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FRIDAY MORNING, 27 SEPTEMBER 1985

WASHINGTON TIMES 27 Sept. Pg. 5

Soviets said readying disinformation blitz

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A former Soviet bloc intelligence officer said yesterday he believes the Soviet Union is preparing for a massive "disinformation" campaign to discredit the United States if the Soviet Union fails to get the agreement it wants at the November summit meeting.

Ladislav Bittman, a Czech intelligence specialist who defected immediately after the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, believes the Soviets are preparing to blame the United States if the Soviets do not get what they want at the meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva.

Mr. Bittman, who teaches communications at an East Coast university under an assumed name, was a specialist in the use of "disinformation" which he described as Soviet covert action to influence and undermine Western societies or individuals.

"Right now Soviet disinformation experts are working very systematically in collecting every piece of available information, facts and documents that could be used immediately after the summit for a disinformation campaign to prove that the United States is responsible for the failure of the summit," Mr. Bittman said in an interview.

He has just written a new book published yesterday by Pergamon Press called "The KGB and Disinformation: An Insider's View."

If the Soviets reach what they regard as a satisfactory agreement

the disinformation campaign could be canceled, he said.

"But regardless of the outcome, right now they are preparing for that campaign," Mr. Bittman said. "That means that immediately after the summit they will be ready to orchestrate a worldwide campaign, primarily in the United States and Western Europe, to show that Americans were responsible for it and that Reagan himself is the primary villain."

The Soviets try to manipulate Western media by planting false and misleading information — through forgeries, paid agents and unwitting collaborators — to undermine Western policies, he said.

He said disinformation is only one component of "active measures," the covert action programs used to implement Soviet policy goals around the world in concert with Soviet overt propaganda.

The current official propaganda structure is engaged in a campaign to promote a positive image of the Soviet proposals and policies, he said.

"This is also the time of great political danger when the KGB has to be very sensitive because any major intelligence disaster — the defection or arrest of a major agent, or the exposure of an active measure — could damage the image of the Soviet Union," Mr. Bittman said.

A Czechoslovakian intelligence service officer for 14 years, Mr. Bittman was one of the first defectors to provide the West with details of how the Soviets use disinformation. He

spent his last two years in Prague directing a team of disinformation specialists who held freewheeling discussions, similar to those of Madison Avenue advertising agents, that led to disinformation proposals.

"It was public relations in reverse," Mr. Bittman said.

Although he ended his intelligence career in 1968 after being debriefed by U.S. intelligence services, Mr. Bittman said he continues to recognize Soviet disinformation programs in the U.S. press.

Mr. Bittman defended the U.S. press for its critical judgment but added: "As a former specialist, I would say there are a number of journalists in the American media that were recruited by the Soviets who work either for various prominent newspapers or for broadcast news media," Mr. Bittman said.

Agents in the media are asked to report stories based on outlines provided by Soviet case officers. Usually, planted stories publicize items that will damage U.S. foreign policy or a particularly anti-Soviet public figure, he said.

He said the Soviets "love forgeries" and used hundreds of forged documents against the West during the 1960s and early 1970s. In the mid-1970s, reports of forgeries declined because during the Watergate scandal forgeries probably were considered counterproductive, he said.

Since the late 1970s, however, the Soviets have stepped up their use of forgeries, he said.

One example of a KGB forgery was a letter criticizing black athletes that was sent to Third World countries just before the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The letter purportedly was sent by the Ku Klux Klan but was identified by the FBI as a fake.

KGB AGENT LEFT ON P.O.

chief of the KGB's London operation, Oleg A. Gordievski, had defected. Gordievski had passed intelligence to the West since the 1970s. Danish and British officials said, but remained in place in the KGB, where he rose steadily in the ranks.

Acting on information provided by Gordievski, Britain expelled 25 Soviet citizens suspected of spying. The Soviet Union retaliated by expelling an equal number of Britons from Moscow, and a second round of expulsions followed that.

Other important Soviet defectors in recent years have included Anatoly N. Shevchenko, a Soviet Foreign Ministry official who turned

himself over to the CIA in 1978; Stanislav Levchenko, a KGB major who fled the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo in 1979; and Viktor N. Korotkiy, a KGB major who de-

fected in West Germany in 1981. But none of them had the rank or the apparent access to intelligence secrets of Danushchenko, intelligence sources said.

WASHINGTON TIMES 27 Sept. Pg. 6

China to test sub-based missile

PEKING — China will test launch a submarine-based missile capable of carrying multiple warheads within the next 12 days, Western military attaches in Peking said yesterday.

