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STATINTL

## Dutch Probe Follis' Death

### D.C. Scientist Found In Canal, Tests Set

By JACK KELSO

Star Staff Writer

Dutch police sought today to uncover the cause of death of Dr. Richard H. Follis Jr., a top U.S. government medical researcher, whose body was discovered in a murky Amsterdam canal a month after he disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

An autopsy was underway and authorities in Amsterdam were expected to announce the results on its conclusion.

The body of the 56-year-old Follis was recovered late yesterday from the slow-moving waters of a canal near the spot where he was last seen Dec. 5.

#### No Sign of Foul Play

Inspector Jaap Valken, detective chief of the Singel Bureau of the Amsterdam police, said there was no immediate evidence of foul play.

The canal in which Follis' body was found is one of many in downtown Amsterdam near the tourist center.

There are many hotels, bars and nightclubs in that section of the city. Valken said that Follis was seen in that area in the early hours of Dec. 5 by several persons.

Follis, who worked for the Veterans Administration, was regarded as an international authority in the field of nutrition.

#### Was to See Colleague

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

The professor, Dr. Andreas Querida, an endocrinologist, had met Follis three years ago in Hawaii. When Follis did not arrive for his December appointment, Querida called the American Embassy in the Hague because he was to take Follis to the airport the next day to catch a plane to the Mid-East.

At the time, Querida said that he thought Follis might be working for the Central Intelligence Agency.

European newspapers played up this angle of the case but apparently it was without foundation.

No confirmation of a connection with the CIA could be obtained from any source, including persons who knew Follis well.

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

Follis was classified by the VA as a senior physician, as high a rank as can be attained in the research field there.

#### 32 Yale Man

He was the author of more than 150 scientific papers, the recipient of many awards in his field and a member of many scientific organizations.

He was a 1932 graduate of Yale University and Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1936. 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.