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A wider net catches spies in record numbers for U.S.

Ex-clerk at FBI accused of selling data to Soviets

By Bill Gertz
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A courier with access to top-secret congressional hearings will be arraigned today before a U.S. District Court judge on charges of attempting to sell secret documents to the Soviets.

Randy Miles Jeffries, 26, a former FBI identification section clerk, met Friday night at the Holiday Inn Motel at 14th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW with an FBI agent who pretended to be a Soviet intelligence

officer, according to court papers filed during a detention hearing Saturday.

Mr. Jeffries' arrest followed a grand jury indictment Friday in Baltimore of Ronald Pelton, a former National Security Agency Soviet affairs specialist, on six counts of espionage. He is said to have sold NSA communications data to the Soviets for \$35,000.

Mr. Pelton is scheduled to be arraigned today before U.S. District Judge Herbert F. Murray in Baltimore.

Soviet GRU military intelligence service officers are known to operate out of the Soviet Embassy's naval and military office on Belmont Road in Northwest Washington, where FBI agents first saw Mr. Jeffries on Dec. 14, an FBI statement said.

Sergei Bokhan, a senior GRU official, defected to the United States last May from the Soviet Embassy in Athens and has been cooperating with U.S. intelligence officials, but officials would not say if there was a connection to Mr. Jeffries' arrest.

Mr. Jeffries told the agent he had already delivered "60 pages of sample copies" of transcripts of closed sessions of the House to the Soviets, the papers stated.

of the security police were tried and sentenced to terms of between 14 and 25 years. Their superior at the Interior Ministry was sentenced to 25 years for instigating the crime.

Mrs. Byrdy's conclusion of suicide in this year's death was challenged by human-rights organizations and Father Poplawski's Eastern Orthodox Church. Contributing to the skepticism was the belief by human-rights monitors that Mrs. Byrdy gave neither a full nor accurate report in the trial last year of the four men charged with the murder of Father Popieluszko.

Keston College says Mrs. Byrdy was subjected to "official pressure" to minimize the extent of the injuries inflicted upon the second priest.

"In this instance, with the victim being a member of a minority group, there is not as much official concern or weight of public opinion as in the case of Rev. Popieluszko," researchers at Keston College say.

The Polish Orthodox church is politically and geographically isolated in eastern Poland and claims fewer than 600,000 members.

Before official denials of the murder were made, both the head of the

Polish Orthodox church, Archbishop Bazyli, and church spokesman Jerzy Tofiluk confirmed that Father Poplawski was murdered, but said the church would refrain from any official statements until the government investigation was completed.

Even then, a source from the Bialystok area said that Polish police "had not even tried to ascertain Father Poplawski's whereabouts or movements in the week between his disappearance and the finding of his body."

Two motives have been put forth by a variety of sources who accuse the secret police of targeting Father Poplawski.

One is that the government wants to cause an ecumenical rift between Roman Catholics and the Polish Orthodox church by sowing discord between the groups. Those who suggest this motive note that Roman Catholics are among the strongest supporters of the trade union Solidarity, which the government has tried to suppress, and after the death was initially ruled a suicide, rumors began circulating that he was killed for "attacking Solidarity."

[In a weekend leadership meeting, a senior government official said Polish authorities intend to crack down harder on Solidarity and opposition activists who are "threatening the country's political

stability," Reuters reported yesterday.

[PAP, the official Polish news agency, said the warning was issued by Deputy Interior Minister Wladyslaw Pozoga at a two-day meeting of the Central Committee of Poland's Communist Party.

[Mr. Pozoga accused opposition activists and their Western supporters of trying to discredit the party and its security apparatus, disrupt preparations for the congress and "sustain the myth of the former Solidarity free trade union."]

Keston College sources report, however, that in a sermon delivered shortly before his death, the Orthodox priest had warned his congregation that Solidarity was in constant danger of infiltration by secret police.

A second motive, say human-rights monitors, may lie in the determination of Father Poplawski to overcome the delaying tactics of Polish authorities to whom his church had to apply for building and renovation permits.

"Communist governments often use the granting and revoking of land permits as a means of controlling and ultimately destroying the strength of the local church," the Rev. Jeffrey Collins of Christian Reponse International said in an earlier interview.