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INFORMATION RELATING TO THOMAS RIHA

Boulder, Colorado

Monday, April 14, 1969

Volume 17. Number 116

#### HISTORY PROF MISSING A MONTH

## Riho's Absence Mysterious

BY DAVID M. GAON Copyright, 1969 by The Colorado Daily

The month long absense of Russian History Professor Thomas Riha is shrouded in mystery—including a report from an official of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that Riha is "safe" but his whereabouts cannot be divulged.

Riha disappeared during the weekend of March 15, one week after a quarrel with his wife at his home. He was last seen in Boulder March 14 at a dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sorenson. Mrs. Sorenson is a student of Riha's.

The exact circumstances surrounding his disappearance are unknown.

#### INTELLIGENCE

Several of Riha's associates suspect he is involved with intelligence officials in this country.

A colleague in the history department who asked that his name be withheld said he contacted early last week an official of the CIA who would tell him only that Riba was safe and had left voluntarity.

University President Joseph Smiley said Tuesday he was told by reliable sources in Washington that Riha was safe but Smiley was unable to harn the circumstances surrounding his disappearance or of his present whereabouts. Smiley would not release the identity of his source.

Since March 15 Riha, who was in the midst of divorce proceedings when he disappeared, has contacted a number of people in the metropolitan Denver area. Galya Tannenbaum of 248 Logan St. in Denver said she has had several phone conversations with Riha Mrs. Tannenbaum, who described herself as a long-time friend of Riha, has received several letters from him with postmarks in Chicago and Montreal, Canada. The last letter was dated April 8 and was from Montreal. She said he told her

that he would inform certain people of his whereabouts. Meanwhile a check by the Daily of friends and associates shows that no one has received any information about his disappearance.

On April 9. Montreal information reported an unlisted telephone number for a Thomas Riha. A second check April 12 shows only an unlisted number for an O. Riha in Montreal.

During the week of April 6 Riha gave his nephew Zdenk Cervny of the same address as Mrs. Tannenbaum the power of, attorney to sell his house in Boulder. Cervny' said he has retained Wheeler Realty in Boulder to handle the transaction, and neighbors report that furniture has been removed from the house during the past week.

TELEGRAM

Riha's attorney, Richard E. Hopkins, 7275 Terrace Pl., Boulder, reported receiving a telegram from Riha in late March advising him that at a later date he would be advised as to why he disappeared. Hopkins has received no further information.

On April 11 Joyce Lebra, an associate professor of history at the University, said she and several other friends attempted to file a missing persons report for Riha. She said she was informed by Patrolman Dena'd Alps of the Boulder Ponce Department tater the same day that as fir as the Boulder Police Department was concerned Riha was safe and had been located a week earlier. Aips refused to comment to the Daily and referred questions to Captain Lowest frieses, of the Book or Police Department. Friesen was unavailable for comment.

Pending word from Riha, the University has placed him oil

"leave without pay," according to William Briggs, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Briggs said that April 10 he wrom to Riha at a forwarding addres provided by the Boulder Pos Office:

A check of the Brooklyn, New York address revealed that it is the home of relatives of Mrs. Hanna Riha. Mrs. Riha, who is staying at the Brooklyn address, said that she has not heard from her husband since she left their home early March 9. Briggs has not received a reply to his request for information about Riha's plans.

The exact nature of Mr-Tannenbaum's relationship with Riha has caused great concern to friends and colleagues of the missing 40 year old native Czechoslovakia.

Several times during the pseveral months Mrs. Tannenbau, has represented herself as Colonel Tannenbaum of Militar Intelligence to the lawyeinvolved in the divor, proceedings of Mr. and Mrs. Rma, the lawyers say.

