

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
18 July 1986

Inland TV station looks in on 'secret war'

By ED STATTMANN

A television station has brought home to Indiana a look at international spying and counterspying.

Investigative reporter Tom Cochrun and producer Ben Strout of WTHR-TV delved into the history of superspy William K. Harvey and photographed a presumed Soviet agent in private conversation with an aide to Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar, R-Ind.

Cochrun said Yuri Bokanyov caught his eye because the man came to Indianapolis several times and seemed to be in charge of visiting Soviet delegations. He said Bokanyov seemed to be extremely sophisticated and a poor or excellent speaker of English as it suited his purposes.

Eventually, Strout caught Bokanyov in a candlelight conversation at a Bloomington motel dining room with Keith Luse of Lugar's staff. Luse said they were at cross purposes, with Bokanyov wanting to talk about 'Star Wars,' the president's high tech plan for repelling nuclear attack. Luse instead was pushing Lugar's effort of persuading the Soviets to allow emigration of people who had been refused exit visas.

Cochrun said Luse's story that Lugar and others who needed to know about the meeting with Bokanyov did know checked out.

Six months later, in Moscow, another Lugar aide asked about Bokanyov, who was supposed to be at a meeting there, Cochrun reported, but was told Bokanyov had 'caught a cold' and would not be stationed as previously expected in Washington. Whether that meant Bokanyov failed in his mission or was withdrawn for other reasons was unclear.

Cochrun said Lugar's people felt the Soviets made an effort to learn all they could about Lugar's operations and staff.

The program quotes Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of a House subcommittee on intelligence, as being aware of incidents aimed at his employees.

'I know the Soviets are trying to penetrate my staff,' Hamilton said.

'I see it as intelligence research,' Igor Malachenko, a member of the Soviets' U.S.-Canadian Studies Institute, is quoted as saying about his group's visits.

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The segment of the program about now deceased CIA agent William K. Harvey, a Danville, Ind., native, is mainly history, but Cochrun said it was hard to get. Many of the photographs never had been shown before, the newsmen said.

Harvey switched from the FBI to the CIA shortly after the CIA was founded. Several former CIA agents quoted by Cochrun credited Harvey with being a guiding influence in the early operations of the CIA.

Retired CIA man Arthur M. Thurston of Shelbyville said Harvey and Kim Philby, the British master spy who proved to be a Soviet double agent, knew each other well.

"Bill Harvey detested him," Thurston said.

Harvey, as CIA station chief in Berlin after World War II, ordered a tunnel dug that intercepted East Bloc telephone lines, gathering enormous amounts of information for several years before it was discovered, Thurston related.

The show depicted the formerly secret presentation of a distinguished service medal to Harvey for his undercover work.

Harvey played a major role in the Cuban missile crisis, the program said, providing proof that the Soviets were about to emplace missiles in Cuba aimed at the Western Hemisphere. That proof led to President John F. Kennedy's successful demand to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev that the missiles bound for Cuba be withdrawn.

The program alleges the proof cost Harvey the lives of nine agents.

The documentary says efforts by Robert F. Kennedy to arrange the death of Fidel Castro became a boondoggle for which Harvey eventually took ill-placed blame in a 1975 investigation headed by Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho.

Harvey retired at Plainfield, Ind. He died while under care of an Indianapolis physician, Dr. Jack Hall of Methodist Hospital, who said he received mysterious calls about Harvey for years afterward.

"The word was that he didn't really die," Hall said.