

March 22, 1978

Report of trip to U.S.S.R. 1959 and radiation discovered at Spaso House, Moscow, U.S.S.R. by James O. Golden, former Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service.

- 6/28/59 - I departed for Moscow, U.S.S.R. via Copenhagen, Denmark with Special Agents U.S.S.S., John Parker and Wade Rodham to make advance arrangements for Vice President, Richard Nixon's visit to the U.S.S.R.
- 7/3/59 - Arrived Moscow, U.S.S.R.
- 7/9/59 - Parker, Rodham and I met with top KGB officials at the Foreign (Approx.) Ministry and I discussed the Vice Presidents forthcoming trip. Visited other sites in Moscow with Embassy Security officer, did a number of physical security surveys, including Ambassador's residence, Spaso House.
- 7/23/59 - Vice President and party arrived in Moscow, ^{at 2:50 Pm} John T. Sherwood, upon arrival at the airport gave me a pocket type Radiac Detector #1288 and a TVA radiation detector film badge.

The Vice President and Mrs. Nixon took up residence in the Spaso House (Ambassador's residence) in Ambassador L. Thomson's bedroom on the second floor front corner of the structure. ^{AT APPROX 7:15 PM} Looking at the house from in front, it would be the left hand side of the building.

Military Aid, Major Donald Hughes and Secretary to the Vice President, Rose Mary Woods, set-up an office in the 2nd floor front of the building, next to the corner bedroom mentioned above.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., I left the small staff bedroom, 2nd floor, next to the Nixon's bedroom (windows faced out on the left side of the building with a bathroom in between the two rooms) and I walked up the open hallway towards the Nixon's bedroom doorway. A small light was burning in the hall and on an impulse, I took the Radiac docimeter #1288 out of my shirt and looked through it towards the light. It was showing a reading of 6 ~~rems~~ and as I watched, it advanced to 18 roentgens. I then walked into the staff office where Major Hughes and Miss Woods were working. I knew that Major Hughes had a second docimeter #3100 which I then exchanged for #1288. I immediately looked through it and determined it was reading -0-. I then took #3100 to the dimly lit Nixon's bedroom where I stayed for several minutes. I then returned to the doorway where I took a reading by using the hall light. It was already reading 5 and in the next hour, it advanced to 35 roentgens in the two bedroom area.

I left the staff bedroom, I went to the staff office and obtained a housing list. I then proceeded to the Ukraina Hotel where I awoke Dr. Walter Tkach (Deputy White House Physician) and advised him in detail of what I had discovered. He could not offer any explanation as to what the high radiation readings indicated. I had noted that upon leaving the bedroom area, the docimeter #3100 showed no additional roentgen reading. It did not begin registering increased scale readings until I re-entered the staff bedroom early the next morning when John T. Sherwood and I began our monitoring. Sherwood had 2 additional docimeters and a charger with him. I went to the staff office and reclaimed docimeter #1288 from Major Hughes. All of the Radiac's were registering high 5 to 15 roentgen readings per hour. Our Radiac #3100 eventually during the morning monitoring became impossible to reset to -0-, (it went off scale at 50). John T. Sherwood and I continued to monitor with 3 of the four docimeters about 10:00 a.m., taking one of the remaining Radiacs that had just been set to -0-. (Sherwood was busy making notes of the readings). I left the staff bedroom and went throughout the rest of the 2nd floor of the Spaso House, including a room on the opposite side of the house containing a radio transmitter that was used in emergency, without detecting any radiation.

I did the same on the 1st floor and found no radiation. Upon returning, I went into the Nixon bedroom as they had left the room and immediately again, began to get R readings.

I returned to the staff bedroom and rejoined John T. Sherwood. About 11:30, Sherwood and I decided to gamble and speculated the the Soviets had the rooms bugged and could pick-up our conversations. We decided to try a bluff to see if we could get them to turn off the energy.

We sat down on the beds facing each other and began berating the Russians in loud voices cursing them for pulling a trick like this and wondering in loud voices why they were taking us for fools and asking each other if they thought they were going to get away with doing this. After about 1/2 hour of this, we stopped and continued monitoring the levels which remained high.

We reasoned that only about seven people in Russia could make a decision of this magnitude and that it would take some time for the persons generating the energy to get to them to get a decision as to what they should do. Suddenly at about 3:30 p.m., the energy disappeared and we no longer could get any increase in readings and upon resetting the docimeters, they remained stable. In succeeding days, we officially visited the Kremlin, Krushev's dacha, American Exposition and then proceeded to Leningrad where we went aboard the soviet nuclear icebreaker

the "Lenin" and later to a nuclear facility core where we looked down into the heavy water into the caves. Then to Sverdlosk, Siberia where we drove out to the so called "Atomic House City" where we found only a barracks and foundations. The docimeters did not give significant increase scale readings after leaving the Spaso House Ambassadors and staff bedrooms.

7/29/59 or 7/30/59 - At the guest dacha outside of Sverdlosk, I went for a walk in the woods with Vice Admiral Hyman Rickover and told him what we had found at Spaso House.

8/5/59 - We traveled on to Siberia, Novosibirsk, returned to Moscow for a few days then to Poland.

Returned to U.S.A.