China's official New China News Agency warned foreign ships and aircraft this week to stay out of a target area with a radius of 35 nautical miles southeast of Shanghai between Sept. 28 and Oct. 18. The agency said China would fire a carrier rocket, but the attaches said it would probably be an intermediate-range ballistic missile launched from a nuclear-powered submarine.

Senior K.G.B. Man Said to Defect And Give Spying Data to the West

27 Sep 85

By STEPHEN ENGELBERG

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 — A senior member of the K.G.B. has defected and is providing information to the West about Soviet espionage operations in Europe and the United States, Reagan administration officials said today.

Some officials said that the defector, Yuliy Yurchenko, 50 years old, had also identified several employees of the

Central Intelligence Agency as Soviet agents. It was not clear from the accounts of the American officials whether the individuals involved were contract employees or full-fledged C.I.A. officers.

The reported defection of Mr. Yurchenko is the latest in a series of such episodes that have rocked intelligence agencies in both the East and West, including the defection to the West this summer of the K.G.B. station chief in London and the defection to East Germany of the chief West German spy-catcher.

In another of these developments, officials confirmed today that Sergei Bokhan, the deputy director of Soviet military intelligence in Athens, had defected to the West in May and has provided information about the penetration of the Greek Government by Soviet agents.

The officials who asked not be identified said that Mr. Bokhan has been taken to a safe house in London, where he is being questioned.

Continued on Page A12, Column 4

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1985

Senior K.G.B. Man Said to Defect and Give Data

Continued From Page A1

United States, where he is being questioned by C.I.A. officials.

If his charges are borne out by further investigation, they may confirm the longtime suspicions of some intelligence agents that the C.I.A. has been compromised by one or more Americans who were secretly working as Soviet agents.

George Lauder, a C.I.A. spokesman, said he would have no comment on any defections or on suggestions that double agents had been discovered in the agency.

Described as Rising Figure

Administration officials and senior intelligence sources described Mr. Yurchenko as a rising figure in the K.G.B.

An intelligence source said the defections are expected to harm Soviet spy networks in Europe and elsewhere. He said American intelligence analysts expect the Russians to begin withdrawing large numbers of agents on the assumption they have been compromised.

The officials said that as a result of Mr. Bokhan's information the United States has delayed its planned sale of F-16 fighter jets to Greece. Officials said the arrests last week in Athens of three men in the Greek armed forces on charges of spying for the Soviet Union also arose after Mr. Bokhan was questioned.

In West Germany, the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been shaken by a series of high-level defections.

Since the beginning of August, a senior West German counterintelligence officer, two secretaries and an army messenger have vanished from West

Germany; all are believed to be in East Berlin. Each is suspected of having been a spy for the Eastern bloc for a number of years.

One of the most serious of these, officials say, was the defection in August of Hans Joachim Tiedge, a top counterintelligence officer in charge of catching East German spies. A spokesman for the West German Interior Ministry said that he left three days after a security check into his background had been ordered.

The spokesman said that the suspicions had been raised because he drank heavily and led a disorderly life, not because he was thought to be an East German agent.

Kohl Secretary Vanishes

Three weeks later, it was disclosed that a secretary in Chancellor Kohl's office had defected with her husband. The secretary, Herta-Astrid Willner, and her husband, Herbert Adolf Willner, disappeared while on vacation in Spain.

Also this summer, Oleg A. Gordiyevsky, a K.G.B. official who officials say had a long career as a double agent, defected to the West from his post in London. Several officials suggested that he had ended a profitable career in the service of the West out of fears that he was about to be caught.

Officials said that Mr. Yurchenko, who had been stationed in Italy, was a more senior member of the Soviet K.G.B. than Mr. Gordiyevsky.

"He was very high up and ascending," said one intelligence source.

Soviet Agents 'Fingered'

Several officials speculated that Mr. Yurchenko's defection had prompted the defections of the agents in West Germany. Another senior intelligence source cautioned that the recent spate of espionage episodes may be coincidental, rather than directly connected. Concerning the latest reported defec-

tor, the intelligence source said: "He has fingered a number of Soviet agents around the world. Some of them have already returned to the Soviet Union. Others will probably be going on home leave soon."

He added that American analysts believe the defections have caused confusion in the Russians' intelligence planning. "They have no idea how much has been given away," he said. "They can't be sure who he has fingered. It has got to be causing real problems for them."

