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AGENT OF CIA IS DEFECTOR, RUSS ASSERT

Hint Claim Rebuttal to Flight of Spy

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MOSCOW, Oct. 24—The Soviet Union today said that a former CIA agent—one John Smith—has become a Soviet citizen and is living and working in Moscow.

Smith, the weekly Literary Gazette said, was appointed to the central intelligence agency, became disenchanted, and eventually came to the Soviet Union to live. It was not said when the alleged defection took place.

Officials in the embassy here could recall no case which might be identified with the Russian claim. The timing of the story suggested that it was a response to the announcement last week that a Soviet agent had defected to the United States.

Writes for Magazine

The Literary Gazette devoted a full page to what it said was the first instalment of a story Smith wrote about his work for the CIA.

The story said Smith had willingly joined the CIA but later "saw for himself how the United States government was . . . engaged in the preparation of a new world catastrophe."

The story said Smith's questioning of American policy resulted in his being shadowed and eventually leaving government service, though it didn't say whether he quit or was fired.

After wandering thru Africa, Australia, and Europe, the story said, Smith decided to live in the Soviet Union.

Broke Diplomatic Code

The Literary Gazette said he has been involved in breaking the diplomatic code of a developing country, said to be oriented towards the Soviet bloc.

Smith was said to be a native of Quincy, Mass., and to have attended a private college called Phayer academy and Washington university. In 1943, it was said, he worked for Four Rivers shipyards in the manufacture of naval vessels. Then he joined the navy and was eventually involved in deciphering enemy codes, the story said.

[A spokesman for George Washington university in Washington, D. C., said that a John D. Smith of Quincy, Mass., attended the school from the fall of 1948 until June, 1950, when he was suspended for scholastic reasons.]

This was the latest of several espionage stories in the Soviet press since it was reported that Lt. Col. Yevgeny Runge, of the Soviet intelligence service had exposed two spy rings in West Germany and turned up two days later in the United States.

Sunday the Russians denied that Runge had ever "served either in the Soviet army or in Soviet security bodies" and added that the story "is false from beginning to end."

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