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ON PAGE A-30

WASHINGTON POST  
10 October 1983

## U.S. Plot to Spy on Soviets In Afghanistan Is Reported

Reuter

LONDON, Oct. 9—A secret U.S. operation to "bug" Soviet bases in Afghanistan has been exposed by the death of an alleged British-born spy, The Observer newspaper reported today.

Radio Kabul last week said Stuart Bodman, 30, was shot dead in July in a clash with rebel forces while working as a British agent. The British Foreign Office said it knew nothing about him.

The Observer said he was in fact working for a U.S. organization called the "Defense Intelligence Service."

[Officials in Washington today were unable to trace the existence of a Defense Intelligence Service, although there is a Defense Intelligence Agency.]

"He was part of an important scheme to set up a network of permanent listening devices near Russian bases inside Afghanistan," The Observer said.

It said the devices, known as transponders, could distinguish between the movements of men, tanks and aircraft and relay information back to the West via satellites.

The Observer said Bodman was a member of a large group of "freelance" agents—most of them ex-soldiers, operating out of Peshawar, Pakistan—with the knowledge of the British and U.S. secret services.

It said the equipment that Moscow says Bodman and five colleagues took into Afghanistan—a satellite dish, a transmitter and a keyboard—could not have been used without the consent of the U.S. National Security Agency.

It added that the freelancers were recruited and sent into Afghanistan with a "shopping list." The Observer quoted one freelancer as saying the United States wanted "anything, just anything" from the so-called Hind helicopter and that a western intelligence agency might pay \$1 million for its instrument panel.