Gerald Caplan, 3445-17th St. Boulder, who is the attorney for Mrs. Riha in divorce proceeding begun February 7, said that Mrs. Tannenbaum visited his office early in March at his request. At that time she identified heiself as Colonel Tangenbaum with

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(continued from page 1) to present her credentials at a later date. They were never

provided, according to Caplan. Hopkins, Riha's attorney, said he had a phone conversation with a woman who identified herself as Colonel Tannenbaum of military intelligence but has never met her personally or been provided with proof of any connection with Mrs. Tannenbaum and military

Briggs, Miss Lebra and Caplan contacted the Federal Bureau of

intelligence in this country.

Investigation (FBI) about Riha's military intelligence and promised disappearance. Briggs and Miss Lebra received no reply. Caplan declined to devulge the nature of his reply, and referred all questions to the Boulder Police

> Contacted by the Daily on April 10, Scott Werner, FBI Bureau Chief in Denver, said it is FBI policy not to reveal whether an investigation is in progress or any details surrounding a case. He said that this should not be taken as an admission that a case is or is not under investigation.

SAC. Denver

4/16/69

Director. FBI (105-78256)

THOMAS RIHA IS . CE

Proclosed is a copy of a letter dated 4/7/69 addressed to Mr. Nathan B. Lenvin, Chief, Foreign Agents Registration Section. Department of Justice, and written over signature of Stephen Fischer-Galati on the stationery of the University of Colorado. Also enclosed is a copy of the report of SA Daniel J. Griffin dated 8/31/60 at Boston concerning subject.

Mathan B. Lenvin, now deceased, according to Eufiles interviewed Fischer-Galati in 1956 in connection with a matter in which Fischer-Galati was to testify. The enclosures are Eurnished for your assistance in the event any information is brought to your attention concerning the matter in the enclosed Fischer-Calati should not be interviewed without prior Bureau authority: however, in the event he contacts your office, any information offered should be accepted and furnished to the Bureau.

Enclosures - 2

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This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside nour Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

The enclosed letter was furnished by Mr. James L. Jr. of the Department. Bufiles disclose that at one

A copy of the enclosed letter was furnished to on 4/10/69. Subject is a U.S. citizen who has spent time in the past in Czechoslovakia and in Russia. There is no information in the enclosed letter which would indicate that the Bureau should make any inquiries concern ing subject. Bufiles contain no information which would indicate that subject could be involuntarily leaving the U.S. as indicated in the enclosed letter

TELETYPE UNIT

DocId:32989553

April 7,1969

Mr! Nathan B. Lenvin, Chief Foreign Agents Registration Section Department of Justice Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lenvin:

I should like to call to your attention the fact that one of our colleagues here, Professor Thomas Riha, disappeared mysteriously three weeks ago. Riha, a native of Czechoslovakia but naturalized citizen of the United States, has been in this country for over 20 years. He was educated in the United States and has taught at the University of Chicago before joining the faculty of the University of Colorado in 1967.

I am calling these details to your attention because according to information made available by the administration of the University of Colorado, Riha has decided to return to Czechsolovakia. He is allegedly awaiting permission from Prague in New York at this time.

Should that be indeed the case, there is evidence to assume that his action is not voluntary. Moreover, certain actions taken by the administration may actually contribute to his apparent decision. In any event, it is incumbent upon me to notify you of these events to prevent either the involuntary return to Czechoslovakia of an American specialist on Russian affairs or the voluntary "professional suicide" that he may commit under trying circumstances.

I am confident that the Department of Justice will want to look into these matters while there is time. With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

8 1969 APR

DEPARTMENT OF JUST!

05-78256

FN -263 (5-12 55. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Reporting Office Investigative Period AUG 3119506/6-8/11/60 BOSTON BOSTON TITLE OF CASE Report made by Typed By: CHANGED / DANIEL J. GRIFFIN bab THOMAS RIHA, aka Thomas Andrew CHARACTER OF CASE Charles Riha -SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES -IS - R RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS XXXXXXV The title of this case is being marked changed to set forth the subject's true name before it was legally changed & at the time of his naturalization to THOMAS RIHA. captioned "Soviet Intelligence Services - Recruitment of Students, IS - R": Boston letter to Bureau dated June 30, 1960, entitled "THOMAS RIHA, IS - R." REFERENCE: WFO letter to Bureau dated April 5, 1960; Bulet to **ADMINISTRATIVE** RIHA advised that he received a very short before going to Russia and he has never been contacted subsequently by The Bureau's jurisdiction and responsibilities in the field of internal security and espionage was explained to RIHA and he stated he would cooperate in every possible way. Special Agent Approved Do not write in spaces below in Charge Copies Fade \$\frac{1}{2}CT. - 30 5 - Bureau (RM) - Washington Field (Info)(RM) REC- 90 1 - New York (Info)(RM) 87 SEP 2 1960 1 - Chicago (Info)(RM) 民司法 3 - Boston (105-5289) AGENCY 31-1 Cia 1 Xenox to DIA REQ. REC'D DATE FORW. 2-11-HOW FORW. 0-14 B/0-14 BY Am pam and noticed to nor its concentration NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION loaned to you by the FBI, This report is \$ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956 0—385319 Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions NW 55100 DocId: 32989553 Page 8

### CONFERMIA

BS 105-5289

NAME, established source, was contacted by SA DANIEL J. GRIFFIN on June 16, 1960.

Captain MATTHEW J. TOAHY, Harvard University Police Department, established source, was contacted by SA DANIEL J. GRIFFIN on June 16, 1960.

This report is being classified CONFIDENTIAL as it discloses the Bureau's investigative interest in the East West Exchange Program which could be detrimental to the defense interest of the nation.

RIHA has accepted a position as Professor at Chicago University, Chicago, Illinois, and in this position will have no reason to institute contact with the Soviets. RIHA stated that since his study in Moscow, Russia, the Soviets have not contacted him. It is not believed at this time that RIHA possesses any double agent potential or that he should be considered as a PSI.

One copy of this report is being furnished Washington Field and New York Offices as per instructions in referenced Bulet dated April 5, 1960.

One copy of this report is being designated for Chicago as subject will reside and work in that area.

The Boston indices reflect in the report of SA (A) RUSSELL J. PARDEE entitled "Czechoslovakian Funds, Boston Division, IS - R & CZ," dated March 31, 1958, that the subject on February 27, 1958, sent \$50 through the NAME Cambridge, Massachusetts, to LUDMILA CERVENA and also in the report of SA (A) RUSSELL J. PARDEE dated April 30, 1958, entitled "Czechoslovakian Funds, Boston Division, IS - R & CZ," that subject during March 1958 sent \$50 to the same individual in Czechoslovakia. During the interview of RIHA, he stated that this money was sent to his sister prior to his visit to Czechoslovakia to be used by him if he needed it and if not, he would leave it with his sister.

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BS 105-5289

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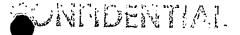
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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

DANIEL J. GRIFFIN

Boston, Massachusetts

Report of:

AUG 37 1960

THOMAS RIHA

Office:

Date:

Boston 105-5289

Field Office File #:

Bureau File #:

Title:

SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Character:

Symbject attended Moscow University 1958-1959 as an exchange student. Interview of subject set forth concerning his activities while in Czechoslovakia and Moscow, Russia.

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## CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

#### DETAILS:

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On June 16, 1960, Miss GENEVIEVE BOSTWICK, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, advised subject resides at 11 Dana Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. His record revealed he was born April 17, 1929, in Czechoslovakia. His home address was listed as 5085 Rockledge Drive, Riverside, California. He received an A. B. Degree from the University of California in 1951 and an A. M. Degree from the same university in 1957. At Harvard he is majoring in history and attended 1957-1958 for a half year and took one half his course in history in 1959-1960. He was granted a leave of absence for the Fall Term 1958-1959. His record reveals that he has passed his general examination January 30, 1960, in order to proceed for his Ph. D. Degree. The person listed to contact in case of accident was Mrs. RUTH/COOK, Chaffee School, Windsor, Connecticut.

