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File #:

62-HQ-116395

Serial Scope:

Bulky 1166

276
~~438~~
ENCL

1166

CONFIDENTIAL

7 February 11-21-77

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-21-77 BY 60322

Enclosed for your office are two original copies of a letter and enclosure. I am sorry as a I cannot to see report. A copy of the memo with encl. is being furnished for your records.

INFORMATION RELATING TO THOMAS RIHA

Daily

of Colorado, Boulder

Boulder, Colorado

Monday, April 14, 1969

Volume 17, Number 116

HISTORY PROF MISSING A MONTH

Riha's Absence Mysterious

BY DAVID M. GAON

Copyright, 1969 by The Colorado Daily

The month long absence 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 Riha was safe and had left voluntarily.

University President Joseph Smiley said Tuesday he was told by reliable sources in Washington that Riha was safe but Smiley was unable to learn 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 Donald Alps of the Boulder Police Department later the same day that as far as the Boulder Police Department was concerned Riha was safe and had been located a week earlier. Alps refused to comment to the Daily and referred questions to Captain Lowell Friesen, of the Boulder Police Department. Friesen was unavailable for comment.

Pending word from Riha, the University has placed him on

"leave without pay," according to William Briggs, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Briggs said that April 10 he wrote to Riha at a forwarding address provided by the Boulder Post 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 a missing 40 year old native Czechoslovakia.

Several times during the past several months Mrs. Tannenbaum has represented herself as Colonel Tannenbaum of Military Intelligence to the lawyers involved in the divorce proceedings of Mr. and Mrs. Riha, the lawyers say.

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

(continued on page 5)

105-78256

File 5-Jur

RECEIVED

Riha missing. . .

(continued from page 1)

military intelligence and promised 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 intelligence in this country.

Briggs, Miss Lebra and Caplan contacted the Federal Bureau of

Investigation (FBI) about Riha's disappearance. Briggs and Miss Lebra received no reply. Caplan declined to divulge 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

Enclosed 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 the 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 8/31/68 at Boston concerning subject.

Nathan B. Lenvin, now deceased, according to Bufiles interviewed Fischer-Galati in 1956 in connection with a matter in which Fischer-Galati was to testify. The enclosures are furnished for your assistance in the event any information is brought to your attention concerning the matter in the enclosed letter. Fischer-Galati 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

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

GWA:crk

(4)

NOTE:

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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. Eldon, Jr. of the Department. Bufiles disclose that at one [redacted] A copy of the enclosed letter was furnished to [redacted] 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 concerning subject. Bufiles contain no information which would indicate that subject could be involuntarily leaving the U.S. as indicated in the enclosed letter.

REC 14

11 APR 17 1969

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

229 S.W.2d

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

1. *Introduction*

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

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

749-33-0
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
27 APR 8 1969
R.A.G.

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

7-10-2000

NW 55100 DocId:32989553 Page 7

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reporting Office BOSTON	Office of Origin BOSTON	Date AUG 31 1960	Investigative Period 6/6-8/11/60
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED THOMAS RIHA, aka Thomas Andrew Charles Riha - SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES - RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS		Report made by DANIEL J. GRIFFIN	Typed By: bab
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - R	

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.

REFERENCE: WFO letter to Bureau dated April 5, 1960; Bulet to Boston dated May 25, 1960; Bulet to WFO dated May 12, 1960, all captioned "Soviet Intelligence Services - Recruitment of Students, IS - R"; Boston letter to Bureau dated June 30, 1960, entitled "THOMAS RIHA, IS - R."

- C -

DEK Act 6 (1)(B)

ADMINISTRATIVE

RIHA advised that he received a very short [redacted] before going to Russia and he has never been contacted subsequently by [redacted]

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.

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies Made		105-78256-5	REC-90
5 - Bureau (RM)		17 SEP 2 1960	EX-11
1 - Washington Field (Info)(RM)			
1 - New York (Info)(RM)			
1 - Chicago (Info)(RM)			
3 - Boston (105-5289)			

AGENCY

REQ. REC'D

DATE FORW. 2-11-63

HOW FORW. 0-156/0-10E/6-6d

BY jgm/pam

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

59 SEP 14 1960

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956 O-385319

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BS 105-5289

Mrs. GENEVIEVE BOSTWICK, established source, was contacted by SA DANIEL J. GRIFFIN on June 16, 1960.

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- B* -
COVER PAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

DANIEL J. GRIFFIN

Boston, Massachusetts

Report of:

Office:

Date:

AUG 31 1960
Boston 105-5289

Field Office File #:

Bureau File #:

Title:

THOMAS RIHA
SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES -
RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Character:

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

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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DETAILS:

A SOURCE AT

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIALDate August 19, 1960

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

He was born in Czechoslovakia April 17, 1929. He 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 from 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 an 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 8/11/60 at Cambridge, Massachusetts File # BS 105-5289

by SAs MICHAEL J. MC DONAGH and DANIEL J. GRIFFIN/bab Date dictated 8/17/60

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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 KAREL 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. RIHA 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 for 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 Rue de la 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.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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, whom RIHA 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 DEMITRI LEVICH 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. IURII 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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

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
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Black
Complexion:	Medium
Marital Status:	Single
Date of Birth:	April 17, 1929, Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

DATE: April 14, 1969

N *guy*
FROM : J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: Correspondence dated April 7, 1969,
from Professor Stephen Fischer-Galati
re: Professor Thomas Riha

This is in further reference to our referral
of the captioned letter to you on April 9, 1969.

I am transmitting herewith a copy of our
reply in this matter for your information.

Enclosure

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

REG 43

34
EXP. PROC.
31 APR 15 1969

25 APR 15 1969

ENCLOSURE

105-98214
(Fischer-Galati)

407/05-78256

Alf...
REC-43

RECEIVED

April 14, 1969.

Professor Stephen Fischer-Galati
Department of History
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Professor Fischer-Galati:

I have your letter dated April 7, 1969, regarding your concern over Professor Thomas Riha. This is to advise you that your letter has been directed to the appropriate governmental authorities.

Since your letter was addressed to Mr. Nathan B. Levin, I thought you may be interested in knowing and adduced to learn that Mr. Levin died last October 25th.

Your interest in writing to us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

J. WALTER YEAGLEY
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

By:

JAMES L. WELDON, JR.
Chief, Registration Section

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. D. J. Brennan, Jr. *[initials]*

DATE: April 16, 1969

FROM : S. J. Papich *[initials]*

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A. 169

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

The subject has not left the United States. The story or rumor indicating that he may have gone to Czechoslovakia is without foundation. Riha has been having difficulties from his wife, and he recently "ran away from her."

☐ has also received information indicating that the university newspaper at the University of Colorado will be printing an article concerning the subject and will refer to him as an undercover agent of ☐ Mrs. Roman stated that subject very definitely is not being utilized by CIA in any capacity. *E*

ACTION:

The above information is being directed to the attention of the Research-Satellite Section.

- 1 - A. W. Gray (Vizas)
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - S. J. Papich

SJP:clb
(4)

105-78256

12 APR 21 1969

Let. to [illegible] 4-22-69 GWH:lmq

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

105-78256

SAC, Denver

1 - Mr. G. W. Abernathy
4-18-69

EE-10
Director, FBI (105-78256)-8

THOMAS RITA
IS - CZ

ReBulet 4-16-69.

On 4-15-69 [] advised through liaison that the subject had not left the United States. According to [] subject has been having difficulties with his wife and he recently "ran away from her." The story or rumor indicating the subject may have gone to Czechoslovakia is without foundation.

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

[] has also received information indicating that the University newspaper at the University of Colorado will be printing an article concerning this subject and will refer to him as an undercover agent of [] in any capacity.

Any pertinent information received concerning this matter should be forwarded to the Bureau by LHM and no investigation need be conducted by your office.

GWA:lmg
(4)

NOTE:

Subject is a professor at the University of Colorado. The Department received a letter dated 4-7-69 which stated the subject disappeared mysteriously three weeks ago. The writer of the letter was concerned that subject might be involuntarily leaving the United States for Czechoslovakia. The above is being furnished Denver for its information.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

MAILED 2

APR 18 1969

COMM-FBI

F B I

Date: 9/15/69

The following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (105-8544)

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA, aka
IS - CZ

Enclosed for Denver is a copy of Boston report dated August 31, 1960, captioned, "THOMAS RIHA, aka THOMAS ANDREW CHARLES RIHA - Soviet Intelligence Services Recruitment of Students; IS - R."

[CCC-7062-5]
SOURCE who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the following information to SA GEORGE M. WOODLEY on September 15, 1969. According to the source it is rumored among the Czechs at the University of Chicago (UC) that THOMAS RIHA, a Professor at the University of Colorado, Bolder, Colorado, was "either kidnapped by the Russians, or picked up by CIA or the FBI."

RIHA entered the United States in 1947 as a student and has been in the United States since that time, except for a period of one year (1958-1959) when he studied at the University of Moscow, Moscow, Russia.

Some time in 1968, he headed a group of college professors on a tour of the Soviet Union. In the group was one ANNA HRUSKA, a Czech girl, whom he married in Bolder, Colorado, after returning to the United States from this trip. The source does not know if ANNA HRUSKA is an American citizen, an exchange student from Czechoslovakia or any background information concerning her.

- (2) - Bureau (RM)
2 - Denver (Encl. 1) (RM)
1 - WFO (Info) (RM)
2 - Chicago
(1 - 134-2309)
GWW/kmb
(7)

REC-62

SEP 19 1969

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

RIHA studied at Harvard University, worked at the University of Chicago from 1960 - 1966, and then went to the University of Colorado, Bolder, Colorado, in the Fall of 1966, where he presently has a teaching contract.

It is rumored that RIHA recently divorced ANNA HRUSKA and disappeared from the University and his apartment, leaving behind his clothes and furniture.

According to the source, the University of Colorado is unhappy with RIHA for walking out on his teaching contract and has been attempting to locate him without success.

The files of the Chicago Office, in addition to the enclosed Boston report, contains a Department of State Form (Request for Security Information), which is dated 2/5/63. This form shows that Professor RIHA was proposed for academic exchange with Czechoslovakia by the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana. At that time, he was assistant professor of Modern Russian and European History at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. He resided at 6007 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He was born April 17, 1929, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. It is not known whether or not RIHA was accepted for this program.

In addition to the above, the Chicago files contain a Department of State Form (Visa Action Request) on behalf of JARMILA ZAKOVA, nee CERVENA, born 4/14/37, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. She was employed as a clerk by the Film and Television Academy, Prague and desired to visit her uncle, THOMAS RIHA, 5801 South Dorchester Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, for a period of two months in August, 1966. It is believed that this THOMAS RIHA is identical with the subject because the Dorchester address is in close proximity to the UC.

CG 105-8544

LEADS

DENVER

AT DENVER, COLORADO. Check indices and conduct credit and criminal on subject and ANNA HRUSKA.

Contact sources in the Czech community for any information they may have regarding the disappearance of THOMAS RIHA.

Check marriage and divorce records regarding THOMAS RIHA and ANNA HRUSKA.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will maintain contact with SOURCE regarding the above matter.

[CG 7062-S]

1 - Mr. J. W. Redfield

SAC, Chicago (105-8544)

9/22/69

Director, FBI (105-78256) — 1/1

THOMAS MIHA
IS - CZ

ReCGairtel 9/15/69.

Enclosed for Chicago are Bulets, dated 4/10/69 with its enclosure and 4/13/69, which are self-explanatory. (CG 7062-S)

It would appear the information obtained by SOURCE is the same rumor which was circulating in the Czech community during April, 1969.

Unless additional pertinent information is developed, no investigation need be conducted by your offices. If additional pertinent information is received concerning this matter, it should be furnished to the Bureau in a form suitable for dissemination.

Enclosures - 3

1 - Denver

JWR:lmj (5) This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

NOTE:

Subject, a professor at the University of Colorado, was reported to have disappeared mysteriously back in April, 1969.

Files

UPK Act 6 (1) (B)

subject had been having difficulty with his wife and he "ran away from her." [redacted] advised the story or rumor indicating subject may have gone to Czechoslovakia was without foundation. It appears SOURCE has obtained information concerning this earlier rumor. In view of this, Chicago being furnished pertinent information developed in April, 1969, and unless additional pertinent information is developed indicating otherwise, Chicago and Denver being instructed to conduct no further investigations.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

DATE: 12/11/69

FROM : *SAK* DENVER (105-4151)

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
IS - CZ

ReBulet 4/18/69.

There is attached a letter dated 12/5/69, signed by Mrs. RUTH ANN COOK concerning this subject. Mrs. COOK indicates in this letter that the subject is her son and it would appear from the envelope that the letter was possibly mailed in Switzerland.

In accordance with ReBulet this letter is being forwarded to the Bureau. No reply has been made to the letter by the Denver Office.

ENCLOSURE

2-Bureau (Enc-1) (RM)
2-Denver (105-4151)
(1-47-3190)

SJW:hg

(4)

copy to *SAK*
by routing slip for

☐ info ☒ action

date *12/9/69*

by *SJW/hg*

REC-1

105-78256-11

DEC 15 1969

EX 110

Rebulet 4/18/69 and 9/22/69.
submit enclosed in 4H
in accordance with
instructions in Rebulet

1/19/69
I am assured that you should
acknowledge Mrs. Cook's letter. You
must desire to expedite this
identification Division missing
person's letter. Furnish copy of same
reply to the Bureau.



DEC 24 1969

Redford
TELETYPE

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. It is also limited to the use of the Committee and the document may not be disclosed to unauthorized persons without the express approval of the FBI.

Casa Lido
 Passage Triunfo
 CH-6614
 MRS. RUTH ANN COOK

December 5th
 1969

Dear Sir,

your name and address was
 given to me by Mr. J. CERVENY of
 1918 S. Logan St. Apt. 302, Denver.
 He is the son of my stepdaughter and
 working as engineer at Sam's White Manor.

I write you on behalf of my
 son (the above young man's uncle)
 Thomas A. C. Fike, associate professor
 at U. of Colorado, Boulder, last
 of 6th St. in that city.
 I just received today a description
 of the last encounters of my step
 grandson

with my son Thomas of the first meeting
of this year. As I have been sick
with cancer since 1968 and still am
far from well, I was not told any-
thing but that my son after some
unpleasantness with an exate wife
of his bride Hana Hunkova (wed-
ding in Oct. 1968 - divorced filed
in Jan. 1969) had left the U.S.A.
but was well and living in Canada.

About 10 days ago I received
a letter from my brother Mr. P. P. Ross
of Oakland that some foul play
was involved in my son's disappea-
rance - namely some woman by
the name of Galia Samuels
of 248 Logan, Denver.

2. who pretends to be a general in
Army Intelligence ^{who} had forged
papers of attorney and checks and
gotten hold of all the belongings
of my son - who was not in Canada -
nobody knows where he is and
that the police in Boulder and
Denver will not give any information
about him to his friends or lawyer
or the above mentioned Mr. Crook.
It appears from my brother's letter
that this Mrs. Galya Samenkova is
currently free on bail of a charge of
forgery of last will of an old man,
(her father) who died of cyanide poisoning.
Dear Mr. Werner, I beg of you
to tell me what I should do

to help my son - who as the rumour
goes - worked for the C.I.A. of which
I have no knowledge and to tell
me also where he is or whether
he has met foul play at the hands
of this Mr. Samuel Brown who appa-
rently is well armed and always
carries a gun.

All this is perfectly dead-
ful to encourage for me. I assure
you. I am of respectable middle
class and never had to do with
similar circumstances.

I implore you to help
me and advise me as to my son's
whereabouts - and what I should
do. Thank you in advance
Ruth A. Cook.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

FROM : SAC, DENVER (105-4151) (P)

SUBJECT: THOMAS AHA, aka
IS - CZ

DATE: 12/29/69

Re Bureau RS dated 12/19/69.

Enclosed herewith is a letter of acknowledgement to subject's mother Mrs. RUTH ANN COOK, as per your request.

Also enclosed are 5 copies of a LHM which includes Mrs. COOK's letter to the Denver Office of the FBI and 2 newspaper articles dated 12/28/69 appearing in the "Denver Post" newspaper pertaining to subject.

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

*1 xerox of LHM to
enclosures to
EIA - 1/2/70
LFB/line*

AGENCY *Local (105-4151), RAC*
REQ. *1*
DATE *1/2/70*
HOW *105-4151, 105-4151*
BY *105-4151*

REC 36

- ② - Bureau (Encl. 6) (RM)
- 2 - Denver (1 - 105-4151)
(1 - 47-3190 - TANNENBAUM)

LDH/sip
(4)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

18218 Federal Office Building
Denver, Colorado 80202
December 29, 1969

Ruth A. Cook

Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook
Casa Lido
Brissago, Ticino CH-6614, Switzerland

GERMANY

Dear Mrs. Cook:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated December 5, 1969 concerning the disappearance of your son Thomas Riha.

Please be advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction in matters of this nature and we are not able to conduct an active investigation concerning your son's disappearance.

At your request we will place a Missing Persons Notice with our Identification Division in Washington, D. C. If you desire us to do this, please advise.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT J. WERNER
Special Agent in Charge

1 - CC Bureau (blind)

This document is prepared in response to your request and is for the use of your Committee. It is not to be distributed to unauthorized persons without the express approval of the FBI.

105-78256-12
ENCLOSURE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
December 29, 1969

REC 36

THOMAS RIHA
Also Known As
Thomas Andrew Charles Riha

On December 10, 1969, the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Denver, Colorado, received letter from Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, Casa Lido, Brissago, Ticino CH-6614, dated December 5, 1969, addressed to Mr. Scott Werner, who is the Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Federal Bureau of Investigation Office. This letter states as follows:

"Dear Sir,

"Your name and address was given to me by Mr. Z. CERVENY of 918 S. Logan Str. Apt. 302, Denver. He is the son of my stepdaughter and working as ingeneer at Samsonite Kanuf.

"I write you on behalf of my son (the above young man's uncle) Thomas A. C. Riha, associate professor at U. of Colorado, Boulder, last of 6th Str. in that city.

"I just received to-day a description of the last encounters of my stepgrandson with my son Thomas of the first months of this year. As I have been sick with cancer since 1968 and still am far from well, I was not told anything but that my son after some unpleasantness with an irate uncle of his bride Hana Hruskova (wedding in Oct. 1968 - divorced filed in Jan. 1969) had left the U.S.A. - but was well and living in Canada.

"About 10 days ago I received a letter from my brother Mr. P. P. Kress of Oakland that some foul play was involved in my son's disappearance - namely some woman by the name of Galia Tannenbaum

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Command. It is not to be disclosed to unauthorized persons without the express approval of the FBI.

ENCLOSURE

THOMAS RIHA

of 248 Logan, Denver, who proclaims to be a general in Army Intelligence, who had forged powers of attorney and checks and gotten hold of all the belongings of my son - who was not in Canada - nobody knows where he is and that the police in Boulder and Denver will not give any information about him to his friends or lawyer or the above mentioned Mr. Cerveny. It appears from my brother's letter that this Mrs. Calia Tannenbaum is currently free on bail of a charge of forgery of last will of an old man (her friend) who died of cyanide poisoning.

"Dear Mr. Werner, I beg of you to tell me what I should do to help my son - who as the rumour goes - worked for the CIA of which I have no knowledge and to tell me also where he is or whether he has met foul play at the hands of this Mrs. Tannenbaum who apparently is well armed and always carries a gun.

"All this is perfectly dreadful to envisage for me, I assure you. I am of respectable middle-class and never had to do with similar circumstances.

"I implore you to help me and advise me as to my son's whereabouts - and what I should do.

"Thank you in advance.

"/s/ Ruth A. Cook"

The "Denver Post" newspaper published in Denver, Colorado, contained two articles in the Sunday edition December 28, 1969 regarding Riha. The first article appeared on page 1 and is captioned "Silence Shrouds Odd Case Of Missing CU Professor". The second article appeared on page 36 and it is captioned "Prof. Riha's Disappearance Shrouded in Mystery and Silence". A Xerox copy of each of these articles is attached hereto.

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.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Silence Shrouds Odd Case Of Missing CU Professor

More than nine months ago, a Czechoslovakian-born associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado failed to appear to teach his classes.

He still hasn't appeared.

Police entered the case last April, via a missing person report. Now, though, they say they aren't really interested in the professor's disappearance.

Officers say they have been told by federal agencies that the missing professor is okay, that no foul play is involved.

But if he's alive, where is he?

And who are these federal agents who reportedly know the secrets of the professor's disappearance? Police refuse to say.

His friends say they don't know where the professor might be. His relatives—

even his mother in Germany—say they haven't heard from him.

And, if police do know some answers, they aren't passing them along to the missing professor's friends or relatives.

Many of those friends are refugees who fled to this "land of the free" from the tyranny of European countries. And they wonder how a man can disappear, here in America.

They remember a snowy night in Boulder, when a screaming woman was carried from the professor's home.

They remember another woman, referred to by the professor as "Colonel," and they remember other things.

But they don't have the answers. And that's what they want.

For the strange story of the professor who dropped from sight, turn to Page 36, section E, of Sunday's Denver Post.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 12/28/69

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Palmer Hoyt

Title:

THOMAS RIHA

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated B

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

MISSED CU TEACHER

Prof. Riha's Disappearance Shrouded in Mystery and Silence

By FRED GILLIES

Denver Post Staff Writer

Early on the morning of March 17, Prof. Thomas Riha's briefcase stood open amid books and papers scattered on the desk in his study at the University of Colorado.

This was unusual, for Riha was known as an orderly and organized man, one who didn't leave things at loose ends.

But unusual things were occurring in the life of Riha, 40, a respected professor of Russian history at CU.

The most unusual of these was that he was disappearing — dropping out of sight from his home, his university, his friends and his relatives.

Did he do this by his own choosing? Did he want to disappear?

Or, did something else happen to Riha?

Is he dead? Alive? If he is alive, where is he? What is he doing?

Mystery buffs would believe that when a university professor disappears, police would struggle for an answer to theiddle. But if police have struggled, there is little evidence of it in the strange case of Riha.

VAGUE ANSWERS

A Denver Post reporter received vague answers from officials. There is talk of other agencies — unidentified — reporting Riha to be "alive and somewhere."

But which agencies? No one will say.

Earlier on that strange March morning — a Monday — Prof. Robert Skotheim, who shared the CU study with Riha, received a telephone call from a woman in Denver. She wanted to remind Riha about an important appointment he had that day with the U.S. Immigration Service in Denver.

Skotheim placed a memo to this effect on Riha's desk and left to meet his classes.

At noon, Riha failed to attend a scheduled faculty meeting.

Later that afternoon, a woman telephoned, telling a secretary she wanted to pick up Riha's briefcase because the professor had been taken to a hospital after being injured in a fall.

NEVER APPEARED

The woman never appeared. No hospital record for Riha has been found.

The concern for Riha really began building when he failed to meet his classes at CU on Tuesday, March 18. A worried CU staff member notified Mrs. Riha's attorney, who contacted Boulder police.

Officers examined the grounds and peered through the windows of the modest Riha house at 1055 6th St. in Boulder, where Riha had been living alone since his estranged wife moved to a Boulder hotel more than a week before. Police talked to neighbors and, evidently finding nothing amiss, soon left.

By the end of that week, there still was no information on Riha's whereabouts. But the title to his car had been assigned to a Denver couple. And a Boulder real estate firm had received a letter authorizing Riha's nephew, Zdenek Cervenky of Denver, to sell the Riha home. On both documents was the signature, Thomas Riha, notarized in Denver.

colo.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

36 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 12/28/69
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title: THOMAS RIHA

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

At this same time, Riha's art works, appraised at \$19,605, known to have been in his house the previous week, rested in a workroom at the Denver Art Museum and were recorded officially as a gift to the museum from a Denver woman.

In the next two months, most of Riha's household possessions and the books and papers in his office had been transferred to a house in Denver. His home in Boulder had been sold. Letters and checks appeared, signed Thomas Riha. His credit card was used for the purchase of several thousand dollars in merchandise in the Denver area.

One of the typed letters, dated March 30 and signed with Riha's name, was postmarked April 8 at Montreal, Quebec. This letter was sent to a Boulder insurance agency, requesting cancellation of an insurance policy on Riha's Volkswagen, which the writer said had been sold.

But were the signatures really those of Riha?

PROPERTY QUESTION

It's the handling of Riha's property, including the works of art, that particularly bothers the professor's friends and relatives, including his mother in Germany. They claim he wouldn't give up some of his possessions, that they were too dear to him.

On Sept. 30, Riha was divorced from his wife, Hana, on her counterclaim of cruelty. Riha wasn't in court. Before the divorce was granted, Riha's attorney questioned the authenticity of letters he had been receiving with Riha's signature. The lawyer urged a court clarification of the attorney's responsibilities toward Riha so that the professor's legal rights wouldn't be "permanently and unjustly sacrificed."

Riha met Hana Hruskova, 21, in New York City shortly before he took a group of professors on a tour of Russia in the summer of 1963. On his return to the United States later that summer, Riha again saw Hana, in this country on a student visa from her homeland in Czechoslovakia. Riha, then 35, also was of Czech origin, becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen and receiving his university education in this country.

On Oct. 13, 1963, Hana and Thomas were married in a late afternoon ceremony at the Unitarian Church in Boulder. At a wedding reception that evening at the Black Bear Inn in Lyons, Colo., Thomas obviously was overjoyed. Crossing his arms and clasping them at the elbow as if rocking a cradle, he went around the room calling out exuberantly that the marriage was "for all life."

Among the reception guests was a Denver woman — referred to later by Riha as "Colonel" — with whom Riha discussed at length the bringing of his nephew, Cerveny, to this country. Cerveny then was in Vienna after fleeing from Prague in Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia.

ADMITTED TO U.S.

About a month later, Cerveny was admitted on temporary status to the United States as a Czech refugee, through arrangements which Cerveny said were entirely normal and routine.

Riha's plans for a marriage "for all life" didn't take root. Shattering for him and his wife were events at their home early on the morning of March 9.

At about 12:30 a.m., guests were leaving a party at the home of CU Professor Richard and Mrs. Wilson, next door to the Rihases. One of the guests, Professor Robert Hanson, saw Mrs. Riha standing at a first-floor window in her home flailing her arms and crying for help.

Snow was still on the ground as Hanson raced to the Riha house and pulled Mrs. Riha from the window. A strong emotion, what he thought was a form, clung heavily to Mrs. Riha.

With the aid of W. J. Hanson took the distressed

THOMAS RIHA, PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN HISTORY
"We've been told not to worry," Boulder officer says.

...ARRIVE
...police car soon
...up to the Riha house,
...men Douglas J. Dor-
...and Dale S. ... who said
...called by an-
...woman in the Riha house.
...official report, the of-
...gave this version of
...:

The woman met them in front
of the Riha house and told them
Mrs. Riha had locked herself in
her bedroom, from which ether
vapors were coming. When she
and Riha threatened to break
the bedroom door, the woman
said, Mrs. Riha went to the
window and started screaming.
In her conversation, the offi-
cers said, the woman tried to
give the impression she was in
the Riha house that night as a
woman in an official capacity
and had something to do with
the immigration authorities in
Denver. But she couldn't pro-
duce any identification.

Further, she told police Mrs.
Riha wasn't a U.S. citizen, that
her visa had expired and that
the immigration authorities in
Denver had been called.

Asked for her identification,
the woman said it was in her
car parked outside the Riha
house. But she could produce
only an Illinois driver's license.
At the Wilson home, the offi-

cers found Mrs. Riha "in an evi-
dent traumatic state."

After talking with Mrs. Riha,
the officers returned to her
home, where they found a jar of
ether and several ether-soaked
gauze pads in the bedcovers in
her bedroom. These items later
were turned over to her Boul-
der attorney, Gerald Caplan.

"Having investigated this
matter for over an hour and
finding no evidence of foul
play," the officers said in their
report, "we advised Mrs. Riha
to return home, but assured her
she did not have to."

A police check that same
morning with the National
Crime Information Center indi-
cated Mrs. Riha wasn't among
persons in the United States il-
legally, the officers said.

This was the substance of the
officers' report, according to
Police Capt. Willard Spier of
Boulder, who declined to per-
mit a Post reporter to examine
the report. He relayed verbally
only those parts of the report
he considered pertinent, saying
the rest consisted of "personal
comments of the officers."

ODOR STRONG

The odor of ether clinging
to Mrs. Riha was so strong that
windows in the Wilson house
had to be opened, Mrs. Wilson
recalled.

And Mrs. Wilson spoke of
angry voices rising in the entry-
way to her home as her hus-
band confronted Riha who was
demanding that his wife be sent
back to his home.

Riha's voice was "angry, bel-
ligerent and frightened" as he
told Wilson that the woman
who had called police was
an intelligence agent of the U.S.
Army, that she was armed and
the Wilsons were in danger if
they didn't return his wife, Mrs.
Wilson said. Wilson firmly re-
fused this demand, ordering Ri-
ha out of his house shortly be-
fore police arrived.

In a 2 a.m. emergency tele-
phone call made at the Wilson
home, Mrs. Riha talked that
morning with David Regosin, a
longtime friend and attorney in
New York City.

Apparently terrified, Mrs.
Riha took from her purse
Regosin's business card and
pleaded for someone to call him.

The call was made, with Mrs.
Riha sobbing as she told Rego-
sin what had happened. Also
talking with Regosin during the
half-hour conversation were
Wilson, Hanson and Patrolman
Dorsey. After the call was com-
pleted, police left Mrs. Riha in
the custody of the Hansons, who
took her briefly to the Riha
home to get some of her
clothes. They then accompan-
ied her to the Boulderado Ho-
tel, where she stayed until she
left Boulder with her aunt
April 5 for New York City.

VISA NOT INVOLVED

Recalling this middle-of-the-
night telephone conversation,
Regosin said the trouble at the
Riha home that night "had
nothing to do with Mrs. Riha's
visa status.

"There was nothing urgent
about her status, nothing press-
ing, no imminent deportation,"
Regosin said.

Regosin said he was told by
Mrs. Riha during the telephone
call that night that she had gone
to bed and began to sense a
strange odor. As it became
stronger, she became very up-
set and started screaming, think-
ing she was being overcome by
some chemical.

In New York City, where she
is employed at a bank, Mrs.
Riha said recently that the
ether in her room came from
the vents or under the bedroom
door.

Her husband's later disap-
pearance was "something un-
usual," Mrs. Riha said. "He left
his shaving stuff, his writing
stuff, even his suit(s). I've
not heard from him at all,
from the time he disappeared."

Aroused from sleep by a tele-
phone call on the night of the
disturbance at the Riha home
was John L. Todd, district di-
rector of the U.S. Immigration
and Naturalization Service
(INS) in Denver.

The call concerned the dis-
turbance, Todd said in a re-
cent interview.

"I don't recall who it came
from and what was said . . .
The caller was informed that
appropriate inquiries would be
made."

CALLED NEPHEW

On the night of March 13,
Riha was in Denver and tele-
phoned his nephew to come
and see him, Cerveny, Riha's
nephew, said. This was the last
time he saw his uncle, Cerveny
said.

On the night of Sunday,
March 16, Cerveny said, a Den-
ver woman telephoned him
and said Riha was gone and
didn't have a chance to talk to
him. Cerveny was told he
would be hearing from Riha
and would get his uncle's pow-
er of attorney. He also said he
was advised to say that he
knew where his uncle had gone
and the Riha's leaving
stemmed from his impending
divorce.

SIGNATURE IN DOUBT

The signature, Thomas Riha,
appears on at least three docu-
ments witnessed in Denver by
two notaries public after his
disappearance. Shown a set of
six photographs, among which
was a recent photo of Riha, the
notaries couldn't pick out Riha
as the person who signed the
papers.

Received in Boulder and
Denver after Riha's disappear-
ance, letters signed with his
name contain glaring misspell-
ings, some awkward gram-
matical expressions and an
inaccurate address for his
nephew doesn't show the
finer niceties of Riha's native
Cerveny said.

... at CU and ... describe the ... as a perfectionist in ... including his writ- ... speaking. Riha was the ... of several scholarly ... and learned treatises, ... was aware of the nuances ... his native tongue, as well as ... of English, Russian, Ger- ... and French, each of ... he spoke fluently.

Des he these many perplex- ... situations, officialdom ... was not too interested in find- ... out what happened to Riha ... including out vague assur- ... of his safety or denials ... any knowledge of the man.

Nearly a month after Riha ... appeared, Dr. Joseph Smi- ... then president of CU, said ... contacted "reliable sources" ... Washington and was told ... Riha was safe, but was un- ... able to learn where the profes- ... was or the circumstances ... his disappearance.

This past week, a CU spokes- ... said there's been no ... other inquiry about Riha at ... level of the university ad- ... ministration.

in Boulder, Captain Spier ... says:

"My understanding is that ... disappeared of his own ac- ... did—or had to—and there is ... use wasting time looking for ... in just as a missing person.

There's no suspicion of foul play ... place."

But police Lt. Ralph Ruzicka ... in Boulder: "We've been ... by 'an agency' not to ... try. But when we talk to ... Riha's friends and associates ... hear the facts, they don't ... add up logically, and we get ... tried again."

He declined to identify the ... which provided the as- ... sistance about Riha.

But Cerveny filed a missing ... report on his uncle Oct. ... the Boulder police had noth- ... official on the Riha disap- ... ppearance in their files, Ruzicka.

ever, Miss Joyce Lebra, ... state professor of history ... CU, says that about 1½ ... after Riha disappeared, ... a few CU professors ... information about Riha to

Boulder. Streibman Donald ... Alps, who filled out a form at ... the Lebra home. Miss Lebra ... said she has heard nothing from ... Boulder police after making ... this report.

Cerveny says Denver Detec- ... tive Phillip Villalobos told him ... he has been informed that "re- ... sponsible persons" have said ... Riha is all right and that the ... Denver Police Department isn't ... able to proceed with the search ... for Riha.

Denver police, Detective Mike ... Allegretto says, encouraged ... Cerveny to file a missing per- ... sons complaint on Riha Oct. 28 ... with Boulder police.

"The next day," Allegretto ... said, "Boulder police told us ... that the FBI told them to forge ... about Riha, because they knew ... where he was and that he was ... alive and well."

FBI POSITION

But the FBI here insists it ... hasn't jurisdiction in the case. ... This was determined when two ... inquiries were made as the re- ... sult of anonymous phone calls ... received here by the FBI April ... 3 and again in September, John ... F. Morley, assistant agent in ... charge, says.

Inquiries made by the FBI, ... Morley said, were based on the ... fact that a man had been re- ... ported missing "under unusual ... circumstances."

"We've placed no restrictions ... on any other investigative agen- ... cies in the area to determine if ... there is any violation over ... which they may have local in- ... vestigative jurisdiction (in the ... Riha case)," Morley said.

"We know nothing about him ... (Riha)," a Central Intelligence ... Agency (CIA) spokesman in ... Denver said. "As far as we ... know, Riha left voluntarily. We ... have nothing to do with the man. ... He has no contact with our ... agency."

However, CU Professor Ste- ... phen Fischer-Galati reported he ... was told by the CIA early last

April that Riha was safe and ... had left voluntarily. Fischer- ... Galati also said he wrote the ... U.S. Justice Department April ... 7 and was told "the matter has ... been referred to proper govern- ... ment authorities."

NO REPLY

He has received no reply to ... a Dec. 6 letter, directed to the ... same department, Fischer- ... Galati said.

Also disclaiming any knowl- ... edge of the Riha case is Todd, ... of the immigration service ... (INS) here.

"I know nothing about Riha," ... Todd said.

But a close friend of Riha's ... says he contacted the INS twice ... about Riha—once in May or ... June, when he was told that Ri- ... ha was alive; and the second ... time in the fall, when he asked ... whether Riha still were alive ... and there was no answer. At ... this time, Riha's friend said, he ... was told by the INS "not to be ... interested" in the Riha case.

U.S. Army Military Intelli- ... gence "has never been official- ... ly involved in the Riha case," ... said Col. Lynn Fritchman, com- ... manding officer, U.S. Army Re- ... gion 4, Military Intelligence ... Group in Denver.

Riha's friends don't know ... what to believe—hoping the ... vague assurances they have re- ... ceived are valid and that Riha ... is alive and well. But they ... don't know.

MOTHER WRITES

Many of them came to this ... country from totalitarian tyran- ... nies in Europe, and they ask: ... "How can it happen, especially ... in this country, that a man can ... disappear and nothing can be ... known about him for almost a ... year?"

From Germany early this ... month came a letter written to ... the FBI in Denver by Riha's

mother, Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, ... seeking information about her ... son. The letter was directed ... personally to Scott Werner, FBI ... agent in charge here. She hasn't ... heard from her son.

As they spoke warmly of ... Riha just recently, his close ... friends — many of them refu- ... gees from Europe — seemed ... to be trying to build with words ... the image of the man they ... wanted to see again:

"Riha felt positively more an ... American ... as a Czech. He ... have quite bitter memory as a ... youth of the German occupa- ... tion (during World War II). ... Riha probably developed a deep ... sympathy for the Russian lib- ... erators. But he missed the part ... when the Communists take over ... (because he had come to make ... his home in the U.S. by this ... time).

"So simple a man, he could ... fit any place.

"He was very illusionary ... an idealistic dreamer ... a lib- ... eral-thinking man. But I deny he ... was a sympathizer of com- ... munism. He was a man who ... adored everything that was tra- ... ditionally rational.

"Riha was a very reliable ... man. You could build a cathed- ... ral on his word."

Another friend said of Riha: ... "He was an extremely open ... man. He made the impression ... of an absolute, free man ... not scared of anything. He had ... made it in life. He was a top ... professor in his line ... healthy ... a fantastic cook. ... His art pieces were valued in ... the thousands. He had a big li- ... brary. He was a charming man.

"Riha was a nihilist, an athe- ... ist who just yearned for some ... kind of ..."

Riha's friend paused, consid- ... ered, and then, quite simply, ... added the one word, "God."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. D. J. Brennan, Jr. *1/13/70*

DATE: 1/13/70

FROM : S. J. Papich *1/13/70*

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A. J. [unclear]

JFK Act 6 (1)(A)

1/12/70 that the subject is not of operational interest to that Agency.

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

With regard to the subject's alleged disappearance, [] did receive a report, which could be characterized as a rumor, that the subject was experiencing marital difficulties and had left his wife. The Agency does not have any information concerning subject's present whereabouts.

ACTION:

The above information is being directed to the attention of the Sino-Satellite Section.

- 1 - Mr. Gray (Mr. Redfield)
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Papich

SJP:wmk (1) *1/13/70*
(4)

12-13-70
R

REC-35

10 JAN 14 1970

105-78256

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59 JAN 19 1970

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : A. W. Gray

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(SINO-SATELLITE)1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malmfeldt

DATE: January 13, 1970

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. RedfieldTolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Recommend attached letter be sent Attorney General (AG) regarding letter 1/8/69 to him from Congressman Donald G. Brotzman, Republican, Colorado, referred to us concerning disappearance of subject. Also recommend representative of Mr. Bishop's office personally apprise Congressman of facts. Brotzman, formerly United States Attorney Denver, 1959-1962; relations cordial.

Congressman requested information from AG by 1/14/70 concerning subject's disappearance from Boulder, Colorado, 3/69. He noted Riha may have disappeared because of "domestic complications." He stated he asked Bureau for report as to what had been done to locate subject. He wrote that Bureau advised, aside from preliminary inquiries, no investigation conducted. On 12/31/69 Mr. Bishop did advise Congressman's office FBI had conducted no investigation of disappearance since no indications of violation of federal law in our jurisdiction. Congressman stated during course of similar inquiries, CIA advised it had no jurisdiction but understood FBI had looked into matter and might well know whereabouts of subject and circumstances involved. We did inquire of [redacted] on 4/15/69 to determine if they had any interest in subject. They did not.