It is not clear whether the series of espionage revelations has any connection with the summit meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, scheduled for Nov. 19-20 in Geneva. One Administration official said that Mr. Reagan had been briefed on the Yurchenko defection and its implications.

Mr. Lauder, the C.I.A. spokesman, said that the agency traditionally does not comment on defections and that he would not answer questions about Mr. Yurchenko's whereabouts or the information he might have provided.

Soviet spokesman would not reveal details. Neither would Secretary Shultz. But Shultz spoke approvingly of its presentation.

SECRETARY SHULTZ: It is something that comes forward. It's different from what they have been saying. Combined with what we have on the table, we hope that can lead to a process of genuine negotiations. So we welcome that.

DONALDSON: Details of the plan aside, Shultz stressed that the U. S. intended to go ahead with star wars research and testing. And after seeing Shevardnadze off after lunch, President Reagan made the same point. But he also said the meeting had been worthwhile.

PRESIDENT REAGAN: There's always progress when you're talking to each other, and we were talking to each other.

DONALDSON: U. S. officials are pleased that after weeks of public relations' posturing, the Soviets have actually put something new on the table. But they're also wary. The fine print could render all of this meaningless. And then there's star wars. As long as both sides stick to their public positions, there can be no deal.

Sam Donaldson, ABC News, the White House.

JENNINGS: As an indication of how well things apparently have gone today, after the meeting Secretary Shultz invited Foreign Minister Shevardnadze back to his house to attend a private barbecue. Mr. Shevardnadze accepted.

KGB Defection

JENNINGS: Last night we reported that a top Soviet KGB official had defected to the West and was being questioned by American agents. Now as ABC's John Scali reports, it

appears he has been talking about possible Soviet penetration of the CIA.

JOHN SCALI: Amidst a flood of sensational rumors, it was disclosed today that a former CIA official has been named by a Soviet defector as a possible Soviet mole who supplied Moscow with secret information. The new accusation about possible penetration of the CIA comes from Vitaliy Urchenko, the high-ranking Soviet KGB defector who is now being questioned by CIA experts.

Authorities familiar with what he has said so far say the American that he has named is relatively low level in rank. His present whereabouts are unknown.

This information became known only a few hours after the Justice Department and the CIA stoutly denied that any present CIA employee has been identified as a Soviet agent.

The ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Patrick Leahy, immediately backed up the CIA's denial.

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY: Well, the CIA says that there are no present employees fingered by this person as KGB agents, and I know of no reason to disbelieve that.

SCALI: Leahy, who has been given detailed briefings by the CIA, emphasized the importance of Urchenko's defection to the West.

SENATOR LEAHY: It's caused a real body blow to the KGB. They must be in sheer panic over there in Moscow. They don't know how much further it might go.

SCALI: Some top U. S. officials believe that Soviet leader Gorbachev soon will take personal charge of repairing the damage, probably by ordering a top-to-bottom shake-up of the KGB leadership.

John Scali, ABC News.

27 Sep 85

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1985

Suspect Is Believed to Have Told Soviet of U.S. Spying in Moscow

By **STEPHEN ENGELBERG**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 — Edward L. Howard, a former Central Intelligence Agency officer, is believed to have given the Soviet Union significant secret information about the methods the United States uses to gather intelligence in Moscow, Congressional sources said tonight.

The sources said Mr. Howard, who is being sought, had been trained in the secret techniques as he was prepared to be sent to Moscow as an operational officer for the C.I.A.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said Mr. Howard, who is 33 years old, served in the C.I.A. from January 1981 to June 1983. One official said today that he left the agency after failing to pass a routine polygraph, or lie-detector, test and had not served in Moscow.

The official would not characterize the type of problem found by the polygraph but indicated that it apparently was not related to espionage. Another official said a test result suggesting espionage by an employee would have started a wide-ranging criminal investigation.

Senator Expresses Concern

CBS News tonight quoted Senator Dave Durenberger, chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, as saying that the security breach caused by Mr. Howard could be as "serious as anything this country has seen in the past," Mr. Durenberger said that the

suspect might have provided details of how the United States got sensitive information from the Soviet Union.

The intelligence committee has been briefed on the potential damage said to have been caused by Mr. Howard. Officials say he is one of two American intelligence officers identified as Soviet recruits by a Soviet defector, Vitaly Yurchenko, a senior member of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency.

Government officials said today that the second suspect had been identified in the course of investigating the defector's statements.

