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# KGB bigwig: CIA drugged, kidnaped me

SOVIET defector Vitaly Yurchenko, the No. 5 man in the KGB who came to the West in a major intelligence coup, defected again yesterday — in reverse — and now claims he was drugged and kidnaped by the CIA.

The State Dept. immediately demanded to meet with Yurchenko, who is at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, on neutral ground.

The department said the former agent will not be allowed to return to Moscow until the U.S. is satisfied that he has not been kidnaped by the KGB.

His astonishing move, like a bizarre twist in a John LeCarre novel, jolted the Washington intelligence community, the Shultz delegation in Moscow, and the team preparing for the upcoming summit conference.

Yurchenko was one of two top Soviet defectors who briefed CIA director William Casey in preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

He switched sides in Italy last August during a bewildering series of

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defections and cross-defections in West Germany and Britain.

His defection and that of the KGB's London station chief, Oleg Gordievsky, were hailed as two of the most serious blows dealt Soviet intelligence in recent years.

Yurchenko vanished last Saturday, to reappear yesterday in the Soviet Embassy claiming that he had never defected, but had been kidnaped.

He appeared nervous and uncomfortable speaking in English and he quickly switched to Russian to tell reporters through a translator:

"On a business trip to Italy, I was forcibly abducted in Rome.

"I was kept in isolation and forced to take some drugs and denied the opportunity to get in touch with official Soviet representatives."

He said he was brought to the U.S. against his will and held in a safe house on Route 17, 22 miles from Fredericksburg, Va.

He was offered \$1 million tax-free, he said, plus salary and benefits totaling \$180,000 a year for the rest of his life.

The benefits, he said, were to include medical care and furniture.

During a lapse in security, he told the press, he escaped from the safe house and made contact with the Soviet Embassy.

"At the moment my only wish is to return as soon as possible to my country, my family, my kin, and my friends in the Soviet Union," he said.

Yurchenko appeared drawn after what he referred to as "three horrible months for me."

The spy said: "In the period when I was conscious and in control of my behavior, I did not pass any secret information.

"When I was drugged . . . I don't know what I was doing or saying. I was threatened."

He described the alleged kidnaping by the CIA as "state-sponsored terrorism."

But he found time to

joke at the CIA's expense. He said that an agent had told him that there had been a number of requests for interviews from U.S. newspapers.

"I now keep my promise," he said, laughing.

Sen. David Durenberger, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Yurchenko went out to dinner Saturday night and disappeared.

He described the kidnap story as "baloney."

"At no time have any of the things he alleged . . . actually happened to him," Durenberger told a news conference.

Yurchenko had been "given a certain amount of freedom" during his three months in the U.S.

His re-defection may force intelligence analysts to review everything they have learned from him during the last three months and to assess what he may have learned from their questions.

His re-defection may also force the West to re-evaluate the sincerity of other defectors, including Gordievsky.

The re-defection raises bewildering and complicated questions and possibilities.

They include:

● Yurchenko was a deliberate plant by Moscow and came to the West to spread disinformation and learn what he could from his interrogators.

● Yurchenko gave the U.S. genuine information that they must now doubt because of his return to Soviet hands.

● His defection was genuine, but he was pressured to return or actually kidnaped by the Soviets to mitigate the damage he may have done under interrogation.

● The U.S. is dispatching Yurchenko back to the USSR, either to spread disinformation or because it does not believe him to be a genuine defector.

The spy world is so complex that the return of Yurchenko may raise as many dangerous complications for the Russians as it does for the U.S.

It is even conceivable that Yurchenko no longer knows whose side he is on.