JFK Act 6 (1) (B)

Subject, born 4/17/29, Prague, Czechoslovakia, entered United States 1947; naturalized US citizen 12/52; served US Army 1953-1955; attended Moscow University 6/58-9/59; prior to disappearance was professor of Russian history, University of Colorado, Boulder. We have no information concerning Riha's whereabouts and have conducted no investigation to locate. CIA advised Liaison 1/13/70 Congressman was told CIA was not investigating subject and not using him in any capacity. CIA suggested he might check with local police and FBI, but did not tell him FBI was investigating.

REC-94

In 12/69 Denver received letter from subject's mother requesting information concerning son's disappearance. Denver Office replied this was matter not within jurisdiction of Bureau, however, offered if she so desired to place his name on Bureau's missing persons list. SAC, Denver, advised reply received from mother 1/13/70 declining to have subject's name placed on list.

ENCLOSURE 1-14-70
JWR:kml

(8)

CONTINUED - OVER

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: THOMAS RIHA

ACTION:

(1) That approval be granted for attached letter to AG providing him with these facts and advising him that a representative of the Bureau will personally inform the Congressman of them on 1/14/70.

(2) That a representative of Mr. Bishop's office personally contact the Congressman and provide him with these facts.

*See Jones & Bishop
memo 1-15-70
let & copy to
1-15-70*

OSW

1/14/70

NEP

1/14/70

*1/23/73 Mr. Edmund Byrne, IAS
advised we have not investigated disappearance
of Riha; do not know his whereabouts &
contemplate no investigation in absence of
jurisdiction Upm. L.*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CU PROFESSOR'S FATE A MYSTERY**Probe Widens in Riha Disappearance**By FRED GILLIES
Denver Post Staff Writer

Denver Dist. Atty. Mike McKeivitt said Wednesday his staff is conducting an "extensive investigation" into the mysterious disappearance of Thomas Riha, University of Colorado professor, and is coordinating its efforts with widening probes of the Denver and Boulder Police Departments and the Boulder district attorney.

At the request of The Denver Post, inquiries about Riha also are being continued with federal agencies in Washington, D.C., and through Canadian immigration officials.

RUSSIAN HISTORY

Riha, 40, a highly respected professor of Russian history, was officially listed as missing March 17 when he failed to appear at his office where his briefcase stood open amid books and papers on his desk.

On the same day, Riha's prized art works rested in a workroom at the Denver Art Museum, the gift of a Denver woman who museum officials say didn't mention Riha as the owner of the art works.

Less than two weeks later, the title to Riha's car had been assigned to a Denver couple. And within two months of his disappearance, his home in Boulder had been sold.

MONTREAL POSTMARK

Denver and Boulder law enforcement authorities have indicated that much of their effort involves examination of the various documents involved in the

transfer of Riha's property and letters and checks which have appeared, signed Thomas Riha. Some of these letters have a Montreal, Quebec, postmark.

Inquiries at the national level are being made by Rep. Donald G. Brotzman, R-Colo. To date, Brotzman said he has received responses from three agencies:

—The FBI, which says it hasn't and won't conduct an investigation of Riha's disappearance unless someone comes forward to indicate that a federal offense is likely to have been

involved. The agency did, however, acknowledge it has received several inquiries about Riha.

—The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which said it thinks the FBI might have some knowledge of Riha's whereabouts. The CIA spokesman said the agency considered the matter when it received inquiries last March and April and verified that Riha's disappearance didn't have international implications and "was a domestic matter, in terms of the United

States." Inquiries directed to the CIA were turned over to the FBI, the spokesman added. He said the CIA has no direct knowledge or reports of a rumor which has come to its attention saying that Riha is "somewhere on the East Coast."

—The U.S. Army Intelligence Command, which says it has no personal knowledge of the Riha case, no direct or indirect involvement, nor any knowledge of facts surrounding Riha's disappearance.

—Brotzman said he is awaiting

a response from the U.S. attorney general who has been requested to look into the discrepancies between official statements of federal agencies and apparently contradictory statements which persons interested in Riha received from these agencies shortly after he disappeared.

At that time, some of Riha's friends said they received assurance from federal agencies that they knew where Riha was and that he was "alive and well."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1-14-70
Edition: Home
Author: Fred Gillies
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title: THOMAS RIHA

Character: IS - CZ
or
Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver
☐ Being Investigated

105-78256

105-78256-7 file 5-100

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop

The Attorney General

January 14, 1970

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Malinfieldt
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. Redfield

THOMAS RIHA
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to letter dated January 8, 1970, addressed to you from Congressman Donald G. Brotzman, Colorado, a copy of which is attached with its enclosure. The Congressman had asked for a reply by January 14, 1970.

On December 31, 1969, pursuant to the Congressman's inquiry, this Bureau advised Mr. Robert Tousing, his administrative aide, that the FBI had conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance in March, 1969, of Thomas Riha, professor, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, since there were no indications of a violation of federal law within its jurisdiction. This Bureau has no information concerning Riha's whereabouts and has conducted no investigation to locate him. On April 15, 1969, we did inquire of the Central Intelligence Agency if they had any interest in Riha. They did not.

In December, 1969, our Denver Office received a letter from Riha's mother requesting information concerning her son's disappearance. She was advised this was a matter not within the jurisdiction of the FBI. She was told, however, that if she so desired his name would be placed on the FBI's missing persons list. She replied on January 13, 1970, and declined to have his name placed on the list.

The Central Intelligence Agency advised this Bureau on January 13, 1970, that Congressman Brotzman upon inquiry of them had been advised that Agency was not investigating Riha and not using him in any capacity. Central Intelligence Agency had suggested to check with the local police and the FBI but did not tell the Congressman the FBI was investigating subject

A representative of the Bureau will personally contact Congressman Brotzman on January 14, 1970, and apprise him of the above facts.

Enclosures - 2

JWR:ebp
(10)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

JAN 24 1970

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The Attorney General

NOTE:

See memorandum A. W. Gray to Mr. W. C. Sullivan, dated 1/13/70, captioned as above, prepared by JWP:kml.

The enclosures attached to the AG letter have been Xeroxed since the original letter to the AG bore Bureau administrative markings. CIA information 1/13/70 obtained from John Maury, congressional liaison, by SA Sam J. Papich.

DONALD G. BF
CHIEF OF BUREAU

COMMITTEE
TAT-ON
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
AND POWER

THIS IS A COPY OF THE

ACKNOWLEDGED JAN 14 1970

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 8, 1970

Attorney General John N. Mitchell
Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Enclosed is a photocopy of an article which was published by the Denver Post on December 28, 1969. I have been requested by the Denver Post and friends of Dr. Riha, who is a constituent of mine, to do everything possible to assist in either locating the Professor or in determining additional facts about his disappearance.

It seems to me that the interest of the nation in general and the credibility of the FBI in particular is not well served by the proliferation of a belief that Professor Riha is the victim of some kind of international intrigue, if such is not the case.

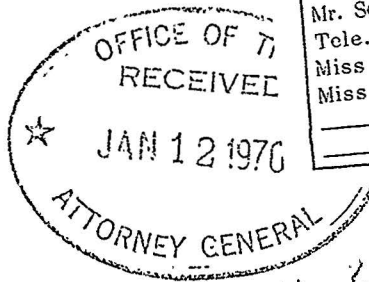
Despite the implications found in the Denver Post article, I think it is quite possible that Professor Riha left Boulder because of domestic complications.

In this spirit I last week asked the FBI to provide me, either formally or informally, with a report on what the Bureau has done to locate Professor Riha. I want to say last Friday that, aside from a file of inquiries made in Professor Riha's behalf, the Bureau has not looked into the matter and is not conducting inquiries.

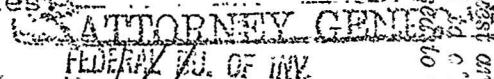
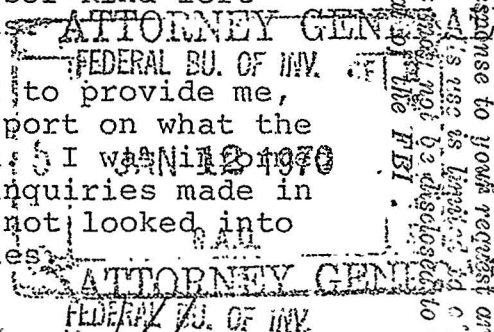
I so informed the Denver Post.

However, in the course of similar inquiries to other federal agencies, I learned from the Central Intelligence Agency that at one point last year it made some preliminary inquiries, determined that no transactions within its jurisdiction were involved, and turned over whatever files were generated to the FBI. CIA also informed me that it understands, unofficially, that the FBI did look into the matter further, and that the Bureau may well know the whereabouts of Professor Riha and the circumstances behind his unusual disappearance.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____



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JAN 19 1970

105-78256

Attorney General Mitchell
January 8, 1970
Page 2

I now appeal to you to look into the matter and at least provide me with guidance. I am convinced that the speculation will only grow in intensity, and I can see no good purpose in hiding behind a jurisdictional facade if the Professor's current status can be explained in a straightforward manner. Your response by Wednesday, January 14 would be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Donald G. Brotzman
Member of Congress

(R.-COLORADO) WASH DC

DGB/tja
Enclosure ✓

RESPECTED CU TEAC...

Prof. Riha's Disappearance Shrouded in Mystery and Silence

By FRED GILLIES
Denver Post Staff Writer

Early on the morning of March 17, Prof. Thomas Riha's briefcase stood open amid books and papers scattered on his desk in his study at the University of Colorado.

This was unusual, for Riha was known as an orderly and organized man, one who didn't leave things at loose ends.

But unusual things were occurring in the life of Riha, 40, a respected professor of Russian history at CU.

The most unusual of these was that he was disappearing — dropping out of sight from his home, his university, his friends and his relatives.

Did he do this by his own choosing? Did he want to disappear?

Or, did something else happen to Riha?

Is he dead? Alive? If he is alive, where is he? What is he doing?

Mystery buffs would believe that when a university professor disappears, police would struggle for an answer to the riddle. But if police have struggled, there is little evidence of it in the strange case of Riha.

VAGUE ANSWERS

A Denver Post reporter received vague answers from officers. There is talk of other agencies — unidentified — reporting Riha to be "alive and well" — somewhere.

But which agencies? No one will say.

Earlier on that strange March morning — a Monday — Prof. Robert Skotheim, who shared the CU study with Riha, received a telephone call from a woman in Denver. She wanted to remind Riha about an important appointment he had that day with the U.S. Immigration Service in Denver.

Skotheim placed a memo to this effect on Riha's desk and left to meet his classes.

At noon, Riha failed to attend a scheduled faculty meeting.

Later that afternoon, a woman telephoned, telling a secretary she wanted to pick up Riha's briefcase because the professor had been taken to a hospital after being injured in a fall.

NEVER APPEARED

The woman never appeared. No hospital record for Riha has been found.

The concern for Riha really began building when he failed to meet his classes at CU on Tuesday, March 18. A worried CU staff member notified Mrs. Riha's attorney, who contacted Boulder police.

Officers examined the grounds and peered through the windows of the modest Riha house at 1555 6th St. in Boulder, where Riha had been living alone since his estranged wife moved to a Boulder hotel more than a week before. Police talked to neighbors and, evidently finding nothing amiss, soon left.

By the end of that week, there still was no information on Riha's whereabouts. But the title to his car had been assigned to a Denver couple. And a Boulder real estate firm had received a letter authorizing Riha's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny of Denver, to sell the Riha home. On both documents was the signature, Thomas Riha, noted in Denver.

At this same time, some of Riha's art works, appraised at \$19,605, known to have been in his house the previous week, rested in a workroom at the Denver Art Museum and were recorded officially as a gift to the museum from a Denver woman.

In the next two months, most of Riha's household possessions and the books and papers in his office had been transferred to a house in Denver. His home in Boulder had been sold. Letters and checks appeared, signed Thomas Riha. His credit card was used for the purchase of several thousand dollars in merchandise in the Denver area.

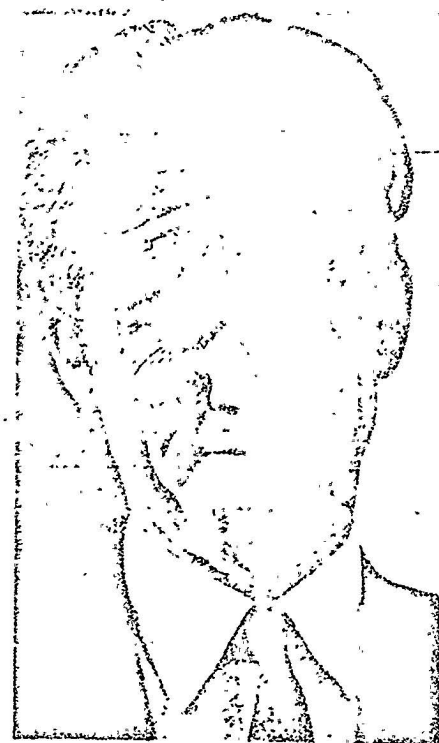
One of the typed letters, dated March 30 and signed with Riha's name, was postmarked April 8 at Montreal, Quebec. The letter was sent to a Boulder insurance agency, requesting cancellation of an insurance policy on Riha's Volkswagen which the writer said had been sold.

But were the signatures really those of Riha?

PROPERTY QUESTION

It's the handling of Riha's property, including the works of art, that particularly bothers the professor's friends and relatives, including his mother in Germany. They claim he wouldn't give up some of his possessions, that they were too dear to him.

On Sept. 30, Riha was divorced from his wife, Hana, on her counterclaim of cruelty. Riha wasn't in court. Before the divorce was granted, Riha's attorney questioned the authenticity of letters he had been receiving with Riha's signature. The lawyer urged a court clarification of the attorney's responsibilities toward Riha so that the professor's legal rights wouldn't be "permanently and unjustly sacrificed."



THOMAS RIHA, PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN HISTORY
"We've been told not to worry," Boulder officer says.

Riha met Hana Hrušková 24, in New York City shortly before he took a group of professors on a tour of Russia in the summer of 1968. On his return to the United States later that summer, Riha again saw Hana, in this country on a student visa from her homeland in Czechoslovakia. Riha, then 39, also was of Czech origin, becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen and receiving his university education in this country.

On Oct. 13, 1968, Hana and Thomas were married in a late afternoon ceremony at the Unitarian Church in Boulder. At a wedding reception that evening at the Black Bear Inn in Lyons, Colo., Thomas obviously was overjoyed. Crossing his arms and clasping them at the elbow as if rocking a cradle, he went around the room calling out exuberantly that the marriage was "for all life."

Among the reception guests was a Denver woman — referred to later by Riha as "Colonel" — with whom Riha discussed at length the bringing of his nephew, Cerveny, to this country. Cerveny then was in Vienna after fleeing from Prague in Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia.

ADMITTED TO U.S.

About a month later, Cerveny was admitted on temporary status to the United States as a Czech refugee, through arrangements which Cerveny said were entirely normal and routine.

Riha's plans for a marriage "for all life" didn't take root. Shattering for him and his wife were events at their home early on the morning of March 9.

At about 12:30 a.m., guests were leaving a party at the home of CU Professor Richard and Mrs. Wilson, next door to the Rihas. One of the guests, Professor Robert Hanson, saw Mrs. Riha standing at a first-floor window in her home, flailing her arms and crying for help.

Snow was still on the ground as Hanson raced to the Riha house and pulled Mrs. Riha out the window. A strong odor of what he thought was chloroform clung heavily to Mrs. Riha.

With the aid of Wilson, Hanson took the distraught woman to the Wilson home.

POLICE ARRIVE

A Boulder police car soon pulled up to the Riha house, with Patrolmen Douglas J. Dorsey and Dale Stange, who said police had been called by another woman in the Riha house.

In their official report, the officers gave this version of events:

The woman met them in front of the Riha house and told them Mrs. Riha had locked herself in her bedroom, from which ether fumes were coming. When she and Riha threatened to break the bedroom door, the woman said, Mrs. Riha went to the window and started screaming.

In her conversation, the officers said, the woman tried to give the impression she was in the Riha house that night as a person in an official capacity and had something to do with the immigration authorities in Denver. But she couldn't produce any identification.

Further, she told police Mrs. Riha wasn't a U.S. citizen, that her visa expired and that the immigration authorities in Denver had been called.

Asked for her identification, the woman said it was in her car parked outside the Riha house. But she could produce only an Illinois driver's license.

At the Wilson home, the officers found Mrs. Riha "in an evident traumatic state."

After talking with Mrs. Riha, the officers returned to her home, where they found a jar of ether and several ether-soaked gauze pads in the bedroovers in her bedroom. These items later were turned over to her Boulder attorney, Gerald Caplan.

"Having investigated this matter for over an hour and finding no evidence of foul play," the officers said in their report, "we advised Mrs. Riha to return home, but assured her she did not have to."

A police check that same morning with the National Crime Information Center indicated Mrs. Riha wasn't among persons in the United States illegally, the officers said.

This was the substance of the officers' report, according to Police Capt. Willard Spier of Boulder, who declined to permit a Post reporter to examine the report. He relayed verbally only those parts of the report he considered pertinent, saying the rest consisted of "personal comments of the officers."

ODOR STRONG

The odor of ether clinging to Mrs. Riha was so strong that windows in the Wilson house had to be opened, Mrs. Wilson recalled.

And Mrs. Wilson spoke of angry voices rising in the entryway to her home as her husband confronted Riha who was demanding that his wife be sent back to his home.

Riha's voice was "angry, beligerent and frightened" as he told Wilson that the woman who had called police was an intelligence agent of the U.S. Army, that she was armed and the Wilsons were in danger if they didn't return his wife, Mrs. Wilson said. Wilson firmly refused this demand, ordering Riha out of his house shortly before police arrived.

In a 2 a.m. emergency telephone call made at the Wilson home, Mrs. Riha talked that morning with David Regosin, a longtime friend and attorney in New York City.

Apparently terrified, Mrs. Riha took from her purse Regosin's business card and pleaded for someone to call him.

The call was made, with Mrs. Riha sobbing as she told Regosin what had happened. Also talking with Regosin during the half-hour conversation were Wilson, Hanson and Patrolman Dorsey. After the call was completed, police left Mrs. Riha in the custody of the Hansons, who took her briefly to the Riha home to get some of her clothes. They then accompanied her to the Boulderado Hotel, where she stayed until she left Boulder with her aunt April 5 for New York City.

VISA NOT INVOLVED

Recalling this morning of the night telephone conversation, Regosin said the trouble at the Riha home that night "had nothing to do with Mrs. Riha's visa status."

"There was nothing urgent about her status, nothing pressing, no imminent deportation," Regosin said.

Regosin said he was told by Mrs. Riha during the telephone call that night that she had gone to bed and began to sense a "strange odor. As it became stronger, she became very upset and started screaming, thinking she was being overcome by some chemical."

In New York City, where she is employed at a bank, Mrs. Riha said recently that the ether in her room came from the vents or under the bedroom door.

Her husband's later disappearance was "something unusual," Mrs. Riha said. "He left his shaving stuff, his writing stuff, even his suit(s). I've not heard from him at all, from the time he disappeared."

Aroused from sleep by a telephone call on the night of the disturbance at the Riha home was John L. Todd, district director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Denver.

The call concerned the disturbance, Todd said in a recent interview.

"I don't recall who it came from and what was said . . . The caller was informed that appropriate inquiries would be made."

CALLED NEPHEW

On the night of March 13, Riha was in Denver and telephoned his nephew to come and see him. Cerveny, Riha's nephew, said, This was the last time he saw his uncle, Cerveny said.

On the night of Sunday, March 16, Cerveny said, a Denver woman telephoned him and said Riha was gone and didn't have a chance to talk to him. Cerveny was told he would be hearing from Riha and would get his uncle's power of attorney. He also said he was advised to say that he knew where his uncle had gone and the Riha's leaving stemmed from his impending divorce.

SIGNATURE IN DOUBT

The signature, Thomas Riha, appears on at least three documents witnessed in Denver by two notaries public after his disappearance. Shown a set of six photographs, among which was a recent photo of Riha, the notaries couldn't pick out Riha as the person who signed the papers.

Received in Boulder and Denver after Riha's disappearance, letters signed with his name contain glaring misspellings, some awkward grammatical expressions and an inaccurate address for his home. A letter written in Czech to his nephew doesn't observe the niceties of Riha's native speech, Cerveny said.

'PERFECTIONIST'

Riha's colleagues at CU and his close friends describe the professor as a perfectionist in all things — including his writing and speaking. Riha was the author of several scholarly books and learned treatises, and was aware of the nuances of his native tongue, as well as those of English, Russian, German and French, each of which he spoke fluently.

Despite these many perplexing situations, officialdom seems not too interested in finding out what happened to Riha — grinding out vague assurances of his safety or denials of any knowledge of the man.

Nearly a month after Riha disappeared, Dr. Joseph Smiley, then president of CU, said he contacted "reliable sources" in Washington and was told that Riha was safe, but was unable to learn where the professor was or the circumstances of his disappearance.

This past week, a CU spokesman said there's been no further inquiry about Riha at the level of the university administration.

In Boulder, Captain Spier says:

"My understanding is that Riha disappeared of his own accord—or had to—and there is no use wasting time looking for him just as a missing person. There's no suspicion of foul play any place."

But police Lt. Ralph Ruzicka says in Boulder: "We've been told (by 'an agency') not to worry. But when we talk to Riha's friends and associates and hear the facts, they don't stand up logically, and we get worried again."

He declined to identify the agency which provided the assurance about Riha.

Until Cerveny filed a missing persons report on his uncle Oct. 23, the Boulder police had nothing official on the Riha disappearance in their files, Ruzicka said.

However, Miss Joyce Lebra, an associate professor of history at CU, says that about 1½ weeks after Riha disappeared, she and four CU professors gave information about Riha to Boulder Patrolman Donald Alpa, who filled out a form at the Lebra home. Miss Lebra said she has heard nothing from Boulder police after making this report.

Cerveny says Denver Detective Phillip Villalobos told him he has been informed that "responsible persons" have said Riha is all right and that the Denver Police Department isn't able to proceed with the search for Riha.

Denver police, Detective Mike Allegretto says, encouraged Cerveny to file a missing persons complaint on Riha Oct. 23 with Boulder police.

"The next day," Allegretto said, "Boulder police told us that the FBI told them to forget about Riha, because they knew where he was and that he was alive and well."

FBI POSITION

But the FBI here insists it hasn't jurisdiction in the case. This was determined when two inquiries were made as the result of anonymous phone calls received here by the FBI April 3 and again in September. John F. Morley, assistant agent in charge, says.

Inquiries made by the FBI, Morley said, were based on the fact that a man had been reported missing "under unusual circumstances."

"We've placed no restrictions on any other investigative agencies in the area to determine if there is any violation over which they may have local investigative jurisdiction (in the Riha case)," Morley said.

"We know nothing about him (Riha)," a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spokesman in Denver said. "As far as we know, Riha left voluntarily. We have nothing to do with the man. He has no contact with our agency."

However, CIA Professor Stephen Fischer-Galati reported he was told by the CIA early last April that Riha was safe and had left voluntarily. Fischer-Galati also said he wrote the U.S. Justice Department April 7 and was told "the matter has been referred to proper government authorities."

NO REPLY

He has received no reply to a Dec. 6 letter, directed to the same department, Fischer-Galati said.

Also disclaiming any knowledge of the Riha case is Todd, of the immigration service (INS) here.

"I know nothing about Riha," Todd said.

But a close friend of Riha's says he contacted the INS twice about Riha—once in May or June, when he was told that Riha was alive; and the second time in the fall, when he asked whether Riha still were alive and there was no answer. At this time, Riha's friend said, he was told by the INS "not to be interested" in the Riha case.

U.S. Army Military Intelligence "has never been officially involved in the Riha case," said Col. Lynn Fritchman, commanding officer, U.S. Army Regiment 4, Military Intelligence Group in Denver.

Riha's friends don't know what to believe—hoping the vague assurances they have received are valid and that Riha is alive and well. But they don't know.

MOTHER WRITES

Many of them came to this country from totalitarian tyrannies in Europe, and they ask: "How can it happen, especially in this country, that a man can disappear and nothing can be known about him for almost a year?"

From Germany early this month came a letter written to the FBI in Denver by Riha's

mother, Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, seeking information about her son. The letter was directed personally to Scott Werner, FBI agent in charge here. She hasn't heard from her son.

As they spoke warmly of Riha just recently, his close friends — many of them refugees from Europe — seemed to be trying to build with words the image of the man they wanted to see again:

"Riha felt positively more an American . . . as a Czech. He has quite bitter memory as a youth of the German occupation (during World War II). Riha probably developed a deep sympathy for the Russian liberators. But he missed the part when the Communists take over because he had come to make his home in the U.S. by this time).

"So simple a man, he could fit any place.

"He was very illusionary . . . an idealistic dreamer . . . a liberal-thinking man. But I deny he was a sympathizer of communism. He was a man who adored everything that was traditionally rational.

"Riha was a very reliable man. You could build a cathedral on his word."

Another friend said of Riha:

"He was an extremely open man. He made the impression of an absolutely free man . . . not scared of anything. He had made it in life. He was a top professor in his line . . . healthy . . . a fantastic cook. His art pieces were valued in the thousands. He had a big library. He was a charming man. "Riha was a nihilist, an atheist who just yearned for some kind of . . ."

Riha's friend paused, considered, and then quite simply, added the one word, "God."

11 45 AM
12/31/69

Robert J. Lansing
Deputy Chief
Gen. Don W. Brown's Office
180-2161

Denver Post

Story - 12/28

Mysterious disappearance

of a Czech citizen

Prof Thomas Rika
Boulder Colo

Prof of Russian History
at Univ of Colorado

Lived in Boulder 2 1/2 yrs
- disappeared last week
- former of Univ of Chicago
(GVR)

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

105-78256

File shows we
have conducted no
invest of his
disappearance because
no indication of
violation of Fed
law in our jurisdiction

Tansing advised
JC Pon 12/31/69

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop *T.B.*

FROM : M. A. Jones *A. Jones*

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(SINO-SATELLITE)

DATE: 1/15/70

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Rememo of 1/13/70 from Mr. Gray to Mr. Sullivan wherein it was recommended and approved that Crime Records Division orally advised Congressman Donald G. Brotzman (R-Colorado) that we have conducted no investigation regarding subject's disappearance and have no knowledge of his whereabouts.

Robert Tonsing, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Brotzman, was furnished this information orally on 1/14/70 by Inspector Bowers in the Congressman's absence. Mr. Tonsing was most appreciative of our prompt handling of the matter and asked if we would send the Congressman a letter confirming this information. Enclosed is an appropriate letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the enclosed letter be sent. ✓

Enclosure *sent 1-15-70*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Gray - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt - Enclosure
- 1 - M. A. Jones - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bowers - Enclosure

DWB:mjl

- (9) This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

58 FEB 5 1970

January 15, 1970

Honorable Donald G. Brotzman
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

This will confirm information orally furnished on January 14th to your Administrative Assistant, Mr. Robert Tensing, by my representative in response to your letter of January 8th which was referred to this Bureau for handling by the Attorney General.

The FBI has conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance of Dr. Thomas Riha since there is no indication of violation of any Federal law within our jurisdiction. We have no knowledge concerning Dr. Riha's whereabouts.

The Denver FBI Field Office has been in contact with Dr. Riha's mother and offered to place a missing person notice concerning her son in the files of our Identification Division. This offer was declined.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

- 1 - Denver Field Office
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Bishop (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Gray (detached)

- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt (detached)
- 1 - M. A. Jones (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Bowers (detached)

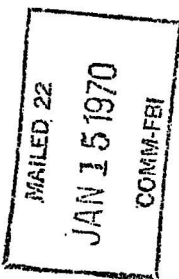
REC-94

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo dated 1/15/70, captioned "Thomas Riha, Information Concerning, (Sino-Satellite)."

DWB:mjl
(10)

JAN 29 1970

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.



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Loach _____
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

DATE: 1/15/70

FROM : SAC, DENVER (105-4151)(C)

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA, aka.
IS - CZ

Re Denver letter to the Bureau, dated 12/29/69.

Enclosed herewith is a letter of acknowledgement to subject's mother, Dr. RUTH ANN COOK; to acknowledge her letter of 1/11/70.

Also enclosed are 5 copies of an LHM, which sets out Mrs. COOK's letter to the Denver Office of the FBI and in which she mentions her son's work with CIA.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

- ② Bureau (Enc. 6)(RM)
2 - Denver (1 - 105-4151)
(1 - 47-3190)(TANNENBAUM)

LDN/lld
(4)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

cc of NEW LHM to and RPD
AGENCY State, CIB, DTP (by Liaison)
REQ. 3500
DATE FORW 1-28-70
HOW FORW. 0-141, 0-14E, 5-137, 0-6
BY JWR/leip

REC-6

JAN 19 1970

(2cc's of new LHM)

Copy to DENVER
by routing slip for
☒ info ☐ action
date 1-28-70

by JWR/leip Remarks: Enclosed
are 2 copies of LHM prepared at
the Bureau on captioned
matter.

SINO-SATELLITE

FEB 10 1970

U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
January 15, 1970

THOMAS RIHA
Also Known As
Thomas Andrew Charles Riha

The following letter dated December 29, 1969, was sent by the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook. This communication acknowledged the receipt of her letter dated December 5, 1969, received by the Denver Office on December 10, 1969, concerning the disappearance of her son Thomas Riha.

Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook
Casa Lido
Brissago, Ticino CH-6614, Switzerland

Dear Mrs. Cook:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated December 5, 1969 concerning the disappearance of your son Thomas Riha.

Please be advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction in matters of this nature and we are not able to conduct an active investigation concerning your son's disappearance.

At your request we will place a Missing Persons Notice with our Identification Division in Washington, D. C. If you desire us to do this, please advise.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT J. WERNER
Special Agent in Charge

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. It is not to be used in any way by your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

14-7-6-16
ENCLOSURE

Thomas Riha

On January 13, 1970, the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation received a letter from Dr. Ruth Ann Cook, 6232 Neuenhain/Taunus, Sophienruhe 14, Deutschland, dated January 11, 1970, and addressed to Mr. Scott J. Werner, Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This letter states as follows:

"Frankfurt - (Illegible)
"General Hospital
"Jan. 11th 1970

"Dr. Ruth Ann COOK
"6232 Neuenhain/Taunus
"Sophienruhe 14
"Deutschland

"Dear Mr. Werner,

"Thank you so much for your kind reply of Dec. 29th to my letter concerning T. Riha's disappearance.

"Thank you also for your offer of placing a Missing Persons Notice in Washington D. C. for me.

"My sole concern is of course for my son's safety and well being - but in view of the information which has reached me recently on rumors of my son's CIA work and some strange happenings at his home in March 1969 I do not know whether it is in his best interest that I should request such a Notice.

"I am very sick, Mr. Werner with double pleurisy and have lost-since I wrote you-due to my sickness one eye sight - having only barely recovered after cancer.

"I wish I could talk to you and ask your advice - in this grievous matter.

"Perhaps when I recover shall I come to Denver to seek your counsel.

"Thank you once more

"/s/ Ruth Ann Cook.

Thomas Riha

On January 15, 1970, the following communication was sent by Scott J. Werner, Special Agent in Charge, Denver Office, FBI, to Dr. Ruth Ann Cook in response to the above letter:

~~X~~
Dr. Ruth Ann Cook
6232 Neuenhain/Taunus
Sophienruhe 14
Deutschland

Dear Mrs. Cook:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 11, 1970.

Pursuant to the request in your letter I will not place a stop notice with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Identification Division in Washington, D. C., concerning your son Thomas Riha.

The FBI is not permitted to provide counsel to individuals regarding their problems and I would suggest if you feel you need legal advice that you contact an attorney for such advice.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT J. WERNER,
Special Agent in Charge.

PROPERTY OF THE FBI

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.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WOMAN CASUAL ABOUT MYSTERY

Missing CU Professor to Return This Month, Denverite Claims

By FRED GILLIES
Denver Post Staff Writer

friend of the Czechoslovakian-born professor.

"She sat across from her attorney in his downtown Denver office and spoke in an offhand manner.

"Tom (Riha) will be here sometime in January," she said.

It seemed very matter-of-fact, even casual. And yet the Denver woman's remark came during the interview like a fitful wind roiling the heavy air of mystery which for 10 months has surrounded the disappearance of Thomas Riha, professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado.

Riha vanished March 17, leaving no trail except what can be found in letters and documents which have been appearing from time to time. The authenticity of many of these papers has been questioned by his attorneys.

Reports Conflict

Riha's house, his car and his art works have been disposed of, with what his friends call "untimely haste." Federal agencies apparently have issued conflicting reports, at times saying they know nothing about Riha, and at other times indicating they have knowledge of his whereabouts.

Denver and Boulder police say they have been assured by federal agencies that Riha is "alive and well." But they decline to identify the agencies.

The Denver woman, who has predicted Riha's return here, apparently is the only person in the Denver-Boulder area who has said she has heard from and seen Riha since he was officially declared missing under what the FBI here acknowledges were "unusual circumstances."

"Tom (Riha) will write or call me (before he comes to Denver this month)," said Mrs. Catherine Tannenbaum, 248 Logan St., who described herself as a longtime

Draw Blank

She said Riha is in Montreal, Quebec, but she has no address for him. Riha has made all contacts with her and she doesn't contact him directly, she added.

Canadian immigration officials in Denver said this week they were unable, through their extensive contacts, to locate Riha in Montreal or any part of Canada.

Montreal telephone information said there's no phone number listed there for Thomas Riha. And officials at the University of Montreal say they have no knowledge of Riha.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said Riha was in Denver late in May and again last summer, staying each time for only a day or two.

The professor, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, came to her door at 2 a.m. one day in May with his flight bag in his hand. During his visits in May and late last summer, she said, Riha didn't contact anyone else, including his close friends or his nephew, Zdenek Cervený.

Riha had acted as a sponsor when Cervený came from Vienna to Boulder in November 1968, as a refugee from Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia.

'To See Attorney'

Mrs. Tannenbaum said Riha will be coming to Denver this month, mainly to assist her in personal matters and to see the Boulder attorney involved in his divorce.

Riha's visit here also will serve to clear up "all this innuendo," said Mrs. Tannenbaum, alluding to what she said were implications in the news media that Riha might no longer be alive and might be a victim of foul play.

With a wave of her hand, Mrs. Tannenbaum said she knows nothing of Riha's

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

45 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1-18-70

Edition: Home

Author: Fred Gillies

Editor: Palmer Hoyt

Title:

Thomas Riha

Character:

or

Classification: 105-4151

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

activities in Montreal.

"I don't know what he's doing; I never asked him," she said. She added, however, that the professor must have some means of support because "he has money for plane tickets."

'A Perfectionist'

When it was mentioned that Riha's friends had described him as a perfectionist, Mrs. Tannenbaum smiled and responded quickly:

Yes, she said, Riha was a perfectionist—in his leaving Boulder. Then she threw back her head and laughed with her whole being.

Riha left Boulder, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, "because things were pressing in on him"—at the university and at his home, where he was living apart from his wife during divorce proceedings.

Early in the interview, Mrs. Tannenbaum disclaimed any knowledge of how Riha left Boulder—whether by car, train or plane. Later, she said, without elaboration, that she picked up Riha's car at the Stapleton International Airport after Riha left Boulder. Title to the car was transferred April 1 to a Denver public school official and his wife. The notarized signature, Thomas Riha, was on the title assignment.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said she has known Riha since 1947, when her former husband, who was then in the U.S. Army, helped bring Riha from Europe to the United States. She also said she knew Riha in Chicago, where Riha was on the faculty at the University of Chicago from 1960 to 1967, when he came to CU.

Even as Mrs. Tannenbaum was predicting that Riha would be appearing in Denver, there were developments suggesting that Riha had had no intention of leaving his Boulder home suddenly.

Calendar Notes

Found among Riha's papers was his calendar pad. Notations in the two weeks before Riha disappeared include reminders to write for tax forms and the time and place of appointments and dinner engagements. These entries, many of them made in advance of the event, continue through April 25. One of these entries, on March 11, reads, "dinner Colonel." Riha had been known to refer to Mrs. Tannenbaum as colonel.

After examining these entries, friends and colleagues of Riha say the notations are very matter-of-fact and hardly appear to be those of a man who is contemplating a sudden departure from his home

Also adding an air of mystery to Riha's sudden departure was the discovery of a place setting on his kitchen table—a cereal bowl, other dishes and silverware, apparently set there for a breakfast he never had.

Friends of Riha saw this unused place setting, when they came to the Riha home March 16 and peered through the kitchen window, after Riha failed to pick them up that day for a dinner engagement in Littleton.

Seen by Others

The place setting also was observed, the same day, by other friends who stopped at the Riha house and got no response when they knocked at the door.

Close friends of the professor say it was his custom, since he'd been living alone, to set his place for breakfast the night before.

Could the place setting have been there on Saturday, March 15, when friends phoned Riha repeatedly, beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing throughout the day, and got no answer? On the same day, Riha failed to attend a meeting of history professors in Denver—which he had noted on his calendar pad.

Denver and Boulder law enforcement authorities are examining documents involved in the transfer of Riha's house, his car and art works.

New Documents

New documents and letters are turning up with misspellings and awkward grammatical expressions, similar to those found in other letters, signed Thomas Riha or with other names.

Checks signed with Riha's name and purchases made with his credit card after he disappeared also are being scrutinized.

Notaries public who certified the Thomas Riha signature on some of these documents have been shown a set of six photographs, including one of Riha. But they haven't been able to pick out Riha as the man who signed the documents.

Another Denver notary public who certified one of the Riha signatures said he was most anxious to talk with a Denver Post reporter about the Riha situation. But the notary failed to keep his appointment with the reporter. When contacted later, the notary reversed his position, saying he had "nothing to offer." It was this notary who made the certification on Riha's power of attorney, conveyed in a letter to a Boulder attorney last August.

Extensive Probe

Denver Dist. Atty. Mike McKeivitt and his staff recently entered the investigation, saying an "extensive" probe is under way. These efforts are being coordinated with stepped-up probes of the Denver and Boulder police departments and the Boulder district attorney.

Last week, McKeivitt said he's been told by the Denver police—who he said received their information from "two national sources"—that Riha is alive. McKeivitt declined to name the national sources.

At the request of The Denver Post, inquiries about Riha have been made at the federal level by U. S. Rep. Donald G. Brotzman, R-Colo.

'No Request'

The FBI in Washington told the congressman it hasn't, and won't, conduct an investigation into Riha's disappearance, unless someone comes forward to indicate that a federal offense is likely to be involved.

FBI officials in Denver echo this statement. They also decline to say if Scott Werner, special agent in charge here, has received a letter known to be have been sent to him by Riha's mother in Germany, seeking information about her son.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) informed Brotzman that it thinks the FBI might have some knowledge of Riha's whereabouts. But the CIA spokesman noted that the agency has verified that Riha's disappearance doesn't have international implications and was "a domestic matter, in terms of the United States."

The U. S. Army Intelligence Command denies any knowledge or involvement in the Riha case.

'Alive and Well'

But then there are conflicting reports from persons of high integrity in the Boulder and Denver communities. These

persons say they contacted the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, FBI, CIA and "reliable sources" in Washington last spring and early last summer and were told that Riha was "alive and well."

In the light of these conflicting reports, John N. Mitchell, U. S. attorney general, has asked the FBI to take another look at the Riha situation.

"It seems to me," Brotzman wrote in part to Mitchell, "that the interest of the nation in general, and the credibility of the

FBI in particular, is not well served by the proliferation of a belief that Prof. Riha is the victim of some kind of international intrigue, if such is not the case."

Eerie Prologue

Setting an eerie prologue for Riha's disappearance were events at his home early on the Sunday morning of March 9, about a week before he was declared missing.

