

# Lee set to testify he made tapes of nuclear secrets

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Preparing for a tell-all interview with Wen Ho Lee, the FBI has learned from the Los Alamos scientist that he made a total of 20 tapes with nuclear secrets, half of which were duplicates, government officials said Tuesday.

Only three have been recovered, but Lee's lawyer said his client will tell the FBI the remaining tapes were destroyed.

The FBI told congressional investigators this week that one of the key questions for Lee to answer is why he made as many as 10 duplicate tapes of information he downloaded from secure Energy Department computers, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government learned about the duplicates from Lee's attorneys as they prepared for a plea bargain earlier this month,

the officials said. The revelation caused a brief delay in a planned plea bargain with the scientist, the officials said.

FBI agents are slated to begin interviewing Lee on Sept. 26 under a court-approved deal in which the government dropped 58 felony charges against the scientist and released him from solitary confinement in a case that has raised questions of excessive prosecution.

One of Lee's lawyers, Brian Sun, said Tuesday his client will tell the FBI he destroyed all missing tapes with nuclear secrets but otherwise could not comment on any issues related to the interview.

"Our position has been and will continue to be he destroyed all tapes that had classified information on them, and we will honor our commitment to the bureau to describe the circumstances surrounding the tapes," Sun said.

"All of this is supposed to be handled confidentially in the context that all of this is under seal by order of the court," Sun said.

When Lee was charged in December 1999, the government alleged he had made only 10 tapes of nuclear secrets, seven which were missing. An FBI agent later told the court investigators believed he had made as many as 15 tapes.

Now the FBI has told Congress, it believes Lee made a total of 17 tapes that are unaccounted for - in addition to three originals that were recovered from his office. The 17 include seven originals and 10 copies, the officials said.

Next week, while agents interview Lee, senators will begin exploring the government's conduct in the Lee case, including whether he was singled out because he was Asian American, why he was imprisoned without

bail when the government had no evidence he engaged in espionage and why so many charges were brought, only to be dropped.

That Senate hearing is slated to begin Sept. 26.

Attorney General Janet Reno has defended the Justice Department's handling of the case, even as her boss, President Clinton, has questioned it.

Reno has said Lee's lengthy detention without bail was necessary to protect the government until he admitted what he did with the tapes.

"With all my heart and soul," Reno said, she wished "Dr. Lee had come forward, said, 'This is what I did with the information ... (and) I'll ... try to give you as much information as possible to permit you to confirm and corroborate it.'"

A Senate subcommittee led by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., wants to question prosecutors.

A key question is prosecutor's decision to reject a cooperation offer from Lee's attorney just before the December 1999 indictment. The scientist offered to give the government "credible and verifiable" proof of what he did with the tapes and take a lie detector test to prove he was telling the truth.

"We will immediately provide this credible and verifiable explanation," Lee's attorneys wrote the U.S. attorney in Albuquerque, N.M., on Dec. 10, 1999.

"Specifically, we are prepared to make Dr. Lee immediately available to a mutually agreeable polygraph examiner to verify our repeated written representations that at no time did he mishandle those tapes in question and to confirm that he did not provide the tapes to any third party," the letter said.

Prosecutor George Stamboulidis said the govern-

ment pursued the offer but concluded it was "cosmetic, not a real offer." Defense attorneys would only allow two questions - Did Lee destroy the tapes or pass the tapes to others? - and wouldn't agree to an FBI polygrapher. "How can you test his credibility with only two questions," the prosecutor asked.

The government proceeded with a 59-count indictment against the scientist that carried a penalty of life in prison and asked the court to keep him in solitary confinement in prison without bail - a position it held for more than nine months until it abandoned the lion's share of its case earlier this month.

The latter action caused the judge in the case to apologize to Lee for his "unfair" solitary confinement and to lambast the government for embarrassing "our entire nation and each of us who is a citizen of it."

# Man killed in case of mistaken identity

■ A father was trying to find the driver of a car his son told him tried to kidnap him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKELAND, Fla. - A man whose young son told him someone in a red car tried to lure him away from a bus stop spent two days hunting for the vehicle before killing his neighbor - a father of four and the wrong man, authorities said Tuesday.

Kenneth Stephenson, 31, died from five gunshot wounds early Saturday after he drove home from work in his red Chevrolet Beretta.

