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OPERATION "SPARROW"

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CIA Operation Disclosed

The following is a translation of an article entitled "Operation Sparrow," by A. BUTLITSKIY, published in Pravda, 15 May 1966.

On a sunny morning, a C-46 plane was preparing for take-off at the airport of Rochester, N. Y. Its pilot, John Hawk, had already warmed up the engines, when suddenly a Willys jeep of the airport customs service rolled up to the plane.

When the inspector opened the cargo doors, he let out a whistle of surprise, as he had evidently not expected such a rich booty. The plane was crammed with rifles, submachine guns, and other military equipment.

However, John Hawk and his companions, Gregory Bod [transliterated from Russian] and Henri Monmaren [transliterated from Russian] were apparently not even embarrassed by the fact that they had been caught in the act. John Hawk said only two words: "Sparrow" and "Monarch", but they were full of meaning to the inspector. Ten minutes later, the C-46 taxied to a take-off strip.

However, in Miami, where Hawk landed safely after a few hours, he noted that he was under surveillance. As he explained later, he did not pay much attention to this, believing that the local customs and FBI agents were simply "overdoing" it. After all, what did he, a CIA agent, have to be afraid of, since he was carrying out a

responsible and sensitive assignment for his agency?

However, this time the bureaucratic, interdepartmental confusion played a nasty trick on Hawk. A few days later, he was arrested and charged with violating a federal law on the export of military equipment. The story got into the press. This, apparently, prevented the CIA bosses from acting promptly to hush up the "unpleasant incident." They decided to deny any association with Hawk.

It was then that Hawk, who was not at all pleased with the role of "scapegoat" assigned to him, revealed some additional, interesting details which threw light on this dirty operation of the knights of the "cloak and dagger."

In his words, he was recruited in the summer of 1965 by Gregory Bod for ferrying B-26 bombers to Portugal, which were then to be used against the partisans in Angola and Mozambique. The financial side of this operation, which was conducted under the code names of "Sparrow" and "Monarch", was carefully disguised. The aircraft were purchased from a firm in Arizona, allegedly for Canada, and were then ferried to Portugal. Accounts were settled through Swiss banks.

According to the Newsweek magazine, the facts contained in Hawk's version were confirmed by the well-known aeronautic specialist, Martin Kaydin [transliterated from Russian], an Air Force consultant.

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The scandalous story of Hawk, which has come to the surface to the surprise of CIA, is only one of the typical details indicating how this "invisible government" operates.