

Kazan Admitted Spying, Czechoslovakia Claims

CPYRIGHT

VIENNA (AP) — The Czechoslovak news agency CTK said today American travel agent Vladimir Kazan-Komarek had confessed to spying against Czechoslovakia before his arrest in Prague on Oct. 31.

CTK said a warrant charging Kazan with spying, high treason

Photo of Family. Page A-3

and attempted murder was issued in July of 1963.

In his confession, CTK said, Kazan "explained his activities, stated the circumstances under which he carried them out and described the persons who helped him."

CTK said Kazan, a naturalized U.S. citizen, was "specially trained by a foreign intelligence service to organize antistate activities on Czechoslovakia territory."

The agency did not indicate what foreign intelligence service it referred to.

Washington sources say Kazan has not worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, but suggest



VLADIMIR J. KAZAN

that he might have worked with French intelligence.

Kazan, 42, was born in Czechoslovakia. He operates the Harvard Travel Service in Cambridge, Mass.

He was arrested in Prague

when a Soviet Aeroflot plane stopped there on a flight from Moscow to Paris.

Kazan was returning to the United States after attending an Intourist conference in Moscow and the flight was not scheduled to stop in Prague.

The Soviet government informed the U.S. embassy in Moscow today that the aircraft was forced to land in Prague because of radar trouble, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

Sought Clarification

The U.S. Embassy had sought Soviet clarification of the incident because the plane belonged to the Soviet air line.

The embassy was told that the radar trouble made it impossible for the plane to fly nonstop to Paris and that Prague is an emergency stop on the route.

The embassy spokesman said the Soviet version of the arrest was that Kazan did not reappear for the take-off and the plane left without him, its pilot not knowing what had become of him.

CTK said Kazan acted with a group in Czechoslovakia that smuggled Czechoslovaks to West Germany. CTK said Kazan left Czechoslovakia in 1948, the year the Communists seized power, but later made several illegal trips to the country.

Tells of Arrest

The agency said that during the visits he "passed on coded intelligence reports to a Czechoslovak woman identified as Marie Hufova, who assured their transmission abroad."

CTK said there were 28 in the group and that it was stopped by Czechoslovak authorities. No date of the group's arrest was given.

CTK said Kazan "succeeded in escaping abroad where he continued his activities against the state."

The agency said his guilt was "fully proved by testimonies of all members of the group, and by written and material evidence."

(The Star, in disclosing the Kazan case Tuesday, reported that the United States has made strong representations to the Czech government, pleading for Kazan's release.)

FOIA b3b

FOIA b3b