Emerging from the Boulder police report of the disturbance—only parts of which have been made available to The Denver Post—are these highlights:

—Mrs. Hana Riha, then the professor's wife, was pulled out of the bedroom window of her home by neighbors as a strong odor of ether clung to her and she was screaming for help.

—Police were called to the Riha home by Mrs. Tannenbaum, who police said was in the house with Riha at the time of the incident.

—Mrs. Tannenbaum met police in front of the Riha house and told them Mrs. Riha had locked herself in the bedroom, from which ether fumes were coming.

'Screamed'

—When she and Riha threatened to break the bedroom door, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, Mrs. Riha went to the window and started screaming.

—Mrs. Tannenbaum told police Mrs. Riha wasn't a U.S. citizen, her visa had expired and the immigration authorities had been called.

—Mrs. Riha was "in an evident traumatic state" at the neighbors' home where she had been taken.

—A jar of ether and several ether-soaked gauze pads found by police in

the bedcovers in Mrs. Riha's bedroom were later turned over to her Boulder attorney.

At one point, Riha was rebuffed by neighbors, sheltering his wife, when he demanded she be returned to his home.

Just recently, a New York City attorney and longtime friend of Mrs. Riha, said in a telephone conversation from New York, "There was nothing urgent about Mrs. Riha's visa status that night, nothing pressing, no imminent deportation."

It was this attorney whom Mrs. Riha telephoned the night of the disturbance, pleading for his assistance as she sobbed out her story.

From New York City, where she's employed in a bank, Mrs. Riha said recently that the ether in her room came from the vents or under the bedroom door. She said she began screaming when she feared she'd be overcome.

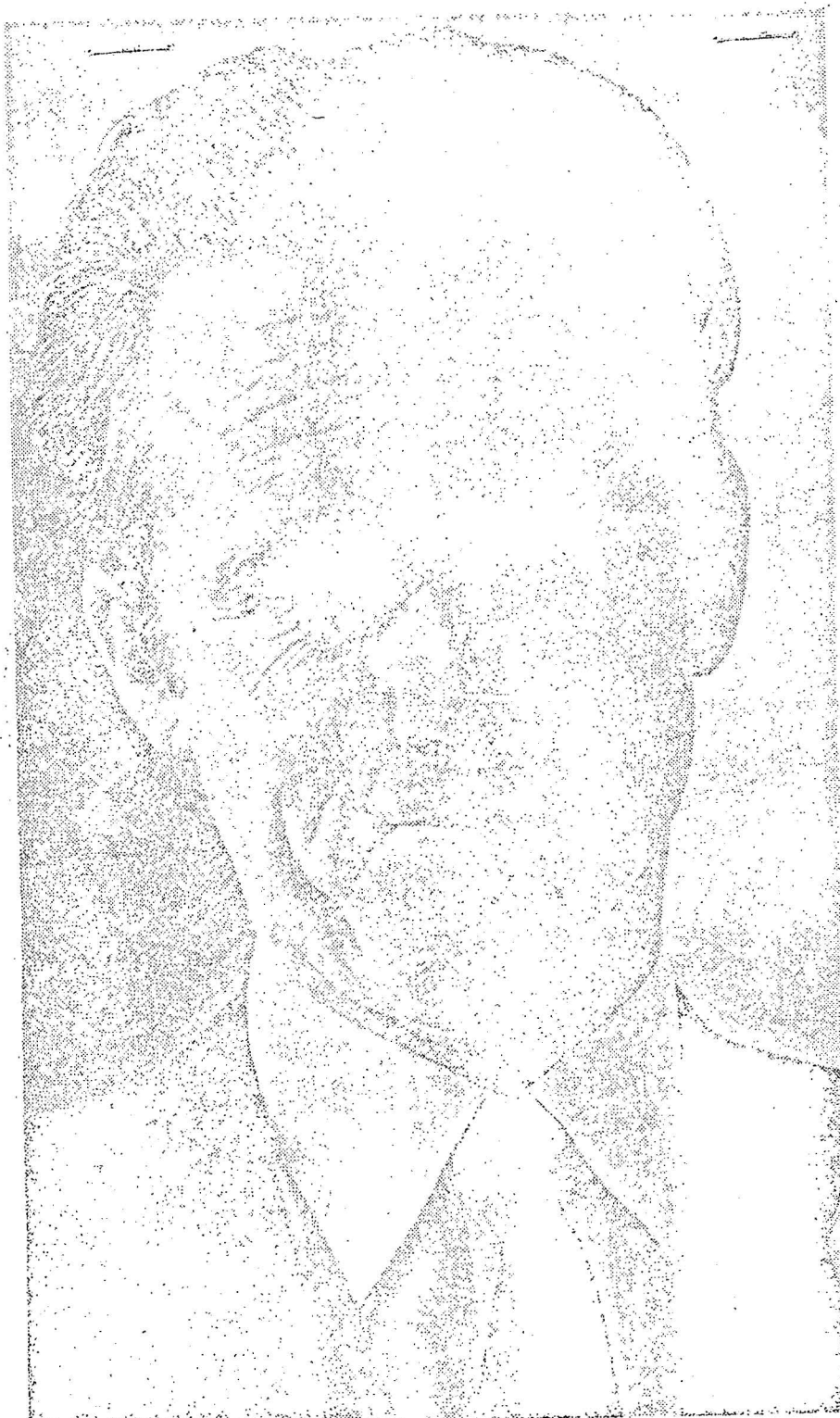
'Unusual'

She said her husband's later disappearance was "something unusual," noting that "he left all his shaving stuff, his writing stuff, even his suit (s)."

The search for Riha — spanning the nation, reaching to Canada and thrusting into Europe — seems never-ending. One lead seems to spawn several others and much of the information ends up at what law authorities and interested persons term in their frustration "a blank wall."

Mrs. Tannenbaum has said the end of the search will come here in Denver this month.

There are many persons—law-enforcement officials, Riha's friends and colleagues — who hope Riha will indeed appear here.



THOMAS RINA, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO RUSSIAN HISTORY PROFESSOR
His return will serve to clear up "all this innuendo," his friend said.

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____

Professor Vanishes at the University of Colorado

BY ANTHONY RIPLEY

Special to The New York Times

BOULDER, Colo., Jan. 18 —

A Czech-born associate professor of modern Russian history, has disappeared from the University of Colorado campus.

Thomas Riha, 40 years old, was last seen nine months ago. He left the university abruptly, apparently took nothing with him and left a mysterious trail.

While friends and fellow faculty members fear that Professor Riha may be dead, police officials in Boulder and Denver and the former president of the university, Dr. Joseph Smiley, all insist he is alive.

They say they have spoken to responsible persons in the Federal Government who have assured them of the professor's safety. They refused to say, either publicly or privately, who their sources were.

In Washington, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department all deny knowing anything about the case and suggest it may be a local police matter.

Professor Riha, born in Prague, came to the United States in 1947. He became a naturalized citizen, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1962 he received a doctorate from Harvard University.

He taught at the University of Chicago and at Marburg University, in West Germany, before moving to the University of Colorado in 1967.

Disappeared Suddenly

Professor Riha disappeared so suddenly that, though normally a neat and precise man, he left personal papers scattered on his university desk where he had been preparing his income tax.

Only one person has maintained that he has been seen since his disappearance the weekend of March 15-16. That is Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum of Denver, an ex-convict who says she has spoken to him and that he is in Montreal.

A number of letters and credit cards signed "Thomas Riha" have turned up, and much of his personal property has been sold or given away.

Prof. Thomas Riha

Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum

Professor Riha's lawyer, Richard E. Hopkins, of Boulder, says he is suspicious of the signatures and the letters.

Though Mr. Hopkins has received letters signed by "Thomas Riha," he said, "I simply don't know whether I've heard from him."

Dr. Smiley, now president of the University of Texas at El Paso, said he was assured of the professor's safety "by what I consider reliable sources" in Washington.

"I repeat my real regret that I can't go beyond what I have said," he said in a telephone interview. "A confidence is still a confidence."

Professor Riha's former wife lives in Brooklyn. The former Hana Hruskova was also born in Czechoslovakia and is 15 years younger than the professor.

At the time of his disappearance she had been gone from their home for a week after a stormy scene in which a neighbor said she fled to him, with her clothes smelling

of ether, shouting she was afraid acquaintances were trying to kill her.

At the time Professor Riha had already filed divorce papers to end their five-month marriage.

Judgment Still Unpaid

Following his disappearance, Mrs. Riha filed a counter-suit. She won it on Sept. 30 and received a \$5,000 judgment.

Her husband did not appear in court, and the judgment is still unpaid.

The professor's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny, of Lyons, Colo., came to the United States from Czechoslovakia following the Russian invasion in 1933.

Following his uncle's disappearance, Mr. Cerveny said Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum of Denver, whom he had met through Professor Riha, called him and said that the professor would not be back. He said she asked them to dispose of his personal effects.

In the following weeks the professor's car and house were sold and his furniture and papers transferred to Mrs. Tannenbaum's house in Denver. She turned over \$10,000 worth of his small art collection to the Denver Art Museum.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, who spent more than two years in the State Penitentiary at Dwight, Ill., after pleading guilty to forgery and embezzlement in 1959, presented Mr. Cerveny with two pistols and said she was a brigadier general in military intelligence.

She is now awaiting trial Feb. 9 in Denver District Court on charges of forging a will following the death of Gustav Ingwersen, 78, a friend who died of potassium cyanide poisoning Jan. 10.

The will was witnessed by Mr. Cerveny, who later repudiated it in Denver probate court.

Another friend of Mrs. Tannenbaum's, Mrs. Barbara Egbert, 51, died Sept. 13 of sodium cyanide poisoning.

Both deaths are listed as suspicious by the Denver police and are under investigation.

The Washington Post Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times P. 27
 The Sun (Baltimore) 1
 The Daily World _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

Date 1/22/70
1/22/70
 NOT RECORDED

JAN 29 1970

51

47

1 - Mr. A. W. Gray
1 - Mr. J. W. Redfield

SAC, Denver (105-4151)

1/19/70

Director, FBI (105-78253)

THOMAS REINA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

Congressman Donald G. Ertzman, Colorado, addressed a letter dated 1/8/70 to the Attorney General (AG) requesting information from him concerning the disappearance of subject. Enclosed is one copy each of the Congressman's letter and Bureau letter to the AG dated 1/14/70 for your information.

Also enclosed for your information is one copy each of [redacted] dated 4/21/59 and 6/2/59; Dulets to WFO 5/12/60 and to Boston 5/25/60, Boston letter to the Director dated 6/30/60; Boston report dated 8/31/60, all pertaining to subject. The above are being furnished for the completion of your file.

On 1/12/70 [redacted] that the subject is not of operational interest to that Agency. With regard to the subject's disappearance, [redacted] advised it did receive a report which could be characterized as a rumor, that the subject was experiencing marital difficulties and had left his wife. The Agency does not have any information concerning subject's present whereabouts.

In subsequent communications concerning this matter you should delete the character of IS - CZ and use the character of this letter.

Unless additional pertinent information is developed, no investigation need be conducted by your office. If additional pertinent information is received concerning this matter, it should promptly be furnished to the Bureau by LHM.

Enclosures - 3

REC-62

19 JAN 19 1970

JWR:sef

(5)

NOTE:

MAILED 3

JAN 16 1970

COMM-FBI

Subject, a professor at the University of Colorado, disappeared in March, 1939, it first being reported to us in April, 1939. Bufiles disclosed that at one time subject

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE TWO

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Walters _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

57 JAN 24 1970
NW 55100 DocId:32989553 Page 63

Letter to SAC, Denver
RE: THOMAS RIHA
105-78256

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

NOTE CONTINUED:

was of some interest to CIA. On 4/15/69, [redacted] that subject had not left the U.S. and had been having difficulty with his wife and "ran away from her." CIA advised the story or rumor indicating subject may have gone to CZ was without foundation. In 12/69 Denver received a letter from subject's mother requesting information concerning subject's disappearance. Denver replied this was a matter not within the jurisdiction of the Bureau; however, offered if she so desired to place his name on the Bureau's missing persons list. Subject's mother replied to our Denver Office on 1/13/70 declining to have subject's name placed on the list. On 12/23/69 "The Denver Post," a daily newspaper in Denver, Colorado, published a lengthy article concerning the disappearance of subject. By letter dated 1/8/70 Congressman Brotzman, R-Colorado, also requested information concerning subject's disappearance from the AG. We have conducted no investigation of subject's disappearance since there are no indications of a violation of Federal law in our jurisdiction.

F B I

Date: 1/20/70

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DENVER (105-4151)

THOMAS RIHA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

ReBulet 1/19/70.

This morning FRED GILLIES, reporter for the "Denver Post," Denver daily newspaper, telephonically contacted the Denver Office.

(By way of background GILLIES has written articles which have appeared in the "Denver Post" concerning the so-called mysterious disappearance of THOMAS RIHA. RIHA, a naturalized American citizen of Czech birth, was a History Professor at Colorado University in Boulder, Colorado. He disappeared in March, 1969. Copies of those articles have been furnished to the Bureau).

GILLIES spoke to ASAC JOHN F. MORLEY in the absence of the SAC. He said he had a copy of a letter which the Bureau had written to the Honorable DONALD BROTZMAN concerning the RIHA matter, which was a letter in reply to an inquiry directed to the Bureau by BROTZMAN.

The Bureau had previously furnished the Denver Office a copy of its 1/15/70, letter to BROTZMAN, as well as a copy of BROTZMAN's 1/8/70, letter to the Attorney General, and those letters had been read by MORLEY upon receipt. In order to confirm whether GILLIES did in fact have a copy of the Bulet, MORLEY asked him to read it. GILLIES read the letter and there is no doubt it was in fact a copy of the Bureau's 1/15/70, communication.

2-Bureau (RM) (AM)
2-Denver (1-105-4151)

JFM:hg (1-47-3190 Galya Tannenbaum)
(4)

Approved: _____

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

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

IN DENVER FILED 1000 JAN 21 1970

DN 105-4151

GILLIES then told MORLEY the reason he was calling was to obtain the FBI's comments in Denver concerning the letter. MORLEY advised GILLIES the letter was very clear and self-explanatory and no further comment was necessary.

The above is being brought to the attention of the Bureau for completion of their files and also so the Bureau will know a copy of their communication was forwarded to GILLIES of the "Denver Post" by BROTZMAN.

BROTZMAN, a current U. S. Republican Congressman from Colorado, is a former U. S. Attorney here in Denver. Local indications are BROTZMAN will run for re-election this year and the "Denver Post" is the largest publication in Colorado. Also BROTZMAN is a resident of Boulder, Colorado, where he maintains a law practice. RIHA, the subject of his inquiry, was also a resident of Boulder, and, as indicated above, associated with the Colorado University faculty there.

Denver is conducting no investigation in subject matter.

The above is submitted for the Bureau's information.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WORDS COME HESITANTLY

Riha's Ex-Wife Fears

Missing Professor Dead

By IRLD GILLIES

Denver Post Staff Writer

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NEW YORK — Her normally expressive eyes went suddenly dull as she sat in the Czech restaurant on New York's East Side on this cold January night.

"I believe Thomas may not be alive — he does not even write his mother," Mrs. Hana Riha said.

The words came hesitantly, and she stared fixedly at the door at the back of the restaurant. This door, she later disclosed, has a special significance, for it was beyond this door, in the restaurant's garden area, where she and Prof. Thomas Riha announced their engagement at a small party with friends in August 1968.

Strange Incidents

Now, almost 1½ years later, Mrs. Riha was talking with a newsman in the same restaurant about the many strange incidents surrounding the sudden disappearance March 17 of Riha, her former husband. When he vanished, the Czechoslovakian-born professor was an associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado.

"No, no," Mrs. Riha said, shaking her head determinedly. "Thomas would not do it this way — disappear so suddenly. (If he were alive), he would contact his mother, the university, his friends . . . even me.

"When he does not do this, I can only think he is not free to do what he wants, I know Thomas; he is a responsible man."

Mrs. Riha insisted that the hasty disposal of Riha's property after he disappeared wasn't at all in keeping with his outlook and attitudes. Riha's house and car were sold, and his art works were donated to the Denver Art Museum.

Documents connected with these transfers — along with checks issued and credit card purchases made in his name — are being scrutinized by Denver and

Police law enforcement officers.

The professor also had a strong attachment to his Boulder home and especially to his art works, Mrs. Riha said.

"His home," she said, "was like a castle. He once said no one could throw him out of his home. If they would, he said he would be back in 24 hours. He never would have left his job, his home, his paintings. Not this way."

Mrs. Riha quickly dismissed the claims of Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum of 248 Logan

St., Denver, who has described herself as a friend of the professor.

Mrs. Tannenbaum was jailed early Saturday in Boulder after she was charged Friday in District Court there with forging Riha's name to a \$330 check used to pay for a charter airplane flight from Longmont to San Antonio, Tex., July 30. Lt. Ralph Ruzicka of the Boulder Police Department said a search of her residence Friday uncovered some books and letters allegedly belonging to Riha.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said in a recent interview in The Denver Post that Riha had visited her home twice after he disappeared — once in May and again last summer. Each time, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, Riha stayed only for a day or so, not contacting any of his friends or colleagues or his nephew, Zdenek Cerveny.

"This is not like Tom," Mrs. Riha said. She pictured her former husband as a man who enjoyed contacts with his friends and students.

Mrs. Riha also was openly skeptical of Mrs. Tannenbaum's announcement that Riha would be coming sometime this month to Denver from Montreal, Canada, where Mrs. Tannenbaum

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1-25-70
Edition: Home
Author: Red Gillies
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title: Thomas Riha

Character:

or

Classification: 105-4151

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

NOT RECORDED

165 FEB 9 1970

105-78256

file 5-102

said Riha has been staying.

Again, Mrs. Riha cited the professor's failure to contact his mother and friends as the fuel for the growing fear that something has happened to Riha.

"Thomas," Mrs. Riha said, "loved his work, his writing. Not for the name it got him, but because he was this way."

She also said Riha spent much time outside his classes working with his students at his study on the CU campus and at his home.

"He was popular with the students," she said, "He liked Boulder; there was no reason for him to leave. This was his life."

Mrs. Riha said she "can't remember" whether she declined to have Boulder police file a missing person report on Riha shortly after he disappeared, while the couple was in the midst of divorce proceedings. (A divorce decree was granted her counter claim of cruelty by Boulder District Court Sept. 30, 1969.)

"I kept thinking Thomas was in hiding, because of the divorce, and that he will be back," she said. She became convinced that Riha truly was missing, she said, when she read the Dec. 28 article in The Denver Post noting that Riha's art works had been donated to the Denver Art Museum.

"His home was a museum," she said. She recalled that Riha, assisted by her father who was then visiting in Boulder, refinished many of Riha's art works in January 1969. This was less than three months before Riha vanished.

"Thomas was so happy (with the refinished art works) — he was like a child," Mrs. Riha said.

And friends of Riha said he was immensely happy at the marriage to Hana on Oct. 13, 1968, in Boulder.

It was at the wedding reception that Riha first met Mrs. Tannenbaum. Mrs. Riha said.

Riha and Mrs. Tannenbaum, who wasn't among the invited guests at the reception, spoke "a fairly long time" in a room near the main festivities, friends reported. Their discussion, it is said, centered on ways to bring Riha's nephew, Cerveny, to the

United States from Vienna, where he had fled from Communist-occupied Czechoslovakia. Cerveny was admitted to the United States early in November of the same year.

Mrs. Riha said her own days of trial began last February about the time her husband filed for a divorce. She began receiving strange telephone calls, she said, even as she and Riha continued to live at their Boulder home. These calls came at all hours of the day or night, and there never was any conversation on the other end of the line, she said.

And for some time, Mrs. Riha said, she had been under steady pressure from Mrs. Tannenbaum to sign some papers which she was told had something to do with her immigration status as an alien from Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Riha said she never was told of the exact nature of these papers.

This past week, Mrs. Riha's attorney in New York confirmed that he had steadily advised Mrs. Riha not to sign any document unless it was approved by him or her attorney in Boulder.

In a telephone conversation March 8, the attorney said he informed Mrs. Tannenbaum of the advice he had given Mrs. Riha.

The next morning, at about 12:30 a.m., Mrs. Riha was pulled out a window in her home as she screamed for help, and a strong odor of ether clung to her body and nightclothes.

Boulder police say they were called to the Riha house by Mrs. Tannenbaum to investigate the incident. Mrs. Tannenbaum was in the house with Riha at the time, police said.

In New York this past week, Mrs. Riha gave this version of events:

She had returned to the house at about 10 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Most of that day she had stayed at the Boulderado Hotel in Boulder, renting a room to avoid seeing Mrs. Tannenbaum.

The house was dark when she entered, but she saw the study door close slowly and heard whispers from inside the room. She immediately went to her

bedroom, locking the door. After a while, she became aware of a strong odor coming through a furnace vent in the wall. She began to feel dizzy and closed the vent. She heard voices outside her bedroom and called out, "What are you trying to do?" The voices on the other side of the door were those of her husband and Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Then there was a hissing sound, and strong fumes, similar to those she detected earlier, began to waft under the bedroom door.

She became dizzy and opened a bedroom window, broke the screen and called for help.

Prof. Robert Hanson, a neighbor, ran to her assistance and pulled her out the window.

With the help of another neighbor, Prof. Richard Wilson, she was taken to the Wilson home. From here she telephoned her attorney in New York. Afterward she went with Mr. and Mrs. Hanson back to the Riha house. Here she packed some of her clothes and then went with the Hansons to the Boulderado Hotel. She stayed at the hotel until she left April 5 for New York City. Boulder police said in their report of the incident that Mrs. Tannenbaum met them in front of the Riha house and told them Mrs. Riha had locked herself in the bedroom, from which ether fumes were coming. When she and Riha threatened to break the bedroom door, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, Mrs. Riha went to the window and started screaming.

Boulder police reported that Mrs. Tannenbaum told police Mrs. Riha wasn't a citizen, her visa had expired and the immigration authorities had been called.

Police said they found Mrs. Riha "in an evident traumatic state" at the Wilson home, where she had been taken.

A jar of ether and several gauze pads found by police in the bed covers of Mrs. Riha's bedroom were later turned over to her Boulder attorney, Mrs. Riha has said she doesn't know how the jar and pads got into her bed.

A U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) official in Denver said recently Mrs. Tannenbaum has no official connection with INS.

The week after the incident at the Riha home seemed uneven for Riha — he met his classes, attended a departmental meeting and counseled his students. A note on his calendar pad Tuesday, March 11, indicated he was to have dinner with the "Colonel." Riha was often known to have used that name when speaking of Mrs. Tannenbaum.

LAST SEEN

Riha was seen up to about 12:30 a.m., Saturday, March 15, when he left a family party at a friend's home in Boulder. No one except Mrs. Tannenbaum has come forth to say he has seen the professor since that time.

Riha was officially declared missing Monday, March 17, when his briefcase was found open amid books and papers on his desk in his CU study where he had failed to appear all day. Federal agencies apparently have issued conflicting reports

telling some persons they know nothing about Riha and telling others they have knowledge of his whereabouts.

Denver and Boulder police say they've been told by federal agencies that Riha is "alive and well." But they decline to identify the agencies.

This past week, J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the FBI, said the FBI "has no knowledge of Dr. Riha's whereabouts. The Denver FBI field office," Hoover said, "has been in contact with Dr. Riha's mother (in Germany) and offered to place a missing person notice concerning her son in the files of our identification division. This offer was declined."

Riha's mother, Dr. Ruth-Anne

Cook, is known to have written early in December to Scott Werner, FBI special agent in charge at Denver, seeking information about her son. Dr. Cook reportedly is quite ill, after undergoing two major operations.

Inquiries about Riha are being continued by the Denver Post, contacting federal agencies; U.S. Rep. Donald G. Brotzman, R-Colo., and Canadian immigration officials.

Denver Dist. Atty. Mike McKeivitt said he has been conducting an "extensive investigation" of Riha's absence and related matters. This investigation, McKeivitt noted, is being coordinated with probes of the Denver and Boulder Police Departments and the Boulder district attorney.

Here in New York, Mrs. Riha has been told about some of the misspellings and awkward grammatical expressions in letters and documents signed Thomas Riha, which have appeared since his disappearance. Her reaction has been instant: "These papers aren't genuine," she said.

"Thomas was fussy about the language," she insisted. "He would not write in this way."

And she added that her former husband was fastidious in all things. "Everything must be in its place."

DEEPER BASIS

But there seems to be a deeper, almost intuitive, basis for the fears expressed by Mrs. Riha, who is employed in a New York bank. And this is most evident as she recalled a happier time with Riha.

One night, she said, she and her husband came home elated from a social event they attended in Boulder shortly after they were married. Riha wanted to take a walk because he was so keyed up. And along the

way he picked some wild flowers and presented them to his wife.

Recalling this time, Mrs. Riha was pensive. Her glance once again went to the door at the back of the Czech restaurant here. Then she smiled wanly and said:

"For him, life was like a flower. He enjoyed life so much. He was so alive."



PROF. THOMAS RIHA
Fussy about the language.



MRS. GALYA TANNENBAUM
Claims he visited twice.



MRS. HANA RIHA
"He is a responsible man."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Riha's nephew fears missing scholar dead

By RYKKEN JOHNSON
Rocky Mountain News Writer

His nephew looked at the last three paragraphs of the newspaper story Sunday and nodded in agreement. "I'm afraid Rose is right," was the young man's solemn remark. "My uncle's body is probably somewhere in the mountains."

The speaker was Zdenek Cerveny, nephew of Dr. Thomas Riha, the missing University of Colorado Russian history professor who disappeared March 17, 1969, and who, in recent weeks, has become the subject of renewed investigations to discover his whereabouts.

"Rose," a name she picked in order to remain anonymous, is a Denver clairvoyant who, in the Sunday article in the Rocky Mountain News, said the missing Boulder man is dead and that his body is in the mountains, next to a cave.

Cerveny is a dark-haired, handsome man like his 40-year-old uncle. The Czechoslovakian immigrant came to the United States in November, 1968, to work in Denver, then Lyons, Colo.

Speaking splendid English, Cerveny, about 34, talked about the involved case that has been clouded and perhaps stifled by reports from Denver and Boulder law enforcement authorities that certain federal agencies have stated Riha is "alive and well."

Unnamed U.S. agencies

The local law offices have declined to identify the U.S. agencies, but they are believed to be the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Much of the speculation about Riha's welfare in the last two weeks comes from Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum, 248 Logan St., who claims close friendship with the professor. She insists he has visited her twice since his unannounced departure in March. He is in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, she said.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, who has substituted "Galya," a Russian name, for the "Gloria" found on earlier records, claims to have known Riha since about 1949 when he emigrated from Czechoslovakia.

She has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity on a charge of forging a will of another acquaintance and was arrested Saturday on a charge she signed Riha's name to a check Sept. 30.

Cerveny adamantly disputes the claims Mrs. Tannenbaum has made about her association with Riha and with his group of friends, largely persons of Czech ancestry who have settled in the Denver-Boulder area.

There was a tense relationship with the group, he explained as he sipped coffee in a comfortable Lyons restaurant.

"Tannenbaum presented herself as something she was not," Cerveny stated.

Met before wedding

"She met Thomas early in October, 1968, at a party about two weeks before he was married to his former wife.

"As far as our friends could tell, it was the first time they had met. If they had met before that, like Tannenbaum says, they certainly played the roles will.

"I think after that she went into Thomas's past to find out about him so she could talk."

The introduction at the wedding party in the Black Bear Inn in Lyons was arranged by a Boulder lawyer who knew Riha wanted to get his nephew to America.

Cerveny was in Vienna after leaving Prague, following the Russian invasion.

According to Mrs. Francesca Stein, who owns the Black Bear Inn with her husband George, both Czech immigrants, Mrs. Tannenbaum had impressed the lawyer with the understanding she could influence Cerveny's arrival.

Submitted the papers

"Tannenbaum apparently took the papers, wrote 'approved by the Colonel' on the bottom space to impress our friends," said Cerveny, "then took the papers and submitted them" to regular immigration channels after clipping off her officious notation.

"When regular approval came for my immigration, she simply told my uncle's friends that it was her work that got it through quickly.

"But I had suspicions even on the flight over here when I found the length of procedures for the other passengers were about the same as mine.

"My uncle had told me I would be met 'by a rich and powerful person' when I got to Denver. That person was Tannenbaum," Cerveny said. Cerveny said Mrs. Tannenbaum always wore a gun in a shoulder holster and told him she was an agent for a "corporation," (Mrs. Tannenbaum's word for what Cerveny interpreted to imply a secretive government agency).

Cerveny thinks his uncle, a respected scholar, believed Mrs. Tannenbaum's inferences that she was a "rich and powerful" individual, but all she had to show "was an old Illinois driver's license." Riha may even have believed she was endowed with powers similar to those of an Iron Curtain country secret police agent.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Walters _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 Rocky Mountain News
— Denver, Colorado

Date: 1/27/70
Edition: Home
Author: Rykken Johnson
Editor: Jack Foster
Title: THOMAS RIHA

Character: _____
or
Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver
☐ Being Investigated B

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Came to Riha house

His uncle told him Mrs. Tannenbaum came to the Riha house on March 8, 1969, with papers she said concerned Mrs. Riha's status as an immigrant. Hana Riha, now living in New York City, is also a native Czechoslovakian.

Cervený said it was Mrs. Tannenbaum's intention to remove Mrs. Riha from the house that night. He said his uncle had taken a gun away from Mrs. Tannenbaum, but she persisted in wanting Hana Riha to accompany her. U.S. Immigration authorities say Mrs. Tannenbaum has never belonged to their bureau.

A nearly hysterical Mrs. Riha escaped from her bedroom window with the aid of a few neighbors. Fumes of ether were smelled inside the house. Cervený stated his uncle told him the ether belonged to Mrs. Tannenbaum.

The nephew described the marriage between Hana and Riha as a frustrated one from its inception Oct. 13, 1968. Hana was much younger, about 26. Riha's 40th birthday took place shortly after his disappearance.

She was not the housekeeper Riha apparently had expected, Cervený said. Hana smoked and had a casual attitude toward the language classes Riha had arranged for her to learn better English. There also were arguments, the nephew said.

After the other affair, Hana moved into the Boulderado Hotel and left for New York City April 5, apparently presuming her husband's disappearance the previous month was due to the marital problems. A divorce was granted Sept. 30.

Cervený tells that Mrs. Tannenbaum maintained a tenacious grasp on her relationship with Riha. "Often," he said, "Tannenbaum would come to his house unannounced and barge in on Thomas when he was in his private study.

"She would stay and talk for hours," unconcerned that he might have had other things to do.

The young engineer scoffed at Mrs. Tannenbaum's description of Riha's childhood during World War II.

Riha, half Jewish, was not abandoned as a wartime waif in Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia and put to work in a German slave labor camp.

Young Thomas did not have to live by his wits in the streets before his arrest, as Mrs. Tannenbaum also contends. Instead, although he was kept under surveillance by the Germans and periodically had to report his activities to them, Riha lived with Cervený and his parents, according to the nephew.

Soviet troops

This closeness developed in the 1940s between Riha and the Cervenýs accounts for the uncle's desire to bring Cervený to this country after the Soviet Union sent troops into transitional Czechoslovakia, the young man said.

Cervený feels that Riha would not have left Boulder without conferring with other friends and if he were living, he would attempt to communicate with them.

Mrs. Tannenbaum has said Riha has no intention of talking to "fair weather" friends, apparently meaning those individuals Riha had associated with during his tenure at CU. But Cervený implies Riha was not a person to disregard long friendships and valued those he had.

Like many naturalized Americans and aliens in the United States, Riha enjoyed companionship with persons from the old country. He was not the type to reserve companionship and confidence to a single person and to shut out so-called "fair weather" friends.

His introduction to Hana was by some interpretation an "arrangement" through acquaintances in New York City, with whom the young woman, their cousin, was staying.

Couple introduced

The New York people were aware that Riha might be inter-

ested in matrimony with a woman from Czechoslovakia. The introduction was made and the couple flourished. The engagement was announced during an August, 1963, party in New York, and the impending wedding celebrated again during the early October social gathering in Lyons.

Cervený also came to know Mrs. Tannenbaum. "She once asked me to join the 'corporation.' I would be valuable because I knew Russian she said," Cervený remembers.

When asked if there had been attempts to have the woman verify her claims, Cervený said she would laugh and become evasive.

She once told Cervený she had "connections" with the Denver police and would "fix" a ticket he got for going through a stop light.

She did. According to Cervený, Mrs. Tannenbaum simply paid the \$25 violation and told him the matter "had been taken care of."

But Cervený went through another stop signal recently, and, with the points lost from the ticket Mrs. Tannenbaum "fixed," is in danger of receiving a court subpoena, he said.

Chartered plane

Cervený was with Mrs. Tannenbaum on the privately chartered airplane flight to San Antonio, Tex., for which the woman paid with an allegedly worthless check.

Cervený related the incident came after he decided to drive to San Antonio to see Czechoslovakian friends there. He did not want to use his small auto for the planned road trip and asked Mrs. Tannenbaum if he could borrow her larger automobile, the services of which she had offered on previous occasions.

No, Mrs. Tannenbaum told Cervený, she would not lend the car to him. She had to use it for something important in Denver during the next few days.

But, better yet, she would use her position to have him flown to Texas, Cervený was told.

"Tannenbaum said she couldn't fly us (Cervený and a friend) on a military plane, 'for obvious reasons,' but she would get another one."

Cervený said his unidentified friend did not want to use Mrs. Tannenbaum's invitation, but after viewing the advantageous economics of the offer and Mrs. Tannenbaum's insistence, they took it.

Flying service

The party, with Mrs. Tannenbaum once again self-inserted into the situation, left a Fort Collins flying service on July 29,

for San Antonio. Mrs. Tannenbaum returned with the plane the next day and reportedly paid \$330 for the charter with a check signed with Thomas Riha's name.

Because of insufficient funds, the check was not accepted at the bank and the owner of the flying service found Cerveny at the Black Bear Inn.

Cerveny said he took the check and, with several payments, repaid the flying service owner \$220. "He said he didn't want to make money off me, so that's all he took."

But then Mrs. Tannenbaum pleaded innocent and later innocent by reason of insanity to forging the will of the late Gustav Frederick Ingwersen, her acquaintance, who died June 18. Ingwersen was a Czech and a friend of Riha. He died of cyanide poisoning.

"It was then (when charges came) I returned the check" to the Fort Collins aviation service, "and told them to do what should be done," Cerveny said.

Another acquaintance of Mrs. Tannenbaum, Riha, Cerveny, and Ingwersen, to die of cyanide poisoning was Mrs. Barbara Egberg. A Czech, too, she died Sept. 13.

Cerveny speculates that if the federal authorities which purported to know Riha was "alive and well" had been less discreet, perhaps the deaths of Ingwersen and Mrs. Egberg could have been avoided.

Both Cerveny and Mrs. Stein of the Black Bear Inn conjecture if foul play is involved in the disappearance of Riha, more than one person is implicated.

REC-13 105-78256-29

1 - Mr. DeLoach

March 19, 1970

1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. Redfield

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director
Center for East European Affairs
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dr. Fischer-Galati:

Your letter of February 18, 1970, to the Vice President concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha has been referred to the FBI for reply.

The concern you expressed in soliciting the Vice President's assistance for a careful investigation and meaningful resolution of the case is understandable.

Based on the information which has been reported to us concerning Professor Riha's disappearance, the FBI has conducted no investigation. There is no indication of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's jurisdiction. Moreover, the FBI has no information regarding Professor Riha's whereabouts.

As you are probably aware, Professor Riha's mother inquired of this Bureau in December, 1969, concerning her son's whereabouts. She was informed that we had no information in this regard. Professor Riha's mother was asked if she desired a missing persons notice be placed in the files of the FBI Identification Division. Our offer was declined.

You have furnished information that local authorities are currently conducting investigation into Professor Riha's disappearance. In the absence of information indicating a Federal law within its jurisdiction has been violated, the FBI cannot conduct investigation into the disappearance of Professor Riha.

JWR:ebp
(9)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

56 APR 8 1970

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside the 2025 Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by your Committee and the contents may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

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Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

While I am certain the Vice President would like to be of more assistance to you in this matter and appreciates your concern for your colleague, in the absence of information indicating Federal interest or a violation of Federal statutes, this matter appears to be one solely within the investigative province of authorities in your area.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

Note:

Above letter written pursuant to referral from the Office of the Vice President. Xerox copy of the original referral and its enclosures being returned with the copy of the letter to the Vice President.

Riha, Czechoslovak-born, naturalized, former professor of Russian history at Colorado University, departed from Denver area March, 1969, without notifying friends, associates, or his estranged wife. His disappearance has been glamorized in recent months by energetic Denver reporter and spiced up with references to a mysterious paramour under whose influence Riha had fallen.

Fischer-Galati, according to Bufiles, was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement.

SENSITIVE SOURCE INFORMATION

He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. Fischer-Galati has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate. He is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book.

Copy of letter being sent to The Vice President's Office by Liaison.

CC BEING SENT DENVER OFFICE SEPARATELY

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

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He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. Fischer-Galati has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate. He is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book.

Copy of letter being sent to The Vice President's Office by Liaison.
CC BEING SENT DENVER OFFICE SEPARATELY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REFERRAL

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover

To: Director, Federal Bureau of
Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Date: March 16, 1970

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ACTION REQUESTED

- _____ Draft reply for:
 _____ Vice President's signature.
 _____ Undersigned's signature.
- _____ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.
☒ Furnish information copy.
- _____ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- _____ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- _____ For your information.
- _____ For comment.

THOMAS RIHA

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

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

Description:

☒ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: The Vice President

From: Mr. Stephen Fischer-Galati, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

Date: February 18, 1970

Subject: Investigation Into Disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha

10 MAR 25 1970

By direction of the Vice President

G. Andrew Lawrence

COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

GAL:gyj

CENTER FOR EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

BOULDER, COLORADO 80302

DIRECTOR

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI

B. IN ROMANIT

February 18, 1970

The Honorable Spiro T. Agnew
Vice President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

In the hope that you have read the accounts of the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha and the mysterious circumstances surrounding the investigation of that disappearance by the proper authorities, local and federal, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of the latest relevant account from The Denver Post.

As a trustee of the Thomas Riha Fund, I should like to solicit your assistance in securing a careful investigation and meaningful resolution of the case. The failure of the local authorities and of the University of Colorado to conduct a proper investigation at the time of Professor Riha's disappearance in March 1969 is reflective of the lack of concern and bureaucratic ineptness which has been so rightly criticized by you in recent months. In an age of repudiation of the fundamental moral values which have historically differentiated democratic from totalitarian, bureaucratic societies, it seems imperative that the truth be uncovered no matter what the embarrassment to those who failed to fulfill their moral and even legal obligations.

Professor Riha's case is particularly relevant in that respect since he was a refugee from communist Czechoslovakia. It would be a sad commentary indeed on our democratic society if he were to be the victim of bureaucratic negligence or of tactics identified with the regime which he escaped.

I would be pleased to send you all materials pertinent to the case, should that be required, to facilitate the honorable resolution of the case of Professor Riha.

Respectfully yours,

105-76256-

Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director

ENCLOSURE

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside the government. It is to be kept in confidence and its contents may not be disclosed to unauthorized persons without the express approval of the FBI.

THE PRIVATE MAIL ROOMS ... to help ...

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105-78256

March 25, 1970

J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

gdp
Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 19, 1970 with reference to the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha.

