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# Man earlier denounced as CIA agent assails 'U.S. imperialism' on Soviet TV

*From Wire Services*

Moscow—A man who was arrested in Afghanistan in February and denounced in Moscow and Kabul as an American working for the Central Intelligence Agency, appeared on Soviet television last night and condemned "U.S. imperialism."

Speaking in a slurred drawl, Robert Lee said: "I think most importantly that the Muslim people of Afghanistan realize they are being tricked and deceived by U.S. imperialism."

The interview appeared to end abruptly.

The man, who appeared to be in his early 30s and was wearing steel-rimmed tinted glasses, a heavy turtleneck sweater and a raincoat, bore no apparent signs of ill treatment.

State Department spokesman David

Nall said in Washington that a man identified as Robert Lee had appeared on Afghan television several days before and made similar comments.

"We don't know who he is," Mr. Nall said. "We haven't had a chance to talk to him, although we have asked the appropriate Afghan authorities about him."

The Soviet television broadcaster introduced him as an "American citizen" arrested during disturbances in Kabul, the Afghan capital, February 22 that she said were provoked by "internal and external counterrevolutionaries."

She said Mr. Lee had agreed of his own free will to be interviewed by a Soviet television special correspondent, Leonid Zoltorevski.

The television broadcaster made no

mention of repeated charges by the Soviet and Afghan official media that Mr. Lee was an agent the CIA had sent to Afghanistan to stir up antigovernment feeling.

The broadcaster also did not mention an announcement by pro-Soviet authorities in Kabul in February that Mr. Lee had been arrested with 16 Pakistani "agents" and that he and one Pakistani would stand trial on sabotage charges.

In reply to questions by a Tass correspondent, Mr. Lee said he was a chemistry student from Berkeley, Calif., and had left the United States "in recent times," when he had gone to Afghanistan.

He described events in Afghanistan as "another example of what we saw 20 years ago in the struggle for freedom in Cuba and just as we saw in Vietnam."