

Russia retaliates; fires U.S. diplomat

MOSCOW — Russia expelled a U.S. diplomat Monday in retaliation for the expulsion of a Russian intelligence officer accused of involvement in a Washington spy scandal.

The expelled American diplomat was identified in Russian media as James L. Morris, a counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The U.S. Embassy and officials in Washington refused to confirm the name.

The exchange of expulsions — Russia's diplomat was ordered out on Friday — was reminiscent of the Cold War and threatened to chill U.S.-Russian relations.

"We have received a request from the Russian government to withdraw a senior official of the embassy. We expressed our great regret and concern over this action," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement that did not mention Morris by name.

In Washington, a Clinton administration official who spoke on condition he not be named, suggested any tit-for-tat gamesmanship between the two countries may be over for now: "We have no further plans at this time to take further action."

The United States had expected the expulsion of an American from Mos-

cow since Alexander Lysenko, the chief of Russia's intelligence station in Washington, was declared persona non grata on Friday and ordered to leave the United States within seven days.

U.S. officials said Lysenko "was in a position to be responsible" for CIA officer Aldrich H. Ames and his wife, Rosario, who were charged last week with spying for Moscow since 1985.

Ames, who once headed the CIA branch in charge of Soviet counterintelligence, allegedly sold secrets to the Soviet Union and later Russia for more than \$1.5 million.

U.S. officials believe the information he gave Moscow may have led to the execution of as many as 10 Russians who were spying for the United States.

Also Monday, Russian President Boris Yeltsin fired the head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, an agency that was formed when the KGB was reorganized last year.

But the state news agency ITAR-Tass said the firing of Nikolai Golushko stemmed from his failure to prevent the release of Yeltsin's hard-line enemies over the weekend, rather than from the Ames spy scandal.

U.S. downs Serb warplanes

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO struck for the first time in the Bosnian war Monday when two U.S. F-16 fighter jets downed four Serb warplanes that U.N. officials said bombed an arms plant run by Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

NATO said the planes ignored several warnings to leave a U.N.-imposed no-fly zone over Bosnia or face attack and then were observed dropping bombs on a Muslim-controlled area.

Bosnian Serbs first denied involvement. One Serb army official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that four of their planes were shot down. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said Serb pilots might have been making "training flights."

NATO has frequently threatened intervention to back U.N. resolutions during the 23-month war. Monday's attack was the first instance of NATO using military muscle anywhere during its 44 years of existence.

NATO and the United Nations say they are neutral in the Bosnian conflict and will act against any

side violating U.N. agreements.

"If the Serbs did this, I see no justification," said Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Grachev said he did not think the incident would escalate the conflict.

U.S. Adm. Jeremy M. Boorda, the NATO commander for southern Europe, said the lesson to be learned was simple: "You ought not to violate the no-fly zone." He said NATO would not hesitate to fire on any other violators.

Boorda said U.S. pilots detected six planes by radar and broadcast three warnings for them to immediately land or leave Bosnian airspace or risk attack. No response was received, and the Americans then saw the planes "make a bombing maneuver" and witnessed explosions on the ground, he said.

One U.S. plane then shot down three planes with air-to-air missiles and a second U.S. plane downed a fourth. Boorda said at a briefing in Naples, Italy. The two other planes escaped by flying west over Croatia and then north and back east over Banja Luka, NATO said.

Bosnian no-fly zone

The United Nations has authorized NATO warplanes to shoot down aircraft that violate the Bosnian no-fly zone, which has been in effect since October, 1992, and covers all of Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Dealers are skeptical as Brady law takes effect

The federal Brady law took effect Monday, turning firearms dealers in 32 states into a first line of defense to keep felons from buying handguns.

The mechanism varies around the country. Some gun dealers call a state agency toll-free, others have to pay, some will fax or mail in forms.

Some states, such as Colorado and South Carolina, are promising instant background checks. The alternative is for gun shops to wait five days for a background check by the chief law enforcement official in the area where the buyer lives.

"That's the big fly in the butter-

milk," Bill Carter Sr., owner of Carter's Country gun stores in Houston, said.

"Determining the proper justification is a big problem for us. If we do it wrong, we violate the law."

In Mississippi, a seller will send paperwork by certified mail. The five days start when it's received.

"Is a felon going to come in and identify himself with a driver's license? He'd have to be stupid," Denver Woodcock, manager of Riley's Sport Shop and Shooting Range in Hooksett, N.H., said.

States that already have back-

ground checks report they have stopped thousands of criminals from getting guns.

The National Rifle Association argues the law is unconstitutionally vague about who must enforce it. The NRA is backing a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Tucson, Ariz., by Graham County Sheriff Richard Mack.

The Brady law is named after former White House Press Secretary James Brady, who was wounded during the 1981 assassination attempt on former President Reagan. Brady and his wife, Sarah, have since been lobbying lawmakers for gun control.

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Stoney

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The federal government needs to adopt some of the Nebraska Constitution's aspects—including an amendment that would require lawmakers to present a balanced budget, Stoney said. "We can live with (the balanced budget amendment) here ... we can make it work at the federal level," she said. "We should apply the same common sense that we use in our lives to the federal government."

Stoney said she would support a 25 percent cut in congressional staff and would not support pay raises for senators.

She said she would also support a measure sending drug dealers who deal to minors to prison for 10 years. She said 10-year jail terms to felons convicted of using a firearm and 20-year terms if the gun is fired would help curb crime.

Stoney said the Clinton health care reform plan would be a step in the wrong direction.

"The Clinton health care bill is the wrong medicine. In fact, it is financially fatal," she said. "We should kill (the plan) outright."

"The United States has the best health care system in the world, Stoney said. She said the Clinton health care plan is the epitome of government

intervention in American's lives.

Congress should start with a plan improving affordability and access, she said.

Stoney said the country did not need to give another one-fourth of the Gross National Product.

"Remember, these are the same people that gave us the \$700 toilet seats and 29-cent stamps," Stoney said.

The health care system needs malpractice and fraud reforms in addition to improvements in access, Stoney said.

"Price caps and government-knows-best reforms are not the answers," she said. "Let's admit Washington needs reforms."

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