

American charged with espionage

FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen is accused of working covertly with the KGB since 1985 in exchange for money and diamonds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - A veteran FBI agent was accused Tuesday of spying for Moscow for more than 15 years and giving the KGB the names of three Russian intelligence agents working for the United States in exchange for up to \$1.4 million in cash as well as diamonds.

President Bush read a statement to reporters traveling with him on Air Force One, in which he called it "a difficult day for those who love our country."

He added: "To anyone who would betray its trust, I warn you, we'll find you and we'll bring you to justice."

Robert Philip Hanssen, 56, is only the third FBI agent ever accused of spying.

The government charged him with espionage and conspiracy to commit espionage. He was arrested at a park near his home in Vienna, Va., Sunday night and arraigned Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va.

According to a 100-page affidavit, Hanssen voluntarily became an agent of the KGB in 1985 while assigned to the intelligence division of the FBI field office in New York City and as supervisor of a foreign counterintelligence squad.

He independently disclosed the identity of two KGB officials who, first compromised by convicted spy Aldrich Ames, had been recruited by the government to serve as "agents in place" at the Soviet embassy in Washington. When these two KGB agents returned to Moscow, they were tried on espionage charges and executed. The third was imprisoned and ultimately released, said FBI Director Louis Freeh.

The FBI director said agents covertly intercepted \$50,000 in cash intended for Hanssen. Overall, Freeh said, Hanssen had received more than \$650,000 in cash, as well as diamonds, and an additional \$800,000 had been set aside for him in an overseas escrow account.

"This was his bread and butter for many, many years," said Freeh.

Hanssen kept his identity a secret even from the Russians, who did not learn his name or his employer until his arrest, Freeh said. The agent monitored the FBI's own security systems to see if authorities had any suspicions about him. He apparently came under suspicion only late last year.

"The trusted insider betrayed his trust without detec-

tion," Freeh said.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said he and Freeh had agreed to immediately launch a review of FBI practices.

Freeh said Hanssen's alleged conduct "represents the most traitorous actions imaginable." He said the full extent of the damage done is not yet known "because no accurate damage assessment could be conducted without jeopardizing the investigation. We believe it was exceptionally grave."

Freeh credited the government for catching Hanssen "red-handed" in turning over secret documents but could not explain how the agent was able to work for the Russians undetected for 15 years.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI, the CIA, the State Department and the Justice Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Bellows said Hanssen could face the death penalty if convicted and could be fined up to \$2.8 million - twice his alleged personal gain from the activities of which he is accused.

The FBI agent was also charged with passing classified documents to agents for the KGB on March 20, 1989, with the intent of injuring the United States. The charges contended that Hanssen has been spying since October 1985, and that his espionage continued until his arrest. A hearing was set for March 5.

Plato Cacheris, Hanssen's attorney, said he believes federal authorities "always talk like they have a great case, but we'll see."

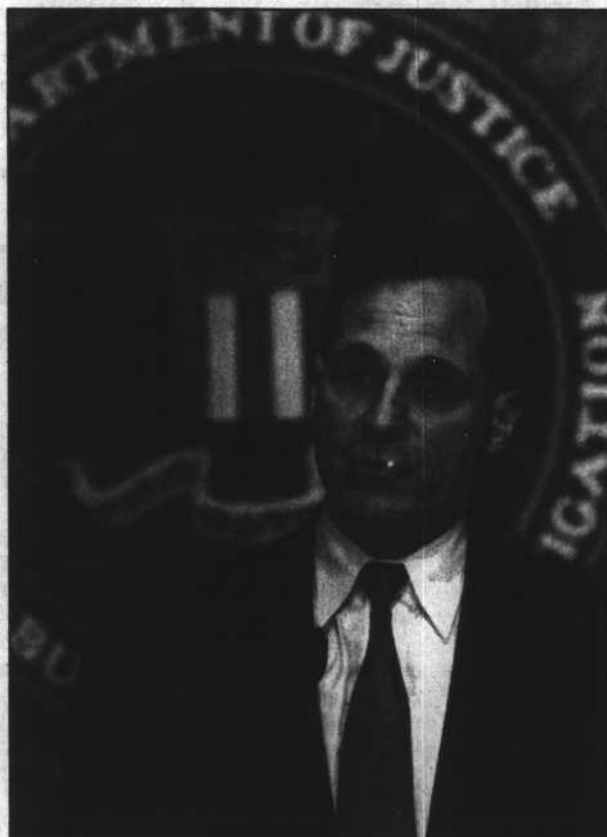
Cacheris, asked if Hanssen's case was related to that of former CIA officer Aldrich Ames, replied: "There's not a connection but there is some relevant material."

