs beside the canal, Landman said. The rail is designed to prevent parked cars from rolling into the water.

Follis, 56, a research scientist for the Veterans Administration and an internationally known expert in nutrition, disappeared Dec. 5 during a stopover here.

His body was discovered Tuesday morning floating face down in a canal about 25 feet from where he last had been seen in the middle of a bitter cold night.

Canal Bottom Littered

Follis was fully clothed and wore a buttoned-up raincoat. His watch had stopped at 3:50. He was seen last at 3:15 a.m. In his pockets were his passport, hotel key, wallet and money. Only his eyeglasses were missing.

Dredges had dragged twice

for the body but the operation was ineffective because the bottom of the canal—6½ feet deep at that point—was littered with old bicycles and other junk.

The canal, in the lively nightclub section of the city, is only a few hundred yards from the hotel where Follis had been staying.

The physician who performed the autopsy said the body had been preserved by the cold water, which apparently had kept it from rising to the surface sooner.

Follis had left Washington Dec. 2 on his way to a health conference in Tehran, Iran. He had stopped in Amsterdam to confer with a professor, at Leiden University.

The professor, Dr. Andreas Querida, reported the disappearance when Follis did not meet him for a scheduled appointment.

Follis had traveled widely in recent years in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere. He was to have started a project in Ecuador next month.

He was classified by the

Veterans Administration as a senior physician, as high a rank as can be attained in the research field there. He joined the VA in 1955 and was detached to work in the laboratories of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He also worked for the National Institutes of Health. Follis, whose home was at 4915 Albemarle St. NW, leaves his wife, Edith, and two daughters, Angela, 23, and Louise, 21.