National Security Role Hinted

The officials would not say what agency of the Government had employed the second suspect, although one intelligence source indicated it was the National Security Agency, which deals with this nation's most secret codes and communications.

One intelligence source said the second suspect had access to details about secret United States electronic and satellite surveillance of communications. "Let's just say he was part of the intelligence community," that source said.

The C.I.A. refused to say whether it had ever employed the individual in question.

Officials have said Mr. Howard fled the country sometime on the weekend of Sept. 21, shortly after his friends and co-workers had been questioned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Yurchenko is being questioned at an undisclosed location in the United States.

Only Americans Under Scrutiny

One official said Mr. Howard and the second former intelligence employee were the only Americans under investigation as a result of information provided by Mr. Yurchenko, who defected to the West in July while he was in Italy.

Officials said Mr. Howard worked in the clandestine service of the C.I.A. He was charged on Sept. 23 with conspiring to provide national defense information to a foreign power.

Officials have said Mr. Howard eluded the Federal authorities and fled his home in Santa Fe, N.M. He had been employed by the New Mexico Legislature since 1983 as an economic analyst.

An intelligence source said Mr. Howard, "a disgruntled employee," approached the Russians with an offer to provide secret information. Various officials offered conflicting accounts on whether Mr. Howard began working with Soviet intelligence agents before or after he left the C.I.A.

Denial by State Department

A Reagan Administration official said Mr. Howard left the agency after he was assigned to a post in Moscow. The State Department, denying published reports, said today that Mr. Howard had never served in the American Embassy in Moscow. The Agency

for International Development, which administers foreign aid abroad, hired him as an intern in Washington in September 1976. He was later assigned to Peru as an assistant project development officer and resigned from agency in March 1979.

In mid-August, the Italian press published brief articles reporting that Mr. Yurchenko had disappeared and that inquiries were being made by the Soviet Embassy. But it was not until Aug. 30 that the Milan newspaper Corriere Della Sera reported that he was a defector.

One former C.I.A. officer said it would be unusual to assign an inexperienced officer like Mr. Howard to Moscow, one of the agency's most demanding posts. But he added that that Mr. Howard's supposed role as a member of the State Department might have been more convincing to the Russians because he had not served in jobs usually associated with the Central Intelligence Agency. A Congressional source said Mr. Howard held an "operational" job in the intelligence agency.

The former C.I.A. officer said it would mean that Mr. Howard had been responsible for coordinating information-gathering clandestinely. He would thus have access, the former officer went on, to a limited number of names of agents as well as the location of other sources of information such as electronic listening posts — but an agent in an operational job would not know about the networks of agents run by others in similar posts.


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**THE
MISSING
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The Washington Times

PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER 21, 1981

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COMMENTARY

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SECTION

RALPH DE TOLEDANO

In the past few weeks, a number of prominent U.S. and European officials have been reported as if each of these events was independent of the other.

Let me join the ranks.

A few days ago, Joseph Tiede, a senior West German communist intelligence official, for no apparent reason suddenly picked up his suitcase and fled to his home in West Germany. He had, it is reported, been suspected of being a spy.

Gen. Walter Krivitsky, head of Soviet intelligence in Western Europe during the late 1930s — the man who gave the text of the Axis pact from the Nazi Foreign Ministry in Berlin — may have known as much then as Mr. Dzhurichenko does today — and Gen. Krivitsky was "killed" in a Washington hotel room after he detected to the West. Others who have broken with the Kremlin since then know only a fraction of what Gen. Krivitsky carried to his grave.

Vitaly Dzunichenko detected in Rome on July 24 — something the media in this country seems to report. His detection has created shock waves in the KGB, and the tremors reach up to Central Intelligence. Although Dzunichenko's detection has not yet been reported, Mr. Tiede's and the sighting of Mr. Gordievski, and the movement of KGB agents back to their home

Dzhurichenko prescribes the KGB problems of crisis proportions. For the KGB is forced to spill his guts — which means that it must suspend operations.

Gen. Krivitsky, a KGB agent for 19 years, had been supplying information to NATO countries. His intelligence is said to be largely correct, and his explanation as to the timing, why? Gen. Krivitsky, an important official in the KGB, was a frequent visitor to the political level at the highest level — but he was driven out with mounting Soviet espionage activities — and his wife, Irina, was also a spy.

Gen. Krivitsky is now in the office of Central Intelligence in Washington, D.C. He is being treated as a spy, and his name is being used in the Soviet press to discredit the KGB.

