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#INTELLIGENCE-RIAH

WASHINGTON, MARCH 9: REUTER - THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF THOMAS RIAH, A CZECH BORN EXPERT ON THE SOVIET UNION, LED TO A BREAKING OF ALL FORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE FBI AND THE CIA, ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS RELEASED YESTERDAY.

THE DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE STATED THAT FORMER CIA AND FBI OFFICIALS TESTIFIED THAT THE HANDLING OF THE RIAH CASE CAUSED A MAJOR DISPUTE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AFTER YEARS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AGENCIES.

SENATOR GARY HART (DEMOCRAT COLORADO), A MEMBER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CONDUCTED A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE AGENCIES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE AND CONCLUDED IN A SUMMARY OF HIS FINDINGS: "THE BREAKING OFF OF FORMER FBI-CIA RELATIONS IN 1970 RESULTED NOT FROM A DISPUTE WITH RIAH HIMSELF BUT FROM A BUREAUCRATIC HANDLING OF THE RIAH CASE BY LOCAL FBI AND CIA OFFICIALS IN DENVER, COLORADO."

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#INTELLIGENCE-RIAH 2 WASHINGTON

SENATOR HART SAID THAT RIAH, WHO WAS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, WAS TARGETED BY THE CIA FOR RECRUITMENT AS A SPY BUT HE DISAPPEARED IN MARCH 1969 BEFORE THE AGENCY COULD CONTACT HIM.

THE AGENCY'S INTEREST IN RIAH, THE SENATOR SAID, WAS AROUSED BY RIAH'S FREQUENT TRAVELS TO THE SOVIET UNION.

SENATOR HART CONCLUDED AFTER EXAMINING THE DOCUMENTS THAT RIAH IS PROBABLY LIVING SOMEWHERE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND WAS SEEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1970.

HE SAID RIAH PROBABLY LEFT FOR PERSONAL REASONS AND HAS NEVER EMPLOYED OR HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH ANY U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

RIAH WAS A NATURALIZED AMERICAN CITIZEN, BECOMING A U.S.

SENATOR HART SAID HIS INTEREST IN THE RIAH CASE WAS PROMPTED BY DISCLOSURES THAT ONE INCIDENT CAUSED A SERIOUS ENOUGH RIFT BETWEEN THE CIA AND FBI TO END THE CLOSE COOPERATION THAT THE TWO AGENCIES ENJOYED FOR YEARS.

REUTER 0031

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#(REPEAT)#

INTELLIGENCE-RIAH

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(END REPEAT)#

REUTER 0031

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW