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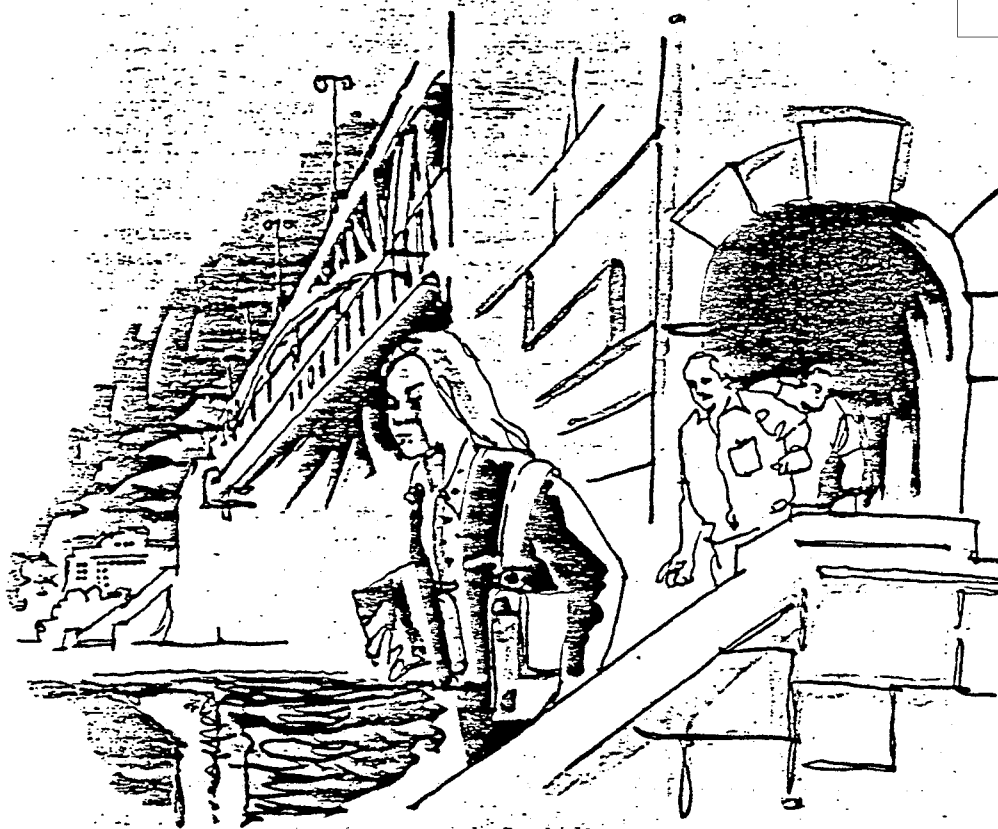
NEWSWEEK
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'We Still Need Spies

In a supposedly sophisticated era of electronic snooping, the affair did seem somehow dated. There on page 5 of *Izvestia* last week was a photograph of an attractive young American woman named Martha Peterson undergoing interrogation at a KGB office in Moscow. Arrayed on a table before her were the contents of a classic cloak-and-dagger spy kit: a minicamera, tiny microphones, a supply of rubles, gold—and two ampuls of poison. Soviet secret police had allegedly caught Peterson red-handed in an

lowed-out stone containing the po and the other items—in a niche. When the police closed in, the paper said, Peterson warned off her unidentified contact by shouting, "I am a foreigner." Peterson was arrested and interrogated but because she had diplomatic immunity, she was permitted to leave Moscow on the first available plane. And *Izvestia* broke the story last week, the bizarre incident was hushed up.

In the early days of the cold war, when he headed the CIA, the late Allen Du



An artist's conception of Peterson's arrest: End of a double life

espionage plot last summer and, among other things, wanted to know the name of the intended victim of the poison. U.S. consul Clifford Gross advised her to reply, *Izvestia* claimed, but Peterson told him: "Shut up." Gross told her interrogators: "No use asking her. She is only the executor." This time, the paper said, the "pretty CIA agent literally roared at him, 'Shut up!'"

Now back home in the U.S. and lying low, "Marty" Peterson, 32, had indeed worked for the CIA, officials in Washington conceded, although she was ostensibly employed in the embassy's consular section. One warm July evening last year, according to *Izvestia*, Soviet police tailed her as she proceeded by car, bus, trolleybus, subway and taxi to a rendezvous at a bridge over the Moscow River (sketch). The KGB

believed in dropping undercover agents behind the Iron Curtain by parachute (most of them never to be heard from again). Those methods have been declared obsolete by Jimmy Carter's CIA boss, Adm. Stansfield Turner, a staunch advocate of satellite reconnaissance, electronic intercepts, microwave listening devices and other space-age tools for gathering information.

SPOOKS AND TRENCH COATS

Even in the age of high-technology spying, there is still a basic need for what is known in the spook trade as HUMINT—human intelligence—and as the bizarre Peterson case indicates, the days of trench coats and lurking around corners are not over yet. As one U.S. intelligence analyst puts it: "We still

on occasion embassy listening devices supposedly picked up snatches of a conversation inside a Kremlin limousine in which Brezhnev and former Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny discussed the merits of a masseuse named Olga. That story may well be apocryphal, but when a fire broke out in the upper floors of the embassy last summer, Soviet firemen went out of their way to destroy as much of the antenna network as they could lay their axes to.

TINFOIL ON THE WALLS

U.S. diplomats in Moscow routinely assume that all embassy offices with the exception of "safe" rooms—usually windowless chambers that appear to be wall-papered with tinfoil—are bugged. In 1964, approximately 40 eavesdropping microphones were uncovered at the embassy and some officials believe as many as 200 more simply went undiscovered. (In 1952, a bug was found in the beak of a wooden eagle on the wall of the U.S. envoy's residence.) More recently, in a case leaked to the U.S. press, officials conducting a routine security check discovered a tunnel beneath the embassy building—and in the process confronted a startled Russian who made a hasty retreat. The tunnel was connected to an air shaft and a chimney that were found to contain Soviet listening devices.

Two years ago, in response to U.S. protests, the Soviets apparently reduced their microwave bombardment of the Moscow embassy. But eavesdropping continues. Like its U.S. counterpart in Moscow, the Soviet Embassy in Washington bristles with mysterious antennas. No one knows precisely what the embassy's electronic equipment picks up in the U.S. or relays back to the Kremlin. But one high-level U.S. source maintains the Soviets used microwave gear during the 1973 Mideast war to listen in on White House conversations with the Pentagon, the State Department and the CIA.

Détente, with its easing of U.S. travel restrictions on Soviet citizens, has made Moscow's job easier. Last year alone, some 6,000 Soviets visited the U.S. as members of trade and cultural delega-
Russian sailors took