

CLAIMS U.S. SPIES OUTSMARTED

Russia Hails Secret Police, Praises Double Agent Philby

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MOSCOW (AP)—Preparing to celebrate its 50th birthday, the Soviet secret police, the KGB, got praise Monday for recruiting master spy Harold A. R. (Kim) Philby and for allegedly outsmarting many U.S. spies.

With the headline "Hello, Comrade Philby" and a smiling photo of the former high official of British intelligence, the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia praised him as a hero of communism and disclosed to the Soviet people for the first time that he was in the Soviet Union. He fled to Moscow nearly five years ago.

The U.S. Embassy, reacting to the claim that U.S. agents had been outsmarted, said in a statement:

"Apart from attempting to glorify the Chekists (the old KGB) on their

anniversary, the article seems to be part of a series of Soviet fabrications regarding alleged Western and particularly U.S. espionage."

Since he came here after gaining access to many secrets of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Philby told Izvestia, he has found his "second homeland."

The former double agent said that from the start of his career in British intelligence he obeyed the Soviet secret police—the KGB—and "I was happy that I had become a member of Soviet intelligence."

Philby boasted in the Izvestia article of his feats as a double agent and said he had completely fooled Allen Dulles, then director of the CIA.

"It was my job to plan various operations against the Soviet Union

and other Socialist countries and then I had to torpedo them myself," he said.

As an example, he said the CIA planned a revolution against the Communist regime in a Balkan country — identified earlier in British newspaper stories on Philby as Albania.

Philby took part in the planning. Then the CIA agents were caught as they crossed the border into the country.

Dulles analyzed every possible reason for the failure, but he "could not suppose that a member of Soviet intelligence was sitting at the table," Philby said.

The article disclosed that Philby had been given one of the highest Soviet awards, the Order of the Red Banner.

On Philby's Trail

The article seemed to confirm London newspaper reports that the British had been closing in on Philby, who had quit the British Intelligence Service and had gone to

Beirut, Lebanon, as correspondent for the London Observer.

The London Sunday Times and the Observer reported last September that Philby was confronted with the evidence against him in Beirut late in 1962 and in January, 1963, fled to Moscow.

In separate praise of the KGB's 50th anniversary Wednesday, Pravda, the newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party, said Soviet counterespionage was so successful that it caused enemy agents to complain: "We try, but the KGB stops us."

Pravda also charged that two U.S. assistant military attaches were caught last year when they "impudently peered" through a fence around an unidentified Soviet "military object" about 300 miles west of Moscow.

Improperly Detained

In reply, the U.S. Embassy confirmed the incident but said the Americans were improperly detained and "the accusations against them were without foundation."

The two — Navy Lt. Comdr. Robert B. Bathurst and Army Lt. Col. Robert E. Liichow—were arrested on the spot but were later released. They left the Soviet Union last spring at the end of normal duty tours.

The KGB said in Pravda that at one time it caught a spy named Afonov, who worked for U.S. intelligence. Using his radio and secret dispatches, the KGB said, it tricked the United States for eight years with false information about the Soviet military, especially its submarines.

The KGB, whose initials stand for the Russian words for State Security Committee, also said it was able to arrest a contact man for U.S. espionage after it caught two American spies in Latvia, and got them to double-cross the CIA by helping them find the contact man.

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