ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE 3-A

WASHINGTON POST
15 June 1985

The Psychology Of a Modern Spy

Romanticized 'James Bond' Image Cited As More Important Than Money to Some

By Molly Sinclair and Chris Spolar
Washington Post Staff Writers

He has a romantic "Casablanca" view of his work and a condescending vision of others. He wants control. He wants power. He also wants money.

He thinks he can have it all by collecting and selling information. And even if the payback is a sum that modern-day drug dealers would consider small change, he will steal and deceive for years to play the role that he finds glamorous and others envy.

No longer is ideology the primary force that would drive a man or woman to betray his or her country. Those who are familiar with the quirks of behavior of the modern spy, and those who are close to the investigation of John Anthony Walker Jr., say a decision to commit espionage today often may be a choice motivated by personal desires.

Walker, 47, is accused of selling military secrets to the Soviets for as long as 20 years and luring his son Michael, his brother Arthur and his friend Jerry Whitworth into the alleged scheme.

Why John Walker may have been drawn into such a life style cannot be explained in simplistic terms such as greed, experts say. The defendants' limited land holdings, their modest finances and the Soviets' reputation as cheapskates in the shadowy world of counterintelligence—not to mention Walker's flamboyant personality—suggest a more complex motivation.

"Traditionally, the Russians have been cheap," said one government official close to the Walker case. "They have been known to pay $100,000 to $200,000 to some individuals for espionage work. But there is no comparison to the drug business . . . where millions of dollars change hands."

According to Navy records, Walker was earning about $18,000 a year when he retired in 1976. At that time, records show he owned a house, a houseboat, some property in South Carolina, three undeveloped lots in the Bahamas, a waterfront lot in North Carolina and another one in Norfolk where he kept the houseboat.

Most of his holdings were heavily mortgaged, however, and two businesses he had recently opened in Norfolk would ultimately fail.

Walker is accused of receiving money for his espionage work, although how much he accumulated is still unclear to investigators who are piecing together the financial story. FBI affidavits have alleged that Walker once received $35,000 for delivering documents. John Walker's former wife, Barbara, has been quoted as saying he received $100,000 over 10 years from the Russians.

Relatively small sums to some but "a sizeable chunk of money for him," said one official familiar with the case. But that same official also agrees that Walker, if he was a spy, was probably motivated by desires stronger than greed.

A self-made private investigator, Walker had a flashy vision of himself that did not go unnoticed by anyone who knew him. "There is a James Bond thrill-seeking . . . and unfulfilled ambitions in addition to the money," a second government official said.

Dr. Steve R. Pieczenik, a Bethesda psychiatrist and a State Department consultant with an expertise in security clearance, said based on published reports about Walker's life, the accused spy appeared to have "a Casablanca, romantic view . . . that allows him to enjoy life by saying he has a secret that you don't know. There is power in that. He can control relationships and apparently did.

"The reason a person goes into the business of espionage—whether they join an organization like the CIA or do it on their own in a detective agency—is because he likes the whole romantic image of what a spy is about," Pieczenik said.

"He lives a life of half-secrets and half-truths. He can live a life without having to confront reality. He doesn't have to grow up."

Dr. Louis Jolyon West, a University of California professor of psychiatry who has studied intelligence, brainwashing and hostage manipulation, offered three reasons why someone would become a spy.

"The first is some kind of loyalty—loyalty to one's own country for whom one spies or loyalty to an ideal, which might be outside one's own country, as was the basis for people like Kim Philby [a Soviet spy who operated in the post-war era]," West said.

"The second motivation is revenge . . . people who have a grudge against their parent organization or their country. People do this primarily to damage those whose secrets they are selling or betraying."

West said the third category is a "bag of mixed psychological motivations" that includes spying "for thrills" as well as for financial gain.

"They often rationalize. If you interviewed such a man he might say he was as patriotic as someone else and that he was no different from someone selling grain to the Soviet Union," West said. "I can't make a diagnosis based on the newspaper reports but based on what I have read, I would say that [if] Walker was [a spy] . . . [he was] in the third category."

Dr. Murray Miron, a Syracuse University psychologist who is a consultant to the FBI in some criminal cases involving espionage, said that spies can suffer from a paranoia best defined as "the disorder of the control and usage of power."

Miron said paranoia and espionage are linked in the sense that "there is power in information, in intelligence . . . while the paranoiac typically lives in a fearful state of

discovery of hidden, sometimes erotic impulses and other hidden aspects of his character that he must protect."