In an affidavit, FBI agent Stefan A. Pluta said Hanssen "compromised numerous human resources of the United States intelligence community" and three of the sources "were compromised by both Hanssen and Ames, resulting in their arrest, imprisonment, and, as to two individuals, execution."

The affidavit said Hanssen also compromised "dozens of United States government classified documents," including those involving the U.S. government's double-agent program, a study on KGB recruitment operations against the CIA, an analysis of KGB operations and "a highly classified and tightly restricted analysis of the foreign threat" to a top-secret U.S. program.

Among secrets allegedly disclosed by Hanssen included U.S. methods for conducting electronic surveillance. He also may have confirmed for the Russians information originally supplied to them by Ames, the source said.

Nancy Cullen, a neighbor, described Hanssen's neighborhood as being in shock with news of the arrest.



Mark Wilson/NewsMakers
FBI Director Louis Freeh makes remarks during a press conference at FBI Headquarters Tuesday in Washington, D.C. He announced that veteran FBI counterintelligence Agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested Sunday.

"They go to church every Sunday - if that means anything..."

She said the Hanssens were regulars at the Memorial Day block party and called Hanssen "very attractive ... not overly gregarious."

Cullen said Hanssen's wife, Bernadette, teaches religion classes part-time at a Catholic high school.

The Hanssens' \$300,000 middle-class split-level home of brown brick and cedar was encircled by yellow police tape Tuesday. A dozen FBI agents wandered in and out, carrying in electronic equipment. Neighbors briefly filled the cul-de-sac to watch the activity.

Destiny space mission a success after landing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. - Space shuttle Atlantis and its crew landed in the Mojave Desert on Tuesday after three straight days of bad weather prevented the ship from returning to its Florida home port.

Atlantis glided through a hazy sky and touched down at 12:33 p.m. - 13 days after lifting off for the international space station. During the mission, the five astronauts delivered and installed a \$1.4 billion laboratory that is considered the most sophisticated research module ever to fly in space.

"Welcome back to Earth after placing our Destiny in space," Mission Control said, referring to the new laboratory.

Thick, low clouds kept Atlantis from touching down at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Tuesday. On the previous two days, the problem was gusty wind.

The weather was okay at Edwards Air Force Base, the back-up landing site, and Mission

Control gave the go-ahead for the astronauts to finally come down. They had just one more day's worth of fuel and supplies.

"Pass to all the folks down at KSC and our families there that we're sorry we won't see them right away, but we appreciate it making it home somewhere today," shuttle commander Kenneth Cockrell told Mission Control.

Space shuttle landings are infrequent at Edwards, which served as the main touchdown site until the early 1990s.

An Edwards landing requires the shuttle to be ferried back to Florida atop a modified Boeing 747 at a cost of nearly \$1 million.

Because of the weather delays, Cockrell and his crew spent two days circling Earth with little to do except gaze at Earth, snap pictures and exercise on a stationary cycle.

During their one week at space station Alpha, the astronauts delivered and then hooked up NASA's most expensive piece of the space station, the Destiny laboratory.