Held without bail Tuesday was James Price, 46, who told police he spent two days hunting for a red car, intending to kill the driver. He has been charged with first-degree murder.

Stephenson had just gotten off work at Ryder Truck Rental where he was a tire technician when he was gunned down a half block

from his driveway - midway between his house and Price's house. The two men were acquaintances.

"Nothing was said. He just shot him," Stephenson's widow, Misty, said Tuesday, standing alongside a simple wooden cross on the roadside. Printed on it were the words: "God Bless You." The names of Stephenson's wife and children were listed on the side.

Price "freely and voluntarily admitted taking his Ruger .357 handgun from his truck toolbox and going in search of the person who allegedly tried to pick up his son," according to an arrest affidavit.

On Monday, 19-year-old Matthew Wiley told investigators he was the one in the red car but claimed he never tried to pick up Price's 9-year-old son, said Polk County Sheriff's Capt. W.J. Martin.

"He came to us. He told us a group of kids at the bus stop were making obscene and rude gestures at him," sheriff's spokeswoman

Michal Shanley said. "He stuck his head out the window and yelled that he was going to tell their daddy."

Price's son was at the bus stop with three other youngsters, Shanley said. The children said a man and a woman were in the red car, and the man told the children to get into the vehicle, but they refused, according to a police report.

Shanley said authorities don't know how the story told to Price got twisted, whether the children perceived events differently or embellished on what happened.

Stephenson's children, ranging in age from 4 to 15, were not at the house Tuesday.

Their mother wanted them to stay busy with friends to keep their minds occupied.

The morning after Stephenson died, 4-year-old Amber came to her mother.

"She told me daddy came to her and told her he had to go away, and she had to look after mommy," Misty Stephenson said.

# Clinton urges world to resist Milosevic

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - If Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic uses fraud to win Sunday's presidential election, the world must strip him of whatever stature he retains so his opponents can topple his regime, President Clinton said Tuesday night.

"Democratic opposition is stronger than ever heading into critical elections this weekend. Mr. Milosevic has stepped up his repression. Surely, he is capable of stealing the election," Clinton said at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts before the debut of a play about human rights activists.

"But if he does, we must make sure - all of us, not just the Americans and certainly not just the American government - that he loses what legitimacy he has left in the world, and the forces of change will grow even stronger."

Milosevic, who has been indicted for war crimes by the international tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, is being challenged by three candidates, including Vojislav Kostunica, who is backed by an alliance of 18 opposition parties and is leading Milosevic in public opinion polls.

Clinton also said defenders of human rights also need support in Myanmar, also known as Burma, where the ruling military regime is being confronted by Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party. Her party won national elections in 1990 but the regime in the Southeast Asian country never recognized the victory.

"Their only weapons are words, reason and the brave example of Aung San Suu Kyi, but these are fearful weapons to the ruling regime," Clinton said.

Clinton spoke before the play "Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark." Written by novelist and Broadway playwright Ariel Dorfman, the play is based on writings and interviews with 51 human rights activists in Kerry Kennedy Cuomo's book, "Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World."

Cuomo is the daughter of the late Robert F. Kennedy and the wife of Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo. Her book, with photographs by Pulitzer Prize winner Eddie Adams, profiles human rights activists to prove that there are still American heroes.

The audience, including a row of the author's relatives, including Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., listened to

singer Jackson Browne and a South African jazz trumpeter. Nobel Laureate Oscar Arias of Costa Rica opened the program.

The cast of the one-night Kennedy Center performance included Alec Baldwin, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Hector Elizondo, Giancarlo Esposito, Kevin Kline, John Malkovich, Rita Moreno, Sigourney Weaver and Alfre Woodard. The production will air on PBS on Sunday, Oct. 8.

Later, Clinton went to a book signing party for former adviser Paul Begala at James Carville and Mary Matalin's new restaurant, West 24th.

He then made a surprise appearance at a fund-raiser for the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, where he couldn't resist kidding actor Jimmy Smits, one of the event's organizers.

"I'm here in spite of the fact

*"Democratic opposition is stronger than ever heading into critical elections this weekend. Mr. Milosevic has stepped up his repression. Surely, he is capable of stealing the election."*

President Clinton

that Jimmy Smits called me and asked me to come," he said. "If I have to hear Hillary say one more time, 'That is the best looking man I've ever seen ...,' he said, as the audience of 450 dissolved into laughter.

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