Captain MATTHEW J. TOAHY, Harvard University Police Department, advised on June 16, 1960, that his files contain no information concerning THOMAS RIHA, which would indicate that no complaints had been registered against him during his attendance at Harvard.

On June 6, 1960, personnel, Office of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Probation, Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston, Massachusetts, which is a central repository for all criminal conviction records in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, advised they could locate no record in their files identifiable with THOMAS RIHA.

On June 6, 1960, personnel, Credit Bureau of Greater Boston, Inc., 11 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, advised they could locate no record concerning subject THOMAS RIHA.

## CONFIDENTAL

August 19, 1960

THOMAS RIHA, 11 Dana Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, furnished the following information:

He was born in Czechoslovakia April 17, 1929. stated that his father VIKTOR RIHA died September 1958 and was previously divorced from his mother Mrs. RUTH COOK, who presently resides at Chaffee School, Windsor, Connecticut. He stated he graduated irom high school in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1946 and went to England where he attended the Czechoslovakian College from 1946-1947. He then came to the United States in 1947 and attended the University of California at Berkeley 1947-1953 as en undergraduate and graduate student. While residing in Berkeley, California, RIHA stated he was naturalized a United States citizen in Oakland, California, December 19, 1952, at which time he legally changed his name from THOMAS ANDREW CHARLES RIHA to THOMAS RIHA. He then entered Columbia University in 1953 and attended one semester when he was drafted into the United States Army and served from 1953 to 1955. He was stationed for five months at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and the rest of his time was spent at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He received an honorable discharge in December 1955 as a Specialist 3rd Class.

RIHA stated that after his discharge from the United States Army, he returned to Columbia University for a short period and then returned to the University of California at Berkeley where he received his Master's Degree in August 1957. RIHA in the Fall of 1957 entered Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to work for his Ph. D. Degree. He said he received a leave of absence from June 1958 to September 1959 to study at Moscow University, USSR. In September 1959 he returned to Harvard and will remain there until September 1960 when he will receive his Ph. D. Degree. RIHA stated that he has accepted a position as Professor at Chicago University, Chicago, Illinois, and will assume his duties September 7, 1960. His address in Chicago will be 6007 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

RIHA stated that on June 15, 1958, he left the United States to attend Moscow University, USSR, for one year. He arrived in Paris, France, June 21, 1958, and proceeded to Czechoslovakia to visit his father VIKTOR RIHA, 44 Rimsha Street, Prague 12, Czechoslovakia, who was an attorney until his death in September 1958. He also visited his sister LUDMILA

On	<u>8/11/60</u> at	Cambridge,	Massachusetts	File #	BS	105-5289
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by GRIFFIN/bab Date dictated 8/17/60

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CERVENA and husband JIRI CERVENA who he stated has a minor clerical position with some local company in Prague. He also visited his uncle JAN RIHA (retired) in Roudnice, Czechoslovakia.

RIHA stated that when he arrived in Prague he was assigned to stay at the Flora Hotel by the Housing Bureau for Foreigners operated by the Czechoslovakian Government. He remained there for seven days before going to see his father and sister.

RIHA stated that while he was visiting with his father, a Czechoslovakian man who identified himself as KARELY CHRPA from the Visa Department of the Czechoslovakian Government and asked to look at RIHA's visa on the pretext that it was not in order. RIHA stated that after a review of his visa, everything was found to be in order then CHRPA asked RIHA his impressions of Czechoslovakia and offered to take him on a sightseeing trip which RIHA refused. According to RIHA, CHRPA appeared at his father's home with his automobile several times during his stay and would wait outside or just down the street for RIHA to come out and then would offer to take RIHA wherever he was going. RIHA stated he would always refuse. Kima advised that CHRPA never asked him to do anything of an intelligence nature and it appeared to RIHA that CHRPA was trying to make a good will ambassador out of him al for i Czechoslovakia.

RIHA stated he left Prague July 12, 1958, and spent the rest of the summer in Paris, France. His address in Paris was Francis! I, 23 Rae-de conde, Paris 6, France.

