

Soviet Clerk's Spy Attempts Prove Failures

By MARTHA COLE
WASHINGTON (U)—A knock at the door on a foggy night... vodka martinis... dinner for four with a dime tip for the waitress.

These were details that came out Saturday in the story of the stocky young clerk at the Soviet Embassy in Washington who went out searching for American military information.

Three men —an Army medical librarian, a historian for the Armed Forces Medical Museum and an Air Force statistician who was then under suspension—have said the clerk, Vladimir P. Mikheev, 28, came to them and they turned him down.

Their testimony behind closed doors to the staff of the House Committee on Un-American Activities this week was made public Saturday.

Stocky, with sallow complexion and thinning straight black hair, a mole on the left side of his face, a thick foreign accent—this was the description the men gave of young Mikheev.

Richard S. Cutter, 45, of nearby Arlington, Va., said "I might say he was a perfect gentleman at all times and very polite. The only impolite thing he did was he didn't take his hat off when he first came in the house."

"Crude, Boorish"

But Robert W. Davis, Washington, called Mikheev "crude and boorish in his social habits — he stood there with his hat on."

"Extremely noncommunicative," Sidney Hatkin, Washington, called him.

It was 9 p.m. on a foggy night last January, Davis said Mikheev came to his door while "as I was a good husband, I was washing dishes."

It was Davis, a historian for the medical museum of the armed forces institute of pathology, and his wife whom Mikheev took to dinner in a Washington restaurant. Mikheev's wife was along, too.

"We had a round of vodka martinis," Davis said. "Then he (Mikheev) suggested ordering dinner. He also suggested 'Let's have another round.' He began to feel very good."

"Beer for Everybody"

Davis said they had wine with dinner and coffee and then "beer for everybody." The tab was about \$16. Davis said, and Mikheev gave the waitress a crisp 20-dollar bill. "So the change came back, and believe it or not, he left a ten-cent tip for the waitress."

Davis said he slipped away and gave the waitress a dollar.

Of Mikheev, Davis said, "He had a very bland, kowtowing manner, except when somebody asked him a question he didn't like. Then he became very hard suddenly. His eyes were no longer smiling. He became a wild animal..." he said he was just a clerk at the Russian Embassy... he wanted to emphasize the fact that "You can tell me all right. I am small fry. There is no danger..."

Davis said Mikheev told him he was working on a paper about American military history and wanted to start with the Revolutionary War "and go up to now and show how America each time fights a bigger war than she fights the last time."

Davis said Mikheev wanted him to draw up a bibliography of writings of American military history. It never was done.

Tickets for Concert

Mikheev called some more. Davis said, wanting a "boys' night out" on Valentine Day and once with tickets for a concert by a Russian cellist. Davis said he couldn't make either.

Mikheev had been to see Richard S. Cutter, 45, a native of Omaha, Neb., first, on Dec. 27 of last year. Cutter, a medical librarian, said Mikheev asked for military history and he gave him Davis' name.

That was before he knew who Mikheev was.

How did Mikheev find Cutter at his home in Arlington? "He said he got the name in a big, thick book at the public library," Cutter said.

Cutter speculated that it was the city directory where he is listed as a librarian with the Defense Department.

Mikheev told both Davis and Cutter who he was.

Ad in Paper

Later—on Feb. 14, 1956, Mikheev called up Hatkin, who had put an ad in a Washington paper that day describing himself as an economist seeking work and listing his telephone number.

Hatkin was suspended from his Air Force job 14 months ago, he testified on "untrustworthiness and unreliability" charges. But Saturday Secretary of Air Quarles announced that Hatkin was being restored to duty in a non-sensitive position.

Mikheev went to Hatkin's home, but Hatkin said, wouldn't tell Hatkin his name or where he worked, or where he lived.

He wanted three things from Hatkin—growth of the American aircraft industry, major companies and industrial capacity in the industry and aircraft production, Hatkin said.

On the first visit, Mikheev gave Hatkin an advance fee of \$25. But when he returned to Hatkin's house in about a week, Hatkin said he gave the money back, declining to do the work.

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