Gen. Krivitsky's departure is a major blow to the KGB. It is a sign that the KGB is losing its grip on the West. It is a sign that the KGB is losing its ability to control its own agents. It is a sign that the KGB is losing its ability to keep its secrets.

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No. 5 man for KGB now singing to CIA?

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A highly placed official in the KGB hierarchy is reported to have defected to the West in what may prove to be a far more devastating blow to the Soviet espionage network than the recent defection of the KGB London station chief.

The fifth-ranking officer of the KGB, Vitaly Dzhurtchenko, dropped from sight in Rome on July 24 and is believed to be supplying the CIA with identities of scores of agents and disinformation specialists. This defection, say Western sources, may explain the recent frenzy and turmoil in European espionage circles.

The defection was first reported in the United States in two syndicated columns by Ralph de Toledano, whose articles appear

periodically on the Commentary pages of The Washington Times.

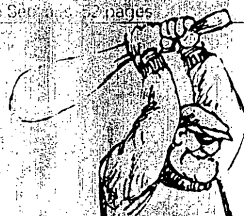
His column detailing the significance of Mr. Dzhurtchenko's reported defection appears today on Page 1D.

According to Mr. de Toledano, the sudden disappearance of Mr. Dzhurtchenko, or Jurtschenko as it usually is spelled in the European press, has generated "almost hysterical" inquiries from the KGB to Italian authorities about the missing Soviet agent's whereabouts.

The Italian Foreign Ministry has blandly replied that he is not in its hands, though it has evaded questions as to its knowledge of where he might be. This has been a tacit

see KGB, page 10A

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Syria's Assad us to stay as Mideast

Thoroughly beaten by Israel in 1973, Syria under President Hafez Assad has bounced back since to become a leading player in the Mideast. In a three-part series that begins today, The Washington Times takes a look at Syria and the man who, according to one expert, has "demonstrated the success of terror as a foreign policy tool in the 1980s."



By Derk Kinnane Roelofsma
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

On an October evening in 1983, Syrians gathered around television sets to watch a row of adolescent girls in military formation, all wearing the uniform of the ruling Baath ("Renaissance") Party militia. Around each girl's neck was draped a long snake which she stroked and

petted. Then, a girl bit off her it away. Syria Assad, the gue approvingly. The staging much about hi

KGB

From page 1A

admission that they know of his defection. The logical conclusion is that the CIA has him.

The reaction of the KGB to Mr. Dzhurtchenko's defection is understandable. In his head, he carried not only the names of top and secondary agents but also a rich knowledge of

the KGB's modus operandi in Western Europe, the United States and Latin America.

"The entire Soviet espionage apparatus is therefore in deep jeopardy and must be rebuilt."

A CIA spokesman in Washington said that it is against agency policy to issue any comments in defection cases, and said that there would be no comment in this instance. No request was made to withhold the story.

25 SEP 1985
WASH WGT 100 Times

reducing blast damage to buildings.

The report adds to speculation that the reason why French officials ordered the sinking of the nuclear protest ship Rainbow Warrior was to keep it from observing a test of this system in action.

KGB Defector

RATHER: CBS News has confirmed tonight a Los Angeles Times' story that Vitali Urchenko (?), a Soviet Foreign Ministry official and high-ranking KGB member with detailed knowledge of Soviet intelligence in the U. S., has defected to the West.

Urchenko is reportedly in the United States now undergoing debriefing by the CIA.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS NBC TV
7:00 PM SEPTEMBER 26

KGB Agent Defects to U. S.

TOM BROKAW: That KGB defector that we reported on last night, Vitali Urchenko -- apparently he was far more important than we first believed. Intelligence sources say he is the highest ranking KGB defector to the West since the 1930's.

Urchenko disappeared on a trip to Italy, and for the last six weeks the CIA reportedly has been debriefing him in the United States.

In London, most of the 31 Soviet diplomats, businessmen and journalists expelled by Britain went home today with their families.

They had been identified as spies by London's KGB chief, whose defection triggered the so-called spy war, in which the Soviets kicked out an equal number of Britons.

Soviet-American Arms Talks

BROKAW: The Soviet Union is keeping up the pre-summit pressure on the United States. Tass today accused President Reagan of mounting a scare blitz about the Soviet military threat. Pravda said the administration was conducting a well-orchestrated anti-Soviet campaign to avoid discussion of "Star Wars."