RIHA stated he received a picture postcard from CHRPA while in Paris; however, he was never contacted by anyone while in Paris and has never seen CHRPA again.

RIHA stated that he left Paris September 7, 1958, for Vienna, Austria, where he stayed for approximately three or four days and then departed by plane for Helsinki, Finland, and Copenhagen, Denmark, where he stayed approximately three weeks and then entered the USSR at Vyborg, Russia, September 27, 1958. GUPTANNIK

RIHA stated that while in Helsinki he met MARK MANCALL, a Harvard University student, now in Japan. RIHA stated that MANCALL was with him on his trip to Moscow; however, MANCALL left him at Leningrad and he proceeded to Moscow.

RIHA stated that upon his arrival at Moscow University he was met by Dr. BORIS S. NIKIFOROV, Moscow State University historian, whomRIHA stated he was to confer with on matters of policy that might come up during his stay at the university. Approximately ten days after his arrival RIHA stated he met his advisor, EVGENII DEMITRIEVICH CHERMENSKI, Professor of History. RIHA said that these two men are the only faculty members he had any contact with while at the university. According to RIHA, his advisor invited him to his home once and that this was the only social contact he had with him, and had absolutely no social contact with NIKIFOROV.

RIHA stated that his travelling companion around Moscow was DAVID MAC KENZIE, a student from Columbia University, now at Princeton. University.

RIHA said that while he was in the university library in Moscow one day, a Soviet friend and student casually introduced him to a Mr. IURIF MIKHALKOV who told him he worked for the International Commerce. RIHA said he was very suspicious of this man as he had plenty of money and a car. MIKHALKOV invited RIHA to dinner which RIHA accepted. According to RIHA, MIKHALKOV hired a private room in a very expensive and exclusive hotel to have dinner. RIHA said he was suspicious of him because of his wealth and therefore never warmed up to MIKHALKOV during this visit. RIHA stated that their conversation was very general and that MIKHALKOV made no requests of him whatsoever. RIHA stated that this was the last time he saw MIKHALKOV.

RIHA advised that while doing research work in the Lenin Library in Moscow, he met a girl employee NATASKA MEYER whom he dated from November to December 1958 until she told him not to see her again because if she continued to see him she would be expelled from her position.

RIHA stated in March 1958 he met another girl LARISSA KUCHBERIA through an American student WALTER CLEMENS of Columbia

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### Teleprica III

University who previously dated this girl until he left Russia in March 1958. RIHA stated that he dated KUCHBERIA from March until he left Russia. RIHA said that he was suspicious of LARISSA KUCHBERIA and therefore was very cautious in his relations with her. However, KUCHBERIA never made any requests of him to do anything of an intelligence nature. However, he said she constantly praised Czechoslovakia and pointed out its advantages and attempted to interest RIHA in returning to his native country. RIHA told her many times he had no desire to return to Czechoslovakia.

RIHA said that he has never heard from the two girls he dated nor has he corresponded with them.

RIHA left Odessa by boat and after travelling to various countries in Europe, he departed from Paris, France, on August 20, 1959, and arrived in the United States August 26, 1959. RIHA stated that due to his being born in Czechoslovakia he was aware that attempts might be made on the part of officials of the Soviet and Czechoslovakian Governments to attempt to induce him to return or stay in Czechoslovakia and therefore he was alert to recognize any such attempts.

He related that since his return to the United States he has never been contacted in any manner whatsoever by a Soviet or Czechoslovakian Government representative. He stated that if such a contact is ever made, he would immediately contact the FBI.

RIHA stated that he was proud of his American citizenship and has no desire to return to his homeland for permanent residence.

The following is a description of the subject as obtained from interview and observation:

Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 5'8"
Weight: 148 pounds
Eves: Brown

Eyes: Brown
Hair: Black
Complexion: Medium
Marital Status: Single

Date of Birth: April 17, 1929, Czechoslovakia