

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 3-AWASHINGTON TIMES
1 January 1986

Accused spy for China made double-agent offer to agents

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Larry Wu-Tai Chin, the former CIA translator charged with spying for China over three decades, offered to work as a double agent for the United States shortly before his arrest Nov. 22, according to court papers filed yesterday.

Mr. Chin pleaded not guilty to an indictment Nov. 26 charging him with 15 counts of espionage for allegedly supplying CIA secrets to the communist nation since 1952. His trial is set to begin Jan. 22.

Before he retired from the CIA's Foreign Broadcast Information Service in 1981, Mr. Chin worked as a translator and handled top secret CIA reports that were circulated throughout the U.S. intelligence community, according to federal sources.

The court papers also indicate that information presented to Mr. Chin during an FBI interview was so detailed that Mr. Chin believed that his case officer, a Chinese intelligence officer named Ou Quiming, had defected.

"After hearing the detailed account of several trips, Chin was confronted with the fact that he could not bluff his way out — that the details were such, and apparently so accurate, that Chin believed his Chinese handler must have defected," the court papers state.

Details provided by the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Virginia were filed yesterday in response to Mr. Chin's motion to suppress statements made to FBI agents shortly before his arrest.

Defense attorney's argued that the statements made by Mr. Chin were made before he had been read his rights.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph J. Aronica replied that Mr. Chin had not been placed under arrest when he had agreed to cooperate with the FBI in revealing details of his spying activities.

Mr. Chin at first denied knowing anything about alleged contacts with several intelligence officers from the People's Republic of China until FBI agents told him about meetings that took place in Peking, Hong Kong and Toronto, including a 1983 meeting in Peking between Mr. Chin and a man identified by the FBI

Mr. Chin at first denied knowing anything about alleged contacts with several intelligence officers from the People's Republic of China.

as a Chinese intelligence officer Zhu Entao.

The agents also told Mr. Chin about a meeting he held with Mr. Ou in Hong Kong and Macao in June 1983, and he replied that he "told the agents they had a great deal of information," the court papers state.

"He then asked [the FBI agents] whether, if he talked, other people would know about the case," and was told it was a possibility fewer people would be contacted if Mr. Chin cooperated.

When Mr. Chin questioned

whether the FBI agents were bluffing, the agents told Mr. Chin they knew he had traveled to Hong Kong in September 1983 to meet Mr. Ou. They stated that they knew he "gave Ou the identity of a FBIS employee and provided a scenario which he thought should be followed in order to recruit the employee as an agent" for the People's Republic of China's intelligence service, according to court papers.

"You have details that only Ou knew," Mr. Chin was quoted as saying. "[Mr. Chin] indicated that only Ou could have known the details [of Mr. Ou's marital problems] and speculated that Ou had defected," the court papers state.

At this point in the FBI investigation, "... Chin offered to work for the U.S. government, go back to China and meet his contacts," the court papers state. "The agents understood that to be an offer to work as a double agent for the United States."

Mr. Chin declined to sign an FBI statement and six hours after he revealed details of his spying activities, several other agents appeared at the door of Mr. Chin's Alexandria office and arrested him.

He was charged with supplying secrets to China since 1952, when he allegedly passed information on Chinese prisoners of war in Korea. He also was charged with passing top secret CIA information to China between 1976 and 1981 in exchange for an estimated \$140,000.

The court papers state that during the FBI interview, Mr. Chin was "exceptionally cool and calm about how he had done everything and stated that if he had to go to jail it would be good because he could catch up on his reading and write his memoirs."