

Works for Super-Secret Agency:

Missing U.I. Grad May Be Sought Now in Cuba

The search for a June graduate of the University of Illinois now missing from his job with the super-secret National Security Agency, has been pointed toward Cuba.

William H. Martin, 29, and a fellow employe, Bernon F. Mitchell, 31, were supposed to return in mid-July from their vacation to the West Coast. They left June 24.

Neither the agency nor their families have been notified by the two men.

Martin received his master's degree in mathematics here in June. He lived at 9 Bungalow Ct.

The Associated Press was told Friday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not checking the whereabouts of the two men.

But the Chicago Tribune hinted Tuesday that Martin and Mitchell took a plane to Cuba from Mexico City.

As junior mathematicians in the Ft. Meade, Md., Communications Intelligence Agency, both men had access to classified information.

Authorities said the men, both single, booked plane passage to Mexico City June 25. They had



William H. Martin

told superiors of plans to visit their families in the Far West.

A check of Mexico City hotels Monday showed they registered there but left later.

The Tribune said: "A source there (in Mexico City) said they had gone to a 'place they should not have visited.' He was interpreted to mean Cuba."

The U.S. embassy in Mexico City said the men did not check in there as required for U. S.

government employes.

Mitchell's parents live in Eureka, Calif.; Martin's, in Ellensburg, Wash.

Excellent in School

Prof. M. M. Day, head of the U. of I. department of mathematics, described Martin's scholastic record here as excellent. He earned one B, the rest A's. In addition to mathematics, he chose Russian to fulfill his language requirement.

Mitchell was due back on his job July 11 and Martin on July 18. The Defense Department, according to the Tribune, says the two men were reported missing after its own search for them was fruitless.

The department said the two mathematicians had informed their friends that they planned to travel together and visit relatives in California and Washington. They never showed up.

They had been living together at Laurel, Md. Both served in the Navy from 1951 to 1954 and were employed by the security agency the same day, July 8, 1957.

Both men are 5 feet 11 inches

(Please Turn To Page 12)

Missing U.I. Grad May Be In Cuba Now

(Continued From Page 3)

tall and have brown hair and blue eyes.

The Tribune describes the NSA as "a participant in highly secret round-the-clock monitoring of all signals and messages on the air waves."

Martin was graduated in 1957 from the University of Washington.

Mitchell attended high school at Eureka and Humboldt State College at nearby Arcata, then studied at California Institute of Technology. After his separation from the Navy he attended Stanford University for two years and received his degree there.