Today's attack comes on the eve of President Reagan's meeting with the Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, who is expected to offer a new arms control package. Marvin Kalb reports tonight that the trade-off remains "Star Wars."

MARVIN KALB: National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane anticipates a Soviet proposal tomorrow for deep cuts in nuclear weapons, and he says that when the President sees Foreign Minister Shevardnadze he'll say that's just fine with him.

ROBERT MCFARLANE: We will take this opportunity to reaffirm our objective in Geneva to seek agreements for deep and verifiable reductions in nuclear arms in a way that will enhance stability.

KALB: Limits on long-range offensive missiles lie at the heart of the Soviet proposal, divided into three parts. First, a 40% cutback in all strategic systems, including nuclear warheads.

Second, no single weapon, land-based or sea-launched or air-launched, can constitute more than 60% of each superpower's total strategic force.

Finally, the Russians want definite constraints on the President's space defense program "Star Wars."

What Shevardnadze has been dangling before the Americans is an implied trade-off. The Russians give up many of their

27 Sep 85
**Soviet Diplomat
With KGB Ties
Defects to U.S.**

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Soviet diplomat who reportedly was a senior officer of the KGB intelligence service has defected to the United States after disappearing while on a trip to Rome last month, U.S. intelligence and diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources confirmed reports that Vitaly Dzhurtchenko, who held the rank of counselor with the Soviet Foreign Ministry, has been cooperating with the Central Intelligence Agency since shortly after his disappearance Aug. 1.

The sources also said he is understood to have been a KGB official or at least familiar with KGB operations in such areas as Western Europe and Latin America. The sources were unable to say where Dzhurtchenko is.

They also declined to speculate about what effects his potential information might have on Soviet intelligence activities, and they professed no knowledge of speculation that his disappearance might have triggered the recent rash of other defections between East and West.

Dzhurtchenko, who went to Rome in late July, vanished after ostensibly going to see Vatican museums. His disappearance went largely unnoticed in this country.

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ON PAGE 3A

27 September 1985

NATIONLINE

Soviet reportedly defects

LOS ANGELES — Soviet diplomat Vitaly Yurtchenko, 50, a high-ranking member of the KGB, defected to the USA after disappearing in Rome last month, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Thursday. The *N.Y. Times* reported today that he had identified several CIA agents as Russian agents. U.S. officials refused to confirm or deny that Yurtchenko's decision started a series of defections from the Soviet bloc by persons fearing Yurtchenko might expose them.

APPEARED
AGE

WALL STREET JOURNAL
27 September 1985

What's News—

* * *

World-Wide

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The U.S. confirmed that a senior Soviet diplomat has defected to the West, but declined to comment on reports that he is a high-ranking member of the KGB. The Los Angeles Times reported that the man, Vitaly Yurtchenko has been undergoing debriefing by the CIA for the past six weeks.

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PART I

LOS ANGELES TIMES
28 September 1985

KGB Defector Told U.S. of 'Spy Dust' Use

By ROBERT C. TOTH
and RONALD J. OSTROW,
Times Staff Writers

WASHINGTON—A high-ranking KGB defector's disclosure that the Soviets were making repeated use of potentially hazardous "spy dust" to track the movement of U.S. diplomats in Moscow led to the State Department's unusual accusation against the Soviets last month, government sources said Friday.

The warning by Vitaly Yurchenko, who defected Aug. 1 while on a temporary assignment in Italy, came atop earlier indications that the Soviets were using the chemical sporadically and persuaded U.S. officials to go public with the accusation.

The sources said key information obtained from Yurchenko by the CIA and FBI, which are questioning him at an undisclosed site in the United States, ranks him as a

"much more important" defector than Oleg A. Gordievski, the head of the KGB's London operation who defected to the British earlier this month.

Yurchenko—whose name was spelled Dzhurtchenko in initial reports of his defection—served as first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington from August 1975, until late 1980, giving him access to crucial details of KGB operations in the United States. The assignment also helps explain why government sources have attached such significance to his defection.

"More will be unraveling in months to come, and that's why this is so sensitive," one source said.

Yurchenko has told U.S. interrogators that Soviet intelligence has "never" penetrated the State Department, according to government sources, who declined to be identified by name or agency.

The sources said CIA officials were disturbed that Yurchenko's

defection became public as quickly as it did, saying that he had wanted his action kept quiet because his family remains in the Soviet Union.

In accusing the Soviets of using the chemical nitrophenylpentadienal, or NPPD, to track the movement of Americans in Moscow, the State Department said it had determined that the chemical is a mutagen, or capable of altering cells, and thus a potential cause of cancer, though its precise effects were not known.

