

The spies in our midst

The Walker spy drama continues to unfold like a terrible parody of *One Man's Family*. Arthur, John and Michael Walker are all charged with spying for the Soviet Union. A family friend, Jerry Whitworth, is charged as a co-conspirator. Now, it turns out, the ringleader, John Walker, apparently even tried to recruit his daughter and ex-wife as spies.

We will probably not learn the full damage caused by their treachery for many years. By now, however, it is certain that this Trapp family of espionage compromised some very important American naval secrets over the past 15 years. The effect upon the U.S. Navy is grave.

Data provided by the Walkers has probably allowed the Soviets to circumvent the massive U.S. underwater detection and tracking system known as SOSUS. The Walkers apparently gave away top-secret SOSUS hydrophone locations in the Norwegian and Barents Seas as well as key information on communications frequencies.

The busy Walkers also supplied Moscow with vitally important material on the ability of the U.S. to communicate with its missile submarines — the Achilles heel of the underwater deterrent. More data was passed to Moscow on operational codes, jamming techniques and a host of other topics.

This intelligence calamity will likely cost the U.S. billions of dollars to change codes, alter frequencies and move equipment. As a precedent, we should look at the case of Stig Wennerstrom, the Swedish military spy. Information that he supplied to Moscow undermined Sweden's defences and cost that nation at least \$250 million in damage-control procedures.

What is so disturbing about the Walker case is that for every spy caught, 10 remain undetected. A recent string of spy scandals in California and New York, all dealing with the theft of U.S. defence

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technology by the Soviets, bear witness to the deep penetration of North America by communist agents.

We should assume that the KGB and GRU (Soviet military intelligence), supported by the agents from East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, have penetrated just about every secret that the U.S. holds. Ninety-nine percent of all defence data is available from open sources; acquiring the 1% remaining is difficult but possible. In fact, the Soviets probably suffer from having to cope with an overflow of U.S. secrets as when, a decade ago, Moscow Centre told its spies in Paris to slow down because it could not handle all the data flowing in.

The Russians are world masters at the art of espionage. The KGB alone outnumbers the CIA by 10 to one and enjoys a huge budget. What makes the Soviets such able spymasters and chess players is their ability to plan ahead and wait patiently. Remember the Soviet agent who turned himself in a few years ago? He had been sent to Edmonton in the 1940s with a bomb and told to wait for a codeword to blow up a pipeline. How many more are there?

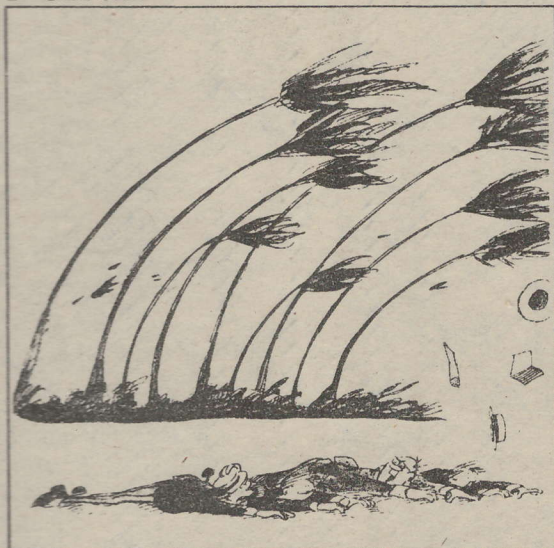
On the eve of World War I, the chief of Austro-Hungarian intelligence, a nation just about to go to war with Russia, turned out to be a Russian spy. During World War II, the Soviets deeply penetrated Hitler's entourage. It was the revelations of the Rot Kappel spy ring, not the highly exaggerated Intrepid and Ultra sources, that proved the real intelligence coups of the war.

The patient, relentless Soviets have spent the past 60 years penetrating our porous, open western democracies. Given our free societies and the mixture of private industry with national defence, it is almost impossible to prevent Soviet success. Efforts to lessen our vulnerability invariably run into effective opposition from "human rights" advocates and media that are quick to cry McCarthyism.

Here in Canada, we have almost no defence secrets because we have almost no defence. Yet our nation is regarded by western intelligence agencies as the most deeply penetrated member of NATO. Soviet and East bloc agents and agents of influence are reported active in our government, civil service, industry, foreign affairs, education system and media. In fact, Canada has long been a staging base for intelligence operations against the United States.

With the awesome Walker case fresh in mind, we should be asking ourselves how many such agents are freely operating here in Canada? One unsettling indication is to total up the number of communist agents caught and prosecuted in Canada during the past decade. To my knowledge, the number is zero. Perhaps the happy Walker family would still be in business today if it had moved to Ontario.

Punch



"All right, all right, boy, it's a tax haven for most of the year!"