Iraq resumes firing on patrols

After Friday's U.S.-British attacks, the country continued its defiance of the 'no-fly' zone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Hardly hesitating after the joint U.S.-British airstrikes, Iraq over the weekend resumed firing on allied air patrols in the southern "no-fly" zone, a Pentagon official said Tuesday.

Iraqi air defenses fired surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery at allied pilots on Saturday and Sunday, spokesman Marine Corps Lt. Col. Dave LaPan said. The allied planes were not hit and did not fire back, he said.

Pentagon officials have not provided a full public assessment of the damage caused by Friday's attack on Iraqi air defenses, but there was little doubt Iraq would resume contesting allied air patrols.

Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, a spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said Tuesday that the Pentagon does not intend to release a detailed

assessment of damage caused by Friday's attacks because such information could help Iraq prepare a defense against any future attacks.

Quigley said the stated objective was to "disrupt and degrade" Iraq's air defenses.

"We think we had an impact on that," he said. "Was it permanent? No."

Later, he said the Pentagon was pleased with the results, even if the bombs were not 100 percent effective.

"It isn't perfect. It never is." Although Iraq does not recognize the legitimacy of "no-fly" zones over the southern and northern portions of its territory, it has not contested U.S. and British air patrols as frequently in the north. According to U.S. European Command, which manages air patrols over northern Iraq, Iraqi air defenses in that area have fired on allied planes only twice this year, most recently on Feb. 12.

Friday's joint U.S.-British attacks against five air defense sites in the south were timed to avoid killing or injuring Chinese civilian and military workers who were helping install underground

fiber-optic cables to significantly improve the effectiveness of Iraq's air defenses, a senior defense official said Monday.

"On a Friday you have the lowest number of people present - both Iraqis and Chinese," the senior official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The goal wasn't to kill people; the goal was to bust up stuff."

The official said some portion of the fiber-optic network already was operating at the time of the bombing.

Asked on Tuesday to comment on the Chinese assistance and the fiber optics, Quigley declined to comment.

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold, the director of operations for the Joint Staff, told a Pentagon news conference on Friday that the targets struck by American and British planes were long-range surveillance radars and other sites that provide the command-and-control links to Iraqi surface-to-air missile batteries.

He said these facilities had helped Iraq coordinate its defenses and had resulted in numerous near misses against allied air patrols in recent weeks.

Daily Nebraskan

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Fax number: (402) 472-1761
World Wide Web: www.dailynebr.com
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNI Publications Board, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.
Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.
Subscriptions are \$60 for one year.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.
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Murder suspect does not fight extradition

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW CASTLE, Ind. - One of the teen-agers charged in the slayings of two Dartmouth College professors agreed not to fight extradition to New Hampshire, his attorney said Tuesday.

Robert Tulloch, 17, was expected to be turned over to New Hampshire authorities later Tuesday.

"I've advised him that by doing this, by no means is it an indication of guilt," his Indiana lawyer, Edward Dunsmore, told Judge Michael Peyton.

A hearing for the other teen, 16-year-old James Parker, was delayed until his lawyer could arrive from New Hampshire, Henry County Sheriff Kim Cronk

said. Both face adult charges of two counts of first-degree murder in the Jan. 27 stabbing deaths of professors Half and Susanne Zantop at Hanover, N.H., more than 700 miles from New Castle.

The two teen-agers were picked up early Monday by a police officer who had been monitoring CB radio traffic. Sgt. William Ward overheard a message from trucker James Hicks, who said he was carrying two young hitchhikers who were looking for a ride to California.

Ward got on the radio and pretended to be a trucker himself, saying the boys should be dropped at a nearby truck stop for a ride.

"I actually didn't expect it to be them, but I thought

it was worth checking out," Ward said Monday.

Instead of a trucker willing to give them a ride, the teens were met by deputies at the Flying J Plaza on Interstate 70.

Hicks, who had been hauling a load of M&M candy to Chicago, said he decided to give the pair a ride from Columbia, N.J., because they reminded him of his 17- and 13-year-old sons at home and a 14-year-old son killed in a motorcycle accident in October. He told The Boston Globe he "just felt sorry for them."