The government sources said Yurchenko had alerted the United States that Soviet security police were using increasing amounts of NPPD and that this led to the decision to make a public accusation. The charge was made Aug. 21 in Moscow and Washington.

Afterward, a team of U.S. medical investigators traveled to Moscow to study the Soviets' alleged use of the chemical dust and assess its potential for harm. In addition to gathering samples, the study includes an effort to determine whether NPPD can actually be absorbed through the skin, and thus pose a danger to health.

The team hopes to have developed solid information about the chemical by next month.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department and the CIA denied a New York Times report that Yurchenko had identified several CIA employees as Soviet agents.

"Yurchenko has not indicated that there are any employees of the CIA working as Soviet agents," the Justice Department said in an unusual break from its practice of making no comment on such reports.

In addition, a government source informed on intelligence matters denied an Associated Press report that quoted an unidentified congressional source as saying that Yurchenko had implicated several former employees of the intelligence agency.

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Another Return from the Cold

A KGB defection adds to an intriguing web

On a balmy July morning in Rome a visiting Soviet "diplomat" took a stroll with some of his colleagues near the Vatican. "I'll join you later at the embassy," he told his companions. "I want to visit the Vatican museums." Vitaly Yurchenko walked off on his own. That, apparently, was the last the Soviets ever saw of him. Shortly after Yurchenko vanished, the embassy asked Italian authorities to investigate the disappearance. "We looked everywhere," said an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman. "In hospitals, morgues, insane asylums, hotels, camping grounds—nothing."

In fact, Italian intelligence officials knew what had happened: Yurchenko, 50, one of the highest-ranking agents in the KGB, the Soviet intelligence organization, had defected to the West. He has reportedly been sequestered somewhere in the U.S. for the past six weeks, undergoing debriefing by the CIA. Reagan Administration officials said that Yurchenko has provided details of KGB operations in Europe and the U.S. and information about the "spy dust" that Soviet secret police allegedly used to track Americans in Moscow. He has also fingered as many as six former CIA agents who worked as "moles" for the Soviet Union. Some of them apparently quit the agency in the past few months and fled to Moscow. The CIA has denied publicly that any of its current employees have been named as double agents.

Yurchenko is believed to be the most senior KGB defector since the 1930s, when two generals in the Soviet intelligence service fled the U.S.S.R. during Stalin's purges. He was a top-ranking member of the KGB's first chief directorate; specifically, he was assigned to the K directorate, which is responsible for penetrating other intelligence services. From 1975 to 1980 he served in Washington as a first secretary at the Soviet embassy and presumably had knowledge of Soviet agents and moles in the U.S. After returning to Moscow, says one intelligence source, he handled liaison between the KGB and the Central Committee of the ruling Politburo. "It's caused a real body blow to the KGB," said Patrick Leahy, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, of Yurchenko's defection. "They must be in sheer panic over there."

Yurchenko's defection sent a major shock wave through the mysteriously intertwined network of East-West espionage, which has been identified in the past with the names of such defectors as Yuriy Andropov, the KGB's former director, and the name Sonja Lüneburg, a senior official in the KGB's foreign intelligence department.

days later East Germany announced that Tiedge, who had been responsible since 1981 for detecting East German spies in his country, had gone over to the other side. Although he was in debt and had a drinking problem, some Western experts suspect that Tiedge feared exposure as a result of Yurchenko's defection.

If Tiedge had worked for any length of time as a Soviet mole, he could have

Disappearances and Defections

Since last March, a series of moves by spies and purported spies has stunned intelligence networks in both the East and West. Among them:

? March 31: Physicist VLADIMIR ALEXANDROV disappears in Madrid.

← **MAY 1981: SERGIY BOKHAN**, deputy director of Soviet military intelligence in Athens, defects to the West.

← **July 28: VITALY YURCHENKO**, high-ranking KGB official, vanishes in Rome. Defects to the U.S. and provides information on CIA "moles".

→ **August: SONJA LÜNEBURG**, secretary to West German Minister of Economics; **URSULA RICHTER**, bookkeeper for a Bonn lobbying group; and **LORENZ BETZING**, messenger at an army administration office, leave West Germany. The three suspected spies are presumed to have crossed over into East Germany.

→ **Aug. 19: HANS JOACHIM TIEDGE**, West Germany's chief agent for detecting East German spies, disappears. Four days later East Germany announces his defection.