Since I am not aware of the extent of the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I am unable to provide any information which will allow investigation of the disappearance by the FBI. The only basis which may permit action by the FBI appears to be Professor Riha's status as a recipient of funds from the Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under the provisions of the National Defense Education Act at the time of his disappearance in March 1969. Whether the receipt of monies from a Federal agency constitutes a legal relationship with the Federal Government which would fall within the jurisdiction of such Federal agencies as the FBI is unknown to me but, conceivably, it would provide a rationale for participation in the case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Fischer-Galati
Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director

3/31/70
JWF/dsp
XEROX
Copy to DENVER
by routing slip for
☒ information
date 4/6/70
by JWF/dsp

REC-35

SFG:ml

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

105-78256-33
MAR 27 1970

EXP. PROC.
33
MAR 27 1970
SING SATELLITE

REC-35

105-78256-30

March 31, 1970

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Gray
- 1 - Mr. Redfield

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director
Center for East European Affairs
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dr. Fischer-Galati:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 25, 1970, concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha.

The information you furnished has been carefully reviewed. Based upon the available facts, there is no indication of a violation of any Federal statutes over which this Bureau has jurisdiction. Therefore, I am unable to be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JWR:ebp
(9)

NOTE:

Riha, Czechoslovak-born, naturalized, former professor of Russian history at Colorado University, departed Denver area March, 1969, without notifying friends, associates or his estranged wife. His disappearance has been glamorized in recent months by energetic Denver reporter and spiced up with references to a mysterious paramour under whose influence Riha had fallen.

Fischer-Galati previously wrote to the Vice President concerning the disappearance of Riha, which letter was referred to the Bureau for reply. He was informed the FBI had conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance of Riha; had no information regarding his whereabouts and there was no indication of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's jurisdiction. Our reply to the information in his current letter was coordinated with the Accounting and Frauds Section, General Investigative Division.

56 APR 10 1970
MAIL ROOM

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE 2

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside the FBI. It is not to be used in any way, and is not to be released to the public without the express approval of the FBI.

Copy to DENVER	MAILED 22
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Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

NOTE CONTINUED:

Fischer-Galati is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book. According to Bufiles, Fischer-Galati was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement.

SENSITIVE SOURCE MATERIAL

born in Romania.

He was

SENSITIVE SOURCE MATERIAL

He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. He has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate.

On 3/30/70, Fred Schmidt Director of Security II-10 advised SA Kensington, Bureau Liaison, that the High Institute of International Studies, Office of Educational Consultants, under the name of an Eastern European (Slavic) Program at the University of Colorado. 50% of the cost of the program is paid by OE with the University contributing the balance. Thomas Riha was one of the instructors hired by the University under this program. His salary would be paid by the University and he receives no funds directly from OE and OE has no control over his employment. He is not a federal employee.

JER

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

NOTE CONTINUED:

Fischer-Galati is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book. According to Bufiles, Fischer-Galati was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement. He has been in periodic routine contact in the past with the Romanian Embassy and contacts not of known security significance. He was born in Romania. In 1966 CIA advised Fischer-Galati was of interest to and used to a limited degree by that Agency since the early 1950's. He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. He has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate.

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per

"On 3/30/70, Fred Schmidt, Director of Security, HEW, advised SA Hengemuhle, Bureau liaison, that the Institute of International Studies, Office of Education, contributes funds to an Eastern European (Slavic) Program at the University of Colorado. Approximately 50% of the cost of the program is paid by OE with the University contributing the balance. Thomas Riha was one of the instructors hired by the University under this program. His salary would be paid by the University and he receives no funds directly from OE and OE has no control over his employment. He is not a federal employee. JWR"

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A Justice Story

The Strange Case of the Missing Professor

A woman friend insists he is alive,
but a district attorney doesn't think
so as he seeks the truth in a maze of
forgeries and two strange deaths

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Daily World _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

Date MAY 3 1970

By KERMIT JAEDIKER

IN MILE-HIGH DENVER, economic and cultural capital of the Rockies, investigators are working to unravel a mystery that at times has been fantastic, absurd and more than a little frightening. Its central figure is Galya Tannenbaum, a heavyset, domineering woman of 39 who had three friends who, to put it mildly, were awfully unlucky.

The ill-starred three were:

- Thomas Riha, 40, a Czechoslovakian-born associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado in nearby Boulder. He vanished in March, 1969, amid a spate of rumors hinting at a link with espionage. Denver District Attorney Mike McKevitt says today he has "grave doubts" that Riha is alive.

- Gustav Friedrich Ingwersen, a 78-year-old plastics engineer. He died last June from cyanide poisoning. Galya is charged with forgery in connection with his will, which made her a beneficiary.

- Mrs. Barbara Egbert, a 51-year-old divorcee who was found dead last September in her Denver apartment. Her death, too, was attributed to cyanide. A typewritten suicide note was found, but McKevitt says it's a fake.

According to the district attorney, both known deaths are suspected of being homicides. Galya's lawyer, John Kokish, admits the police wanted to question her about them but "I told her not to open her mouth." Galya took his advice. Ordinarily, she's quite a talker.

For months, a fascinating aura of international spying clung to the Riha case and still hangs over it, although it lacks official corroboration. A contributing factor undoubtedly was Galya's claim, to a number of persons in the Denver area, that she was a colonel in U.S. Military Intelligence.

Galya's attorney says that just isn't true, and Intelligence heartily concurs, but Galya is still known around town, perhaps only in jest, as The Colonel. Just before he disappeared, Riha himself, who reportedly knew her very, very well, was believed to have referred to her as Colonel in a notation on his calendar.

Logic itself militates strongly against the possibility that Galya was an officer

in the American intelligence. She was a ~~freelance commercial artist by profession~~, as good a cover for a spy as any, but if she went around broadcasting she was an intelligence officer, that automatically blew her cover.

The Colonel stuff aside, there have been serious questions as to whether Riha himself may have dabbled in secret work. He was born in Prague in an Iron Curtain country, came to the U.S. in 1947, became a naturalized citizen, studied hard and received bachelor's and masters' degrees at the University of California, to say nothing of a doctorate from Harvard.

HE TAUGHT at the University of Chicago, at Marburg University in West Germany and then joined the faculty of the University of Colorado. He'd been around a lot, geographically speaking, had professorial pals all over the country and, what's more, was a leading authority on Russian history.

In addition, he had made at least two visits to Moscow. He went there in 1958-59 to attend Moscow University as an exchange student and he revisited Moscow in 1968 as a guide for a touring group of college professors.

One report has it that he told friends in Denver that he was once ~~approached~~ in the Moscow subway by a man who asked if he would do intelligence work. But Riha told the story jokingly, the implication of the joke being that just about every American tourist in Russia was open to approach by Soviet agents seeking spy recruits.

Galya has hinted that Riha had worked for Uncle Sam, which proves nothing. Still another source, completely without official support, says he was connected with an American espionage outfit.

But McKevitt insists, "I don't suspect espionage," and in Washington, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State Department have all denied knowledge of the Riha case. But even bereft of the cloak-and-dagger angle, the case has its moments, thanks largely to Galya.

"A fascinating, brilliant person with a complex mind," says District Attorney McKevitt in speaking of her.

The first and perhaps the most terrifying of a cluster of strange events tied in with Galya occurred March 9, 1969, a Sunday, at Prof. Riha's ranch-style home on a picturesque hill slope in the university town of Boulder, 20 miles from Denver.

Riha's 25-year-old wife, Hana, stood screaming at a bedroom window of the house. She was helped out the window by neighbors. About her was a strong odor of ether.

Boulder police were summoned to the scene, by none other than Galya, who was in the house. So was Riha. Galya, clearly a take-charge gal, met the cops at the door. She told them that Mrs.

Riha had locked herself in the bedroom, that ether fumes were ~~entering from inside the room~~ and that Mrs. Riha fled screaming to the window when Galya and the professor threatened to break the bedroom door open.

Mrs. Riha's story conflicted sharply with Galya's version. She insisted that the ether came into the room through vents or from the street and that she only started screaming when she feared the attackers would overcome her.

Police made a search and found a jar of ether and several ether-soaked gauze pads in the bed covers in Mrs. Riha's bedroom. Wife put them there, and when, was not explained.

Galya coolly told investigators that Mrs. Riha, a Czechoslovakian, was not a U.S. citizen and that immigration authorities had been called because her visa had expired. However, a New York attorney and longtime friend of Mrs. Riha declared that "there was nothing urgent about Mrs. Riha's visa status that night, nothing pressing, no imminent deportation."

MRS. RIHA phone her attorney friend that very night and sobbingly told her story and pleaded for his help. Eventually she moved east to Brooklyn, obtaining a job in a New York bank. Prof. Riha had already filed divorce proceedings to end his five-month marriage and after he disappeared, his wife filed a counter suit and won it. She also won a \$5,000 judgment.

When District Attorney McKevitt was asked about the ether business, he hinted it may have been "an attempt to scare Mrs. Riha" that sprang from the "thought process of a mixed-up mind." He didn't elaborate.

Galya's presence in the household may be explained by the fact that she and the professor had been friends for some time—perhaps even more than friends. An authoritative source quotes Galya as having said she lived with Riha for about two and a half months prior to his marriage.

The police report on the ether episode described the chunky, 160-pound Galya as "the fullback type." What drew the rather good-looking professor to her is a puzzler. Probably the attraction of opposites.

He was known to be quiet and soft-spoken, given to scholarly pursuits and

to writing. She has been described as "a very beautiful woman."

Her first name, Gloria Ferguson, even is averred, but actually, attorney Kokish says, she was born in St. Louis under the real name of Gloria Forest. She later changed it. A few years ago, according to Kokish, she moved in a party suit making one of her three children and she won it. Later, she changed her name legally to Galya Tannenbaum.

Kokish says her mother lives in Galya, Ill., and suggests Mrs. Tannenbaum may have arrived at Galya by "playing around with the word Galya." It was certainly more exotic than Gloria.

A week after Mrs. Riha made her precipitate exit via a window of the house, Prof. Riha disappeared. He was to have attended a meeting of history professors in Denver on March 15, a Saturday, and, characteristically methodical, had noted this on his calendar pad. He failed to show up at the meeting.

Friends repeatedly phoned the house that day and got no answer. Next day, a group of acquaintances, whom he was to have picked up for a dinner engagement, called at the house, rang the doorbell, got no answer and peered through the kitchen window.

They could see the kitchen table and on it a place setting consisting of a cereal bowl, dishes and silverware. Apparently it had been set for a breakfast Riha never ate.

Investigating police discovered that while Riha was a man known for precision and neatness, his personal papers were rather wildly scattered across his desk, where he had been preparing his income tax return. Among his effects was his calendar pad bearing the March 11 entry: "dinner Colonel." This was believed to refer to Galya.

The mystery of his disappearance almost immediately touched off rumors that the quiet professor of Russian history might actually be a pedagogic James Bond.

Close friends expressed fears he might be dead. But a university official announced reassuringly that he had received a report—from "reliable sources" in Washington—that Riha was "alive and well." Later, however, McKevitt said the alive-and-well conclusion sprang from a misunderstanding and termed the report "an honest mistake."

Rep. Donald G. Brozman (R-Col.), according to his administrative assistant, Robert Tonsing, "made inquiries to Military Intelligence, the CIA and the FBI

and received unqualified negative responses." The inquiries were primarily to learn whether there was any information lending credence to suppositions about espionage.

With the approach of last summer, the Affaire Tannenbaum took a new and chilling turn. Ingwerson was found dead June 18 in his home at 141 Forest St., Denver. Death was at first attributed to a heart attack, but an autopsy showed traces of mercuric cyanide.

As an engineer, says Kokish, Ingwerson used cyanide in mineral assaying. The district attorney's office developed an interest in Ingwerson's death. The police were intrigued to learn that Galya knew Ingwerson, who was a widower. She told the cops they had picnicked together and even talked marriage.

Interestingly enough, Ingwerson also knew Prof. Riha. Indeed, during a clean-up of Ingwerson's home last December, Ingwerson's son, Donald, found Riha's wedding ring.

The next development came when Galya was arrested on a charge of having forged, in part at least, the Ingwerson will and presented it in Denver Probate Court with alleged intent to defraud Donald Ingwerson of Denver and Mrs. Esther Foote of Colorado Springs.

POLICE quoted Mrs. Foote as saying Galya asked her to witness the document, but Mrs. Foote said she didn't sign it and that the witness' signature on it was a forgery of her name. Under the terms of the will, Galya was left 100 shares of stock. The will was drawn up 13 days before Ingwerson's death.

Galya denied the forgery, but authorities were unimpressed. After all, she had dabbled in forgery before. She had an arrest record dating back to 1950 when she was taken into custody in San Antonio, Tex., on a charge of forging government checks. She was later sentenced to a year and a day for mail theft, but was placed on probation.

In 1960, she was sentenced in Illinois to nine months for getting money by false pretenses with a check. Later the same year she drew 1 to 5 years in a women's reformatory on two charges of forgery and one of embezzlement.

In the midst of the Ingwerson inquiry came the revelation that an investigation was under way into the death of a third most unfortunate friend of Galya—Mrs. Egbert. She was found dead in her flat at 1330 Race St. on Sept. 13 and District

Attorney McKevitt said: "There was a suicide note, and it was a forgery."

The autopsy, McKevitt added, disclosed potassium cyanide. Police subsequently searched Galya's rented house at 248 Logan St. In the basement they found a pound of what McKevitt identified as potassium cyanide. He said Galya had a photo laboratory in the cellar and worked with chemicals in that connection.

The Denver press was still kicking the Riha mystery around this January when Galya, free pending the forgery investigation, consented to be interviewed, but solely on the subject of Riha, in lawyer Kokish's office.

She declared unequivocally that Riha was still alive. She said, in fact, that he had visited her in Denver twice since his disappearance, once in May and later in the summer. She said he was living in Montreal, although she had no address for him. "I don't know what he's doing," she added. "I never asked him."

She said he left Boulder "because things were pressing in on him" both at the university and in his household, the latter an apparent reference to his divorce proceedings. She insisted she didn't know how he left Boulder, but in the next breath admitted she picked up his car at Stapleton International Airport after his departure.

When the interviewer remarked that Riha was said to be a "perfectionist," Galya said sardonically, yes, he was a perfectionist—in leaving Boulder. She shook with laughter.

Before closing the interview, she made a prediction: "Tom [Riha] will be here some time in January." The seeress was wrong on that one, but a lot of things that didn't show up in her crystal ball materialized in January, to say nothing of February, and they were all on the wrong side for Galya.

She was accused of forgery of a warranty deed in the sale of Prof. Riha's home, forgery of a deed of trust linked with the house, and forgery of Riha's name to a \$330 check to finance a chartered plane trip for herself and two companions last July 30 to San Antonio.

She was also charged with forgery in the transfer of the title to Riha's car, sold for \$1,250 to Anthony J. Stone, a high school principal. Stone said he bought the car April 1, which would be about two weeks after Riha's disappearance, with a check payable to Riha.

It was further disclosed that Galya, in a burst of generosity, donated a large part of Riha's art collection, with an appraised value of more than \$19,000,

to the Denver Art Museum. Galya claimed Riha left the collection in her custody.

From Riha's ex-wife in New York came a statement that the professor "may not be alive—he does not even write his mother." Riha's mother died in Germany in February, and Riha failed to show up for the funeral.

Galya, facing trial on the forgery raps, pleaded innocent by reason of insanity and was lodged in Colorado Psychiatric Hospital, where two state-appointed psychiatrists examined her. They reported her legally sane.

However, Kokish said, one "hedged a bit" and indicated she had a "severe personality disorder" and it was further suggested she might be "a pathological liar." Kokish obtained permission to have a third psychiatrist examine her and it is expected a sanity trial will be conducted, probably in June.

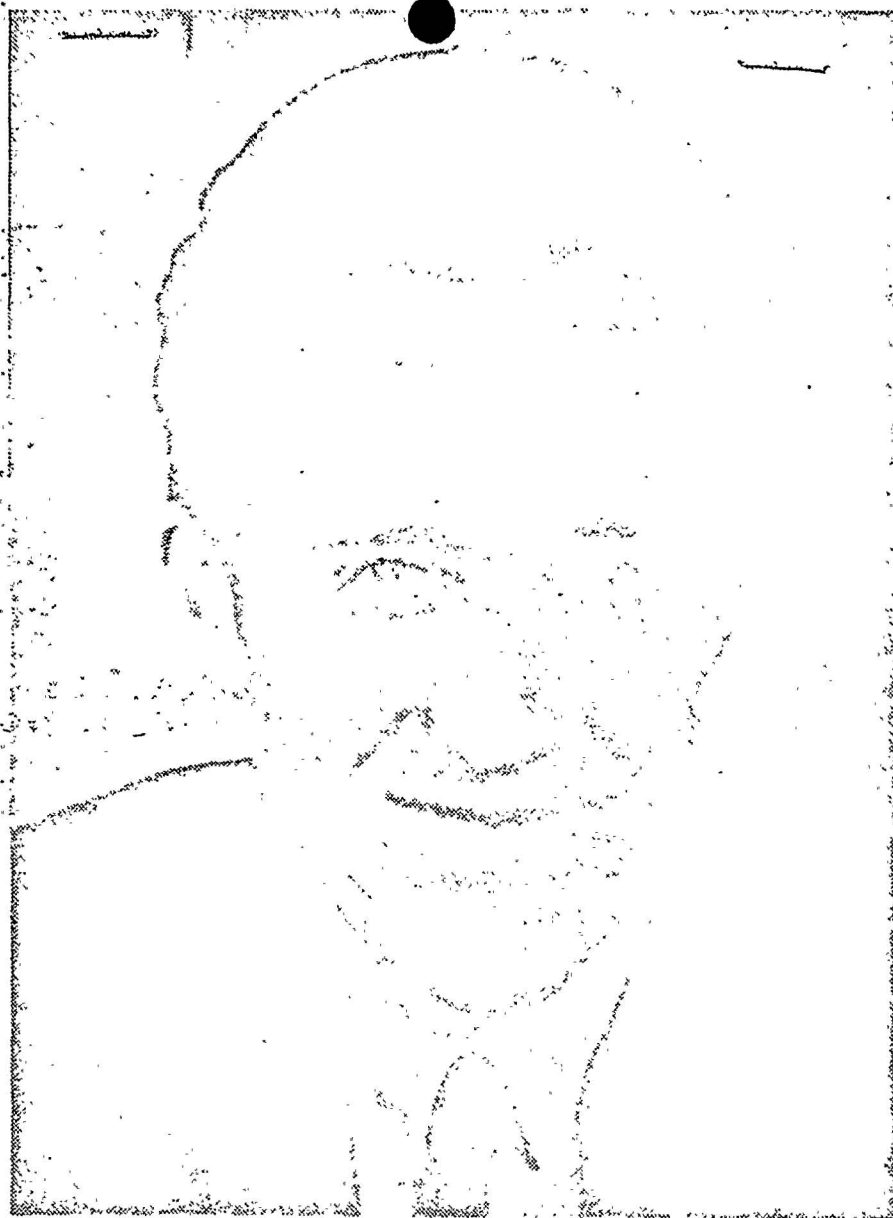
EVEN though two doctors had reported in a manner highly unfavorable to the defense, Galya's stay at Colorado Psychiatric was not entirely unproductive. Between talks with the doctors, she whiled away the hours by taking a fling at fine art.

The pictures she turned out were considered good enough to be exhibited in the highly prestigious Miller Stockman Galleries. They consisted of water colors and acrylics, a paint that looks like oil paint but dries faster.

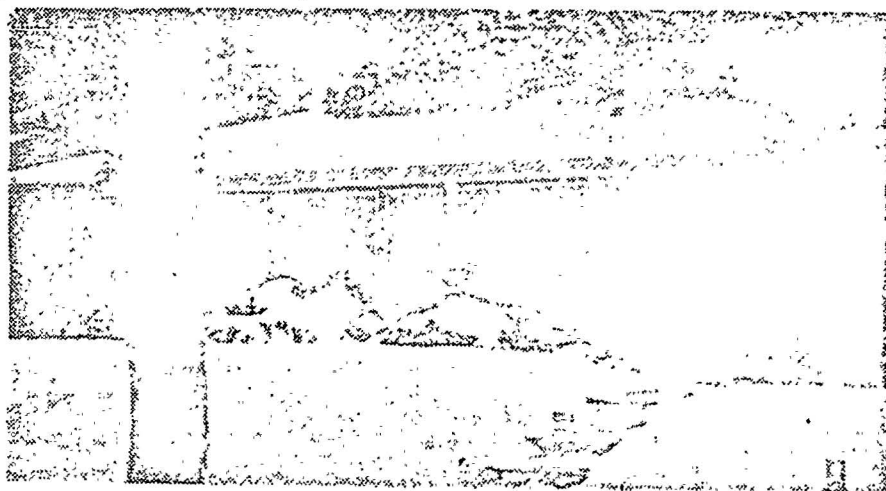
Denver Post art critic Rena Andrews viewed them and reported that the acrylics were close to the works of the German expressionists but that Galya "uses very sunny colors like Van Gogh." The artist had "a disturbing technique" in that it appeared she ran a comb through the paint, leaving ridges, but for all that she seemed to have genuine talent.

The exhibit drew wide interest, partly, to be sure, because of the notoriety surrounding the artist and, at \$40 a throw, the paintings were reported selling well. Indeed, the gallery has requested that Galya turn in some more paintings with the hint that the price may be upped.

This leads to the reasonable conclusion that if Galya beats the charges against her, she may be launched on a new career, perhaps even more lucrative than forgery—and certainly a lot less risky.

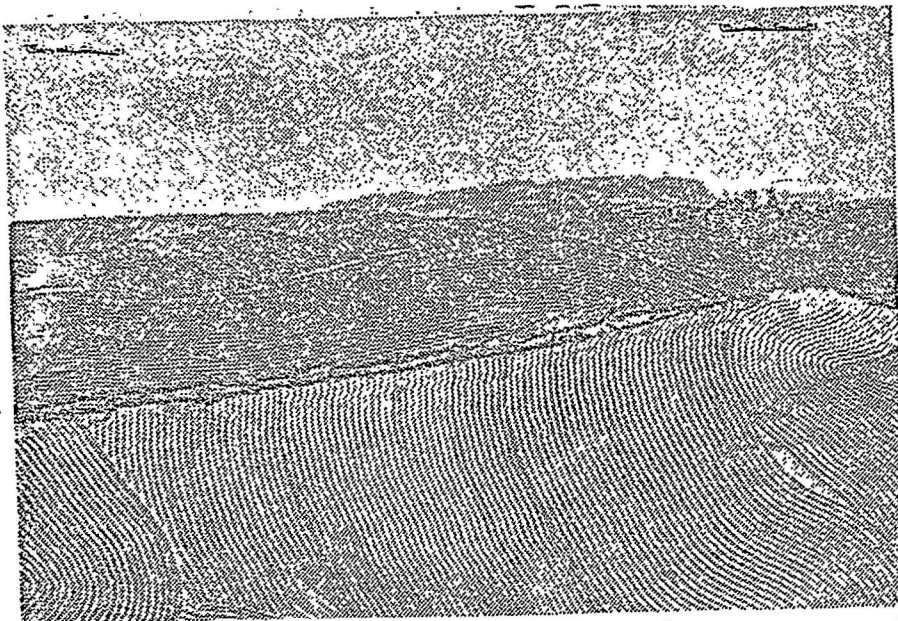


Prof. Thomas Riha's disappearance more than a year ago from his home (below) in Boulder, Colo., produced a flurry of rumors that he was involved in international espionage.





Colorful, domineering and talented Galya Tannenbaum is shown conferring with her attorney, John Kokish (←) between hearings on charges of forging the missing Prof. Riha's name to papers disposing of his name and car.



In her spare time, she dabbled at paintings (A), some of which were shown in a Denver gallery. Colorado Congressman Donald Brozman (→) sought clues to cloak-and-dagger activities in Washington, but received negative replies from the FBI, CIA, and U.S. Military Intelligence.



NYER FOR SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES
FICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 5, 1971

J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Reference is made to your communication of March 19, 1970
with respect to the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha.

I am aware of the position of the FBI with respect to
Professor Riha's disappearance; nevertheless, I am sending you
a letter addressed to me which was sent from Cincinnati, Ohio
a few days ago. It is my assumption that inasmuch as this communi-
cation was sent through the United States mails from a place other
than Boulder it falls within the jurisdiction of the FBI.

I do not necessarily envisage the enclosed letter as a
threat. However, I cannot exclude that possibility and it is
for this reason, as well as for the obvious implication of the
contents, that I am writing to you again at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Fischer-Galati
Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director

EX-103

MAR 15 1971

SFG:ml

ENCLOSURE

This document is prepared in response to your request for information regarding the disappearance of Professor Riha. It is to be used for information only and the contents may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

NOTE CONTINUED:

Fischer-Galati previously wrote to the Vice President concerning the disappearance of Riha, which letter was referred to the Bureau for reply. He was informed the FBI had conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance of Riha; had no information regarding his whereabouts; and there was no indication of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's jurisdiction.

Fischer-Galati is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book. According to Bufiles, Fischer-Galati was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement.

SENSITIVE SOURCE INFORMATION

He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. He has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate.

- 2 -

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

NOTE CONTINUED:

Fischer-Galati previously wrote to the Vice President concerning the disappearance of Riha, which letter was referred to the Bureau for reply. He was informed the FBI had conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance of Riha; had no information regarding his whereabouts and there was no indication of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's jurisdiction.

Fischer-Galati is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book. According to Bufiles, Fischer-Galati was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement. He has been in periodic routine contact in the past with the Romanian Embassy and contacts not of known security significance. He was born in Romania. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. He has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate.

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Riha Secret To Be Asked Of U.S.S.R.

Government officials in the Soviet Union will be requested to determine if Prof. Thomas Riha is in that country, a spokesman for the Soviet ambassador to the United States said Monday.

"But I cannot promise whether any answer will be given," said the assistant to Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Speculation over Riha's whereabouts was renewed after the probable suicide March 7 of Mrs. Gloria (Galya) Tannenbaum at Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo.

Before she lapsed into unconsciousness from the effects of cyanide poisoning, Mrs. Tannenbaum reportedly said Riha "had just made it" to Russia after he vanished March 14, 1969, from Boulder.

The U. S. State Department has said it has no information suggesting Riha is in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Brennan CD _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 3-16-71

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Charles R. Puxton

Title: Mrs. Gloria (Galya) Tannenbaum

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

NOT RECORDED
191 MAR 31 1971

58 APR 2 - 1971

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. E. S. Miller

1 - Mr. A. Rosen
1 - Mr. D. J. Dalbey

DATE: 10/20/71

FROM : W. A. Branigan

1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. W. R. Schlarman

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Tolson _____
Felt _____
Rosen _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Miller, E.S. _____
Callahan _____
Casper _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
Cleveland _____
Pender _____
Bates _____
Tavel _____
Walters _____
Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Letter received from Oren Jarinkes and Francis B. Randall of New York City who described themselves as school-mates and friends of Professor Thomas Riha. They referred to an article which appeared in "The New York Times" on Sunday, October 10, 1971, stating "The FBI learned that there had been no foul play, that the professor had chosen to leave for personal reasons." They asked to be advised if we could inform them if Riha is in fact alive and if they can communicate with him. Recommend they be advised we conducted no investigation into Riha's disappearance.

Professor Riha is the Czech-born naturalized US citizen who was a former professor of Russian history at Colorado University, Boulder, Colorado. In March, 1969, he departed the Denver area without notifying friends, associates or his estranged wife. We did not conduct any investigation into his disappearance since there was no evidence of a violation of a Federal law within our jurisdiction. Local authorities in Denver did conduct an investigation into his disappearance, however, to date his whereabouts has not been ascertained.

EX-102

REC 201

Bureau files indicate Jarinkes, Queensboro College, New York, professor, has previously been interviewed by us regarding Soviet matter and was cooperative; however, while in the US Army 1954-56 he received psychiatric treatment and admitted "emotional pressure because of homosexual tendencies." Randall is a professor at Sarah Lawrence College, New York. He was interviewed by us in 1954 in connection with a student trip to the Soviet Union and was cooperative. In 1968 he supported and participated in antidraft and anti-Vietnam war activity.

16 OCT 26 1971

Enclosure *sent 10-21-71*

105-78256

1 - 134-16839 (Jarinkes)
1 - 105-30830 (Randall)

CONTINUED - OVER

WRS:km1

(9)

4 NOV 1 1971

File 105-78256

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

Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller
THOMAS RIHA
100-78256

ACTION:

With your approval, the attached letter will be sent to Jarinkes informing him and Randall that we have not conducted an investigation of Riha and suggesting that they may desire to contact the District Attorney in Denver for further information.

WRS

HHH/RS

DEM

EM

R

7

JS

DS

Jim

EX-102

REC-15

39

October 21, 1971

1 - Mr. A. Rosen
1 - Mr. D. J. Falbey
1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. W. R. Schlarman

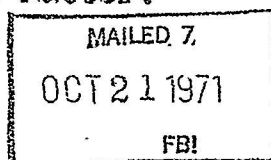
Mr. Owen Jarinkes
425 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10025

Dear Mr. Jarinkes:

Reference is made to the letter from
Mr. Francis B. Landall and you dated October 13, 1971.

The FBI has not conducted an investigation
concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha
since there is no indication of a violation of any
Federal law within our jurisdiction. We have no
knowledge concerning Professor Riha's whereabouts.

Professor Riha's disappearance was the
subject of an investigation by local authorities in
Denver, Colorado, and you may desire to contact the
District Attorney in Denver for information regarding
this matter.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Denver (105-4151) (Enclosure)

NOTE FOR SAC, DENVER:

Enclosed is one copy of referenced letter for your
information in the event you receive an inquiry from local
authorities in Denver relating to this matter. For your
information, Bureau files indicate Jarinkes is a Queensboro
College, New York, professor and has previously been inter-
viewed by us regarding Soviet matters and was cooperative.
However, while in the US Army 1954-56 he received psychiatric

105-79256-

1 - 134-16839 (Jarinkes)

1 - 105-30830 (Randall)

OCT 29 1971

(11)

NOTE FOR SAC, DENVER,
CONTINUED PAGE TWO

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

THIS DOCUMENT IS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
FOIA ACT. IT IS NOT FOR DISSEMINATION
OUTSIDE YOUR COMMITTEE. ITS USE IS LIMITED TO
YOUR COMMITTEE AND THE CONTENT MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED
TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL WITHOUT THE EXPRESS
APPROVAL OF THE FBI.

Mr. Oren Jarinkes

NOTE FOR SAC, DENVER, CONTINUED:

treatment and admitted "emotional pressure because of homosexual tendencies." Randall is a professor at Sarah Lawrence College, New York, and was interviewed by us in 1954 in connection with a student trip to the Soviet Union and was cooperative. In 1963 he supported and participated in antidraft and anti-Vietnam war activity.

NOTE:

See memorandum W. A. Branigan to Mr. E. S. Miller dated 10/20/71, captioned "Thomas Riha, Miscellaneous - Information Concerning," prepared by WMS:kml.

Mr. Oren Jarinkes
Mr. Francis B. Randall
425 Riverside Dr.
New York, NY, 10025

Oct. 13, 1971

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs,

In The New York Times of this Sunday, October 10, a reporter makes an extraordinary statement about the disappearance of Prof. THOMAS-RIHA from the University of Colorado in March, 1969. he says, "The F.B.I. learned that there had been no foul play, that the professor had chosen to leave for personal reasons."

We have been friends of Thomas Riha for many years. Both of us went to school with him, one of us (Oren Jarinkes) served in the Army with him. We appeal to you out of the strongest concern for our friend whom we have thought dead for two years. Can you tell us that Thomas Riha is indeed still alive, or is this just one more New York Times error? Is there anything that you can tell us about him and his situation, consistent with your professional discretion? Can his friends help him? Can we communicate with him, through you or in any other way? May we beg you to tell us what you can about our friend, as soon as possible?

Or

Thank you very much for anything
you can do!

Oren Jarinkes
Oren Jarinkes

EX-102

REC-15

Francis B. Randall

Francis B. Randall

OCT 22 1971

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

5-11-71

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir. _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

Mr. W. R. Wannall

DATE: 2/26/74

FROM : W. O. Cregar

1 - Mr. Nicholas
1 - Mr. Cregar

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECH

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

On 2/20/74 [redacted] telephonically
furnished the following information.

[redacted] has
a source *WHO*

Recently [redacted] advised his
[redacted] contact that he had learned from a *SUB-SOURCE* who
in turn learned from a friend, not identified to *SOURCE*
that the friend had seen subject in Bratislava,
Czechoslovakia, in late 1973.

According to [redacted] the *SOURCE* had no additional
information regarding this matter and had failed to obtain
the identity of the friend of his *SUB-SOURCE*.

Inasmuch as we do not have a current investigative
interest in Riha, no further action is warranted in this
case.

ACTION:

For information and record purposes.

WOC:ebc

(3) *ebc*

REC-19

3 FEB 27 1974

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

55 MAR 5 1974

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall

DATE: 2/26/74

FROM : W. O. Cregar

1 - Mr. Nicholas
1 - Mr. Cregar

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECH

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

On 2/20/74 [redacted] telephonically
furnished the following information.

[redacted]
[redacted] Recently Byrnes advised his
[redacted] contact that he had learned from a former student who
in turn learned from a friend, not identified to Professor
Byrnes, that the friend had seen subject in Bratislava,
Czechoslovakia, in late 1973.

According to [redacted] the Professor had no additional
information regarding this matter and had failed to obtain
the identity of the friend of his former student.

Inasmuch as we do not have a current investigative
interest in Riha, no further action is warranted in this
case.

ACTION:

For information and record purposes.

WOC:ebc
(3) *ebc*

REC-19

3 FEB 27 1974

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

55 MAR 5 1974

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537**

NOV 9 1975

The following FBI record, NUMBER 237 764 H, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
US IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE SAN FRANCISCO CALIF	TOMAS ANDRE KAREL RIHA #247 P 23936	10-17-52 (finger-printed)	APPLICANT FOR NATURALIZATION	
U.S. ARMY New York New York	Thomas A.C. Riha #US 51 288 063	Enlisted 12-2-53	APPLICANT FOR U.S. ARMY	
AC of S G-2 Department of the Army Washington DC	Thomas Riha #A-3	(finger-printed) 1-13-54	APPLICANT	
<p><i>This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use in official proceedings by your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.</i></p> <p align="right">Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is included in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.</p>				

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

NOV 9 1975

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

237 764 H

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 70"

Weight: 127

Hair: brown

Eyes: blue

Date and Place of Birth: 4-17-1929 Czechoslovakia (Prague)

Scars and Marks: none listed

Address: 5085 Rockledge Drive Riverside, Calif. (1-13-54)

Occupation: U.S. ARMY (1954)

Social Security Number: none listed

Since neither fingerprints nor
identifying number which is
in our files accompanied you
FBI cannot guarantee in any
that this material concerns
individual in whom you are interested.

INFORMATION RELATING TO GALYA TANNENBAUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, DENVER (47-3190) (C)

SUBJECT: GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
Galya Ann Tannenbaum,
Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum
IMP
OO: Denver

DATE: 12/24/69

The above captioned individual was the subject of an impersonation case, twice declined by USA, Denver. Circumstances associated with the investigation are being made available in the enclosed LHM in the event subsequent inquiries might be received at the Bureau regarding this matter.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

2 - Bureau (Encs 4) / - 2253
1 - Denver
MRS/cal
(3)

REC-94

47-54547-1

DEC 29 1969





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
December 24, 1969.

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

This investigation was opened after the telephone call to the Denver office by the Colorado University campus police, Boulder, Colorado, was received advising the Boulder Police Department had been called to the home of a Professor Thomas Riha, a history professor, at the aforementioned institution. Interview of Boulder Police Department Officers disclosed they were called to Riha's home, 1055 Sixth Street, Boulder, Colorado, 12:30 a.m. on March 9, 1969, and subject answered the door. The call was placed by subject Tannenbaum. Their investigation disclosed Riha was attempting to obtain a divorce from his wife Hana and that subject Tannenbaum was attempting to get Mrs. Riha to sign some papers. They learned Mrs. Riha had locked herself in her bedroom which was on the main floor and had been screaming out the window for help. Results determined she could have stepped from the room without assistance and that her bedroom door had been locked from the inside. Also a small bottle was found under her bed covers which was subsequently determined to be ether. They also recalled what appeared to be Xerox copies of immigration papers and Mrs. Tannenbaum advising that Mrs. Riha had out-stayed her visa. Tannenbaum also used the telephone and claimed to have called the immigration authorities.

Captain Lowell Friesen, Boulder Police Department, on April 14, 1969, advised their department did not open a case on this matter inasmuch as they determined the problem to be a civil matter. Friesen pointed out that Mrs. Tannenbaum had been living with Mr. Riha before this marriage, that Riha wanted to divorce his wife whom he had married in the fall of 1968, and that Riha had left the city.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

Mrs. Veva Nye of Boulder, Colorado, who described herself as the only real friend Mrs. Riha had in the Boulder area furnished the following information:

She advised she met Mrs. Riha the first week in November, 1968 at a Boulder beauty college. She said they became friends and she was often invited to the Riha home. She also recalled that even at this early date when Mr. and Mrs. Riha had been married for little over a month, Mrs. Riha advised her husband had already mentioned divorce. She also recalled a nephew of Mr. Riha's, Zdenek Cerveny, had been living with the couple. She advised Mrs. Riha had been in the country about three years and had met Riha either through mutual friends or a relative of Riha's. She recalled numerous complaints by Riha that his wife had no interest in his work, that she was a poor housekeeper, spent too much of his money and did not seem to "shape up" to what he expected in a wife. Nye recalled that near the end of January, 1969 Riha called her to give her a message for Hana that he intended to divorce her and would she find out what Hana intended to do. She also recalled Hana mentioning Mrs. Tannenbaum called her often and was a visitor at the house. She recalled Mr. Riha referred to Tannenbaum as Colonel. Nye recalled that both Tannenbaum and Riha were working on Riha's wife to get her to sign papers which they indicated were immigration papers but may have really been connected with property settlements or divorce papers.

Facts of this case were discussed with the U. S. Attorney, Denver, Colorado, on May 7, 1969, who advised he did not consider this to be a true violation and requested no further investigation be conducted.

Tannenbaum was contacted by Agents of the Denver office and was severely admonished for giving the impression that she was connected with the Internal Revenue Service.

The above case was again opened after Mr. L. W. Gillette, who was visiting in Boulder, Colorado,

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

and subsequently located in Portage, Michigan, contacted the Denver office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Gillette advised that Tannenbaum had been dating a Gus Ingwersen, who was the father-in-law of his daughter. Tannenbaum had indicated to Ingwersen she was connected with the U. S. Army Intelligence and was a full colonel and indicated to him she usually traveled two or three times a week to Washington, D.C. in connection with her employment and in the near future was to be made a brigadier general. Gillette related he believed no one acquainted with Tannenbaum believed her claims and that most persons who knew her believed her to be emotionally unstable.

Also, an Esther Foote of Colorado Springs, Colorado, appeared in the Denver office and was subsequently interviewed. Foote advised she met Tannenbaum after she, Foote, placed an ad in the "Denver Post" soliciting fortune telling. Foote advised she tutored two of the subject's children, ages 3 and 9, at the subject's home, 242 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado. Foote advised she received two bad checks for this work, one was a closed account and the other was a non-sufficient funds check. Foote recalled the subject indicated to her she was working for the U. S. Government and was going to travel to Washington, D.C. and visit the pentagon and also displayed a briefcase with the word "Army" on it. She advised subject never displayed any credentials and had obtained nothing of value from her.

The facts of this case were discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney, Denver, Colorado, who advised that inasmuch as Tannenbaum did not display any credentials and did not obtain anything of value, he desired no further investigation be conducted in this matter and inasmuch as Tannenbaum had previously been admonished, did not desire to have her recontacted.

The Detroit office also advised that Gillette thought there were mysterious circumstances surrounding Ingwersen's death by cyanide poisoning together with the fact that a will had been found naming the subject as the chief beneficiary.