One way that a paranoid person may try to protect himself, Miron said, is to lead a life of secrecy.

"But in order to maintain the secrecy, he may want to turn the psychological quirk of specializing in information and intelligence that others aren't privy to. In so doing, that gives a person power over others, that gives an elevated self-aggrandizement over others who don't share those secrets."

Miron said that "dealing in secrecy can be an almost drug-like nurturance of paranoiac impulses." And, he said, because those impulses are contagious, "it is not difficult to understand that someone's paranoia can be used to nurture and to exacerbate the paranoia of others. You need only say to someone who is undergoing stress something like,'Did you hear that click on the phone just now?' and suddenly all the impulses come pouring out."

The defense against that, Miron said, is to have the knowledge that "you are the one who is doing the recording, who is in control, who is not vulnerable to the surprise attack of someone else."

Pieczenik pointed to general behavior theories to explain how spies recruit other spies. Allegations that Walker lured his closest associates—his adoring son, his quiet brother and his studious friend—into spying could be explained by looking at how people manipulate, he said.

For example, a spy recruiter might enlist others by "promising them money, by promising them a more exciting life, by suggesting that they could have a glamorous life like his compared to the boring lives they had," Pieczenik said. Often that is how a powerful person controls others, he said.

A spy recruiter also might convince others to join by telling "them that it was a low-risk option," Pieczenik said. "He could say he had been doing this for years and hadn't been caught and wasn't likely to be caught. And to validate his point, he could point to others who are drug addicts and alcoholics and who have security clearance anyway."

American society has tolerated many changes in its mores since the 1960s, Miron added. That tolerance for a wider range of behavior—"we, unlike Russia, have bag ladies . . . Hollywood stars with six to 10 marriages . . . and the Amish"—can produce spies, he said.

Pieczenik said a spy may insinuate to his accomplices that, if they cooperate, they will be able to have better and more glamorous lives. The accomplices live "rather quiet lives while accruing assets for the glamorous life that they might have" later on, he said.

But that theory doesn't always work the way the accomplice might think, experts say. Persons who get lured into spying with the idea of making some extra money for a certain period of time often cannot stop.

"Anyone who thinks he can sell low-level information and make a few bucks and get out is fooling only himself," one government official said. "Once [the Soviets] get hold of you, they have a voracious appetite—for high-tech information, computer technology, military applications of research and development, anything at all that they can get."

Those who recruit spies are professionals at the game of espionage, West added. "They are very smart," he said. "They know how to get their subject involved just a little bit, doing something that seems harmless, then they get them to do a little more.

"They use the carrot-and-stick approach," he said. "The carrot is more money for doing more and the stick is that they will expose you if you stop.

"The bottom line is that you work for them forever."

Continued

A LOOK AT JOHN A. WALKER JR.'S FINANCIAL HISTORY

1966: John Anthony Walker Jr. serves as a radioman on the USS Simon Bolivar, a nuclear submarine; he earns $6,720 a year.

July 6, 1966: Walker buys 4.87 acres of land for $16,025 in Ladson, S.C., a rural community about 14 miles north of Charleston, according to local court records. Walker takes out a first mortgage of $15,400. He also takes out a second mortgage of $4,250, apparently to finance construction of a one-story concrete block building that first houses a sandwich shop, then a bar and now is headquarters for VFW Post 3433. Today the land and building have a combined assessed value of $49,100. In a financial statement Walker files in federal court, Walker says he still owes $10,000 on the property and his monthly payments are $110. VFW Post Commander Glen Houck says the post had rented the building from Walker since 1982. Previously it was a "rundown red-neck bar," he adds.

1968: Walker's estimated annual salary is now $8,700

July 1968: Walker buys two lots in the Bahamas, according to Vernon Curtis, a real estate agent in GeorgeTown, a settlement on the island of Exuma northwest of Nassau. Curtis gives this account of Walker's transactions: Walker purchases the land sight unseen for about $1,200 per lot. After personally inspecting the properties in November 1968 he swaps them for two others in the same area. The price for the new lots is $2,995 each. Walker makes a small down payment on the lots and pays them off in about 10 years. Today the lots, still undeveloped, would sell for about $10,000 each. Says Curtis: "It was a good investment."

1969-1971: According to an FBI affidavit, Walker takes several trips to the Washington D.C. area and drops a paper bag containing what is believed to be classified documents. On one trip he collects a paper bag containing $35,000, according to the affidavit. The affidavit said this information was provided by a confidential informant.