← **Aug. 25: MARTIN WINKLER**, East German diplomat in Buenos Aires, probably a double agent, switches allegiance to West Germany.

← **Early September: OLEG GORDIEVSKY**, senior KGB man in London and longtime double agent, defects, fingering 25 Soviet moles in Britain.

protected East German spies and endangered the cover of West German ones. A week after Tiedge's flight, Martin Winkler, a Buenos Aires-based East German diplomat who was probably a double agent, came in from the cold and sought refuge in West Germany.

It is unclear how many have worked for the KGB, but it is believed to have fomented the defection of at least one senior official, the name Sonja Lüneburg, in August after she had worked for years as secretary to

Martin Bangemann, the West German Minister of Economics. Another woman living under an alias, Ursula Richter, 52, worked as a bookkeeper for a Bonn-based lobbying group for German refugees from Poland, Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R. She also vanished last summer.

When police searched the apartments of the missing women, they found several tools of the spy trade, including camera equipment that could be used to photograph documents and a briefcase with a secret compartment. West German authorities think that a third possible spy, a friend of Richter's named Lorenz Betzing, may have also fled eastward. She once worked for a firm that installed air conditioning at a military hideout built to serve as an emergency command center in case of war.

Last month the KGB's senior agent in London, Oleg Gordievsky, defected after years of providing the British with intelligence on Soviet espionage operations. Within a week the British government dismissed 31 Soviet diplomats, trade officials and journalists whom the double agent had identified as spies. Moscow, clearly embarrassed by the incident, retaliated by expelling an equal number of British citizens.

Reagan Administration officials last week confirmed another coup: Sergei Bokhan, deputy director of Soviet military intelligence in Athens, had defected in May. Bokhan has provided information about the extent of Soviet infiltration of the Greek military, which may explain why the U.S. postponed a sale of 40 F-16 fighter jets to that country.

One recent disappearance remains unresolved. Vladimir Alexandrov, a prominent Soviet physicist, vanished without a trace while visiting Madrid late last March. Alexandrov originated the mathematical model for the nuclear winter theory, which holds that the smoke and dust kicked up by the atmosphere by a full-scale nuclear war between the superpowers would block the sun's rays, cooling and plunging the earth's temperature to plummet. The mystery of his disappearance has been compounded by the suspicions of some Western scientists that the nuclear winter scenario was promoted by Moscow to give antinuclear groups in the U.S. and Europe some fresh ammunition

against America's arms buildup. Conspiracy theorists speculate that Alexandrov was planning to renounce the nuclear winter concept and may have been kidnaped by the KGB. According to another theory, the physicist defected to the West. In any case, a delegation of Soviet scientists skipped an annual meeting in Italy this summer, and the U.S. has threatened to boycott the next meeting.

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WASHINGTON TIMES
4 October 1985

It was a dark and moonless night

The Justice Department scarcely seems to have covered itself with glory in its handling of Edward Lee Howard, the ex-CIA agent said to have been identified as a double agent by Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko. While FBI men were watching his house — and while the Justice Department was issuing carefully crafted denials that Mr. Yurchenko had disclosed the names of "any employees of the CIA" — Mr. Howard whoops, gave them all the slip.

"To imply that this was a muff is not accurate," an unidentified official assured *The New York Times*. "There was no moon out," he said. Besides, he added, the FBI agents "were not under orders to stay with [Mr. Howard] at all cost." In plain words, if we get the drift, even if the FBI men had seen Mr. Howard slip out of the house, which they didn't, they wouldn't necessarily have followed him.

It would be easier to swallow this yarn if it were not for the FBI's subsequent performance. When, last Saturday, Mr. Howard was

found to have split, did the government sleuths issue an all-points bulletin? Distribute his photograph? No, they kept the story tightly under wraps until Wednesday, when his name finally was disclosed, by which time he could have been safely in Tashkent, if that had been his destination.

The Justice Department simply bungled the job, or so it appears, and bungled it badly. FBI agents aren't assigned to the house of a suspected spy to watch the grass grow. They are put there to report on his movements, presumably including his movements, if any, in the direction of the Mexican border. Moreover, it is ludicrous to think that the FBI is capable of shadowing suspects only in daylight or on moonlit nights.

One further possibility does need to be considered. It could be that this astonishing tale of the disappearing suspect is meant to draw the enemy off the scent so that our own agents can do their clever work. Considering the worrisome implications of alternative theories, let us keep our fingers crossed.