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The Great Superpower Spy War

KGB vs. CIA

Money, blackmail, sex—no holds are barred. Question: Who is winning this battle between Soviet and American "moles"?

With the arrest of the first FBI agent ever accused as a Soviet spy, the public is getting a rare look at a high-stakes war being waged by two old adversaries—the espionage agencies of America and the Soviet Union.

Fought with sex, money, blackmail and even violence, this spy war has a goal that goes far beyond theft of plans for a new gun or an advanced piece of technology. The stakes are the most closely held secrets of the intelligence services whose operations are crucial to national security.

Amid a deepening chill between the superpowers, the prospect of penetration is an ever present concern. Both sides are waging a relentless campaign to plant operatives within one another's spy services. For America, the chief target is Moscow's Committee for State Security—the KGB. For the Kremlin, it is the Central Intelligence Agency.

In this shadow world of lies, deception, double crosses and double agents, no one can say for certain which side holds the upper hand. Both powers can lay claim to major victories, but both have suffered costly and embarrassing defeats.

For the U.S., the latest setback came from an unlikely quarter—the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency that has long boasted a blemish-free record. Its spyproof image was shattered in October with the arrest of Richard W. Miller, 47, a 20-year FBI veteran accused of acting as an agent for the Soviet Union in the bureau's Los Angeles office.

The charge against Miller: Peddling secrets to a Soviet émigré named Svetlana Ogorodnikova, 34, a self-proclaimed KGB major who allegedly lured him into a personal relationship, then offered money for classified documents. The government claims the debt-strapped agent, married and the father of eight children, sought \$65,000 from the KGB.

Although the actual damage is unclear, Miller admits to giving Moscow a 25-page classified document that officials say would provide the KGB with a detailed picture of U.S. intelligence activities, techniques and requirements. The document did not, however, spell out names of active agents or details of current operations.

In the never ending spy war, both sides have found willing double agents. A KGB "mole" spent years working inside Britain's code-breaking center, diverting supersecret U.S. intelligence data to Moscow. America had a man inside Polish intelligence, blowing the cover on Soviet spy operations in the U.S. as recently as 1983.



KGB center in Moscow's Dzerzhinski Square.



KGB boss Chebrikov

CIA Director William Casey boasts that his agency last year helped give the KGB the worst setback in its history, aiding in expulsion of some 135 Soviet spies worldwide. Yet some critics in a position to know fear that U.S. services—particularly the CIA—are being placed at a disadvantage in the competition with their Soviet rivals.

"Today, the CIA is reluctant to mix it up with the KGB," asserts a knowledgeable U.S. official. "It's a dicey game. Lots of things can

go wrong. They are not out there in every nook and cranny trying to roll up the KGB."

Moscow's Quest for "Moles"

The prospect of a Soviet mole's burrowing into top U.S. intelligence echelons has haunted America ever since the defection of H. A. R. "Kim" Philby, one of Britain's most senior intelligence officials, to Russia some 20 years ago. U.S. jitters worsened when Heinz Felfe, a senior West German counterspy, surfaced as a KGB plant in the '50s.

The CIA itself was thrown into turmoil in the late 1960s and early 1970s by counterspy James Angleton's suspicions—which he never proved and which many ridiculed—that a KGB operative had penetrated the upper reaches of his agency. Angleton left the CIA in 1975.

The Kremlin devotes vast resources to infiltrating other spy services. Thousands work for the KGB, under the command of Marshal Viktor Chebrikov. Still more are employed by the military-intelligence arm known as GRU. They are supported by East European spy agencies.

By itself, the KGB is said to have 10,000 espionage officers assigned strictly to foreign spying—including 500 in the U.S. on diplomatic missions. Says a senior FBI official wryly: "We are blessed with the best agents the KGB has to offer. They are smooth and Westernized. They cultivate relationships with everyone from clerks to company presidents."

The clearest penetration of the CIA came to light in late 1980 with the arrest of David Henry Barnett, who remains the only member of the CIA's officer ranks ever to be publicly unmasked as a KGB operative.

After working under cover for the agency in Indonesia through the 1960s, Barnett, now serving 18 years in prison, resigned in 1970 to start a private business in Jakarta. In a few years, his venture collapsed and financial losses mounted.

In 1976, Barnett—\$100,000 in debt—turned to the KGB for help. In Vienna and Jakarta, he delivered American defense information, including data about a secret CIA operation, to the KGB. He disclosed the names of Indone-

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