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

On December 12, 1969, Captain of Detectives Willard Spier, Boulder, Colorado Police Department, advised that Thomas Riha, formerly a professor at the University of Colorado (CU), was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969. Spier advised that Riha had not been carried as a missing person until October 28, 1969, when Riha's nephew Edenek Corveny, presently in Denver, Colorado, inquired as to Riha's whereabouts. Riha was described by Spier as a person who was fluent in five languages in addition to English. Spier advised that some have felt Riha disappeared inasmuch as he may have been in some type of undercover work for an agency within the United States Government. Spier advised Riha's attorney who handled his subsequent divorce was a Richard Hopkins at Boulder. Spier also advised that a number of checks have been cashed in Riha's account at the First National Bank with no complaints of forgery. Spier also advised Tannenbaum's name had appeared on the wills of a Bashor Eghort and also an Ingwersen, whose deaths had been described as suicidal and accidental, respectively, and are now being investigated by the Denver Police Department. Both individuals had lived in Denver.

Richard E. Hopkins, Lawyer, 2014 Fourteenth Street, Boulder, advised he was Thomas Riha's attorney for his divorce from his wife Hana. The divorce was granted in Boulder County District Court on September 26, 1969, based on the grounds of mental cruelty. Hopkins advised the couple was married in the fall of 1960 and the marriage "did not seem to work out according to Riha's likings." Hopkins advised Riha was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969. He advised he received a telegram on March 19, 1969, from Chicago, advising that a letter would be sent later explaining; that friends may think he should have consulted them before leaving but did not think he needed permission for what was necessary and to please subdue the panic. The telegram was signed T. Riha. Hopkins advised he received numerous letters discussing home mortgage on the home to be sold, bills of Riha's, various papers concerning his wife and the use of the returns on the sale of his house. Hopkins also advised that Riha obtained his property through the use of a \$7,000, 4 percent loan from Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum. Hopkins advised that one of the letters received from Riha which all had been mailed from Canada was shown to his wife, Hana at the divorce trial, and Hana claimed the signature was not genuine. Hopkins advised the

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

only way he could describe the whole affair was to call it "goosey" and that he does not know if Riha is alive. Hopkins advised he has talked with Tannenbaum four or five times on the telephone and before Riha's disappearance had been given a number to call for Tannenbaum and heard Riha talking in the background. Hopkins also advised Riha's nephew had been living with Tannenbaum in Denver for some time. He described Tannenbaum as persuasive, domineering, very defensive once anyone questions confidence in her, a rambler and finally, as a neurotic. By neurotic, he advised she has delusions of grandeur of importance, of her own ability and of official capacities. He advised it was his opinion that if Tannenbaum were ever taken to court and was pushed, she could plead insanity with no difficulty. He also advised Tannenbaum claims she knows the whereabouts of Riha and has been in contact with him. Hopkins also made available documents including a letter to the Denver Art Museum, listing eleven items valued from \$30 to \$6,000 which he assumes belonged to Riha, to be made gifts to the public.

The Denver office has also been in receipt of a letter from a Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, indicating that Riha is her son, inquiring about his well being and whereabouts. The letter was possibly mailed from Switzerland.

The following is a description of Galya Tannenbaum:

Name	Galya Tannenbaum
Aliases	Galya Ann Tannenbaum, Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum
Sex	Female
Race	White
Date of birth	March 30, 1930
Place of birth	Chicago, Illinois
Height	5 feet 6 inches
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Heavy
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Greying

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

Complexion	Ruddy
Address	248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado
Occupation	Public Relations
Speech	No particular accent
Driver's license	Colorado B29832, expires March 30, 1972

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.

1/22/70

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DENVER (47-3190) (P)
SUBJECT: GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
IMP
OO: DENVER

Re Bureau telephone call, 1/22/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies of a LHM pertaining to investigation conducted by the Denver Office to date.

For the information of the Bureau, subject has been charged in District Court, Denver, Colorado, for forgery and investigation is currently being conducted by the Boulder, Colorado PD in an attempt to develop similar charges against subject.

On 1/21/70, Detective Captain WILLARD SPIER, Boulder, Colorado PD, advised his Department expected to complete a forgery investigation against subject on 1/23/70 and attempt to obtain a warrant for her arrest. He also stated that it is the desire of his Department to obtain a search warrant for her residence in Denver in an attempt to develop information which may lead to the whereabouts of THOMAS RIHA.

Denver considers it advisable to hold a reinterview with TANNENBAUM in abeyance until this action is completed by the Boulder, Colorado PD.

For further information of the Bureau, this matter was originally presented to the USA, Denver, Colorado on 5/7/69 at which time he advised he did not consider the facts sufficient

2 - Bureau (Encl. 5)
② - Denver (105-4161)
(47-3190)

MRS/sip SJ
(4)

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DN 47-3190

to warrant prosecution under the Federal Impersonation Statute. The case was reopened on the basis of subsequent information furnished by Mr. L. W. GILLETTE, who was visiting in Boulder, Colorado, who contacted the Denver Office of the FBI, at which time he furnished additional information concerning representations made by TANNENBAUM concerning affiliation with U. S. Army Intelligence.

The facts of this case were again discussed with the USA's Office, Denver, Colorado, who advised that inasmuch as there was no evidence that TANNENBAUM displayed credentials or obtained anything of value through her representations, prosecution would not be authorized.

Investigation is being expeditiously conducted by the Denver Office, at the conclusion of which the matter will be again presented to the USA Denver, concerning other information received by the Denver Office regarding representations made by subject.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
January 22, 1970

W. J. Sullivan

GALYA TANNENBAUM

On March 9, 1969, the Boulder, Colorado Police Department was summoned to the residence of Professor Thomas Riha, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 1055 Sixth Street, Boulder. The call to the Police Department had been placed by captioned individual. Investigation by the Boulder, Colorado Police Department disclosed that Professor Riha was attempting to obtain a divorce from his wife Hana Riha and that an altercation had taken place at this residence between Professor Riha, his wife and Galya Tannenbaum. It was learned by the Boulder Police Department that Professor Riha's wife had locked herself in her bedroom, which was on the main floor of their residence, and had been screaming out of the window for help. A small bottle was found under the bed covers of her bed which was subsequently determined to be ether.

Patrolman Douglas John Dorsey, Boulder, Colorado Police Department, determined during his investigation on the night of the altercation that Tannenbaum had been attempting to have Mrs. Riha sign some type of immigration papers and she advised Dorsey that she was "doing a little work for immigration now and then." Officer Dorsey then asked Tannenbaum for identification which she stated was located in her car. At no time did Tannenbaum ever explicitly advise Dorsey that she was officially connected with the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, nor did she show him any identification to this effect.

On April 14, 1969, Mrs. Veva Permilla Nye, 3635 Buckeye Court, Boulder, Colorado, advised she was a personal friend of Mrs. Hana Riha, having first met her as a fellow student at a Boulder beauty college. She stated she was often invited to the Riha home and that shortly after the marriage of the Rihas in October, 1963, the couple was considering divorce. She recalled a nephew of Mr. Riha's, Zdenek Cervený, had been living with the couple. She advised Mrs. Riha had been in the United States about three years and had met Riha either through mutual friends or a relative.

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105-78256-23

GALYA TANNENBAUM

of Riha's. She recalled numerous complaints by Riha that his wife had no interest in his work as a professor at the University of Colorado; that she was a poor housekeeper; and that she spent too much of his money. She stated that near the end of January, 1969, Riha called her to give her a message for Hana that he intended to divorce her and desired that she determine from his wife what she intended to do about it. She also recalled that Hana mentioned to her that Galya Tannenbaum called her often and had been a frequent visitor to the house. She stated Mr. Riha referred to Tannenbaum as "Colonel." She also recalled that both Tannenbaum and Riha were attempting to have Hana sign some type of immigration papers, the importance of which was not known to her.

On May 14, 1969, Tannenbaum was contacted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at her residence, 248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado, during which she stated she had never impersonated an officer of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or implied to anyone that she was in any way connected with this agency. She stated that she assists immigrants on many occasions by filling out forms and in other ways by helping them become adjusted to life in the United States. Tannenbaum was admonished for giving the impression in the past that she was connected with the U. S. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. Mrs. Tannenbaum stated she did not wish any confusion to arise from any of her actions and was sorry if any such confusion did result. She stated she would make every effort in the future to see that no misrepresentation was made by her which would cause anyone to believe that she was in anyway connected with any Federal agency or actively associated with the Immigration Service.

On December 12, 1969, Esther R. Foote, 1209 South Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado, advised she first met Galya Tannenbaum as the result of an ad Foote placed in the "Denver Post" daily newspaper soliciting her services as a fortune teller. She stated as a result of this meeting with Tannenbaum she subsequently tutored two of Tannenbaum's children at Tannenbaum's residence, 248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado. She stated for her services she received two bad checks from Tannenbaum, one of which was a closed account and

GALYA TANNENBAUM

the other an insufficient funds check. Foote recalled Tannenbaum stating to her that she was working for the United States Government and was going to travel to Washington, D. C. and visit the Pentagon. She also displayed a briefcase with the word "Army" on it. She stated Tannenbaum never displayed any credentials to her, nor did she obtain anything of value.

On December 12, 1969, Captain of Detectives, Willard Spier, Boulder, Colorado, Police Department, advised that Thomas Riha, formerly a professor at the University of Colorado, was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969. Spier advised Riha had not been reported by anyone to his Department as a missing person until October 28, 1969, when Riha's nephew Zdenek Cervený filed such a report with this Department. Riha was described by Captain Spier as a person who is fluent in five languages in addition to English. Spier advised Riha's attorney who handled the divorce proceedings between Riha and his wife Hana was Richard Hopkins in Boulder, Colorado. Spier also advised Tannenbaum's name had appeared on the wills of Bashor Eghert and on a will of a Gus Ingwersen, whose deaths had been described by authorities as suicidal and accidental, respectively. He stated that both are now being investigated by the Denver, Colorado Police Department.

On December 12, 1969, Mr. Richard E. Hopkins, Attorney at Law, 2014 14th Street, Boulder, Colorado, advised he was Thomas Riha's attorney during the divorce proceedings between Riha and his wife Hana. The divorce was granted in Boulder, Colorado on September 26, 1969. Hopkins advised Riha was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969, however, he stated he received a telegram on March 19, 1969, from Chicago, Illinois, supposedly from Riha, advising that a letter would be sent at a later date explaining his disappearance. He stated in the telegram that friends might think he should have consulted them before leaving, but he did not feel he needed permission for what was necessary and requested Hopkins to subdue the panic. The telegram was signed Thomas Riha.

Hopkins advised that subsequent to the disappearance of Riha he received letters from Riha or at least signed with a signature which appeared to be authentic, which discussed the sale of the couple's home in Boulder. Hopkins also advised that Riha had originally obtained the home in Boulder

GALYA TANNENBAUM

through the use of a \$7,000.00 four percent loan from Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum. He went on to state that one of the letters purportedly sent by Riha had been mailed from Canada, which was shown to Hana Riha at the divorce hearing. At this time Hana stated that she did not consider the signature of Riha appearing on this to be genuine.

Hopkins stated that subsequent to the disappearance of Riha he had numerous telephone conversations with Tannenbaum and on one occasion she indicated to him that she was connected with the U. S. Army Intelligence Service and that she was a full Colonel.

Hopkins advised that to his knowledge Tannenbaum at no time received anything of value from either of the Rihas as a result of any representations made by her concerning affiliation with either the U. S. Immigration Service or Army Intelligence.

On January 16, 1970, Mr. Gerald A. Caplan, Attorney at Law, Boulder, Colorado, advised he represented Hana Riha in her divorce proceeding from Thomas Riha. He also represented her in connection with a deportation proceeding which the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service was attempting to place against her. Caplan advised that on either February 11, 1969 or February 12, 1969, he met with Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum in his office and as a result of this visit reduced the results of her visit to memorandum which is attached hereto.

Mr. Caplan also stated that through interviews with Mrs. Riha he had determined from her that Tannenbaum had also represented herself to Mrs. Riha on numerous occasions as a member of Army Intelligence and also as some type of official with the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The following descriptive data of Galya Tannenbaum as set forth below was obtained through records of the Colorado State Department of Motor Vehicles, Denver, Colorado, and from the various individuals contacted in this case:

Name	Galya Tannenbaum
Aliases	Galya Ann Tannenbaum, Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum
Sex	Female
Race	White

GALYA TANNENBAUM

Date of Birth	March 30, 1930
Place of Birth	Chicago, Illinois
Height	5'6"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Heavy
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Greying
Complexion	Ruddy
Address	248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado
Occupation	Public Relations
Speech	No particular accent
Driver's license	Colorado B29832, expires March 30, 1972

The circumstances concerning alleged impersonation representations made by Tannenbaum have been discussed with the U. S. Attorney, Denver, Colorado. Based upon details available, the U. S. Attorney has declined to authorize prosecution of Tannenbaum for violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute. An official of the Boulder, Colorado, Police Department advised on 1/21/70, that his Department expected to complete a forgery investigation against Tannenbaum on 1/23/70 and attempt to obtain a warrant for her arrest and a search warrant for her residence in Denver in an attempt to develop information leading to the whereabouts of Thomas Riha.

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MEMORANDUM

On Tuesday, January 11, or Wednesday, February 12, 1979, I met with Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum in my office at my request. This visit was in connection with the deportation and divorce matter in which I was representing Mrs. Hana Riha.

It had been my understanding prior to this visit that Mrs. Riha was being assisted by Mrs. Tannenbaum with regard to her immigration status and other matters. Based upon my conversations with Mrs. Riha and her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Grossman, prior to my visit with Mrs. Tannenbaum, Mrs. Tannenbaum was apparently exerting a substantial amount of pressure on Mrs. Riha and had indicated to them that she had some official position in the Government.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, at the meeting in my office, told me that she was with MI 4, which I asked her to explain. She indicated that MI 4 was the Military Intelligence Division of the Army in this District. She further stated that she had been associated with Military Intelligence for 25 years and that because of her connections in Military Intelligence she had many friends in the Justice Department and in the Immigration Service, whom she had been contacting in an effort to assist Mrs. Riha. She further stated that she had obtained Mrs. Riha's immigration file and that at that time she had possession of the file. She appeared to be knowledgeable concerning the various immigration laws. She stated that there were certain documents which Hana must file. She also mentioned that because her position in Military Intelligence enabled her to arrange for the Postoffice Department to place an earlier postmark date on some correspondence which Hana had filed after the time for filing the documents had expired.

I stated to her that I thought it was appropriate, in order to protect my client, to ask her to produce certain credentials or identification. She stated she did not have any identification with her, that she did have a plastic card which identified her with Military Intelligence, and that she would see that I received a proper identification card at our next meeting. We had no further meetings and that was the only direct contact which I had with Mrs. Tannenbaum other than some telephone calls, which I believe preceded the office visit.

Gerald A. Cullen

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ENCLOSURE

105-78256-23

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 27, 1970

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Huppert
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Sullivan

SUBJECT: GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

Captioned subject has been under investigation by Denver for possible violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute. She has indicated connections with Immigration and Naturalization Service as well as referring to herself as a "Colonel" with U. S. Army Intelligence at various times. The U. S. Attorney, Denver, has thus far declined to authorize prosecution, based upon subject's alleged misrepresentations. Additional investigation being conducted by Denver to determine if Tannenbaum has, in fact, violated the Impersonation Statute.

Considerable interest in the subject has been generated by the press because of her connection with Thomas Riha, former professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado, who disappeared in March, 1969. Riha, born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, came to the United States in 1947 and became a naturalized citizen. Investigation of the Tannenbaum Impersonation case has disclosed that Boulder, Colorado, police were called to Riha's residence on 3/9/69 because of a disturbance. Tannenbaum was at the Riha home and police determined she had been attempting to get Mrs. Riha to sign some papers relating to Thomas Riha's efforts to obtain a divorce from Mrs. Riha. Boulder, Colorado, police authorities have advised that Thomas Riha was last seen in Boulder on 3/15/69. A missing person report was not filed with the police until 10/28/69 when such a report was filed by Riha's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny.

Articles appearing in newspapers concerning this matter have indicated that Galya Tannenbaum may have information concerning the disappearance of Thomas Riha. Basic facts were furnished to the Attorney General by letter dated 1/14/70, prepared by the Domestic Intelligence Division. The Crime Records Division has also advised U. S. Representative Donald Brotzman (Republican), Colorado, that the FBI has conducted no investigation concerning Riha's disappearance. It is anticipated that other inquiries may be received in view of the continuing interest in this matter by the press.

JDH:dvj
(8)

1 - 105-78256 (Thomas Riha)

REC-30

SEE ACTION OVER

FEB 3 1970

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum
RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

ACTION:

Above submitted for information. Denver's investigation of Tannenbaum under the Impersonation angle is being closely followed. Any inquiries concerning her alleged knowledge of Riha's disappearance will be appropriately handled.

[Handwritten initials and marks: "GTM", "V", "PS", "WIS", and a signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Puzzle clouds

Tannenbaum case

By ALAN CUNNINGHAM
Rocky Mountain News Writer

CHICAGO — Her name is neither Galya nor Tannenbaum, according to those who knew the enigmatic Denver woman when she lived in Chicago in the 1950s and 1960s.

But Mrs. Gloria Ann Forest McPherson Scimo's use of an exotic assumed name is in keeping, they say, with her lifelong flair for playing mysterious roles and weaving webs of part truth and part fantasy.

Mrs. Scimo—or Tannenbaum, if you accept the name by which she is better known in Denver—remains the key figure in a multi-faceted Colorado mystery. The most perplexing facet, without a doubt, is the question of what happened to Dr. Thomas Riha, the Czech-born associate professor of Russian history who disappeared from the University of Colorado and seemingly from the face of the earth last March.

The Denver woman, who was arrested by Boulder police last Friday and charged with forging Riha's name to a check last July, says she is one of a very few people, if not the only one, who knows the answers. She also insists he is alive and well. Many people are willing to agree with the first statement,

but there is controversy on the second point.

Probably no one in Chicago knows where Thomas Riha is. But few people here whose lives have crossed paths with Gloria Forest—or McPherson, or whatever name she might have used at times—are likely to forget it.

She has acquired a reputation for making an imprint on people. Usually, it seems, the imprint has been a painful one.

Not surprisingly, some of those who have thus felt her impact are reticent to talk about it. But from those who will talk, this much has emerged about the remarkable life of the former Gloria Ann Forest:

• She was born in Chicago March 30, 1931, the only daughter of an interior decorator, the late Joseph Forest. She had two brothers.

• She spent part of her childhood in Galva, Ill., near Galena in northern Illinois. It is interesting to note that when one adds a small line to the "V" in Galva, one comes up with Galya, the name she chose to assume later in life.

• She attended a parochial school in St. Louis, Mo., and dropped out of a Catholic high school there, but got a

Page, name of
paper, city and state.)

1 Rocky Mountain News
— Denver, Colorado

Date: 1/28/70
Edition: Home
Author: Alan Cunningham
Editor: Jack Foster
Title: THOMAS RIHA

Character:
or
Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver
☐ Being Investigated B

53 FEB 12 1970

105-78256-A
NOT RECORDED
FEB 9 1970

File 5-105-78256

high school certificate when she was 20. She never received a college degree, although she later claimed to have a Ph.D.

She has been wed twice, although she claims a third marriage, to Chicago artist Leo Tannenbaum. She was engaged to be married in 1935 to Tannenbaum (whose name is spelled differently from that she now uses), but actually was not divorced from her second husband, Charles R. Scimo, until 1966.

More interesting than these biographical tidbits, however, are reports that Mrs. Scimo worked her way through a series of bookkeeping jobs in Chicago, a small Missouri city and elsewhere, winding up in jail several times and once for a three-year term in the state prison in Dwight, Ill.

Still more fascinating, the 39-year-old Denver woman is said to have posed as an expert on virtually everything from geology to aeronautical engineering to medicine, even though she had only a smattering of expertise in any field—except, perhaps, that of influencing people to her own advantage.

Once, she claimed to have invented a system by which in-flight airplane collisions would be avoided, using the repulsion principle of magnets whose like poles are placed next to each other. And only last week, she claimed in an interview with the News that she had developed a cobalt process for detoxifying Army chemical and biological materials and had built what she termed a "T2-bank laser."

Most remarkable of all, perhaps, were two of the stories Mrs. Scimo is reported to have told acquaintances here in the 1960s.

One was that her true name was Galya Zakharovna, and that she was the daughter of a Russian general. The other, which required Mrs. Scimo to do something few women ever do—namely, claim she was older than she really was—made it appear she had suffered extreme tortures as a prisoner of the Nazis during World War II.

In fact, say those who knew her in Chicago, Gloria Forest McPherson Scimo never has been out of the United States. She was in grade school in Galva and St. Louis during the war years.

Chartered airplane flight

Earlier this week, Longmont pilot Robert Gaines told the News about other extraordinary claims made by "Galya Tannenbaum" when he flew her, another woman and Riha's nephew, Zsack Cerveny, to San Antonio, Tex., on a chartered flight last July 30. (It was in paying for that flight that she allegedly passed the check which led to her most recent arrest.)

In their first conversation, Gaines reported, Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed she was working for the Secret Service, and had personally been responsible for bringing her two fellow passengers from the Soviet Union. She added that such services were a regular part of her work.

Later, Gaines said he learned Cerveny had first planned to drive to San Antonio, where he and the second woman were going to visit a Czech-born family, but had been persuaded by Mrs. Tannenbaum to fly instead. Cerveny, Gaines reported, agreed to change his plans in the belief that the U.S. government was paying for the flight.

It was not Gloria Scimo's first trip to San Antonio, either. Records here show that she received a suspended year-and-a-day sentence from a federal judge there in November 1950, after being convicted of theft and forgery of a government check. She also was put on three-year probation.

In 1954, the then-Mrs. McPherson was accused of embezzlement and forgery while working for the mayor of Wellston, Mo. An accountant's report purported to show that Mrs. McPherson's endorsement had appeared on 41 unauthorized city checks, totaling \$6,060.

The mayor, who was in the midst of an election campaign, declined to press charges.

Probation violator

Similar accusations led to her leaving a bookkeeping job with a Chicago hospital in 1957 and an advertising firm here in 1958. In the lat-

ter case, she pleaded guilty to embezzlement and forgery of checks totaling \$16,000. She was placed on three-year probation.

Arrested once more in 1960 on charges of forgery and receiving stolen property, she was sent to prison as a probation violator. She was paroled into the custody of a rabbi in 1962, after reportedly persuading him she was Jewish.

She moved to Colorado in 1967, more than a year after her second divorce—and after her encounter with Leo Tannenbaum. She says it was part of a mutual agreement with Tom Riha, whom she terms a close friend of 26 years' duration, to start their lives anew in Boulder.

But on this point, yet one more facet of "Galya Tannenbaum's" fascinating stories seems to come under question.

Tannenbaum discussed his own painful relationship with her during a conversation in the Chicago suburb of Evanston. He recalled that Galya had made a specialty of working her way into people's lives, and of conspicuously dropping the names of virtually everyone she knew to each of the others at frequent intervals.

Yet throughout the time he knew her, Tannenbaum said, he could never recall having heard her mention the name of Thomas Riha—who was at that very time teaching on the nearby campus of the University of Chicago.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Insanity plea will be entered for Mrs. Tannenbaum

By RYKKEN JOHNSON
Rocky Mountain News Writer

The lawyer for Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum said Tuesday an insanity plea of innocent will be presented during a Feb. 4 preliminary hearing in Boulder District Court on charges against her of allegedly forging the name of Dr. Thomas Riha to a check.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, of 248 Logan St., received a reduction in the \$2,500 bond set after her arrest last week for allegedly forging the name of the missing University of Colorado professor to a check last July 30.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, about 50, is a key figure in a swirl of discussion and speculation over the health and location of Riha.

He is the associate professor of Russian history who disappeared from CU March 17, 1969. She has claimed to be the Czechoslovakian native's confidant and has said Riha will soon return to the Denver area. Other persons fear Riha is dead.

Bail was reduced to \$1,000 by Boulder Dist. Judge Howard O. Ashton after receiving a motion filed by John Kokish, a lawyer from Denver who is representing Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Kokish also asked the bond to be a temporary one, lasting until Feb. 4, to allow Mrs. Tannenbaum to arrange her personal affairs.

The lawyer said the free time is necessary because extensive litigation in this case and others is expected.

Mrs. Tannenbaum pleaded innocent by reason of insanity last Thursday to a charge of forgery involving the will of another acquaintance of hers, the late Gustav Frederick Ingversen, of 1434 Forest St., who died June 18, 1969.

She was free on \$1,500 bail in the alleged will forgery case after being ordered by Denver Dist. Court Judge Robert T. Kingsley to take psychiatric tests. However, she was arrested Friday by Denver police and charged Saturday

by Boulder officials on the check charges and has not been able to begin the tests.

A hearing on the findings of the tests will be held Feb. 25 in Judge Kingsley's court.

In asking for the reduction, Kokish was denied a request for Mrs. Tannenbaum's release on her own recognizance. An objection came from Asst. Dist. Atty. Robert M. Jenkins of Boulder. Jenkins said his office wanted a waiver of extradition and the responsibility of bail to exist during Mrs. Tannenbaum's release.

Kokish said the woman is "destitute except for personal property." He asked for the "one

week of freedom" for Mrs. Tannenbaum "to get her affairs in shape."

"She would like to get her children (she has a three-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son) to a daughter in Chicago," Kokish told the judge.

Judge Ashton then asked if Mrs. Tannenbaum were planning to leave the state. "No, not under any circumstances," replied Kokish.

Kokish continued that Mrs. Tannenbaum also would like to put her furniture into storage and liquidate her assets. He said his client's lawyers are seeking to evict Mrs. Tannenbaum from her residence.

Mrs. Tannenbaum voluntarily signed the waiver after Ashton and Kokish explained it to her.

Kokish said he hoped the bail money could be raised by Wednesday.

During the hearing, Mrs. Tannenbaum spoke in a low, almost inaudible voice. She wore a solid black dress with a bright, luminescent, reddish scarf and loafers.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said she had been a resident of Denver intermittently since 1964 and continuously during the last three years.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. W. R. _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1/28/70

Edition: Home

Author: Rykken Johnson

Editor: Jack Foster

Title:

THOMAS RIHA;
GALYA TANNENBAUM

Character:

or 105-4151

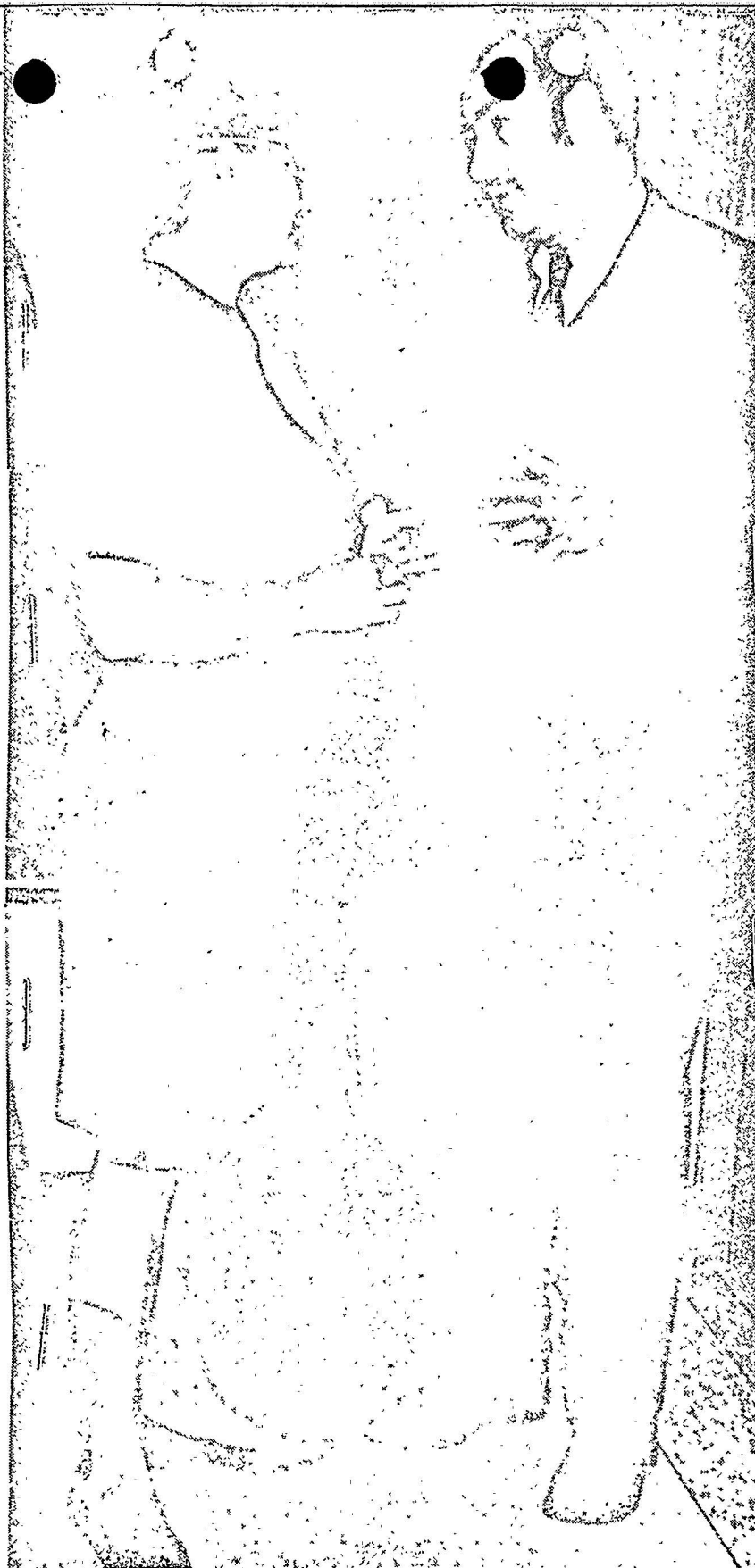
Classification: 47-3190

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated B

47-545-49

47-



47-545-49

Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum, left, self-proclaimed confidante of missing University of Colorado professor Thomas Riha, appeared in Boulder District Court Tuesday. She was accompanied by attorney John Kokish of Den-

ver. The court accepted a motion to reduce the Denver woman's bond from \$2,500 to \$1,000. She is being held on charges of allegedly signing the Russian history scholar's name to a check after he vanished.

MYSTERIES

Tom Cat and the Colonel

She called him "Tom Cat," she explains coyly, because "he earned it." He called her "Colonel," she says, "because sometimes I get a little bossy. It was just a joke." More serious is the fact that "Tom Cat," or Thomas Riha, 40, associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado, has been missing since March. Only the "Colonel"—Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum, a prison alumna with a knack for forgery and a yen for mystery—claims to have seen him since.

When Riha vanished, he left a four-bedroom hoose full of furniture, a collection of religious statuary, a kitchen table set for breakfast and a pending divorce action. Denver police received assurances that Riha was "alive and well" and that no investigation was necessary. That word ostensibly came from Government agents, but federal officials in Denver and Washington now deny any involvement in the case.

Ether Smell. Friends and associates in Colorado continue to wonder if the professor is indeed alive and well. The Czechoslovak-born teacher was first missed on March 18, when he failed to show up for class at the university. Then Riha's property began to be sold off. His car went to a Denver public school official; a signature purported to be Riha's was on the title assignment.

His house was sold. Some of the professor's papers and furniture were sent to Mrs. Tannenbaum's house, and she mailed Riha's statuary to the Denver Art Museum. Royalties on *Readings in Russian Civilization*, a three-volume history text published by Riha in 1964, are now sent to Mrs. Tannenbaum's Denver address. The professor's lawyer has received a number of letters in Riha's name, but he suspects that neither the signatures nor the grammar belong to his client.

One of the few things that is clear is that Riha disappeared shortly after his wife Hana, 25, fled their house, her clothes smelling of ether, crying that someone was trying to do her in. At that time, Riha and Hana had sued each other for divorce. A \$5,000 judgment was finally awarded Hana, but only after Riha had vanished.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, 38, says that she met Riha when he was a professor at the University of Chicago. She was born Gloria Anna Forest and was married and divorced twice. A third marriage, she says, gave her the name of Tannenbaum. She was twice imprisoned in Illinois for forgery and embezzlement. The Colonel apparently followed her friend to Boulder, and the two remained close—so close that Riha's attorney claims to have seen an IOU that Riha gave to Galya, which specified cancellation in the event of their marriage. The two remained friends after Riha's marriage to Hana, and Galya was present the night that Hana ran screaming from the house. Galya alone claims to know Riha's whereabouts. "He is somewhere between Montreal and Toronto," she told TIME Correspondent Champ Clark, "a summer-resort sort of place." Galya has had other interesting but

troublesome relationships. Last June, a friend of hers, Gustav E. Ingwersen, a Denver inventor, painter and past designer, died of potassium cyanide poisoning. Ingwersen's will left less to family than expected. He did bequeath small amounts of stock and an assortment of personal possessions, including a cuckoo clock, a color TV and a dinosaur bone—to Galya and her two children. Galya is now charged by Denver police with forging that will. She pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

Strangely, one witness to Ingwersen's will was Zdenek Cerveny. The Colonel's nephew, Cerveny now denies witnessing the will. He also says that Galya instructed him to help dispose of Riha's property after his disappearance. Cerveny now believes that his uncle is dead. And it was Cerveny who filed the official complaint in the Riha case—a belated missing-persons report last October. Another minor beneficiary of Ingwersen's will, Barbara Ebert, also a friend of Galya's, died last September also of cyanide poisoning.

Bad Check. Denver police last week arrested the Colonel and charged her with forging Riha's name to a bad check. The check was payment for a plane that she had chartered for Cerveny from a Colorado flying service. The charter pilot says Galya claimed to be a Secret Service agent hiring the plane for two citizens of the Soviet Union.

Did Thomas Riha vanish—as the Colonel claims—simply to escape his troubles with a young wife? Who represented the "federal agencies" that stopped a police investigation last year? Denver District Attorney James D. McKevitt intends to find out. "This one," says the D.A. now, "is right out of Agatha Christie."

TIME MAGAZINE

February 9, 1970

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, DENVER (47-3190) (C)

SUBJECT: GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
IMPERSONATION
OO: Denver

DATE: 2/12/70

Re Denver airtel to Bureau 1/22/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a letter-head memorandum reflecting additional investigation conducted regarding captioned matter.

For information of the Bureau, subject TANNENBAUM is presently undergoing psychiatric examination and evaluation at the Colorado State Hospital, Denver, Colorado. As previously noted, subject has been charged in Denver District Court in the 1969 forgery of the will of a deceased individual, and she is presently on \$1500 bond on this charge. TANNENBAUM is also free on \$1,000 bond in connection with charges filed in Boulder District Court where she is alleged to have forged the name THOMAS RIHA to a \$330 check. This forgery allegedly occurred in July, 1969, some four and a half months after the mysterious disappearance of THOMAS RIHA, Professor of History, University of Colorado, about which the Bureau has been previously furnished newspaper clippings and detailed information.

All persons interviewed in this investigation were specifically advised by interviewing Agents that the purpose of this investigation was to ascertain whether GALYA TANNENBAUM had in any way violated Federal statutes concerning impersonation. Interviewees were specifically advised investigation was not in any way connected with the disappearance of THOMAS RIHA, a currently missing Assistant Professor of History at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

This statement was made to interviewees because the Denver Office has received inquiries by news media concerning RIHA's disappearance and they have been specifically advised

2 - Bureau (Enc. 5)
1 - Denver
MRS:pr
(3)

REC-114

11-54547-4

ENCLOSURE 4 cc sent to Liaison 1-19-70.
7-11-70
CIA, FOIA 4/3/70
FEB 16 1970

47-54549

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

DN 47-3190

there is no evidence relating to his disappearance showing any violation of Federal law over which this Bureau has jurisdiction. The circumstances of his disappearance suggest a missing person situation and that investigation is being handled by the Boulder Police Department.

Because of the close personal relationship between TANNENBAUM and RIHA, it would be possible, without the above statement by interviewing Agents, that interviewees could gain the impression the FBI is investigating the disappearance instead of the impersonation of a Federal officer by TANNENBAUM.

Pursuant to current Bureau instructions, this office is not and has not conducted any investigation concerning RIHA.

Interviews of additional sources in captioned matter have been for the purpose of clarifying additional statements allegedly made by subject TANNENBAUM regarding her affiliation with Immigration and Naturalization Service, U. S. Army and Military Intelligence. In this connection all logical sources have been interviewed and the results of these interviews discussed exhaustively with the Assistant U. S. Attorney in Denver, Colorado, having jurisdiction in this matter, and prosecution has been declined. The Assistant U. S. Attorney in Denver does not feel there is any possibility of prosecuting subject TANNENBAUM regarding these false statements under the Federal Impersonation Statute. In view of this fact, no further investigation is contemplated by the Denver Office in this matter.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
February 12, 1970

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION MATTER

Robert Duane Gaines, Pilot, Judson Flying Service, Longmont, Colorado, was interviewed at Fort Worth, Texas, on January 27, 1970, and stated Galya Tannenbaum had telephoned him at the Longmont Airport in July, 1969, inquiring about the price of chartering an airplane to fly to San Antonio, Texas, and back. Gaines stated Tannenbaum told him over the telephone that she was a Secret Service Agent with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). She also stated she worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Gaines stated he had quoted a price of \$330 for the round trip charter. Gaines stated that Tannenbaum called him later and accepted his offer. He stated he subsequently picked up Tannenbaum and one Zdenek Cervený at Stapleton Airport, Denver, and flew them to San Antonio, Texas. Gaines stated that during the trip to San Antonio and back Tannenbaum talked at great length about her affiliations with various Government agencies, including the Secret Service and CIA. Gaines stated Tannenbaum told him that the Government would pay for her trip to San Antonio; however, when they arrived back at Stapleton Airport in Denver, Tannenbaum presented him with a check which she took from her purse and which was completely filled out in the sum of \$330. The check was already signed with the maker's name Thomas Riha.

Gaines stated that at no time did he actually believe that Galya Tannenbaum was affiliated with the Secret Service, CIA, or any other Government agency. He said that her statements to this effect did not influence him either in providing the air transportation or in accepting the Riha check in payment. He said that he would have handled the transaction in exactly the same manner regardless of statements made by her claiming affiliation with various Federal agencies.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use is limited to your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to any other person without their express approval of the FBI.

ENCLOSURE

47-544-10-4

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Paul Morris, Attorney, Woolworth Building, Boulder, Colorado, advised on January 28, 1970 that Galya Tannenbaum had been introduced to him in June, 1968 by another Boulder attorney, Dennis Blewitt. At this time he stated Blewitt and others were interested in the Lake Valley Home Owners Association and were attempting to secure financing of a one million dollar (\$1,000,000) loan. Morris stated that Tannenbaum had indicated to Blewitt that she could obtain such a loan for the Association and as a result certain payments were made to her for alleged expenses. Morris stated that Tannenbaum had stated that she would be able to secure the loan through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and that she seemed to be quite well informed on financial matters. He recalled that during the summer of 1968 Tannenbaum had been successful in obtaining a preliminary approval of an FHA loan for the Association; however, it was never finalized.

Morris stated that several months after the FHA negotiations fell through he had occasion to contact Tannenbaum further and at this time Tannenbaum made representations to him that she was a Colonel in the United States Military Intelligence and had connections with the office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Morris stated although he was somewhat skeptical concerning Tannenbaum's military connections, she did appear well versed in immigration matters. He stated, however, at no time during his dealings with her had she ever obtained anything from him or through him as a result of her representations.