Nov. 5, 1974: Walker and his wife buy a house at 8524 Old Ocean View Rd., Norfolk, assuming a $45,000 loan. The balance on the loan today is $40,194 and monthly payments are $440. After the couple divorces in 1976, the house is conveyed to John Walker. The house is now assessed at $80,000.

Feb. 25, 1975: A business started by Walker, the American Association of Professional Sales Persons, is incorporated. The business is dissolved on June 1, 1979.

June 23, 1975: Walker Enterprises of Virginia Beach is incorporated with Arthur Walker as president and John Walker as secretary-treasurer. The brothers have an arrangement with local car dealers to install radios and stereo equipment in cars. But the business doesn't do well, and the IRS places a $28,207 lien against the firm for failure to pay its 1979 taxes. The charter is dissolved in 1983

July 15, 1975: Walker buys a third lot in Exumas in the Bahamas for $5,393, according to records there.

July 21, 1975: Walker buys a canal-front lot in Colington Harbour, a development in North Carolina's Outer Banks area. Court records suggest Walker pays $5,500 in cash for the undeveloped lot. Current assessed value for the lot is $6,500. Walker pays an annual membership fee of $75.

February 25, 1976: Walker borrows $6,400 from the Navy Federal Credit Union, Norfolk, to buy a $8,900 houseboat with a 250-horsepower engine. Walker pays off his four-year loan in two. On the loan application Walker lists $108,000 in assets, including 10 100-ounce bars of silver, the Norfolk house, the South Carolina property and the North Carolina lot, and debts of $117,000.

March 3, 1976: Walker buys a ocean-front lot in Norfolk a short distance from his home. Court records indicate the property costs $52,700 and he takes out a $30,000 mortgage. The mortgage is satisfied August 13, 1981. The property is now assessed at $52,000. Walker's houseboat is kept at the lot.

June 22, 1976: Barbara and John Walker divorce; the agreement calls for Walker to pay his ex-wife a $10,000 cash settlement and $500 a month in child support. She also receives some property in Florida which they jointly owned while he receives the South Carolina and North Carolina properties.

July 1976: Walker retires from the Navy after 21 years with an annual salary of about $18,000. He now receives retirement pay of about $14,500 annually

May 12, 1977: Walker borrows money from the Navy Federal Credit Union to buy a new single-engine Grumman American aircraft. Today, Walker still owes about $11,000 on the plane, which is assessed at $16,500. The plane is kept at Norfolk International Airport

Nov. 7, 1977: Walker borrows money from the Bank of Virginia-Eastern to buy two outboard motors. The loan is paid off Feb. 2, 1979, court records show.

Oct. 21, 1980: Confidential Reports, a private detective firm, is incorporated; John Walker is named as president and Arthur Walker as secretary-treasury Laurie Robinson, his former partner and now full owne says the business now grosses about $120,000 a yea

Jan. 30, 1981: Associated Agents is incorporated with John Walker as president and Arthur Walker as secretary-treasurer. The company also operates as Electronic Counter-Spy, court records show. Walker, through Associated Agents and Counter-Spy, helps companies guard against industrial espionage

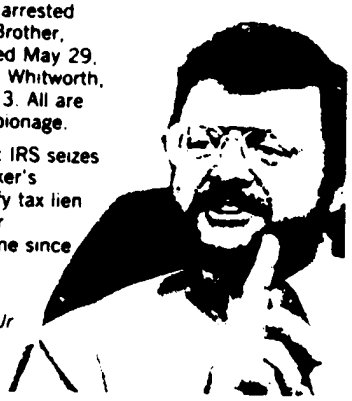
1982: John Walker pays Arthur Walker $12,000 cash for classified material relating to national defense, according to Arthur Walker's statement to the FBI. Arthur had obtained the papers from the VSE Corp., a Norfolk defense contractor, where he had been workin since Februrary, 1980, according to an FBI affidavit

1983: Walker borrows money from the Navy Federal Credit Union to buy a 1980 Chrysler New Yorker, according to court records. Today he owes $800 on the car, which is assessed at $6,500.

1984: John Walker gives his son, Michael, $1,000 in exchange for documents received earlier, according to an FBI affidavit.

May 20, 1985: John Walker is arrested, and his son, Michael, is arrested two days later. Brother, Arthur, is arrested May 29, and friend, Jerry Whitworth, is arrested June 3. All are charged with espionage.

June 4-5, 1985: IRS seizes seizes all of Walker's property to satisfy tax lien for $252,488 for unreported income since 1979.



John A. Walker Jr