Hicks was fired because of his company's strict policy against picking up hitchhikers. Authorities have refused to discuss a motive or any connection between the boys and the victims, who were stabbed repeatedly in their home.

Half Zantop, 62, taught earth sciences. His wife, Susanne Zantop, 55, was chairwoman of the German Studies Department. Both were naturalized citizens who were natives of Germany.

"I actually didn't expect it to be them, but I thought it was worth checking out."

Sgt. William Ward
New Hampshire Police Dept.

Orange County, Vt., Sheriff Dennis McClure said the boys became suspects in the Dartmouth case after authorities learned one had bought a military-style knife on the Internet.

The boys were asked last Thursday to come in and provide their fingerprints, which they did voluntarily. They are believed to have left their hometown of Chelsea, Vt., the same day. Arrest warrants for both were issued and a manhunt began during the weekend.

A car belonging to Parker's parents was found Sunday in Sturbridge, Mass.

World/Nation

The Associated Press

■ Texas

Mother of victim hopes for passing of hate crime bill

AUSTIN - One day, Stella Byrd hopes she can tell her great-granddaughter that the girl's grandfather did not die in vain.

She says she'll be able to do that if Texas lawmakers pass the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, named in memory of her son who was dragged to his death behind a pickup truck in 1998.

"I'll have something good to explain with what happened with this bill, and maybe that will help her grow stronger," Byrd said.

The state's House Judicial Affairs Committee approved the bill Monday after hearing testimony from Byrd and others. A Senate committee has approved a similar bill.

The bill would toughen penalties for crimes motivated by race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, age, gender or national origin. It also would require annual reports of hate crime statistics by Texas counties.

The full House approved a similar hate crime bill in 1999, but the legislation died in a Senate committee. Many lawmakers voted against the bill because they opposed including homosexuals as a protected group.

■ Michigan

Newspapers look to former subscribers after boycott

DETROIT - The United Auto Workers union lifted its boycott of The Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press on Tuesday, two months after the last of the newspapers' six unions ratified new contracts and called off their 5 1/2-year boycott.

Publishers of both newspapers welcomed the action as another step in closing out the dispute that produced a 19-month strike and cost the papers hundreds of thousands of subscribers, which they now are working to win back.

The UAW's executive board decided that the most effective way the UAW can support the unions' "ongoing efforts to win justice for those workers who have yet to be recalled and to rebuild their unions is by lifting our boycott," UAW President Stephen Yokich said in a statement.

The UAW also lifted its boycott of USA Today, the flagship of Gannett Co., the News' parent. The Free Press is owned by Knight Ridder Inc.

■ Yemen

Voters in Arabian Peninsula surrounded by soldiers

SAN'A - Gunfire and an explosion left one person dead and marred nationwide polling Tuesday in municipal elections that included a referendum on changes to the Yemeni constitution.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh pledged the government would respect the people's verdict on the constitutional changes, which include extending the terms of office for the head of state and lawmakers.

Supporters say the changes would increase stability; opponents say they are likely to entrench Saleh's General People's Congress party.

"We accept all the results, whatever they are, on the local level or on the referendum," Saleh said after dipping his thumb into indelible ink and voting at a school in the capital, San'a.

About 60,000 soldiers guarded polling stations across this Arabian Peninsula nation, where men carry daggers and assault rifles and disputes often turn bloody.

■ California

Grammy music awards to feature top performers

LOS ANGELES - Perennial award-winner Paul Simon and teen rapper Lil' Bow Wow will perform at the 43rd Annual Grammy Awards, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences announced Monday.

Simon is nominated for album of the year for "You're the One." He has previously won album of the year three times and already owns 16 Grammys.

Weather

TODAY
Mostly cloudy
high 27, low 20

TOMORROW
Partly cloudy
high 46, low 21