Dennis Blewitt, Attorney, 1966 13th Street, Boulder, Colorado, was interviewed on February 3, 1970 and furnished substantially the same information as attorney Morris concerning Tannenbaum's affiliation with the Lake Valley Home Owners Association and Tannenbaum's efforts to obtain an FHA loan for this association. Blewitt stated after it became apparent Tannenbaum could not secure the loan from the FHA she was advised by the Association that her services were no longer required. He recalled at this time that Tannenbaum on one occasion had claimed affiliation in some manner with Military Intelligence and on another occasion had stated she was an instructor at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Blewitt stated by this time as a result of his associations with Tannenbaum, he had formed the personal opinion that Tannenbaum was not a truthful person.

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

and that he had not actually believed she had any affiliation with such military agencies of the United States Government.

Mrs. Francisca Stein, owner of the Black Bear Inn, Lyons, Colorado, advised on January 21, 1970 that she had met Galya Tannenbaum through her attorney, Paul Morris, Boulder, Colorado, and had seen her on several occasions when Tannenbaum visited the Black Bear Inn. Mrs. Stein stated Tannenbaum had been introduced to her by Morris as one who might be able to assist her in getting Zdenek Cervený, a nephew of Thomas Riha, admitted into the United States. Mrs. Stein said that on one occasion Tannenbaum made a statement to her that she was a Colonel in the Military Intelligence and was soon to be promoted to the rank of General. Tannenbaum also told Mrs. Stein that she at one time had belonged to an extermination group which killed people. Mrs. Stein said in view of this and other similar wild statements made by Tannenbaum, she soon formed the opinion that Tannenbaum was not a truthful individual and did not believe any statements made by her.

Mrs. Hana Riha, wife of Thomas Riha, was interviewed at the residence of Rose Grossman, 240 East 18th Street, Brooklyn, New York, on January 28, 1970. Mrs. Riha advised that she had first met Galya Tannenbaum on the occasion of her marriage October 13, 1968 to Thomas Riha. She said following her marriage to Riha, Tannenbaum had visited at their residence in Boulder approximately twice a week until February, 1969. On several of these occasions Tannenbaum made statements to Mrs. Riha indicating she was working for the United States Army and expected to be promoted to the rank of General. Mrs. Riha said that Tannenbaum also claimed to have connections with the Immigration and Naturalization Service but was not specific as to the nature of her affiliation. Tannenbaum claimed to have lived in Russia during World War II. Mrs. Riha said that she became tired of Mrs. Tannenbaum's incessant talking and had as little to do with her as possible.

Mr. Zdenek Cervený, a nephew of Thomas Riha, was interviewed at the Black Bear Inn, Lyons, Colorado, on January 21, 1970 and advised that he has known Galya Tannenbaum since his arrival in the United States from Czechoslovakia. He stated Mrs. Tannenbaum met him at the bus depot in Denver upon his arrival November 16, 1968. She drove him to the residence of his uncle, Thomas Riha, 1055 6th Street, Boulder.

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Mr. Cervený said that he had been told by his uncle, Thomas Riha, that Mrs. Tannenbaum was a very important person and had been influential in getting him into the United States. He said he resided with Thomas Riha and wife Hana until January 8, 1969 and during this period Mrs. Tannenbaum had visited in the Riha house on many occasions. He recalled Mrs. Tannenbaum had made numerous statements claiming to be either an officer in Military Intelligence or influential with authorities of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and had indicated on one occasion that if he did not behave, she would have him sent back to Czechoslovakia.

Cervený stated Tannenbaum accompanied him to the Federal Building in Denver once when he had to go to the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He said that Tannenbaum refused to go with him into the office, however, and remained outside. Cervený advised that at no time did Tannenbaum ever obtain anything from him as a result of her representations of affiliation with governmental agencies.

Rose Grossman, 240 East 18th Street, Brooklyn, New York, advised on January 27, 1970 that she had attended the wedding of Thomas Riha and wife Hana in Colorado in October, 1968. She stated she is an aunt of Hana Riha. At the wedding Mrs. Grossman said she heard of Mrs. Tannenbaum but did not actually meet her. She said the first she had spoken to Mrs. Tannenbaum had been by telephone from New York about March, 1969. Later she said she went to Boulder, Colorado, and Mrs. Tannenbaum came to the hotel where she was staying and told her that Hana Riha was in trouble concerning her immigration status. Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed to have influential friends at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She also told Mrs. Grossman she was a Colonel in the Pentagon Military Intelligence, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Grossman said her husband, who had accompanied her to Boulder, asked Mrs. Tannenbaum if she worked for the Military Intelligence in Washington, and Mrs. Tannenbaum said that a smart person would not ask such questions.

According to Mrs. Grossman, this conversation left her with the impression that Tannenbaum had some type of connection with the United States Government; however, she never exhibited any identification as such.

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Vaclav Havlicek, owner of a business known as Fasco, located in the Denver Merchandise Mart, Denver, Colorado, advised on January 23, 1970 that he had met Galya Tannenbaum on two occasions through Thomas Riha, a personal friend. Havlicek said that Riha on a number of occasions had referred to Mrs. Tannenbaum as the "Colonel" and had indicated she had influential Government connections. He stated, however, that Mrs. Tannenbaum had never made any such statements to him, and he had no knowledge of her ever having claimed to be affiliated with an agency of the United States Government.

Stephen Fischer-Galati, Professor, Department of History, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, advised on January 26, 1970 that he first met Galya Tannenbaum in May, 1969, when he began making inquiries of individuals he had reason to believe might have information concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha. He said that Mrs. Tannenbaum had told him she had known Thomas Riha for many years and had indicated to him that she helped Riha come to the United States and gave no further explanation. Fischer-Galati advised that he had heard from unrecalled sources that Tannenbaum claimed to be a Colonel in Military Intelligence. He said after several conversations with her; however, he became convinced she was not connected with any type intelligence work and was not connected with Eastern European history. He stated Tannenbaum was extremely careful in her conversations with him and made no statements concerning affiliation with any intelligence or governmental agency.

David Regosin, Attorney, 30 Broad Street, New York, New York, advised on January 23, 1970 that he is attorney for Rose Grossman and has also represented Hana Riha. Mr. Regosin stated his only contact with Galya Tannenbaum had been on or about March 8, 1969 when he received a telephone call, allegedly from Mrs. Tannenbaum, who said she was calling from Colorado. Mr. Regosin said this person indicated she was taking care of the immigration problems of Hana Riha and she was not "going out on a limb any more." Tannenbaum during this conversation appeared to be screaming and hysterical. Mr. Regosin stated she did not directly represent to Mr. Regosin that she was an officer or employee of the United States Government.

Mr. Bill Wade, Chief Underwriter, Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Denver, Colorado, advised on February 2, 1970 that Galya Tannenbaum came to his office in the summer of 1968 in an effort to obtain a one million dollar (\$1,000,000) development loan for the Lake Valley Estates of Boulder. After reviewing the material furnished by Mrs. Tannenbaum, Mr. Wade

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

stated the financial structure of the Lake Valley Estates was not sufficient to grant such a loan. Mr. Wade stated that Tannenbaum made a trip to Washington, D. C., in January, 1969, and registered a formal complaint against the Denver FHA Office. She also wrote a letter of complaint to FHA in Washington making complaints against FHA personnel in Denver. Mr. Wade advised that at no time did Tannenbaum ever represent herself to him as an employee of the United States Government, either in a civil or military capacity.

John L. Todd, District Director, United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, Lieutenant Colonel Lynn B. Fritchman, Commanding Officer, Region IV, 113th Military Intelligence, and Paul S. Rundle, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service, New Custom House Building, all of Denver, Colorado, were contacted and advised that there is no information in records of their respective offices indicating that Galya Tannenbaum is or has ever been affiliated with their respective organizations.

Galya Tannenbaum was interviewed at Boulder County Jail, Boulder, Colorado, January 28, 1970 and results of that interview are set forth on FD-302, copy of which is attached hereto.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date February 3, 1970

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GALYA TANNENBAUM was interviewed at the Boulder County Jail, Boulder, Colorado. She was advised of the identities of Special Agents MERRILL R. SMITH and J. HALE MC MENAMIN, after which it was explained to her that the purpose of the interview was to elicit information concerning allegations that she was in violation of the Federal Extortion Statute. She was orally advised of her rights by Special Agent MC MENAMIN and waived these rights, as shown on an executed Waiver of Rights form.

By way of background information, TANNENBAUM advised that the name GALYA TANNENBAUM is a name she has chosen for herself, and that the name has been legally affirmed in the County Court of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois. She stated the name derives from a ballet dancer whom she admired by the name of GALYA ZAKHAROVNA and a former common-law husband, LEO TANENBAUM. She noted she still occasionally utilizes the name GALYA ZAKHAROVNA, and explained that she spells the name "TANNENBAUM" slightly different from that of LEO TANENBAUM to avoid any implication that she was ever legally married to him.

TANNENBAUM stated she was born GLORIA ANN FOREST in Chicago, Illinois, on March 30, 1931, to JOSEPH J. FOREST, now deceased, and MARGARET JOSEPHINE DAHLGREN FOREST, age 69, who currently resides in Galva, Illinois. She advised she married ROBERT STUART MC PHERSON on August 15, 1947, in Alton, Illinois, when she was 17 years of age, and MC PHERSON at that time was a member of the United States Army Band Corps as a Staff Sergeant. Two children, MARGARET ANN MC PHERSON, now Mrs. JAMES ZIGMUND, age 22, 6236 North Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and DEBORAH ANN MC PHERSON, age 15, Kewanee, Illinois, were born of this marriage. She stated DEBORAH ANN was adopted by Mrs. MARGARET THEILE, an aunt by marriage of her brother, PETER FOREST. She explained the child was adopted after she had commenced serving a two-year sentence in the Illinois State Reformatory, Dwight, Illinois, in 1960, pointing out that she had been previously divorced from MC PHERSON in St. Louis County, Missouri, in 1954.

On 1/28/70 at Boulder, Colorado File # Denver 47-3190

SA's MERRILL R. SMITH and
by J. HALE MC MENAMIN JHM:imw Date dictated 1/29/70

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Prior to this adoption in 1960, TANNENBAUM advised she married CHARLES RUSSELL SCIMO, a graphic artist, on November 20, 1958, in Chicago, Illinois. Their divorce became final in Chicago in about April, 1966. One child, JAMES DAVID SCIMO, was born of this marriage on November 3, 1959. He presently resides with her in Denver, Colorado.

According to TANNENBAUM, the present whereabouts of MC PHERSON and SCIMO are unknown to her.

TANNENBAUM advised she commenced living with LEO TANENBAUM in a common-law relationship in 1964 at 5135 Kenwood Street, Chicago, Illinois. She stated TANENBAUM is approximately 48 years of age and a graphic artist in the Lincoln Tower Building, 75 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. She stated REBECCA EVA TANENBAUM was born of this union on February 12, 1966, and currently resides with her in Denver. TANNENBAUM stated she and LEO ceased their relationship in approximately May, 1966.

With regard to her relationship with THOMAS RIHA, TANNENBAUM stated she first met him in the Washington, D.C. area in approximately 1949 when her husband, ROBERT MC PHERSON, was stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. She recalled that her husband had met RIHA while he was in the Army overseas under circumstances she either does not know or does not recall, and knew him only slightly as a visitor in their home on a few occasions. She continued that the next time she met him was while he was teaching at the University of Chicago in 1961 or 1962. She recalled she was sharing a house with a woman named PHYLIS KAPLAN, and they lived next door to a woman named JULIE STORM, whom she described as a lesbian employed as the Advertising Director of the University of Chicago Press. She advised she had occasion to contact STORM from time to time seeking free-lance graphic art work, and recalls on one occasion noting some manuscripts of RIHA in STORM's house. She recalled having met him previously and had STORM arrange for her to meet him again at her residence. She stated she met with him briefly on one occasion at STORM's residence, but did not actually see him again until she broke up with LEO TANENBAUM in 1966.

On the above instance, TANNENBAUM stated she had a chance meeting with RIHA on the University of Chicago campus

DN 47-3190

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where she had been seeking art work at the press office, and in conversation with him at that time determined that they were neighbors in that she resided at 5135 Kimbark Street and he resided in the 5600 block of Kimbark Street. Thereafter, she stated RIHA would visit her residence on occasion for dinner, and eventually in the summer of 1967 they made tentative plans to marry. RIHA, however, lost his position at the University of Chicago at about this time, and in August, 1967, he moved to 1155 - 6th Street, Boulder, Colorado, where he had obtained a teaching position with the University of Colorado. She followed him to Boulder in October, 1967, and commenced residing with him in a common-law relationship at this address until December, 1967, when they broke up over the fact that he was not able to get along with her two children who were residing with them.

TANNENBAUM continued that she returned to Chicago at this time, where she remained until May, 1968, and then came back to Colorado to establish residence in Denver where she hoped to continue her profession as a graphic artist. She stated she did not resume the common-law relationship with RIHA upon her return; however, she stated she was still emotionally involved with RIHA and was considerably upset when he married HANA RIHA, a much younger woman and a person he had known only a short period of time prior to his marriage to her.

TANNENBAUM categorically denied she ever represented herself as being connected in any way with the Armed Forces of the United States or that she had ever tried to give anyone the impression that she was an employee of the United States Government. She specifically denied ever telling anyone she was a member of Military Intelligence, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Central Intelligence Agency, or the United States Secret Service. She also stated she had never attempted to give the impression that she had ever been connected in any way with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She stated that RIHA has many times in the past jokingly referred to her as "Sarge" and "Colonel" when he thought she was being too demanding of him, and as a result of this tendency on his part other people began calling her by these names, with the whole matter actually being interpreted by her as a joke.

TANNENBAUM continued that there is a magazine entitled "M-Intelligence" to which she subscribes and submits articles. She described this publication as being that of an organization called "Mensa," which she explained is for people of superior intelligence. She qualified membership in the organization by stating she had an I.Q. of 139 on a Stanford-Binet scale. TANNENBAUM advised she may have been misunderstood by Mr. GERALD CAPLAN, Boulder, Colorado, the attorney for HANA RIHA, regarding certain statements allegedly made by her that she was affiliated with Military Intelligence. She recalled a conversation in the office of Mr. CAPLAN concerning the immigration status of HANA RIHA during which she told CAPLAN she was with "M-I," a term utilized to impress him with her intelligence rather than to assert affiliation with Military Intelligence.

TANNENBAUM also stated that in July, 1969, she made a trip by private plane to San Antonio, Texas, with ZDENEK CERVENY, nephew of THOMAS RIHA, to visit relatives of RIHA and CERVENY. She stated she made the trip at CERVENY's insistence, principally because she would not allow him to utilize her automobile for the trip as well as the fact that since she felt she would eventually probably have to pay for this trip anyway, she might just as well go along for the ride. TANNENBAUM advised that when she called the Judson Flying Service in Longmont, Colorado, to arrange for this trip, she had not made any statement that she was in any way connected with any branch of the United States Government. She denied making any statements whatsoever to the pilot of the airplane concerning her affiliation with the Government, and stated that when she arrived back in Denver she paid the pilot with a \$330 check drawn on the First National Bank, Boulder, Colorado, which had been previously signed by THOMAS RIHA for her convenience. She denied that she made any representations when presenting this check to the pilot of the airplane, and insisted that as far as she knew RIHA had sufficient funds in the bank with which to cover the cost of the flight.

At this point, TANNENBAUM stated she was tired of being made a fool of by the false allegations that she had been impersonating military and Government personnel, and did not desire to discuss the matter further.

TANNENBAUM advised she wished to go on record with the FBI that the disappearance of THOMAS RIHA from Boulder, Colorado, on March 15, 1969, had nothing to do with her past association with him, and could only offer the opinion that he decided to abruptly leave Boulder due to marital difficulties and numerous personal clashes with other members in the Department of History at the University of Colorado. She stated she has received several long distance telephone calls from RIHA since his disappearance, but did not know from what location they emanated as he refused to divulge his whereabouts. She also stated that in August, 1969, he called her from Stapleton International Airport in Denver and she met him there for a short period of time; however, he refused to tell her his destination or where he had been between that time and March 15, 1969. She stated the conversation was strictly personal. TANNENBAUM stated the last time she received any written communication from RIHA was in November, 1969, which communication she recalls was postmarked Toronto, Canada. She also stated she received a telephone call from him just before Christmas, 1969, for the purpose of extending Christmas greetings. According to TANNENBAUM, the call came from a pay telephone from an unknown location.

She continued that the notes she received from RIHA were removed from her residence in Denver, Colorado, on January 23, 1970, by detectives of the Boulder, Colorado Police Department on the basis of a search warrant; however, she stated that her attorney, JOHN KOKISH, has advised her that he has a specific address for RIHA in his possession which he has obtained through independent investigation. She pointed out she is certain RIHA will again return to the Boulder area.

The following descriptive data was obtained concerning TANNENBAUM through interview and observation:

Race:	White
Sex:	Female
Date of Birth:	March 30, 1931
Place of Birth:	Chicago, Illinois
Height:	5'7"
Weight:	170 pounds
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Brown/gray

DN 47-3190

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Address: 248 Logan Street, Denver,
Colorado.

Occupation: Graphic Artist

Relatives: Father - JOSEPH J. FOREST
(Deceased)
Mother - MARGARET JOSEPHINE
FOREST, age 69,
Galva, Illinois.
Brother - PETER FOREST, age
35, 420 Oakland Street,
Iowa City, Iowa.
Brother - CHARLES ANDREW FOREST,
age 34, Sandia, New
Mexico. States employed
as mathematician, U. S.
Atomic Energy Commission.

Military Service: None

Education: St. Anthony Grade School,
St. Louis, Missouri;
attended St. Elizabeth
Academy, St. Louis, Missouri
where completed tenth grade;
received high school diploma
while incarcerated in Illinois
State Reformatory for Women.

Status of Health: Received psychiatric treatment
from Dr. ERIC SACHS, 30 North
Michigan Avenue, Chicago,
Illinois, 1956 - 1959.

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Mr. James R. Richards, Assistant United States Attorney, Denver, Colorado, was contacted on February 6, 1970 and furnished results of complete interviews of persons contacted in this investigation. Mr. Richards stated Tannenbaum apparently did not obtain anything of value as a result of her false representations. He also noted there was no indication that persons to whom these false representations had been made relied upon them or acted directly as a result of her false claims. Mr. Richards stated he did not feel the actions of Mrs. Tannenbaum constituted a prosecutable violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute, and added that the matter did not appear to be one that had prosecutive merit.

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.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

18218 Federal Building
Denver, Colorado 80202
February 12, 1970

Mr. James L. Trocce
United States Attorney
United States Courthouse
Denver, Colorado 80202

Attention: Mr. James R. Richards
Assistant U. S. Attorney

Re: Galya Tannenbaum
Impersonation Matter

Dear Sir:

On February 6, 1970, Special Agent Merrill R. Smith contacted Assistant United States Attorney James R. Richards and discussed in detail results of investigation conducted by him regarding allegations of false statements made by captioned individual in claiming to be associated with various Federal agencies, including Military Intelligence, Secret Service, Central Intelligence Agency and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

As a result of these discussions, Mr. Richards declined prosecution of Tannenbaum, noting that she had apparently never obtained anything of value and that persons to whom such claims were made apparently did not rely upon her false representations. Mr. Richards stated that he did not feel Tannenbaum's actions constituted a prosecutable violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute and stated the matter was one which did not appear to have prosecutive merit.

A copy of a letterhead memorandum reflecting results of interviews of individuals contacted in this investigation is being enclosed for the completion of your file in this matter.

No further investigation is contemplated by this office regarding Tannenbaum.

NOT RECORDED

Very truly yours, 10 FEB 16 1970

SCOTT J. WERNER
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure 1

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

FBI

Date: 7/9/70

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Walters	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DENVER (47-3190)
GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
IMPERSONATION
OO: Denver

Bohannon
2/9/71

Bohannon
2/9/71

Re Denver letter 2/12/70, and letterhead memorandum enclosure thereto.

Referenced communication sets forth background investigation conducted by the Denver Division concerning TANNENBAUM.

Enclosed is a newspaper clipping which appeared on page 58 of today's edition of the Rocky Mountain News, a Denver local newspaper.

The article is captioned "GALYA. She Talked to Church Statues." It sets forth testimony given by one Dr. JOHN MACDONALD, a psychiatrist, at a sanity hearing involving TANNENBAUM, which hearing is being held in Boulder District Court before Judge JOHN BARNARD without a jury. Dr. MACDONALD was testifying concerning the results of his mental examination of TANNENBAUM.

According to the article Dr. MACDONALD set forth various allegations and claims which Mrs. TANNENBAUM has made to him, including a claim that she worked for the FBI.

This claim by TANNENBAUM of Bureau employment is absolutely untrue.

JUL 11 1970

Denver indicates negative concerning Dr. MACDONALD

2-Bureau (Enc-1)
2-Denver (1-47-3190)
JFM:hg (1-105-4151 Riha)

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Rel. to [unclear] as Riha
THREE
File

DN 47-3190

Upon reading the enclosed article ASAC JOHN F. MORLEY immediately contacted the SRA in Boulder, Colorado and instructed him to contact Judge BARNARD today and advise him that not only had Mrs. TANNENBAUM never worked for the FBI, but she has never in any way whatsoever been associated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

That information was given to Mrs. ESTHER DONNELLEY, Judge BARNARD's secretary, this morning since Judge BARNARD was again in court hearing the sanity matter involving Mrs. TANNENBAUM.

When contacted by the Bureau Agent Mrs. DONNELLEY stated when the Judge heard that comment of alleged Bureau employment by Mrs. TANNENBAUM he immediately discounted it knowing it was absolutely untrue.

Mrs. DONNELLEY stated she would bring the FBI refutation of this comment to the Judge's attention at the first recess in court.

Various criminal proceedings are pending against Mrs. TANNENBAUM in the Denver-Boulder area, and they are being held in abeyance, pending the outcome of her current sanity trial.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Galya: She talked to church statues

By BARBARA BROWNE
Rocky Mountain News Writer

Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum claimed statues in a Catholic church talked to her, a Denver psychiatrist testified Wednesday.

"I felt it really happened," Dr. John Macdonald, Colorado Psychopathic Hospital forensic psychiatry director, quoted Mrs. Tannenbaum.

"I felt I belonged to something. At home, everything was wrong.

"There, people liked me."

Macdonald, however, said the stocky 39-year-old woman friend of missing University of Colorado professor Dr. Thomas Riha is legally sane.

But, Macdonald testified in response to a question by defense lawyer John Kokish, had Mrs. Tannenbaum "been charged with killing someone," he could have found her legally insane.

'Relates to need'

"I would have to know the circumstances," Macdonald said. "If it relates to her need to hold on to her man I would say, yes."

"In other words if it were someone who had rejected her?" Kokish asked.

"I would say, yes, possibly," the psychiatrist said. (Macdonald said Mrs. Tannenbaum told him she lived with Riha for a time, and was upset by his "sudden marriage.")

Mrs. Tannenbaum, however, is not charged with murder, but forgery.

The grey-haired mother of four is undergoing a sanity trial on her plea of innocent by reason of insanity to forg-

Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum

ing Riha's name to a \$330 check.

Mrs. Tannenbaum is accused of giving the check to a charter airline service last July 30 for a flight to San Antonio, Tex. after Riha was first missed March 14, 1969.

Macdonald -- testifying for eight hours--said Mrs. Tannenbaum made one claim after another to him, stating:

• Nazis implanted the fetus of a monkey inside her while she contended she was in a German concentration camp during World War II.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

58

The Rocky Mtn. News

Denver, Colorado

Date: 7-9-70

Edition: Home

Author: Barbara Browne

Editor: Jack Foster

Title: Galya Tannenbaum;
aka, Imp.

Character:

or

Classification: 47-3190

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

(Macdonald also said, to his knowledge, Mrs. Tannenbaum, a native of Chicago, had never left the U.S.)

She was a colonel in some intelligence service, who helped get citizens out of Czechoslovakia to Western countries.

(Mrs. Tannenbaum used the names of both Col. Zazarovna—after a Russian ballerina—and Col. Tannenbaum.)

She was an associate of the Costa Nostra and went to dinners "with the family."

"She said she went through a ceremony and promised not to rat on the code," Macdonald said. "She said she'd probably be killed for talking about the code."

Mrs. Tannenbaum said she was present when someone dropped what she thought was a body into a lake in an oil drum. Mr. Macdonald said. She also told him she knew about another gangland killing.

However, Mrs. Tannenbaum also claimed to have worked for the FBI.

'Pollution plan'

"She said she's written to the CIA and the Atomic Energy Commission and the Pentagon about a plan she worked out to use Cobalt 60 to clean up pollution in the Chicago area," Macdonald said.

"She said she took films of Cuba for the government," Macdonald said. "She admitted telling other people about doing things like what you see on Mission Impossible. (A TV show)."

Mrs. Tannenbaum admitted telling elaborate lies to some people, but claimed some of her wild stories were true.

"She said she heard voices since age 8," Macdonald said. "She said she often talked to her

father (a Chicago sign painter) who died in 1953."

Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed to have had an unhappy childhood, in which she was told her parents wanted a boy, was frequently beaten and was locked in the basement.

Married musician

Because of this she said she lived in a world of "illusion." When she was 16, she said, she married a dance band leader who later joined the Air Force.

During this marriage, Bolling Air Force Base Hospital records, introduced by Kokish state Mrs. Tannenbaum apparently suffered a "conversion reaction" in which she was unable to move her left leg -- hospital officials felt because she feared her husband might leave her.

She was pregnant with her first child at the time.

Macdonald said Mrs. Tannenbaum suffered from feelings of dependency. One of her reasons for becoming pregnant, he said, was that this would help her to hold her men.

Mrs. Tannenbaum was twice formally married and had a commonlaw relationship, Macdonald said.

Drug overdoses

Hospital records, produced by Kokish, indicate Mrs. Tannenbaum was admitted to three hospitals in an unconscious state; in 1954 and 1955, twice from overdoses of barbituates and once from an overdose of morphine.

"During her life, she says she's had very few friends," and the only person she can confide in is her attorney, Mr. Kokish," Macdonald said.

Mrs. Tannenbaum made several claims concerning an

alleged proficiency with weapons, Macdonald said. Among them: That she could shoot birds on the wing with a rifle.

"She talked about killing Russians, and said she can assemble a gun behind her back," Macdonald said. "She also claims to be very familiar with dynamite."

"She said she would do very dangerous things, like flying over Loveland Pass at a low altitude so 'pictures' could be taken."

'Friend of Joe's'

Mrs. Tannenbaum also claimed to be a friend of Joe Bonanno, a gangland figure, Gov. John Love, Lt. Gov. Mark Hogan and the late U.S. Sen. Everett Dirksen.

Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed the statues in church talked to her when she was 26 or 27 years old.

"At one time she said she was from another planet," Macdonald said.

Macdonald said there "can be no question but that Mrs. Tannenbaum is a very sick woman."

Nevertheless, he said, she is not legally insane in that she is not so deranged as not to be able to tell the difference between right and wrong, or, knowing the difference, to refrain from wrongdoing.

The sanity case is being tried to Boulder Dist. Judge John Barnard without a jury.

Figure in 2 Colorado Mysteries an Apparent

Special to The New York Times

DENVER, March 9—Mrs. Gloria Tannenbaum, the central figure in two unsolved Colorado mysteries, has died, apparently a suicide.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, 39 years old, once regarded as a suspect in two poisoning deaths and in the disappearance of a University of Colorado professor of Russian history, died Sunday at the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo.

The hospital authorities confirmed today, after earlier denials, that a suicide note had been found in a pocket of Mrs. Tannenbaum's dress.

Protests Her Innocence

Although an autopsy report will not be available until Thursday, the cause of death was believed to have been cyanide, the poison that killed two of Mrs. Tannenbaum's neighbors in Denver in 1964.

The woman, who once claimed to be a general doing intelligence work and bragged of her friendships in influential area made a wide search for places, gave some of her possessions to fellow patients and wrote farewell letters to friends and family before she died.

In her suicide note and a letter to her lawyer, John Kokish of Denver, Mrs. Tannenbaum again protested her innocence in the disappearance of Dr. Thomas Rih, 30, and the deaths of Gustav F. Ingwersen, 78, and Mrs. Barbara Egbert, 51.

The letter to Mr. Kokish said, "It doesn't matter really, but I will tell you this. I didn't do Tom or Gus or Barb in. I went nuts with hurt over losing them."

Dr. Rih, who lived near the university campus in Boulder, disappeared March 14, 1969, and Mrs. Tannenbaum was subsequently charged in both Boulder and Denver in four separate felonies involving the disposal of his property.

As a result of one of those charges, that she had forged Dr. Rih's name to a \$300 check, Mrs. Tannenbaum was found by a Boulder District Court jury to be legally insane and was ordered confined.

Search Is Unsuccessful

In the following months, the intelligence work and bragged police in the Denver-Boulder area made a wide search for his body. They looked into abandoned mountain mine shafts and along isolated roads, and dug up the basement of

an East Denver home once occupied by Mrs. Tannenbaum. But the missing professor has never been found. In the poisoning deaths, no evidence was developed that could support charges against Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Mr. Kokish said here today that a grand jury should be asked to investigate how Mrs. Tannenbaum obtained the poison that killed her. He said that the grand jury should also investigate complaints made to him in letters from Mrs. Tannenbaum that she had been mistreated and persecuted by the hospital staff.

Mr. Kokish said that his client was apparently looked upon at Pueblo "as a kind of the witch of the ward."

He quoted her final letter to him as saying, "Everything that has made me feel good about myself has been taken away. Life is very cheap."

Placed copy in 47-54547 re Gloria Tannenbaum

Tolson _____
Sullivan _____
Mohr _____
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Brennan, C.D. _____
Callahan _____
Casper _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
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Tele. Room _____
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The Washington Post Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date 3.11.71

NOT RECORDED

47 MAR 23 1971

MAR 19 1971

3253 MAR 19 1971

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

11-18-75 392 CAG

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO San Antonio TX	Gloria Ann Mc Pherson	11/14/50	forg gov't checks	
USSS San Antonio TX	Gloria Ann McPherson J-3-15-1082	11/14/50	mail theft forg & pass gov't chk (\$336)	sent to 1 yr & 1 day susp for 3 yrs & placed on prob for 3 yrs under supervision
SO Clayton MO	Gloria Ann McPherson 5288	4/29/54	forg	warr
PD Chgo IL	Gloria McPherson P File	9/2/58	not given	DWP 3 yrs prob
PD Chgo IL	Gloria McPherson E 43193	9/2/58	embz (1) forg (2)	
PD Chgo IL	Gloria Fores E 43193	5/27/60	OM FP (checks)	9 mos H of C
Cook Co Jail Chgo IL	Gloria Forest 252549	5/28/60	277-38	7/27/60 sent to H of C
Cook Co Jail Chgo IL	Gloria McPherson 259721	9/26/60	forgery	sent to pent'y 10/21/60
SRef for Women Dwight IL	Gloria Ann McPherson 3843	10/21/60	forg (2M) embz (1M)	1 - 5 yrs (CC) 12/21/62 par to Chgo IL 6/25/64 disch expiration of sent while on parole
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

11-18-75 392 CAG

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DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Denver CO	Gayla Ann Tannenbaum 162895	10/27/69	inv forg	
PD Denver CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 162895	12/5/69	CC Wrt #23327 S-check	
PD Boulder CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 20534	1/23/70	forgery	
SO Boulder CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 11371	1/23/70	forgery	
PD Denver CO	Gayla Ann Tannenbaum 162895	1/23/70	hld fug det	rel to SO Boulder CO
SO Boulder CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 11724	3/12/70	forgery	
SO Golden CO	Gayla Ann Tannenbaum 23024	3/20/70	Wrent: Hab Corp	
Dept of Security SHosp Pueblo CO	Galya Tannenbaum 54609	7/17/70	mental patient	
SO Littleton CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 364517	12/7/70	hold for Denver	

daily

of Colorado, Boulder

Boulder, Colorado

Monday, April 14, 1969

Volume 17, Number 116

HISTORY PROF MISSING A MONTH

Riha's Absence Mysterious

BY DAVID M. GAON

Copyright, 1969 by The Colorado Daily

The month long absence 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 Riha was safe and had left voluntarily.

University President Joseph Smiley said Tuesday he was told by reliable sources in Washington that Riha was safe but Smiley was unable to learn 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 Donald Aips of the Boulder Police Department later the same day that as far 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 Lewis Friesen of the Boulder Police Department. Friesen was unavailable for comment.

Pending word from Riha, the University has placed him on

"leave without pay," according to William Briggs, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Briggs said that April 10 he wrote to Riha at a forwarding address provided by the Boulder Post 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 past several months Mrs. Tannenbaum has represented herself as Colonel Tannenbaum of Military Intelligence to the lawyers involved in the divorce proceedings of Mr. and Mrs. Riha, the lawyers say.

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

(continued on page 2)

RECEIVED

riha missing. . .

(continued from page 1)

military intelligence and promised 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 intelligence in this country.

Briggs, Miss Lebra and Caplan contacted the Federal Bureau of

Investigation (FBI) about Riha's disappearance. Briggs and Miss Lebra received no reply. Caplan declined to divulge 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 BILHA
IS - CZ

Enclosed is a copy of a letter dated 4/7/69 addressed to Mr. Nathan B. Levin, Chief, Foreign Agents Registration Section, Department of Justice, and written over the 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 8/31/68 at Boston concerning subject.

Nathan B. Levin, now deceased, according to Bufiles interviewed Fischer-Galati in 1956 in connection with a matter in which Fischer-Galati was to testify. The enclosures are furnished for your assistance in the event any information is brought to your attention concerning the matter in the enclosed letter. Fischer-Galati 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

GWA:crk

(4)

NOTE:

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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. Eldon, Jr. of the Department. Bufiles disclose that at one

JFK Act 6 (I)(B)

A copy of the enclosed 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 concerning subject. Bufiles contain no information which would indicate that subject could be involuntarily leaving the U.S. as indicated in the enclosed letter.

olson _____
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REC 14

11 APR 17 1969

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

April 7, 1969

129 0 42 12

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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 Czechoslovakia. 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,

Stephen F. ...

Professor of History

149-33-0	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
27	APR 8 1969
R.A.G.	

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

*Copy furnished to ...
4/10/69 ...
5/1/69 ...
105-78256*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reporting Office BOSTON	Office of Origin BOSTON	Date AUG 31 1960	Investigative Period 6/6-8/11/60
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED, THOMAS RIHA, aka Thomas Andrew Charles Riha - SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES - RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS		Report made by DANIEL J. GRIFFIN	Typed By: bap
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - R	

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.

REFERENCE: WFO letter to Bureau dated April 5, 1960; Bulet to Boston dated May 25, 1960; Bulet to WFO dated May 12, 1960, all captioned "Soviet Intelligence Services - Recruitment of Students, IS - R"; Boston letter to Bureau dated June 30, 1960, entitled "THOMAS RIHA, IS - R."

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

RIHA advised that he received a very short briefing by the CIA in Vienna, Austria, before going to Russia and he has never been contacted subsequently by CIA.

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.

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:		105-78254-5	MCT-30
5 - Bureau (RM)		17 SEP 2 1960	REC-90
1 - Washington Field (Info)(RM)			EX-11
1 - New York (Info)(RM)			
1 - Chicago (Info)(RM)			
3 - Boston (105-5289)			

AGENCY *97/CA/RH (Workcity)*
 REQ. REC'D
 DATE FORW. *2-11-63*
 HOW FORW. *0-146/0-146/6-6d*
 BY *gjm/pam*

*1 Xerox to DIA
1/22/70
LFL/100*

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59 SEP 14 1960

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956 O-395379

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

BS 105-5289

Mrs. Genavine Bostick

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.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

DANIEL J. GRIFFIN

Boston, Massachusetts

Report of:

Office:

Date:

AUG 31 1960
Boston 105-5289

Field Office File #:

Bureau File #:

Title:

THOMAS RIHA
SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES -
RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Character:

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

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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CONFIDENTIAL

DETAILS:

A SOURCE AT

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.

CONFIDENTIAL

Date August 19, 1960

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

He was born in Czechoslovakia April 17, 1929. He 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 from 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 an 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 8/11/60 at Cambridge, Massachusetts File # BS 105-5289

by SAs MICHAEL J. MC DONAGH and DANIEL J. GRIFFIN/bab Date dictated 8/17/60

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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

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 KAREL 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. RIHA 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 for 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 Rue de la 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.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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, whom RIHA 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 DEMITRIYEVICH 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. IURIY 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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

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
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Black
Complexion:	Medium
Marital Status:	Single
Date of Birth:	April 17, 1929, Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO : Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

DATE: April 14, 1969

FROM : J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: Correspondence dated April 7, 1969,
from Professor Stephen Fischer-Galati
re: Professor Thomas Riha

This is in further reference to our referral
of the captioned letter to you on April 9, 1969.

I am transmitting herewith a copy of our
reply in this matter for your information.

Enclosure

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

REC 43

34
34 APR 15 1969

EXP. PROC.

25 APR 15 1969

ENCLOSURE

105-78256

April 14, 1969.

Professor Stephen Fischer-Galati
Department of History
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Professor Fischer-Galati:

I have your letter dated April 7, 1969, regarding your concern over Professor Thomas Riha. This is to advise you that your letter has been directed to the appropriate governmental authorities.

Since your letter was addressed to Mr. Nathan B. Lenvin, I thought you may be interested in knowing and saddened to learn that Mr. Lenvin died last October 25th.

Your interest in writing to us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

J. WALTER YEAGLEY
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

By:

JAMES L. WELDON, JR.
Chief, Registration Section

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. D. J. Brennan, Jr.

DATE: April 16, 1969

FROM : S. J. Papich

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

The subject has not left the United States. The story or rumor indicating that he may have gone to Czechoslovakia is without foundation. Riha has been having difficulties from his wife, and he recently "ran away from her."

[] has also received information indicating that the university newspaper at the University of Colorado will be printing an article concerning the subject and will refer to him as an undercover agent of [] stated that subject very definitely is not being utilized by [] in any capacity.

ACTION:

The above information is being directed to the attention of the Research-Satellite Section.

- 1 - A. W. Gray (Vizas)
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - S. J. Papich

SJP:clb
(4)

EX-11
REC-19

105-78256-8
12 APR 21 1969

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

SAC, Denver

1 - Mr. G. W. Abernathy
4-18-69

Director, FBI (105-78256) *J*

TICHAS RIHA
IS - CZ

ReBulet 4-16-69.

On 4-15-69 CIA advised through liaison that the subject had not left the United States. According to CIA, subject has been having difficulties with his wife and he recently "ran away from her." The story or rumor indicating the subject may have gone to Czechoslovakia is without foundation.

CIA has also received information indicating that the University newspaper at the University of Colorado will be printing an article concerning this subject and will refer to him as an undercover agent of CIA. CIA has advised that the subject is not being utilized by CIA in any capacity.

Any pertinent information received concerning this matter should be forwarded to the Bureau by LELI and no investigation need be conducted by your office.

GWA:lmg
(4)

NOTE:

Subject is a professor at the University of Colorado. The Department received a letter dated 4-7-69 which stated the subject disappeared mysteriously three weeks ago. The writer of the letter was concerned that subject might be involuntarily leaving the United States for Czechoslovakia. The above is being furnished Denver for its information.

MAILED 2

APR 18 1969

COMM-FBI

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

APR 20 1969

FBI

Date: 9/15/69

The following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (105-8544)

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA, aka
IS - CZ

Enclosed for Denver is a copy of Boston report dated August 31, 1960, captioned, "THOMAS RIHA, aka THOMAS ANDREW CHARLES RIHA - Soviet Intelligence Services - Recruitment of Students; IS - R."

