

# Missing NSA Men May Aid Reds: Senator

Washington, Aug. 10 (AP)

Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga) said today that two missing employees of the National Security Agency "now are behind the iron curtain" and may be able to aid Soviet intelligence forces.

"There is no doubt in my mind that they are now behind the iron curtain," Russell, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told a reporter. "An intensive investigation still is underway."

Russell has been in close contact with top defense department officials who have been investigating the disappearance of Bernon F. Mitchell, 31, of Eureka, Calif., and William H. Martin, 29, of Ellensburg, Wash., former trained mathematicians for the top-secret security agency.

Martin is a June graduate of the University of Illinois. He received a master's degree.

The senator said the inquiry disclosed that Mitchell and Martin, close friends who had served together in the Navy, visited Mexico and Cuba last fall without telling intelligence officials here about it or checking in with U.S. Embassy officials.

This year in late June the two said they planned to visit their families on a vacation but went to Mexico. The last record of them was at a hotel in Havana, Cuba. Pentagon officials last Friday said it was assumed they had gone behind the iron curtain.

"Although the work of the two men did not involve the top secret codes and intelligence of this nation, they were highly trusted and esteemed employees," Russell said. "It's difficult to confine the knowledge of such persons to their own duties."

Russell said the investigation of the missing employees was being pushed by investigators of the Defense Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency.