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# Defector Says Spies Stir Up War Protests in U.S.

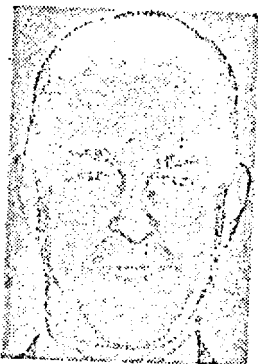
NEW YORK — (AP) — A former Czechoslovak intelligence officer has charged that Soviet and Czechoslovak spy services have been sending appeals to relatives of Americans killed in Vietnam, urging them to carry out anti-war activities.

Ladislav Bittman, who was a major when he defected in 1968 because of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, says in a book to be published in October:

"Soviet, Czechoslovak, and probably other bloc intelligence services gathered more information from the American press about fatalities in Vietnam and sent various appeals to their survivors — either anonymously or under the name of a fictitious anti-war organization — inciting them to anti-war activity, calculating on their natural anti-war sentiment."

Bittman maintains that this was part of the espionage services' "disinformation" program, also known as "black propaganda," aimed at creating distrust and confusion among non-Communist nations. A veteran of 14 years in Czechoslovak espionage, Bittman said he was the first deputy director of Department D, which administered the program. He now is living in the United States.

"THE DECEPTION Game," to be published by the Syracuse University Press, claims to be an expose of numerous Czechoslovak intelligence operations, including the May 17, 1957,



Richard Helms

... suspicion 'wrong'

bomb murder of the wife of Andre-Marie Tremeaud, a top French government official at Strasbourg.

Mrs. Tremeaud was killed when opening a box containing a bomb mailed to her husband. French police linked the death with the "Fighting Group for an Independent Germany," identified as a neo-Nazi organization.

It was established that the group was nonexistent. Bittman says that in June 1961, Richard Helms, then assistant director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, told a Senate committee that he thought the originator of the "neo-Nazi" group and Mrs. Tremeaud's assassin was the East German intelligence service.

"He was wrong," Bittman writes. "The action was in fact initiated and executed by the Czechoslovak intelligence service."

The former espionage officer said it was carried out under the direction of Soviet officers because "Moscow needed a new opportunity to point to the growth of fascism in the German Federal Republic and, with the help of this specter, to intimidate West Germany's European and overseas allies."

BITTMAN, who says all operations were carried out only after approval by the Russians, described how a major effort was made in Africa, to destroy the image of the United States with a 31-page pamphlet entitled "America Has Colonized 20 Million Negroes."

The pamphlet was sent to newspapers, diplomatic missions, government organs and political organizations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and to the Americas, Bittman states. "Some of it was mailed in United States Information Agency (USIA) envelopes to escape detection and possible confiscation by police."

BITTMAN HIMSELF was sent to South America to participate in Operation ... a joint Soviet-Czechoslovak project, the initial phase of

which was named Operation Thomas Mann.

This operation was to "prove that American foreign policy in Latin America had undergone a fundamental re-evaluation and transformation after President John F. Kennedy's death, directed at more severe economic exploitation and even more interference in the internal conditions of the countries of Latin America.

"According to this fabricated theory, the author of the new policy, approved by President Lyndon B. Johnson, was Assistant Secretary of State Thomas A. Mann."

Bittman charges that the operation also was designed to warn the Latin American public against the new hard-line American policy, to incite greater anti-American outbursts, and to brand the CIA as the "notorious perpetrators of anti-democratic intrigues."

THE CAMPAIGN began in 1964 with the distribution of a series of forged documents, including a bogus USIA press release in Rio de Janeiro, according to Bittman.

"The final element of the sequence was a forged letter allegedly written by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to Thomas A. Brady (an FBI agent). The letter accorded credit to the FBI and CIA for successfully executing the Brazilian putsch in April 1964."

Bittman says the Czechoslovak spy service would have preferred to place all the blame on the CIA.

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