[CCG 7062-S]
SOURCE who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the following information to SA GEORGE M. WOODLEY on September 15, 1969. According to the source it is rumored among the Czechs at the University of Chicago (UC) that THOMAS RIHA, a Professor at the University of Colorado, Bolder, Colorado, was "either kidnapped by the Russians, or picked up by CIA or the FBI."

RIHA entered the United States in 1947 as a student and has been in the United States since that time, except for a period of one year (1958-1959) when he studied at the University of Moscow, Moscow, Russia.

Some time in 1968, he headed a group of college professors on a tour of the Soviet Union. In the group was one ANNA HRUSKA, a Czech girl, whom he married in Bolder, Colorado, after returning to the United States from this trip. The source does not know if ANNA HRUSKA is an American citizen, an exchange student from Czechoslovakia or any background information concerning her.

- (2) - Bureau (RM)
2 - Denver (Encl. 1) (RM)
1 - WFO (Info) (RM)
2 - Chicago
(1 - 134-2309)

GMW/kmb

REC-62

SEP 22 1969

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

Approved: *MMW*

Special Agent in Charge

RIHA studied at Harvard University, worked at the University of Chicago from 1960 - 1966, and then went to the University of Colorado, Bolder, Colorado, in the Fall of 1966, where he presently has a teaching contract.

It is rumored that RIHA recently divorced ANNA HRUSKA and disappeared from the University and his apartment, leaving behind his clothes and furniture.

According to the source, the University of Colorado is unhappy with RIHA for walking out on his teaching contract and has been attempting to locate him without success.

The files of the Chicago Office, in addition to the enclosed Boston report, contains a Department of State Form (Request for Security Information), which is dated 2/5/63. This form shows that Professor RIHA was proposed for academic exchange with Czechoslovakia by the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana. At that time, he was assistant professor of Modern Russian and European History at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. He resided at 6007 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. He was born April 17, 1929, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. It is not known whether or not RIHA was accepted for this program.

In addition to the above, the Chicago files contain a Department of State Form (Visa Action Request) on behalf of JARMILA ZAKOVA, nee CERVENA, born 4/14/37, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. She was employed as a clerk by the Film and Television Academy, Prague and desired to visit her uncle, THOMAS RIHA, 5801 South Dorchester Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, for a period of two months in August, 1966. It is believed that this THOMAS RIHA is identical with the subject because the Dorchester address is in close proximity to the UC.

CG 105-8544

LEADS

DENVER

AT DENVER, COLORADO. Check indices and conduct credit and criminal on subject and ANNA HRUSKA.

Contact sources in the Czech community for any information they may have regarding the disappearance of THOMAS RIHA.

Check marriage and divorce records regarding THOMAS RIHA and ANNA HRUSKA.

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Will maintain contact with Source regarding the above matter.

[CG 7062-S]

1 - Mr. J. W. Redfield

SAC, Chicago (105-8544)

9/22/69

Director, FBI (105-78256) — /11

THOMAS L. HA
IS - CZ

ReCGairtel 9/15/69.

Enclosed for Chicago are Bulets, dated 4/10/69 with its enclosure and 4/13/69, which are self-explanatory.

It would appear the information obtained by **SOURCE** [CG 7062-S] is the same rumor which was circulating in the Czech community during April, 1969.

Unless additional pertinent information is developed, no investigation need be conducted by your offices. If additional pertinent information is received concerning this matter, it should be furnished to the Bureau in a form suitable for dissemination.

Enclosures - 3

1 - Denver

JWR:lmj
(5)

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NOTE:

Subject, a professor at the University of Colorado, was reported to have disappeared mysteriously back in April, 1969. Bufiles disclosed that at one time subject was of some interest to CIA. On 4/15/69, CIA advised through liaison that subject had not left the U. S.. According to CIA, subject had been having difficulty with his wife and he "ran away from her." CIA advised the story or rumor indicating subject may have gone to Czechoslovakia was without foundation. It appears **SOURCE** has obtained information concerning this earlier rumor. In view of this, Chicago being furnished certain information developed in April, 1969, and unless additional pertinent information is developed indicating otherwise, Chicago and Denver being instructed to conduct no further investigations.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

DATE: 12/11/69

FROM : *SAK* DENVER (105-4151)

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
IS - CZ

ReBulet 4/18/69.

There is attached a letter dated 12/5/69, signed by Mrs. RUTH ANN COOK concerning this subject. Mrs. COOK indicates in this letter that the subject is her son and it would appear from the envelope that the letter was possibly mailed in Switzerland.

In accordance with ReBulet this letter is being forwarded to the Bureau. No reply has been made to the letter by the Denver Office.

ENCLOSURE

2-Bureau (Enc-1) (RE-ENCLOSURE ATTACHED)
2-Denver (105-4151)
(1-47-3190)

SJW:hg

(4)

copy to 100 of each

copy to *SAK*

by routing slip for

☐ info ☒ action

date *12/9/69*

by *SAK*

REC-1

105-78256-11

DEC 15 1969

Red
TELETYPE

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Remarks:
Rebulet 4/18/69 and 9/22/69
submit enclosed in 47
in accordance with
instructions in Rebulet
1/19/69
I have already done you should
acknowledge Mrs. Cook's letter (you
may desire to exercise facilities
for Identification Division) or making
proper notice. Furnish copy of your
reply to W Bureau.

Casa Lido
 Buissago Priano
 CH-6614

December 5th
 1969

MRS. RUTH ANN COOK

Dear Sir,

your name and address was
 given to me by Mr. J. CERVENY of
 1918 S. Logan St. Apt. 302, Denver.
 He is the son of my stepdaughter and
 working as engineer at Sam's White Mountain.

I write you on behalf of my
 son (the above young man's uncle)
 Thomas A. L. Kika, associate professor
 at U. of Colorado, Boulder, last
 of 6th St. in that city.
 I just received today a description
 of the last encounters of my step
 grandson

with my son Thomas of the first months
of this year. As I have been sick
with cancer since 1968 and still am
far from well, I was not told any-
thing but that my son after some
unpleasantness with an estate will
of his bride. Gene Hueston (wed-
ding in Oct. 1968 - divorced Feb.
in Jan. 1969) had left the U.S.A.
but was well and living in Canada.

About 10 days ago I received
a letter from my brother Mr. P. P. Kress
of Oakland that some foul play
was involved in my son's disappea-
rance - namely some woman by
the name of Galina Samuelson
of 248 Logan, Denver.

2. who pretends to be a general in
Army Intelligence ^{who} had forged
papers of attorney and checks and
gotten hold of all the belongings
of my son - who was not in Canada -
nobody knows where he is and
that the police in Boulder and
Denver will not give any information
about him to his friends or lawyer
or the above mentioned Mr. Conway.
It appears from my brother's letter
that this Mrs. Gulya Samukhova is
currently free on bail of a charge of
forgery of last will of an old man,
her father who died of cyanide poisoning.
Dear Mr. Werner, I beg of you
to tell me what I should do

to help my son - who is the runner
goes - worked for the IYA of which
I have no knowledge and to tell
me also where he is or whether
he has met foul play at the hands
of this Mrs. Samuel Baum who a few
cently is well armed and always
carries a gun.

All this is perfectly deed-
ful to encourage for me I assure
you. I am of respectable middle
class and never had to do with
similar circumstances.

I implore you to help
me and advise me as to my son's
whereabouts - and what I should
do.

Thank you in advance
Muth A. Cook.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

FROM : SAC, DENVER (105-4151) (P)

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIEA, aka
IS - CZ

DATE: 12/29/63

Re Bureau RS dated 12/19/63.

Enclosed herewith is a letter of acknowledgement to subject's mother Mrs. RUTH ANN COOK, as per your request.

Also enclosed are 5 copies of a LHM which includes Mrs. COOK's letter to the Denver Office of the FBI and 2 newspaper articles dated 12/28/63 appearing in the "Denver Post" newspaper pertaining to subject.

AGENCY *Lab. (FBI, Denver, etc.), RAC*
REQ *20*
DATE *12/29/63*
HOW *By Express*
BY *12/29/63*

*1 xerox of LHM & its
enclosures to
EIA - 1/22/70
LFB/aka*

REC 36

- ② - Bureau (Encl. 6) (RM)
2 - Denver (1 - 105-4151)
(1 - 47-3190 - TANNENBAUM)

LDH/sip

(4)

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

18218 Federal Office Building
Denver, Colorado 80202
December 29, 1969

Ruth A. Cook

Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook
Casa Lido
Brissago, Ticino CH-6614, Switzerland

GERMANY

Dear Mrs. Cook:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated December 5, 1969 concerning the disappearance of your son Thomas Riha.

Please be advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction in matters of this nature and we are not able to conduct an active investigation concerning your son's disappearance.

At your request we will place a Missing Persons Notice with our Identification Division in Washington, D. C. If you desire us to do this, please advise.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT J. WERNER
Special Agent in Charge

① - CC Bureau (blind)

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

105-78256-12
ENCLOSURE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
December 29, 1969

REC 36

THOMAS RIHA
Also Known As
Thomas Andrew Charles Riha

On December 16, 1969, the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Denver, Colorado, received a letter from Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, Casa Lido, Brissago, Ticino CH-6614, dated December 5, 1969, addressed to Mr. Scott Werner, who is the Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Federal Bureau of Investigation Office. This letter states as follows:

"Dear Sir,

"Your name and address was given to me by Mr. Z. CERVENY of 918 S. Logan Str. Apt. 302, Denver. He is the son of my stepdaughter and working as ingeneer at Samsonite Manuf.

"I write you on behalf of my son (the above young man's uncle) Thomas A. C. Riha, associate professor at U. of Colorado, Boulder, last of 6th Str. in that city.

"I just received to-day a description of the last encounters of my stepgrandson with my son Thomas of the first months of this year. As I have been sick with cancer since 1968 and still am far from well, I was not told anything but that my son after some unpleasantness with an irate uncle of his bride Kana Hruskova (wedding in Oct. 1968 - divorced filed in Jan. 1969) had left the U.S.A. - but was well and living in Canada.

"About 10 days ago I received a letter from my brother Mr. P. P. Kress of Oakland that some foul play was involved in my son's disappearance - namely some woman by the name of Galia Tannenbaum

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

ENCLOSURE

THOMAS RIHA

of 248 Logan, Denver, who proclaims to be a general in Army Intelligence, who had forged powers of attorney and checks and gotten hold of all the belongings of my son - who was not in Canada - nobody knows where he is and that the police in Boulder and Denver will not give any information about him to his friends or lawyer or the above mentioned Mr. Cervany. It appears from my brother's letter that this Mrs. Galia Tannenbaum is currently free on bail of a charge of forgery of last will of an old man (her friend) who died of cyanide poisoning.

"Dear Mr. Werner, I beg of you to tell me what I should do to help my son - who as the rumour goes - worked for the CIA of which I have no knowledge and to tell me also where he is or whether he has met foul play at the hands of this Mrs. Tannenbaum who apparently is well armed and always carries a gun.

"All this is perfectly dreadful to envisage for me, I assure you. I am of respectable middle-class and never had to do with similar circumstances.

"I implore you to help me and advise me as to my son's whereabouts - and what I should do.

"Thank you in advance.

"/s/ Ruth A. Cook"

The "Denver Post" newspaper published in Denver, Colorado, contained two articles in the Sunday edition December 28, 1969 regarding Riha. The first article appeared on page 1 and is captioned "Silence Shrouds Odd Case Of Missing CU Professor". The second article appeared on page 36 and it is captioned "Prof. Riha's Disappearance Shrouded in Mystery and Silence". A Xerox copy of each of these articles is attached hereto.

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.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Silence Shrouds Odd Case Of Missing CU Professor

More than nine months ago, a Czechoslovakian-born associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado failed to appear to teach his classes.

He still hasn't appeared.

Police entered the case last April, via a missing person report. Now, though, they say they aren't really interested in the professor's disappearance.

Officers say they have been told by federal agencies that the missing professor is okay, that no foul play is involved.

But if he's alive, where is he?

And who are these federal agents who reportedly know the secrets of the professor's disappearance? Police refuse to say.

His friends say they don't know where the professor might be. His relatives—

even his mother in Germany—say they haven't heard from him.

And, if police do know some answers, they aren't passing them along to the missing professor's friends or relatives.

Many of those friends are refugees who fled to this "land of the free" from the tyranny of European countries. And they wonder how a man can disappear, here in America.

They remember a snowy night in Boulder, when a screaming woman was carried from the professor's home.

They remember another woman, referred to by the professor as "Colonel," and they remember other things.

But they don't have the answers. And that's what they want.

For the strange story of the professor who dropped from sight, turn to Page 36, section E, of Sunday's Denver Post.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Denver Post
— Denver, Colorado

Date: 12/28/69

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Palmer Hoyt

Title:

THOMAS RIHA

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated B

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

NOTED CU TEACHER

Prof. Riha's Disappearance Shrouded in Mystery and Silence

By FRED GILLIES

Denver Post Staff Writer

Early on the morning of March 17, Prof. Thomas Riha's briefcase stood open amid books and papers scattered on the desk in his study at the University of Colorado.

This was unusual, for Riha was known as an orderly and organized man, one who didn't leave things at loose ends.

But unusual things were occurring in the life of Riha, 40, a respected professor of Russian history at CU.

The most unusual of these was that he was disappearing, dropping out of sight from his home, his university, his friends and his relatives.

Did he do this by his own choosing? Did he want to disappear?

Or, did something else happen to Riha?

Is he dead? Alive? If he is alive, where is he? What is he doing?

Mystery buffs would believe that when a university professor disappears, police would struggle for an answer to theiddle. But if police have struggled, there is little evidence of it in the strange case of Riha.

WAGGLE ANSWERS

A Denver Post reporter received vague answers from officials. There is talk of other agencies — unidentified — regarding Riha to be "alive and somewhere."

But which agencies? No one will say.

Earlier on that strange March morning — a Monday — Prof. Robert Skotheim, who shared the CU study with Riha, received a telephone call from a woman in Denver. She wanted to remind Riha about an important appointment he had that day with the U.S. Immigration Service in Denver.

Skotheim placed a memo to this effect on Riha's desk and left to meet his classes.

At noon, Riha failed to attend a scheduled faculty meeting.

Later that afternoon, a woman telephoned, telling a secretary she wanted to pick up Riha's briefcase because the professor had been taken to a hospital after being injured in a fall.

NEVER APPEARED

The woman never appeared. No hospital record for Riha has been found.

The concern for Riha really began building when he failed to meet his classes at CU on Tuesday, March 18. A worried CU staff member notified Mrs. Riha's attorney, who contacted Boulder police.

Officers examined the grounds and peered through the windows of the modest Riha house at 1055 6th St. in Boulder, where Riha had been living alone since his estranged wife moved to a Boulder hotel more than a week before. Police talked to neighbors and, evidently finding nothing amiss, soon left.

By the end of that week, there still was no information on Riha's whereabouts. But the title to his car had been assigned to a Denver couple. And a Boulder real estate firm had received a letter authorizing Riha's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny, of Denver, to sell the Riha home. On both documents was the signature, Thomas Riha, notarized in Denver.

Colo.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

36 The Denver Post
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At this same time, Riha's art works, appraised at \$19,605, known to have been in his house the previous week, rested in a workroom at the Denver Art Museum and were recorded officially as a gift to the museum from a Denver woman.

In the next two months, most of Riha's household possessions and the books and papers in his office had been transferred to a house in Denver. His home in Boulder had been sold. Letters and checks appeared, signed Thomas Riha. His credit card was used for the purchase of several thousand dollars in merchandise in the Denver area.

One of the typed letters, dated March 30 and signed with Riha's name, was postmarked April 8 at Montreal, Quebec. This letter was sent to a Boulder insurance agency, requesting cancellation of an insurance policy on Riha's Volkswagen, which the writer said had been sold.

But were the signatures really those of Riha?

PROPERTY QUESTION

It's the handling of Riha's property, including the works of art, that particularly bothers the professor's friends and relatives, including his mother in Germany. They claim he wouldn't give up some of his possessions, that they were too dear to him.

On Sept. 30, Riha was divorced from his wife, Hana, on her counterclaim of cruelty. Riha wasn't in court. Before the divorce was granted, Riha's attorney questioned the authenticity of letters he had been receiving with Riha's signature. The lawyer urged a court clarification of the attorney's responsibilities toward Riha so that the professor's legal rights wouldn't be "permanently and unjustly sacrificed."

Riha met Hana Hruskova, 21, in New York City shortly before he took a group of professors on a tour of Russia in the summer of 1953. On his return to the United States later that summer, Riha again met Hana, in this country on a student visa from her homeland in Czechoslovakia. Riha, then 35, also was of Czech origin, becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen and receiving his university education in this country.

On Oct. 13, 1963, Hana and Thomas were married in a late afternoon ceremony at the Unitarian Church in Boulder. At a wedding reception that evening at the Black Bear Inn in Lyons, Colo., Thomas obviously was overjoyed. Crossing his arms and clasping them at the elbow as if rocking a cradle, he went around the room calling out exuberantly that the marriage was "for all life."

Among the reception guests was a Denver woman — referred to later by Riha as "Colonel" — with whom Riha discussed at length the bringing of his nephew, Cerveny, to this country. Cerveny then was in Vienna after fleeing from Prague in Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia.

ADMITTED TO U.S.

About a month later, Cerveny was admitted on temporary status to the United States as a Czech refugee, through arrangements which Cerveny said were entirely normal and routine.

Riha's plans for a marriage "for all life" didn't take root. Shattering for him and his wife were events at their home early on the morning of March 9.

At about 12:30 a.m., guests were leaving a party at the home of CU Professor Richard and Mrs. Wilson, next door to the Rihases. One of the guests, Professor Robert Hanson, saw Mrs. Riha standing at a first-floor window in her home flailing her arms and crying for help.

Snow was still on the ground as Hanson raced to the Rihases' house and pulled Mrs. Riha out the window. A strong cold what he thought was a form clung heavily to Mrs. Riha.

With the aid of W. Hanson took the distressed

THOMAS RIHA, PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN HISTORY
"We've been told not to worry," Boulder officer says.

...Riha...
...the Riha house,
...J. Dor-
...who said,
...called by an-
...the Riha house.
...report, the of-
...this version of
...:

The woman met them in front
of the Riha house and told them
Mrs. Riha had locked herself in
her bedroom, from which other
voices were coming. When she
and Riha threatened to break
the bedroom door, the woman
said, Mrs. Riha went to the
window and started screaming.
In her conversation, the offi-
cers said, the woman tried to
give the impression she was in
the Riha house that night as a
person in an official capacity
and had something to do with
the immigration authorities in
Denver. But she couldn't pro-
duce any identification.

Further, she told police Mrs.
Riha wasn't a U.S. citizen, that
her visa had expired and that
the immigration authorities in
Denver had been called.

Asked for her identification,
the woman said it was in her
car parked outside the Riha
house. But she could produce
only an Illinois driver's license.
At the Wilson home, the offi-

cers found Mrs. Riha "in an evi-
dent traumatic state."

After talking with Mrs. Riha,
the officers returned to her
home, where they found a jar of
ether and several ether-soaked
gauze pads in the bedcovers in
her bedroom. These items later
were turned over to her Boul-
der attorney, Gerald Caplan.

"Having investigated this
matter for over an hour and
finding no evidence of foul
play," the officers said in their
report, "we advised Mrs. Riha
to return home, but assured her
she did not have to."

A police check that same
morning with the National
Crime Information Center indi-
cated Mrs. Riha wasn't among
persons in the United States il-
legally, the officers said.

This was the substance of the
officers' report, according to
Police Capt. Willard Spier of
Boulder, who declined to per-
mit a Post reporter to examine
the report. He relayed verbally
only those parts of the report
he considered pertinent, saying
the rest consisted of "personal
comments of the officers."

ODOR STRONG

The odor of ether clinging
to Mrs. Riha was so strong that
windows in the Wilson house
had to be opened, Mrs. Wilson
recalled.

And Mrs. Wilson spoke of
angry voices rising in the entry-
way to her home as her hus-
band confronted Riha who was
demanding that his wife be sent
back to his home.

Riha's voice was "angry, bel-
ligerent and frightened" as he
told Wilson that the woman
who had called police was
an intelligence agent of the U.S.
Army, that she was armed and
the Wilsons were in danger if
they didn't return his wife, Mrs.
Wilson said. Wilson firmly re-
fused this demand, ordering Ri-
ha out of his house shortly be-
fore police arrived.

In a 2 a.m. emergency tele-
phone call made at the Wilson
home, Mrs. Riha talked that
morning with David Regosin, a
longtime friend and attorney in
New York City.

Apparently terrified, Mrs.
Riha took from her purse
Regosin's business card and
pleaded for someone to call him.

The call was made, with Mrs.
Riha sobbing as she told Rego-
sin what had happened. Also
talking with Regosin during the
half-hour conversation were
Wilson, Hanson and Patrolman
Dorsey. After the call was com-
pleted, police left Mrs. Riha in
the custody of the Hansons, who
took her briefly to the Riha
home to get some of her
clothes. They then accompan-
ied her to the Boulderado Ho-
tel, where she stayed until she
left Boulder with her aunt
April 5 for New York City.

VISA NOT INVOLVED

Recalling this middle-of-the-
night telephone conversation,
Regosin said the trouble at the
Riha home that night "had
nothing to do with Mrs. Riha's
visa status.

"There was nothing urgent
about her status, nothing press-
ing, no imminent deportation,"
Regosin said.

Regosin said he was told by
Mrs. Riha during the telephone
call that night that she had gone
to bed and began to sense a
strange odor. As it became
stronger, she became very up-
set and started screaming, think-
ing she was being overcome by
some chemical.

In New York City, where she
is employed at a bank, Mrs.
Riha said recently that the
ether in her room came from
the vents or under the bedroom
door.

Her husband's later disap-
pearance was "something un-
usual," Mrs. Riha said. "He left
his shaving stuff, his writing
stuff, even his suit(s). I've
not heard from him at all,
from the time he disappeared."

Aroused from sleep by a tele-
phone call on the night of the
disturbance at the Riha home
was John L. Todd, district di-
rector of the U.S. Immigration
and Naturalization Service
(INS) in Denver.

The call concerned the dis-
turbance, Todd said in a re-
cent interview.

"I don't recall who it came
from and what was said . . .
The caller was informed that
appropriate inquiries would be
made."

CALLED NEPHEW

On the night of March 13,
Riha was in Denver and tele-
phoned his nephew to come
and see him, Cerveny, Riha's
nephew, said. This was the last
time he saw his uncle, Cerveny
said.

On the night of Sunday,
March 16, Cerveny said, a Den-
ver woman telephoned him
and said Riha was gone and
didn't have a chance to talk to
him. Cerveny was told he
would be hearing from Riha
and would get his uncle's pow-
er of attorney. He also said he
was advised to say that he
knew where his uncle had gone
and the Riha's leaving
stemmed from his impending
divorce.

SIGNATURE IN DOUBT

The signature, Thomas Riha,
appears on at least three docu-
ments witnessed in Denver by
two notaries public after his
disappearance. Shown a set of
six photographs, among which
was a recent photo of Riha, the
notaries couldn't pick out Riha
as the person who signed the
papers.

Received in Boulder and
Denver after Riha's disappear-
ance, letters signed with his
name contain glaring gram-
matical errors and some
awkward gram-
matical expressions and
inaccurate address. One
letter written in the
nephew's name
necessities of Riha's life.

PROTEST

at CU and his friends describe the Riha as a perfectionist in his work — including his writing and speaking. Riha was the author of several scholarly papers and learned treatises, and was aware of the nuances of his native tongue, as well as of English, Russian, German and French, each of which he spoke fluently.

Despite these many perplexing situations, officialdom seems not too interested in finding out what happened to Riha. Finding out vague assurances of his safety or denying any knowledge of the man.

Nearly a month after Riha disappeared, Dr. Joseph Smiley, then president of CU, said he contacted "reliable sources" in Washington and was told Riha was safe, but was unable to learn where the professor was or the circumstances of his disappearance.

This past week, a CU spokesman said there's been no further inquiry about Riha at the level of the university administration.

In Boulder, Captain Spier says:

"My understanding is that Riha disappeared of his own accord—or had to—and there is no wasting time looking for him just as a missing person."

There's no suspicion of foul play in this case.

Boulder police Lt. Ralph Ruzicka says in Boulder: "We've been told by (an agency) not to say. But when we talk to Riha's friends and associates, I hear the facts, they don't add up logically, and we get stuck again."

He declined to identify the agency which provided the assistance about Riha.

Chief Cerveny filed a missing person report on his uncle Oct. 10. Boulder police had nothing official on the Riha disappearance in their files, Ruzicka says.

However, Miss Joyce Lebra, private professor of history at CU, says that about 1½ years after Riha disappeared, about four CU professors had information about Riha to

Boulder. Strolman Donald Aips, who filled out a form at the Lebra home. Miss Lebra said she has heard nothing from Boulder police after making this report.

Cerveny says Denver Detective Phillip Villalobos told him he has been informed that "responsible persons" have said Riha is all right and that the Denver Police Department isn't able to proceed with the search for Riha.

Denver police, Detective Mike Allegretto says, encouraged Cerveny to file a missing persons complaint on Riha Oct. 28 with Boulder police.

"The next day," Allegretto said, "Boulder police told us that the FBI told them to forget about Riha, because they knew where he was and that he was alive and well."

FBI POSITION

But the FBI here insists it hasn't jurisdiction in the case. This was determined when two inquiries were made as the result of anonymous phone calls received here by the FBI April 3 and again in September, John F. Morley, assistant agent in charge, says.

Inquiries made by the FBI, Morley said, were based on the fact that a man had been reported missing "under unusual circumstances."

"We've placed no restrictions on any other investigative agencies in the area to determine if there is any violation over which they may have local investigative jurisdiction (in the Riha case)," Morley said.

"We know nothing about him (Riha)," a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spokesman in Denver said. "As far as we know, Riha left voluntarily. We have nothing to do with the man. He has no contact with our agency."

However, CU Professor Stephen Fischer-Galati reported he was told by the CIA early last

April that Riha was safe and had left voluntarily. Fischer-Galati also said he wrote the U.S. Justice Department April 7 and was told "the matter has been referred to proper government authorities."

NO REPLY

He has received no reply to a Dec. 6 letter, directed to the same department, Fischer-Galati said.

Also disclaiming any knowledge of the Riha case is Todd, of the immigration service (INS) here.

"I know nothing about Riha," Todd said.

But a close friend of Riha's says he contacted the INS twice about Riha—once in May or June, when he was told that Riha was alive; and the second time in the fall, when he asked whether Riha still were alive and there was no answer. At this time, Riha's friend said, he was told by the INS "not to be interested" in the Riha case.

U.S. Army Military Intelligence "has never been officially involved in the Riha case," said Col. Lynn Fritchman, commanding officer, U.S. Army Region 4, Military Intelligence Group in Denver.

Riha's friends don't know what to believe—hoping the vague assurances they have received are valid and that Riha is alive and well. But they don't know.

MOTHER WRITES

Many of them came to this country from totalitarian tyrannies in Europe, and they ask: "How can it happen, especially in this country, that a man can disappear and nothing can be known about him for almost a year?"

From Germany early this month came a letter written to the FBI in Denver by Riha's

mother, Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, seeking information about her son. The letter was directed personally to Scott Werner, FBI agent in charge here. She hasn't heard from her son.

As they spoke warmly of Riha just recently, his close friends — many of them refugees from Europe — seemed to be trying to build with words the image of the man they wanted to see again:

"Riha felt positively more an American . . . as a Czech. He has quite bitter memory as a youth of the German occupation (during World War II).

Riha probably developed a deep sympathy for the Russian liberators. But he missed the part when the Communists take over (because he had come to make his home in the U.S. by this time).

"So simple a man, he could fit any place.

"He was very illusionary . . . an idealistic dreamer . . . a liberal-thinking man. But I don't think he was a sympathizer of communism. He was a man who adored everything that was traditionally rational.

"Riha was a very reliable man. You could build a cathedral on his word."

Another friend said of Riha:

"He was an extremely open man. He made the impression of an absolutely free man . . . not scared of anything. He had made it in life. He was a top professor in his line . . . healthy . . . a fantastic cook. His art pieces were valued in the thousands. He had a big library. He was a charming man.

"Riha was a nihilist, an atheist who just yearned for some kind of . . ."

Riha's friend paused, considered, and then, quite simply, added the one word, "God."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Walters _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. D. J. Brennan, Jr. *4/9/70*

DATE: 1/13/70

FROM : S. J. Papich *SJP*

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Alpa

[redacted]
[redacted] the subject is not of operational interest to that Agency.

[redacted]
[redacted] which could be characterized as a rumor, that the subject was experiencing marital difficulties and had left his wife. The Agency does not have any information concerning subject's present whereabouts.

ACTION:

The above information is being directed to the attention of the Sino-Satellite Section.

- 1 - Mr. Gray (Mr. Redfield)
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Papich

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

SJP:wmk *U-70K*
(4)

min
R

REC-35

10 JAN 14 1970

105-78256

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

59 JAN 19 1970

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : A. W. Gray

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(SINO-SATELLITE)1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malmfeldt

DATE: January 13, 1970

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. RedfieldTolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Recommend attached letter be sent Attorney General (AG) regarding letter 1/8/69 to him from Congressman Donald G. Brotzman, Republican, Colorado, referred to us concerning disappearance of subject. Also recommend representative of Mr. Bishop's office personally apprise Congressman of facts. Brotzman, formerly United States Attorney Denver, 1959-1962; relations cordial.

Congressman requested information from AG by 1/14/70 concerning subject's disappearance from Boulder, Colorado, 3/69. He noted Riha may have disappeared because of "domestic complications." He stated he asked Bureau for report as to what had been done to locate subject. He wrote that Bureau advised, aside from preliminary inquiries, no investigation conducted. On 12/31/69 Mr. Bishop did advise Congressman's office FBI had conducted no investigation of disappearance, since no indications of violation of federal law in our jurisdiction. Congressman stated during course of similar inquiries, CIA advised it had no jurisdiction but understood FBI had looked into matter and might well know whereabouts of subject and circumstances involved. We did inquire of CIA through Liaison on 4/15/69 to determine if they had any interest in subject. They did not.

Subject, born 4/17/29, Prague, Czechoslovakia, entered United States 1947; naturalized US citizen 12/52; served US Army 1953-1955; attended Moscow University 6/58-9/59; prior to disappearance was professor of Russian history, University of Colorado, Boulder. We have no information concerning Riha's whereabouts and have conducted no investigation to locate. CIA advised Liaison 1/13/70 Congressman was told CIA was not investigating subject and not using him in any capacity. CIA suggested he might check with local police and FBI, but did not tell him FBI was investigating.

REC- 94

In 12/69 Denver received letter from subject's mother requesting information concerning son's disappearance. Denver Office replied this was matter not within jurisdiction of Bureau, however, offered if she so desired to place his name on Bureau's missing persons list. SAC, Denver, advised reply received from mother 1/13/70 declining to have subject's name placed on list.

ENCLOSURE
JWR:kml

(8)

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: THOMAS RIHA

ACTION:

(1) That approval be granted for attached letter to AG providing him with these facts and advising him that a representative of the Bureau will personally inform the Congressman of them on 1/14/70.

(2) That a representative of Mr. Bishop's office personally contact the Congressman and provide him with these facts.

*See Jones & Bishop
memo 1-15-70
let & Cong. Representative
1-15-70*

*OK.
done
H.W. R.
NEL
-15-
W. H.*

*1/23/73 Mr. Edmund Byrne, IAS
advised we have not investigated disappearance
of Riha; do not know his whereabouts &
contemplate no investigation in absence of
jurisdiction Upm. L.*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CU PROFESSOR'S FATE A MYSTERY

Probe Widens in Riha's Disappearance

By FRED GILLIES
Denver Post Staff Writer

Denver Dist. Atty. Mike McKeivitt said Wednesday his staff is conducting an "extensive investigation" into the mysterious disappearance of Thomas Riha, University of Colorado professor, and is coordinating its efforts with widening probes of the Denver and Boulder Police Departments and the Boulder district attorney.

At the request of The Denver Post, inquiries about Riha also are being continued with federal agencies in Washington, D.C., and through Canadian immigration officials.

RUSSIAN HISTORY

Riha, 40, a highly respected professor of Russian history, was officially listed as missing March 17 when he failed to appear at his office where his briefcase stood open amid books and papers on his desk.

On the same day, Riha's prized art works rested in a workroom at the Denver Art Museum, the gift of a Denver woman who museum officials say didn't mention Riha as the owner of the art works.

Less than two weeks later, the title to Riha's car had been assigned to a Denver couple. And within two months of his disappearance, his home in Boulder had been sold.

MONTREAL POSTMARK

Denver and Boulder law enforcement authorities have indicated that much of their effort involves examination of the various documents involved in the

transfer of Riha's property and some of these letters have appeared, signed Thomas Riha. Some of these letters have a Montreal, Quebec, postmark.

Inquiries at the national level are being made by Rep. Donald G. Brotzman, R-Colo. To date, Brotzman said he has received responses from three agencies:

—The FBI, which says it hasn't and won't conduct an investigation of Riha's disappearance unless someone comes forward to indicate that a federal offense is likely to have been involved. The agency did, however, acknowledge it has received several inquiries about Riha.

—The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which said it thinks the FBI might have some knowledge of Riha's whereabouts. The CIA spokesman said the agency considered the matter when it received inquiries last March and April and verified that Riha's disappearance didn't have international implications and "was a domestic matter, in terms of the United States." Inquiries directed to the CIA were turned over to the FBI, the spokesman added. He said the CIA has no direct knowledge or reports of a rumor which has come to its attention saying that Riha is "somewhere on the East Coast."

—The U.S. Army Intelligence Command, which says it has no personal knowledge of the Riha case, no direct or indirect involvement, nor any knowledge of facts surrounding Riha's disappearance.

Brotzman said he is awaiting

a response from the U.S. attorney general who has been requested to look into the discrepancies between official statements of federal agencies and apparently contradictory statements which persons interested in Riha received from these agencies shortly after he disappeared.

At that time, some of Riha's friends said they received assurance from federal agencies that they knew where Riha was and that he was "alive and well."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1-14-70
Edition: Home
Author: Fred Gillies
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title: O
THOMAS RIHA

Character: IS - CZ
or
Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver
☐ Being Investigated

105-78256

EX-116

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop

The Attorney General

January 14, 1970

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Malmfeldt
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. Redfield

THOMAS RIHA
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to letter dated January 8, 1970, addressed to you from Congressman Donald G. Brotzman, Colorado, a copy of which is attached with its enclosure. The Congressman had asked for a reply by January 14, 1970.

On December 31, 1969, pursuant to the Congressman's inquiry, this Bureau advised Mr. Robert Tonsing, his administrative aide, that the FBI had conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance in March, 1969, of Thomas Riha, professor, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, since there were no indications of a violation of federal law within its jurisdiction. This Bureau has no information concerning Riha's whereabouts and has conducted no investigation to locate him. On April 15, 1969, we did inquire of the Central Intelligence Agency if they had any interest in Riha. They did not.

In December, 1969, our Denver Office received a letter from Riha's mother requesting information concerning her son's disappearance. She was advised this was a matter not within the jurisdiction of the FBI. She was told, however, that if she so desired his name would be placed on the FBI's missing persons list. She replied on January 13, 1970, and declined to have his name placed on the list.

The Central Intelligence Agency advised this Bureau on January 13, 1970, that Congressman Brotzman upon inquiry of them had been advised that Agency was not investigating Riha and not using him in any capacity. Central Intelligence Agency had suggested he check with the local police and the FBI but did not tell the Congressman the FBI was investigating subject.

A representative of the Bureau will personally contact Congressman Brotzman on January 14, 1970, and apprise him of the above facts.

Enclosures - 2

JWR:ebp

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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 Attorney General

NOTE:

See memorandum A. W. Gray to Mr. W. C. Sullivan, dated 1/13/76, captioned as above, prepared by JWR:kml.

The enclosures attached to the AG letter have been Xeroxed since the original letter to the AG bore Bureau administrative markings. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] by SA Sam J. Papich.

JFK Act 6 (1)(A)

DONALD G. B.
DIRECTOR
COMMITTEE
INTERSTATE AND
COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
AND POWER

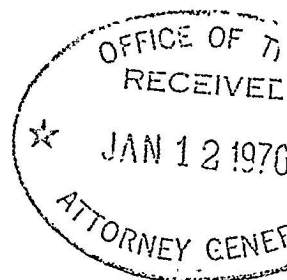
RECEIVED 1/8 1970

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 8, 1970

Attorney General John N. Mitchell
Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530



Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Enclosed is a photocopy of an article which was published by the Denver Post on December 28, 1969. I have been requested by the Denver Post and friends of Dr. Riha, who is a constituent of mine, to do everything possible to assist in either locating the Professor or in determining additional facts about his disappearance.

It seems to me that the interest of the nation in general and the credibility of the FBI in particular is not well served by the proliferation of a belief that Professor Riha is the victim of some kind of international intrigue, if such is not the case.

Despite the implications found in the Denver Post article, I think it is quite possible that Professor Riha left Boulder because of domestic complications.

In this spirit I last week asked the FBI to provide me, either formally or informally, with a report on what the Bureau has done to locate Professor Riha. I was informed last Friday that, aside from a file of inquiries made in Professor Riha's behalf, the Bureau has not looked into the matter and is not conducting inquiries.

I so informed the Denver Post.

However, in the course of similar inquiries to other federal agencies,

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

Professor Riha and the circumstances behind his unusual disappearance.

JAN 19 1970

105-78256

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

Attorney General Mitchell
January 8, 1970
Page 2

I now appeal to you to look into the matter and at least provide me with guidance. I am convinced that the speculation will only grow in intensity, and I can see no good purpose in hiding behind a jurisdictional facade if the Professor's current status can be explained in a straightforward manner. Your response by Wednesday, January 14 would be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Donald G. Brotzman
Member of Congress

(R-COLORADO) WASH DC

DGB/tja
Enclosure ✓

RESPECTED CU TEAC...

Prof. Riha's Disappearance Shrouded in Mystery and Silence

By FRED GILLIES

Denver Post Staff Writer

Early on the morning of March 17, Prof. Thomas Riha's briefcase stood open amid books and papers scattered on the desk in his study at the University of Colorado.

This was unusual, for Riha was known as an orderly and organized man, one who didn't leave things at loose ends.

But unusual things were occurring in the life of Riha, 40, a respected professor of Russian history at CU.

The most unusual of these was that he was disappearing — dropping out of sight from his home, his university, his friends and his relatives.

Did he do this by his own choosing? Did he want to disappear?

Or, did something else happen to Riha?

Is he dead? Alive?

If he is alive, where is he? What is he doing?

Mystery buffs would believe that when a university professor disappears, police would struggle for an answer to the riddle. But if police have struggled, there is little evidence of it in the strange case of Riha.

VAGUE ANSWERS

A Denver Post reporter received vague answers from officers. There is talk of other agencies — unidentified — reporting Riha to be "alive and well" — somewhere.

But which agencies? No one will say.

Earlier on that strange March morning — a Monday — Prof. Robert Skotheim, who shared the CU study with Riha, received a telephone call from a woman in Denver. She wanted to remind Riha about an important appointment he had that day with the U.S. Immigration Service in Denver.

Skotheim placed a memo to this effect on Riha's desk and left to meet his classes.

At noon, Riha failed to attend a scheduled faculty meeting.

Later that afternoon, a woman telephoned, telling a secretary she wanted to pick up Riha's briefcase because the professor had been taken to a hospital after being injured in a fall.

NEVER APPEARED

The woman never appeared. No hospital record for Riha has been found.

The concern for Riha really began building when he failed to meet his classes at CU on Tuesday, March 18. A worried CU staff member notified Mrs. Riha's attorney, who contacted Boulder police.