Sherwood returned docimeters, film badges and recharger to Robert Bouck, S.A. in Charge of U.S.S.S., Technical Office. He (Sherwood) verbally reported what had happened and kept personal notes. (*John T. Sherwood briefed Presidential Commission on Science and Technology about 1960ⁱ). Sherwoods notes were ~~later~~ (1959) submitted as a form of report.

Sherwood late in 1959, advised he had been told that the U.S. shipped instruments over in diplomatic pouches to monitor the Spaso House radiation.

2/19/72 - Lunched at 116 Club with General Robert Cushman, Deputy Director, CIA, told him radiation story and asked him to check it out and find out if U.S. had determined type of radiation.

Called him from Las Vegas a couple weeks later, he said he had found out about it. Film badges were clean - couldn't duplicate nuclear docimeter reading and leave badges clean with anything in our labs except nuclear radiation.

4/28/76 - 10:30 a.m. - Told Dr. Herb Pollack, Dr. William Watson and Bob Blair of the State Department Soviet Desk about Spaso House radiation in 1959. They said they were only aware of micro-wave radiation at Embassy beginning in 1962. They said they would check my story. A couple weeks later, I called Herb Pollack and he said they had found out about the Spaso House radiation.

3/77 - 9:30 a.m. - I called and made an appointment with Dr. Herbert Pollack, State Department Medical Division, after reading about the \$400,000 grant to Johns Hopkins Hospital to interview all those U.S. Embassy personnel who had been exposed to the micro-wave radiation at the Embassy in Moscow. I went to his office and we sat down and I asked him if I could talk to the doctors doing the study in view of the fact that I had originally detected the radiation and had been exposed to it.

He became a little excited and said "No-No, I don't want you talking to them, you'll merely confuse them. You were exposed to massive dosages of a different kind of radiation." I then asked him what kind of radiation I had been exposed to and he said "You were exposed to ionized radiation."

I asked him what the soviets were using the energy for and how it was generated.

He said that the energy radiated from an atomic battery that they used to power radio transmitters used for bugging purposes.

I asked him where the soviets kept the battery. He said, "In the attic."

I mentioned that I had been there when it began radiating and when it stopped and I asked how they turned it off. He said they must have come and removed it.

I said I had been there all day and I didn't hear anyone in the attic.

I also asked him why the soviets didn't tap off the house power for their bugging transmitters as they did all over the Soviet Union. He said that the soviets couldn't do that because when you turned off the light switch on the wall, you would turn off the power to the transmitters. As I felt he couldn't be frank with me, I left his office.

2/8/78
8/2/77

Robert Bouck said that he had gotten the docimeters and TVA badges from the Military - Colonel George McNally, and Captain Pat Patterson, his assistant. (McNally is deceased). Patterson now works as head of Treasury Communication Office.

Intelligence agencies had been briefed on detection of radiation after our return from U.S.S.R. He thought John T. Sherwood had filed a report. He had heard of Russians using radiation for behaviour modification. State and Intelligence agencies had met prior to the U.S. President's visit and expressed concern about radiation. Dulles who had visited Moscow several times suddenly got ill and died of cancer - they thought there was a connection because other high U.S. officials in Moscow had also been exposed to the radiation and died of cancer. Their major concern about the U.S. President's visit to Moscow was that he might be exposed to the radiation. Bouck said that the KGB brought only radiation detection devices with them on Krushev's 1960 visit and checked his food, living quarters and vehicles where ever he went. Apparently, they were worried that the U.S. would irradiate him in retaliation for their zapping of Nixon's - Dulles and other high U.S. officials. (Mikoyan-Koshov vist June 1959 KGB borrowed radiation detection gear from U.S.S.S.).

Bouck felt his former Deputy, Chet Miller, SAC, Sacramento, California and John Fox would remember about docimeters.

Reporter Norman Beebe, AP, told me that Ambassador L. Thompson and Chip Bolen ~~and one wife~~ ^{and one wife} died of cancer. Both Ambassadors to Moscow in the 50's and 60's.

Jim,

gtl 3/26/78

I have read your report and can vouch for much of it, esp. items in which I was personally involved.

Attached is a cc (Xeroxed) of an outline which may be of use to you.

If you recall, I had a bedroom next to the Nixon rooms at Spaso.

Please refer again to my rough-note memo re REPORT ON BADGES AND DOSIMITERS:

The frequency of checking the docimeters on the evening-night of July 23, 1959, as well as their roentgen climbs, 5 to 15 every hour or two before resetting back as near Zero as possible, prior to about Noon or mid-afternoon of July 24, 1959 is as close as I can now recall this affair.

You will note from the attached Xeroxed cc of the trip itinerary of places where I made color film (this is not a complete itinerary and schedule of events --but close): we spent nights as follows:

July 1959

- 23rd - Moscow (Spaso)
- 24th - Moscow (Spaso)
- 25th - State Dacha--some 20 to 25 miles out of the city.
- 26th - Moscow (Spaso)
- 27th - Leningrad
- 28th - Novosibirsk
- 29th - Sverdlovsk
- 30th - Sverdlovsk
- 31st - Moscow (~~Spaso~~)

August 1959

- 1st - Moscow (~~Spaso~~)
- 2nd - Warsaw