

U.S. Aide Not Sorry He Defected to Russia

By George Syvertsen
Leningrad, U.S.S.R.,
June 25 (AP)

An American intelligence employe who defected to the Soviet Union two years ago says, "I realize it was a foolhardy thing to do but I'm not sorry."

William H. Martin, 31-year-old mathematics expert who had worked for the top-secret National Security Agency (NSA), received a masters degree from the University of Illinois in 1960.

He said he defected in protest against the U.S. U2 spy flight over the Soviet Union that year.

"I think now I might have chosen another method of protest," Martin told a reporter Sunday in a three-hour interview in a Leningrad cafe.

Martin, who went over to the

Soviet side with a colleague, Bernon Mitchell, is working at the Steklov Mathematics Institute while studying for his doctorate in Mathematics at Leningrad University.

He said he has been living in this city since November 1960 under the name of Vladislav Antonovich Sokolovsky with a 29-year-old Russian girl he married in October of that year.

Martin said he had decided to disappear after learning of remarks by former President Truman, Henry Cabot Lodge, ex-ambassador to the U.N., and other American leaders that "I should be shot if they could get their hands on me."

Martin said he no longer feared retaliation.

"I feel confident Soviet authorities can protect me," he said, "even if I live here openly, and I don't think the United States government would take illegal steps to harm me."

Gets Good Salary

Martin was dressed in a black, American suit, white shirt and light grey tie and appeared in good health. He said Soviet authorities paid him 500 rubles a month (\$555 at the official exchange rate), a good deal more than his Russian colleagues at the institute get.

"It's roughly equivalent to the \$7,500 a year I got at the NSA," he said.

Martin, now a Soviet citizen, said he realized the Soviet Union has a law prohibiting its citizens from speaking to Western corres-

pondents or giving information that could damage the country.

"I suppose they (the authorities) will be coming around to see me in a couple of days after they see this," he said.

Martin, who is from Ellensburg, Wash., was asked if he planned to stay permanently in Russia.

"At the present I have no intention of leaving the Soviet Union," he said. "I'm going to try to make something of my life in the Soviet Union and there is a good chance I shall be able to do so."

Martin refused to discuss the whereabouts of Mitchell, his colleague from Eureka, Calif., who defected with him.

"I see him from time to time, we are on good terms and he is alive and well," was all he would say.



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