

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 112NEW YORK TIMES
31 May 1985

Brother of Spy Suspect Is Taken Into U.S. Court

By BEN A. FRANKLIN
Special to The New York Times

NORFOLK, Va., May 30 — Arthur James Walker, a retired Navy lieutenant commander and the third member of the Walker family to be arrested on charges of espionage, appeared in handcuffs today before a Federal magistrate here.

He was arrested at 7 o'clock last night at his home in nearby Virginia Beach, where the Federal Bureau of Investigation said he had admitted turning over secret documents to his younger brother, John A. Walker Jr.

Arthur Walker, 50 years old, is a one-time antisubmarine warfare specialist who has worked for five years as a civilian engineer for a Navy research contractor here. Flanked by Federal agents today, Mr. Walker looked drawn and wan as he appeared before Magistrate Gilbert R. Swink Jr. He was asked by the magistrate if he wanted a lawyer.

He Did Not Plead on Charge

"I'd feel more comfortable with one, Your Honor," Mr. Walker replied. The magistrate then continued the preliminary hearing until 2 P.M. Monday to give him time to get a lawyer or have one appointed by the court.

Mr. Walker, who wore slightly tinted horn-rimmed glasses, alternately bowed his head and supported it with his right arm, the elbow resting on the table.

He was not asked to plead to the charge of espionage and he spoke no word in public save to the magistrate. After the hearing, he spent three hours in the Federal courthouse before being whisked away by United States marshals.

The Government made it clear that Arthur Walker had cooperated in the investigation.

In an affidavit, Joseph R. Wolfinger, the agent in charge of counterintelligence investigation in the F.B.I.'s Norfolk office, said Arthur Walker last Friday "admitted that on a number of occasions, beginning in approximately September 1980, he turned over to his brother documents, files, photographs, booklets and defense plans relating to the United States naval forces, knowing that John Anthony Walker Jr. intended to deliver or transmit these items to the Russians."

Elsewhere in the affidavit John Walker, 47, was identified as "an agent of the Soviet Union." John, along with his son Michael L. Walker, were arrested earlier.

Delay of Five Days on Arrest

There was no immediate explanation of why the F.B.I. had waited five days to make the arrest, although the delay might have been caused by the bureau's sifting of John Walker's files.

In a sidewalk interview, John C. Wagner, the F.B.I. agent in charge here, said: "Right at the moment we're taking it one step at a time. I would venture to say that there is a good possibility of additional arrests."

According to the affidavit, Arthur Walker, whose civilian job allowed him to see material classified "secret," said that on April 28, 1982, his brother paid him \$12,000 for "a defense file" that Arthur took from the Chesapeake, Va., office of the VSE Corporation, the naval contractor Arthur worked for.

According to a company spokesman, "VSE" stands for Value Systems Engineering. The 20-year-old company was formerly called Value Engineering.

Report on Malfunctions, They Say

The file, according to the F.B.I. and company spokesmen, was a report on malfunctioning equipment aboard five Navy ships.

Arthur Walker told the F.B.I. that he later took "another chunk" of the file to John Walker's detective agency in Virginia Beach where "he personally photographed" it and left the film and an explanatory note on his brother's desk.

In the quiet Carolane Farms subdivision of Virginia Beach where Arthur Walker and his wife, Rita, brought their children as teen-agers 16 years ago, news of the arrest was greeted with disbelief.

Although some neighbors, including Carol Joyce, described Arthur Walker as an aloof man who was visible only when gardening around his brick ranch house, others said that he had once been head of the Carolane Farms Civic League and had been a friendly and helpful neighbor, glad to apply his mechanical skills to repairing power mowers and swimming pool pumps.