Officers examined the grounds and peered through the windows of the modest Riha house at 1055 6th St. in Boulder, where Riha had been living alone since his estranged wife moved to a Boulder hotel more than a week before. Police talked to neighbors and, evidently finding nothing amiss, soon left.

By the end of that week, there still was no information on Riha's whereabouts. But the title to his car had been assigned to a Denver couple. And a Boulder real estate firm had received a letter authorizing Riha's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny of Denver, to sell the Riha home. On both documents was the signature, Thomas Riha, noted in Denver.

At this same time, some of Riha's art works, appraised at \$19,605, known to have been in his house the previous week, rested in a workroom at the Denver Art Museum and were recorded officially as a gift to the museum from a Denver woman.

In the next two months, most of Riha's household possessions and the books and papers in his office had been transferred to a house in Denver. His home in Boulder had been sold. Letters and checks appeared, signed Thomas Riha. His credit card was used for the purchase of several thousand dollars in merchandise in the Denver area.

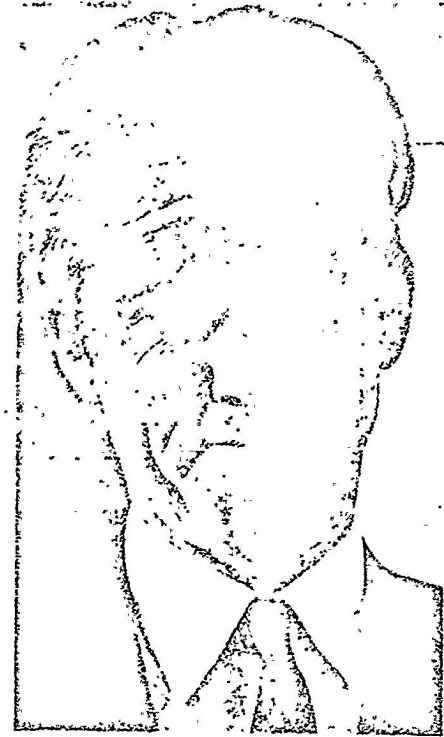
One of the typed letters, dated March 30 and signed with Riha's name, was postmarked April 8 at Montreal, Quebec. This letter was sent to a Boulder insurance agency, requesting cancellation of an insurance policy on Riha's Volkswagen, which the writer said had been sold.

But were the signatures really those of Riha?

PROPERTY QUESTION

It's the handling of Riha's property, including the works of art, that particularly bothers the professor's friends and relatives, including his mother in Germany. They claim he wouldn't give up some of his possessions, that they were too dear to him.

On Sept. 30, Riha was divorced from his wife, Hana, on her counterclaim of cruelty. Riha wasn't in court. Before the divorce was granted, Riha's attorney questioned the authenticity of letters he had been receiving with Riha's signature. The lawyer urged a court clarification of the attorney's responsibility toward Riha so that the professor's legal rights wouldn't be "permanently and unjustly sacrificed."



THOMAS RIHA, PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN HISTORY
"We've been told not to worry," Boulder officer says.

Riha met Hana Hruskova 24, in New York City shortly before he took a group of professors on a tour of Russia in the summer of 1963. On his return to the United States later that summer, Riha again saw Hana, in this country on a student visa from her homeland in Czechoslovakia. Riha, then 39, also was of Czech origin, becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen and receiving his university education in this country.

On Oct. 13, 1968, Hana and Thomas were married in a late afternoon ceremony at the Unitarian Church in Boulder. At a wedding reception that evening at the Black Bear Inn in Lyons, Colo., Thomas obviously was overjoyed. Crossing his arms and clasping them at the elbow as if rocking a cradle, he went around the room calling out exuberantly that the marriage was "for all life."

Among the reception guests was a Denver woman — referred to later by Riha as "Colonel" — with whom Riha discussed at length the bringing of his nephew, Cerveny, to this country. Cerveny then was in Vienna after fleeing from Prague in Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia.

ADMITTED TO U.S.

About a month later, Cerveny was admitted on temporary status to the United States as a Czech refugee, through arrangements which Cerveny said were entirely normal and routine.

Riha's plans for a marriage "for all life" didn't take root. Shattering for him and his wife were events at their home early on the morning of March 9.

At about 12:30 a.m., guests were leaving a party at the home of CU Professor Richard and Mrs. Wilson, next door to the Rihas. One of the guests, Professor Robert Hanson, saw Mrs. Riha standing at a first-floor window in her home, flailing her arms and crying for help.

Snow was still on the ground as Hanson raced to the Riha house and pulled Mrs. Riha out the window. A strong odor of what he thought was chlorine clung heavily to Mrs. Riha.

With the aid of Wilson, Hanson took the distraught woman to the Wilson home.

POLICE ARRIVE

A Boulder police car soon pulled up to the Riha house, with Patrolmen Douglas J. Dorsey and Dale Stange, who said police had been called by another woman in the Riha house.

In their official report, the officers gave this version of events:

The woman met them in front of the Riha house and told them Mrs. Riha had locked herself in her bedroom, from which ether fumes were coming. When she and Riha threatened to break the bedroom door, the woman said, Mrs. Riha went to the window and started screaming.

In her conversation, the officers said, the woman tried to give the impression she was in the Riha house that night as a person in an official capacity and had something to do with the immigration authorities in Denver. But she couldn't produce any identification.

Further, she told police Mrs. Riha wasn't a U.S. citizen, that her visa had expired and that the immigration authorities in Denver had been called.

Asked for her identification, the woman said it was in her car parked outside the Riha house. But she could produce only an Illinois driver's license.

At the Wilson home, the officers found Mrs. Riha "in an evident traumatic state."

After talking with Mrs. Riha, the officers returned to her home, where they found a jar of ether and several ether-soaked gauze pads in the bedcovers in her bedroom. These items later were turned over to her Boulder attorney, Gerald Caplan.

"Having investigated this matter for over an hour and finding no evidence of foul play," the officers said in their report, "we advised Mrs. Riha to return home, but assured her she did not have to."

A police check that same morning with the National Crime Information Center indicated Mrs. Riha wasn't among persons in the United States illegally, the officers said.

This was the substance of the officers' report, according to Police Capt. Willard Spier of Boulder, who declined to permit a Post reporter to examine the report. He relayed verbally only those parts of the report he considered pertinent, saying the rest consisted of "personal comments of the officers."

ODOR STRONG

The odor of ether clinging to Mrs. Riha was so strong that windows in the Wilson house had to be opened, Mrs. Wilson recalled.

And Mrs. Wilson spoke of angry voices rising in the entryway to her home as her husband confronted Riha who was demanding that his wife be sent back to his home.

Riha's voice was "angry, beligerent and frightened" as he told Wilson that the woman who had called police was an intelligence agent of the U.S. Army, that she was armed and the Wilsons were in danger if they didn't return his wife, Mrs. Wilson said. Wilson firmly refused this demand, ordering Riha out of his house shortly before police arrived.

In a 2 a.m. emergency telephone call made at the Wilson home, Mrs. Riha talked that morning with David Regosin, a longtime friend and attorney in New York City.

Apparently terrified, Mrs. Riha took from her purse Regosin's business card and pleaded for someone to call him.

The call was made, with Mrs. Riha sobbing as she told Regosin what had happened. Also talking with Regosin during the half-hour conversation were Wilson, Hanson and Patrolman Dorsey. After the call was completed, police left Mrs. Riha in the custody of the Hansons, who took her briefly to the Riha home to get some of her clothes. They then accompanied her to the Boulderado Hotel, where she stayed until she left Boulder with her aunt April 5 for New York City.

VISA NOT INVOLVED

Recalling this in a right telephone conversation, Regosin said the trouble at the Riha home that night "had nothing to do with Mrs. Riha's visa status."

"There was nothing urgent about her status, nothing pressing, no imminent deportation," Regosin said.

Regosin said he was told by Mrs. Riha during the telephone call that night that she had gone to bed and began to sense a strange odor. As it became stronger, she became very upset and started screaming, thinking she was being overcome by some chemical.

In New York City, where she is employed at a bank, Mrs. Riha said recently that the ether in her room came from the vents or under the bedroom door.

Her husband's later disappearance was "something unusual," Mrs. Riha said. "He left his shaving stuff, his writing stuff, even his suit(s). I've not heard from him at all, from the time he disappeared."

Aroused from sleep by a telephone call on the night of the disturbance at the Riha home was John L. Todd, district director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Denver.

The call concerned the disturbance, Todd said in a recent interview.

"I don't recall who it came from and what was said . . . The caller was informed that appropriate inquiries would be made."

CALLED NEPHEW

On the night of March 13, Riha was in Denver and telephoned his nephew to come and see him, Cerveny, Riha's nephew, said. This was the last time he saw his uncle, Cerveny said.

On the night of Sunday, March 16, Cerveny said, a Denver woman telephoned him and said Riha was gone and didn't have a chance to talk to him. Cerveny was told he would be hearing from Riha and would get his uncle's power of attorney. He also said he was advised to say that he knew where his uncle had gone and the Riha's leaving stemmed from his impending divorce.

SIGNATURE IN DOUBT

The signature, Thomas Riha, appears on at least three documents witnessed in Denver by two notaries public after his disappearance. Shown a set of six photographs, among which was a recent photo of Riha, the notaries couldn't pick out Riha as the person who signed the papers.

Received in Boulder and Denver after Riha's disappearance, letters signed with his name contain glaring misspellings, some awkward grammatical expressions and an inaccurate address for his home. A letter written in Czech to his nephew doesn't observe the niceties of Riha's native speech, Cerveny said.

'PERFECTIONIST'

Riha's colleagues at CU and his close friends describe the professor as a perfectionist in all things — including his writing and speaking. Riha was the author of several scholarly books and learned treatises, and was aware of the nuances of his native tongue, as well as those of English, Russian, German and French, each of which he spoke fluently.

Despite these many perplexing situations, officialdom seems not too interested in finding out what happened to Riha — grinding out vague assurances of his safety or denials of any knowledge of the man.

Nearly a month after Riha disappeared, Dr. Joseph Smiley, then president of CU, said he contacted "reliable sources" in Washington and was told that Riha was safe, but was unable to learn where the professor was or the circumstances of his disappearance.

This past week, a CU spokesman said there's been no further inquiry about Riha at the level of the university administration.

In Boulder, Captain Spier says:

"My understanding is that Riha disappeared of his own accord—or had to—and there is no use wasting time looking for him just as a missing person. There's no suspicion of foul play any place."

But police Lt. Ralph Ruzicka says in Boulder: "We've been told (by 'an agency') not to worry. But when we talk to Riha's friends and associates and hear the facts, they don't stand up logically, and we get worried again."

He declined to identify the agency which provided the assurance about Riha.

Until Cerveny filed a missing persons report on his uncle Oct. 23, the Boulder police had nothing official on the Riha disappearance in their files, Ruzicka said.

However, Miss Joyce Lebra, an associate professor of history at CU, says that about 1½ weeks after Riha disappeared, she and four CU professors gave information about Riha to Boulder Patrolman Donald Alps, who filled out a form at the Lebra home. Miss Lebra said she has heard nothing from Boulder police after making this report.

Cerveny says Denver Detective Phillip Villalobos told him "he has been informed that 'responsible persons' have said Riha is all right and that the Denver Police Department isn't able to proceed with the search for Riha."

Denver police, Detective Mike Allegretto says, encouraged Cerveny to file a missing persons complaint on Riha Oct. 23 with Boulder police.

"The next day," Allegretto said, "Boulder police told us that the FBI told them to forget about Riha, because they knew where he was and that he was alive and well."

FBI POSITION

But the FBI here insists it hasn't jurisdiction in the case. This was determined when two inquiries were made as the result of anonymous phone calls received here by the FBI. April 3 and again in September. John F. Morley, assistant agent in charge, says.

Inquiries made by the FBI, Morley said, were based on the fact that a man had been reported missing "under unusual circumstances."

"We've placed no restrictions on any other investigative agencies in the area to determine if there is any violation over which they may have local investigative jurisdiction (in the Riha case)," Morley said.

"We know nothing about him (Riha)," a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spokesman in Denver said. "As far as we know, Riha left voluntarily. We have nothing to do with the man. He has no contact with our agency."

However, Prof. Stephen Fischer-Galati reported he was told by the CIA early last April that Riha was safe and had left voluntarily. Fischer-Galati also said he wrote the U.S. Justice Department April 7 and was told "the matter has been referred to proper government authorities."

NO REPLY

He has received no reply to a Dec. 6 letter, directed to the same department, Fischer-Galati said.

Also disclaiming any knowledge of the Riha case is Todd, of the immigration service (INS) here.

"I know nothing about Riha," Todd said.

But a close friend of Riha's says he contacted the INS twice about Riha—once in May or June, when he was told that Riha was alive; and the second time in the fall, when he asked whether Riha still were alive and there was no answer. At this time, Riha's friend said, he was told by the INS "not to be interested" in the Riha case.

U.S. Army Military Intelligence "has never been officially involved in the Riha case," said Col. Lynn Fritchman, commanding officer, U.S. Army Region 4, Military Intelligence Group in Denver.

Riha's friends don't know what to believe—hoping the vague assurances they have received are valid and that Riha is alive and well. But they don't know.

MOTHER WRITES

Many of them came to this country from totalitarian tyrannies in Europe, and they ask: "How can it happen, especially in this country, that a man can disappear and nothing can be known about him for almost a year?"

From Germany early this month came a letter written to the FBI in Denver by Riha's

mother, Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, seeking information about her son. The letter was directed personally to Scott Werner, FBI agent in charge here. She hasn't heard from her son.

As they spoke warmly of Riha just recently, his close friends — many of them refugees from Europe — seemed to be trying to build with words the image of the man they wanted to see again:

"Riha felt positively more an American . . . as a Czech. He has quite bitter memory as a youth of the German occupation (during World War II). Riha probably developed a deep sympathy for the Russian liberators. But he missed the part when the Communists take over (because he had come to make his home in the U.S. by this time).

"So simple a man, he could fit any place.

"He was very illusionary . . . an idealistic dreamer . . . a liberal-thinking man. But I deny he was a sympathizer of communism. He was a man who adored everything that was traditionally rational.

"Riha was a very reliable man. You could build a cathedral on his word."

Another friend said of Riha: "He was an extremely open man. He made the impression of an absolutely free man . . . not scared of anything. He had made it in life. He was a top professor in his line . . . healthy . . . a fantastic cook. His art pieces were valued in the thousands. He had a big library. He was a charming man. "Riha was a nihilist, an atheist who just yearned for some kind of . . ."

Riha's friend paused, considered, and then, quite simply, added the one word, "God."

11 45 AM
12/31/69

Police Housing
Don Brown's office
180-2161

Denver Post.

Story - 12/28

Mysterious disappearance

of a Czech citizen

Prof Thomas Rika
Boulder Colo

Prof of Russian History
at Univ of Colorado

Lived in Boulder 2 1/2 yrs
- disappeared last week
Formerly at Univ of Chicago
(GVR)

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105-78256

File shows we
have conducted no
invest of his
disappearance because
no indication of
violation of Fed
law in our jurisdiction

Tansing advised
JEP on 12/31/69

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
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Sullivan _____
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Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. Bishop *T.B.*

FROM : M. A. Jones *M.A.J.*

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(SINO-SATELLITE)

DATE: 1/15/70

Rememo of 1/13/70 from Mr. Gray to Mr. Sullivan wherein it was recommended and approved that Crime Records Division orally advised Congressman Donald G. Brotzman (R-Colorado) that we have conducted no investigation regarding subject's disappearance and have no knowledge of his whereabouts.

Robert Tonsing, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Brotzman, was furnished this information orally on 1/14/70 by Inspector Bowers in the Congressman's absence. Mr. Tonsing was most appreciative of our prompt handling of the matter and asked if we would send the Congressman a letter confirming this information. Enclosed is an appropriate letter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the enclosed letter be sent. *✓*

Enclosure *sent 1-15-70* REC-94 *OK*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Gray - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt - Enclosure
- 1 - M. A. Jones - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bowers - Enclosure

DWB:mjl

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58 FEB 5 1970

January 15, 1970

Honorable Donald G. Brotzman
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

This will confirm information orally furnished on January 14th to your Administrative Assistant, Mr. Robert Tensing, by my representative in response to your letter of January 8th which was referred to this Bureau for handling by the Attorney General.

The FBI has conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance of Dr. Thomas Riha since there is no indication of violation of any Federal law within our jurisdiction. We have no knowledge concerning Dr. Riha's whereabouts.

The Denver FBI Field Office has been in contact with Dr. Riha's mother and offered to place a missing person notice concerning her son in the files of our Identification Division. This offer was declined.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

- 1 - Denver Field Office
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Bishop (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Gray (detached)

- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt (detached)
- 1 - M. A. Jones (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Bowers (detached)

REC- 94

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo dated 1/15/70, captioned "Thomas Riha, Information Concerning, (Sino-Satellite)."

DWB:mjl
(10)

JAN 29 1970

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

MAILED 22
JAN 15 1970
COMM-FBI

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-78256)

DATE: 1/15/70

FROM : SAC, DENVER (105-4151)(C)

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA, aka.
IS - CZ

Re Denver letter to the Bureau, dated 12/29/69.

Enclosed herewith is a letter of acknowledgement to subject's mother, Dr. RUTH ANN COOK, to acknowledge her letter of 1/11/70.

Also enclosed are 5 copies of an LHM, which sets out Mrs. COOK's letter to the Denver Office of the FBI and [redacted]

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 47-3190

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)(RM)
2 - Denver (1 - 105-4151)
(1 - 47-3190)(TANNENBAUM)

LDN/lld
(4)

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

cc of NEW LHM to
AGENCY State, CTR, DIR. (by Liaison)

REQ. SENT
DATE FORW 1-28-70
HOW FORW. 0-141, 0-146, 5-137, 0-6
BY JWR/llj

REC-6

10 1-28-70 - 16
JAN 19 1970

(2cc's of new LHM)

Copy to DENVER
by routing slip for
☒ info ☐ action
date 1-28-70

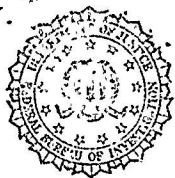
by JWR/llj Remarks: Enclosed
are 2 copies of LHM prepared at
the Bureau on captioned
matter.

SINCE SATELLITE
Re: [signature]

CUR [signature]

FEB 10 1970

U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
January 15, 1970

THOMAS RIHA
Also Known As
Thomas Andrew Charles Riha

The following letter dated December 29, 1969, was sent by the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook. This communication acknowledged the receipt of her letter dated December 5, 1969, received by the Denver Office on December 10, 1969, concerning the disappearance of her son Thomas Riha.

Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook
Casa Lido
Brissago, Ticino CH-6614, Switzerland

Dear Mrs. Cook:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated December 5, 1969 concerning the disappearance of your son Thomas Riha.

Please be advised that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction in matters of this nature and we are not able to conduct an active investigation concerning your son's disappearance.

At your request we will place a Missing Persons Notice with our Identification Division in Washington, D. C. If you desire us to do this, please advise.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT J. WERNER
Special Agent in Charge

ENCLOSURE

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Thomas Riha

On January 13, 1970, the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation received a letter from Dr. Ruth Ann Cook, 6232 Neuenhain/Taunus, Sophienruhe 14, Deutschland, dated January 11, 1970, and addressed to Mr. Scott J. Werner, Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This letter states as follows:

"Frankfurt - (Illegible)
"General Hospital
"Jan. 11th 1970

"Dr. Ruth Ann COOK
"6232 Neuenhain/Taunus
"Sophienruhe 14
"Deutschland

"Dear Mr. Werner,

"Thank you so much for your kind reply of Dec. 29th to my letter concerning T. Riha's disappearance.

"Thank you also for your offer of placing a Missing Persons Notice in Washington D. C. for me.

"My sole concern is of course for my son's safety and well being - but in view of the information which has reached me recently on rumors of my son's CIA work and some strange happenings at his home in March 1969 I do not know whether it is in his best interest that I should request such a Notice.

"I am very sick, Mr. Werner with double pleurisy and have lost-since I wrote you-due to my sickness one eye sight - having only barely recovered after cancer.

"I wish I could talk to you and ask your advice - in this grievous matter.

"Perhaps when I recover shall I come to Denver to seek your counsel.

"Thank you once more

"/s/ Ruth Ann Cook.

Thomas Riha

On January 15, 1970, the following communication was sent by Scott J. Werner, Special Agent in Charge, Denver Office, FBI, to Dr. Ruth Ann Cook in response to the above letter:

~~X~~
Dr. Ruth Ann Cook
6232 Neuenhain/Taunus
Sophienruhe 14
Deutschland

Dear Mrs. Cook:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 11, 1970.

Pursuant to the request in your letter I will not place a stop notice with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Identification Division in Washington, D. C., concerning your son Thomas Riha.

The FBI is not permitted to provide counsel to individuals regarding their problems and I would suggest if you feel you need legal advice that you contact an attorney for such advice.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT J. WERNER,
Special Agent in Charge.

PROPERTY OF THE FBI

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.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WOMAN CASUAL ABOUT MYSTERY

Missing CU Professor to Return This Month, Denverite Claims

By FRED GILLIES
Denver Post Staff Writer

friend of the Czechoslovakian-born pro-
fessor.

She sat across from her attorney in his downtown Denver office and spoke in an offhand manner.

"Tom (Riha) will be here sometime in January," she said.

It seemed very matter-of-fact, even casual. And yet the Denver woman's remark came during the interview like a fitful wind rolling the heavy air of mystery which for 10 months has surrounded the disappearance of Thomas Riha, professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado.

Riha vanished March 17, leaving no trail except what can be found in letters and documents which have been appearing from time to time. The authenticity of many of these papers has been questioned by his attorneys.

Reports Conflict

Riha's house, his car and his art works have been disposed of, with what his friends call "untimely haste." Federal agencies apparently have issued conflicting reports, at times saying they know nothing about Riha, and at other times indicating they have knowledge of his whereabouts.

Denver and Boulder police say they have been assured by federal agencies that Riha is "alive and well." But they decline to identify the agencies.

The Denver woman, who has predicted Riha's return here, apparently is the only person in the Denver-Boulder area who has said she has heard from and seen Riha since he was officially declared missing under what the FBI here acknowledges were "unusual circumstances."

"Tom (Riha) will write or call me (before he comes to Denver this month)," said Mrs. ~~Cady~~ Tannenbaum, 248 Logan St., who described herself as a longtime

Draw Blank

She said Riha is in Montreal, Quebec, but she has no address for him. Riha has made all contacts with her and she doesn't contact him directly, she added.

Canadian immigration officials in Denver said this week they were unable, through their extensive contacts, to fo-

gate Riha in Montreal or any part of Canada.

Montreal telephone information said there's no phone number listed there for Thomas Riha. And officials at the University of Montreal say they have no knowledge of Riha.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said Riha was in Denver late in May and again last summer, staying each time for only a day or two.

The professor, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, came to her door at 2 a.m. one day in May with his flight bag in his hand. During his visits in May and late last summer, she said, Riha didn't contact anyone else, including his close friends or his nephew, Zdenek Cervený.

Riha had acted as a sponsor when Cervený came from Vienna to Boulder in November 1968, as a refugee from Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia.

'To See Attorney'

Mrs. Tannenbaum said Riha will be coming to Denver this month, mainly to assist her in personal matters and to see the Boulder attorney involved in his divorce.

Riha's visit here also will serve to clear up "all this innuendo," said Mrs. Tannenbaum, alluding to what she said were implications in the news media that Riha might no longer be alive and might be a victim of foul play.

With a wave of her hand, Mrs. Tannenbaum said she knows nothing of Riha's

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

45 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1-18-70
Edition: Home
Author: Fred Gillies
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title: Thomas Riha

Character:
or
Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

105-78256-22

file 105-78256 5/2/70

activities in Montreal.

"I don't know what he's doing; I never asked him," she said. She added, however, that the professor must have some means of support because "he has money for plane tickets."

'A Perfectionist'

When it was mentioned that Riha's friends had described him as a perfectionist, Mrs. Tannenbaum smiled and responded quickly:

Yes, she said, Riha was a perfectionist—in his leaving Boulder. Then she threw back her head and laughed with her whole being.

Riha left Boulder, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, "because things were pressing in on him"—at the university and at his home, where he was living apart from his wife during divorce proceedings.

Early in the interview, Mrs. Tannenbaum disclaimed any knowledge of how Riha left Boulder—whether by car, train or plane. Later, she said, without elaboration, that she picked up Riha's car at the Stapleton International Airport after Riha left Boulder. Title to the car was transferred April 1 to a Denver public school official and his wife. The notarized signature, Thomas Riha, was on the title assignment.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said she has known Riha since 1947, when her former husband, who was then in the U.S. Army, helped bring Riha from Europe to the United States. She also said she knew Riha in Chicago, where Riha was on the faculty at the University of Chicago from 1960 to 1967, when he came to CU.

Even as Mrs. Tannenbaum was predicting that Riha would be appearing in Denver, there were developments suggesting that Riha had had no intention of leaving his Boulder home suddenly.

Calendar Notes

Found among Riha's papers was his calendar pad. Notations in the two weeks before Riha disappeared include reminders to write for tax forms and the time and place of appointments and dinner engagements. These entries, many of them made in advance of the event, continue through April 25. One of these entries, on March 11, reads, "dinner Colonel." Riha had been known to refer to Mrs. Tannenbaum as colonel.

After examining these entries, friends and colleagues of Riha say the notations are very matter-of-fact and hardly appear to be those of a man who is contemplating a sudden departure from his home.

Also adding an air of mystery to Riha's sudden departure was the discovery of a place setting on his kitchen table—a cereal bowl, other dishes and silverware, apparently set there for a breakfast he never had.

Friends of Riha saw this unused place setting, when they came to the Riha home March 16 and peered through the kitchen window, after Riha failed to pick them up that day for a dinner engagement in Littleton.

Seen by Others

The place setting also was observed, the same day, by other friends who stopped at the Riha house and got no response when they knocked at the door.

Close friends of the professor say it was his custom, since he'd been living alone, to set his place for breakfast the night before.

Could the place setting have been there on Saturday, March 15, when friends phoned Riha repeatedly, beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing throughout the day, and got no answer? On the same day, Riha failed to attend a meeting of history professors in Denver—which he had noted on his calendar pad.

Denver and Boulder law enforcement authorities are examining documents involved in the transfer of Riha's house, his car and art works.

New Documents

New documents and letters are turning up with misspellings and awkward grammatical expressions, similar to those found in other letters, signed Thomas Riha or with other names.

Checks signed with Riha's name and purchases made with his credit card after he disappeared also are being scrutinized.

Notaries public who certified the Thomas Riha signature on some of these documents have been shown a set of six photographs, including one of Riha. But they haven't been able to pick out Riha as the man who signed the documents.

Another Denver notary public who certified one of the Riha signatures said he was most anxious to talk with a Denver Post reporter about the Riha situation. But the notary failed to keep his appointment with the reporter. When contacted later, the notary reversed his position, saying he had "nothing to offer." It was this notary who made the certification on Riha's power of attorney, conveyed in a letter to a Boulder attorney last August.

Extensive Probe

Denver Dist. Atty. Mike McKevitt and his staff recently entered the investigation, saying an "extensive" probe is under way. These efforts are being coordinated with stepped-up probes of the Denver and Boulder police departments and the Boulder district attorney.

Last week, McKevitt said he's been told by the Denver police—who he said received their information from "two national sources"—that Riha is alive. McKevitt declined to name the national sources.

At the request of The Denver Post, inquiries about Riha have been made at the federal level by U. S. Rep. Donald G. Brozman, R-Colo.

'No Request'

The FBI in Washington told the congressman it hasn't, and won't, conduct an investigation into Riha's disappearance, unless someone comes forward to indicate that a federal offense is likely to be involved.

FBI officials in Denver echo this statement. They also decline to say if Scott Werner, special agent in charge here, has received a letter known to be have been sent to him by Riha's mother in Germany, seeking information about her son.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) informed Brozman that it thinks the FBI might have some knowledge of Riha's whereabouts. But the CIA spokesman noted that the agency has verified that Riha's disappearance doesn't have international implications and was "a domestic matter, in terms of the United States."

The U. S. Army Intelligence Command denies any knowledge or involvement in the Riha case.

'Alive and Well'

But then there are conflicting reports from persons of high integrity in the Boulder and Denver communities. These persons say they contacted the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, FBI, CIA and "reliable sources" in Washington last spring and early last summer and were told that Riha was "alive and well."

In the light of these conflicting reports, John N. Mitchell, U. S. attorney general, has asked the FBI to take another look at the Riha situation.

"It seems to me," Brozman wrote in part to Mitchell, "that the interest of the nation in general, and the credibility of the

FBI in particular, is not well served by the proliferation of a belief that Prof. Riha is the victim of some kind of international intrigue, if such is not the case."

Eerie Prologue

Setting an eerie prologue for Riha's disappearance were events at his home early on the Sunday morning of March 9, about a week before he was declared missing.

Emerging from the Boulder police report of the disturbance—only parts of which have been made available to The Denver Post—are these highlights:

—Mrs. Hana Riha, then the professor's wife, was pulled out of the bedroom window of her home by neighbors as a strong odor of ether clung to her and she was screaming for help.

—Police were called to the Riha home by Mrs. Tannenbaum, who police said was in the house with Riha at the time of the incident.

—Mrs. Tannenbaum met police in front of the Riha house and told them Mrs. Riha had locked herself in the bedroom, from which ether fumes were coming.

'Screamed'

—When she and Riha threatened to break the bedroom door, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, Mrs. Riha went to the window and started screaming.

—Mrs. Tannenbaum told police Mrs. Riha wasn't a U.S. citizen, her visa had expired and the immigration authorities had been called.

—Mrs. Riha was "in an evident traumatic state" at the neighbors' home where she had been taken.

—A jar of ether and several ether-soaked gauze pads found by police in

the bedcovers in Mrs. Riha's bedroom were later turned over to her Boulder attorney.

At one point, Riha was rebuffed by neighbors, sheltering his wife, when he demanded she be returned to his home.

Just recently, a New York City attorney and longtime friend of Mrs. Riha, said in a telephone conversation from New York, "There was nothing urgent about Mrs. Riha's visa status that night, nothing pressing, no imminent deportation."

It was this attorney whom Mrs. Riha telephoned the night of the disturbance, pleading for his assistance as she sobbed out her story.

From New York City, where she's employed in a bank, Mrs. Riha said recently that the ether in her room came from the vents or under the bedroom door. She said she began screaming when she feared she'd be overcome.

'Unusual'

She said her husband's later disappearance was "something unusual," noting that "he left all his shaving stuff, his writing stuff, even his suit (s)."

The search for Riha — spanning the nation, reaching to Canada and thrusting into Europe — seems never-ending. One lead seems to spawn several others and much of the information ends up at what law authorities and interested persons term in their frustration "a blank wall."

Mrs. Tannenbaum has said the end of the search will come here in Denver this month.

There are many persons—law-enforcement officials, Riha's friends and colleagues — who hope Riha will indeed appear here.



THOMAS RIHA, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO RUSSIAN HISTORY PROFESSOR
His "return" will serve to clear up "all this innuendo," his friend said.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____

Professor Vanishes at the University of Colorado

BY ANTHONY RIFLEY

Special to The New York Times

BOULDER, Colo., Jan. 18 — A Czech-born associate professor of modern Russian history has disappeared from the University of Colorado campus.

Thomas Riha, 40 years old, was last seen nine months ago. He left the university abruptly, apparently took nothing with him and left a mysterious trail.

While friends and fellow faculty members fear that Professor Riha may be dead, police officials in Boulder and Denver and the former president of the university, Dr. Joseph Smiley, all insist he is alive.

They say they have spoken to responsible persons in the Federal Government who have assured them of the professor's safety. They refused to say, either publicly or privately, who their sources were.

In Washington, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department all deny knowing anything about the case and suggest it may be a local police matter.

Professor Riha, born in Prague, came to the United States in 1917. He became a naturalized citizen, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1952 he received a doctorate from Harvard University.

He taught at the University of Chicago and at Marburg University, in West Germany, before moving to the University of Colorado in 1967.

Disappeared Suddenly

Professor Riha disappeared so suddenly that, though normally a neat and precise man, he left personal papers scattered on his university desk where he had been preparing his income tax.

Only one person has maintained that he has been seen since his disappearance the weekend of March 15-16. That is Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum of Denver, an ex-convict who says she has spoken to him and that he is in Montreal.

A number of letters and credit cards signed "Thomas Riha" have turned up, and much of his personal property has been sold or given away.

Prof. Thomas Riha

Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum

Professor Riha's lawyer, Richard E. Hopkins, of Boulder, says he is suspicious of the signatures and the letters.

Though Mr. Hopkins has received letters signed by "Thomas Riha," he said, "I simply don't know whether I've heard from him."

Dr. Smiley, now president of the University of Texas at El Paso, said he was assured of the professor's safety "by what I consider reliable sources" in Washington.

"I repeat my real regret that I can't go beyond what I have said," he said in a telephone interview. "A confidence is still a confidence."

Professor Riha's former wife lives in Brooklyn. The former Hana Hruskova was also born in Czechoslovakia and is 15 years younger than the professor.

At the time of his disappearance she had been gone from their home for a week after a stormy scene in which a neighbor said she fled to him, with her clothes smelling of ether, shouting she was afraid acquaintances were trying to kill her.

At the time Professor Riha had already filed divorce papers to end their five-month marriage.

Judgment Still Unpaid

Following his disappearance, Mrs. Riha filed a counter-suit. She won it on Sept. 30 and received a \$5,000 judgment.

Her husband did not appear in court, and the judgment is still unpaid.

The professor's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny, of Lyons, Colo., came to the United States from Czechoslovakia following the Russian invasion in 1968.

Following his uncle's disappearance, Mr. Cerveny said Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum of Denver, whom he had met through Professor Riha, called him and said that the professor would not be back. He said she asked them to dispose of his personal effects.

In the following weeks the professor's car and house were sold and his furniture and papers transferred to Mrs. Tannenbaum's house in Denver. She turned over \$19,000 worth of his small art collection to the Denver Art Museum.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, who spent more than two years in the State Penitentiary at Dwight, Ill., after pleading guilty to forgery and embezzlement in 1959, presented Mr. Cerveny with two pistols and said she was a brigadier general in military intelligence.

She is now awaiting trial Feb. 9 in Denver District Court on charges of forging a will following the death of Gustav Ingwersen, 78, a friend who died of potassium cyanide poisoning June 16.

The will was witnessed by Mr. Cerveny, who later repudiated it in Denver probate court.

Another friend of Mrs. Tannenbaum's, Mrs. Barbara Egbert, 51, died Sept. 13 of sodium cyanide poisoning.

Both deaths are listed as suspicious by the Denver police and are under investigation.

The Washington Post _____
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times 7-27
The Sun (Baltimore) 1
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

Date 1/19/70
NOT RECORDED

JAN 29 1970

1 - Mr. A. W. Gray
1 - Mr. J. W. Redfield

SAC, Denver (105-4151)

1/19/70

Director, FBI (105-78256)

THOMAS REVA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

Congressman Donald G. Brotzman, Colorado, addressed a letter dated 1/8/70 to the Attorney General (AG) requesting information from him concerning the disappearance of subject. Enclosed is one copy each of the Congressman's letter and Bureau letter to the AG dated 1/14/70 for your information.

Also enclosed for your information is one [redacted]

[redacted] Dulots to WFO 5/12/60 and to Boston 5/25/60, Boston letter to the Director dated 6/30/60; Boston report dated 8/31/60, all pertaining to subject. The above are being furnished for the completion of your file.

On 1/12/70 [redacted] that the subject is not of operational interest to that Agency. With regard to the subject's disappearance, [redacted] advised it did receive a report which could be characterized as a rumor, that the subject was experiencing marital difficulties and had left his wife. The Agency does not have any information concerning subject's present whereabouts.

In subsequent communications concerning this matter you should delete the character of IS - CZ and use the character of this letter.

Unless additional pertinent information is developed, no investigation need be conducted by your office. If additional pertinent information is received concerning this matter, it should promptly be furnished to the Bureau by LHM.

Enclosures - 8

JWR:sef

(5)

NOTE:

MAILED 3

JAN 16 1970

COMM-FBI

19 JAN 19 1970

Subject, a professor at the University of Colorado, disappeared in March, 1939, it first being reported to us in April, 1939. Bufiles disclosed that at one time subject

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE TWO

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Walters _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Letter to SAC, Denver
RE: - THOMAS RIHA
105-78256

NOTE CONTINUED:

was of some interest to CIA. On 4/15/69, CIA advised through liaison that subject had not left the U.S. and had been having difficulty with his wife and "ran away from her." CIA advised the story or rumor indicating subject may have gone to CZ was without foundation. In 12/69 Denver received a letter from subject's mother requesting information concerning subject's disappearance. Denver replied this was a matter not within the jurisdiction of the Bureau; however, offered if she so desired to place his name on the Bureau's missing persons list. Subject's mother replied to our Denver Office on 1/13/70 declining to have subject's name placed on the list. On 12/23/69 "The Denver Post," a daily newspaper in Denver, Colorado, published a lengthy article concerning the disappearance of subject. By letter dated 1/8/70 Congressman Brotzman, R-Colorado, also requested information concerning subject's disappearance from the AG. We have conducted no investigation of subject's disappearance since there are no indications of a violation of Federal law in our jurisdiction.

FBI

Date: 1/20/70

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DENVER (105-4151)

THOMAS RIHA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

ReBulet 1/19/70.

This morning FRED GILLIES, reporter for the "Denver Post," Denver daily newspaper, telephonically contacted the Denver Office.

(By way of background GILLIES has written articles which have appeared in the "Denver Post" concerning the so-called mysterious disappearance of THOMAS RIHA. RIHA, a naturalized American citizen of Czech birth, was a History Professor at Colorado University in Boulder, Colorado. He disappeared in March, 1969. Copies of those articles have been furnished to the Bureau).

GILLIES spoke to ASAC JOHN F. MORLEY in the absence of the SAC. He said he had a copy of a letter which the Bureau had written to the Honorable DONALD BROTZMAN concerning the RIHA matter, which was a letter in reply to an inquiry directed to the Bureau by BROTZMAN.

The Bureau had previously furnished the Denver Office a copy of its 1/15/70, letter to BROTZMAN, as well as a copy of BROTZMAN's 1/8/70, letter to the Attorney General, and those letters had been read by MORLEY upon receipt. In order to confirm whether GILLIES did in fact have a copy of the Bulet, MORLEY asked him to read it. GILLIES read the letter and there is no doubt it was in fact a copy of the Bureau's 1/15/70, communication.

2-Bureau (RM) (AM)
2-Denver (1-105-4151)

JFM:hg (1-47-3190 Galya Tannenbaum)

(4)

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M

Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

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

RECEIVED JAN 22 1970

DN 105-4151

GILLIES then told MORLEY the reason he was calling was to obtain the FBI's comments in Denver concerning the letter. MORLEY advised GILLIES the letter was very clear and self-explanatory and no further comment was necessary.

The above is being brought to the attention of the Bureau for completion of their files and also so the Bureau will know a copy of their communication was forwarded to GILLIES of the "Denver Post" by BROTZMAN.

BROTZMAN, a current U. S. Republican Congressman from Colorado, is a former U. S. Attorney here in Denver. Local indications are BROTZMAN will run for re-election this year and the "Denver Post" is the largest publication in Colorado. Also BROTZMAN is a resident of Boulder, Colorado, where he maintains a law practice. RIHA, the subject of his inquiry, was also a resident of Boulder, and, as indicated above, associated with the Colorado University faculty there.

Denver is conducting no investigation in subject matter.

The above is submitted for the Bureau's information.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

WORDS COME HESITANTLY

Riha's Ex-Wife Fears Missing Professor Dead

By FRED GILLIES

Denver Post Staff Writer
Copyright © 1970, The Denver Post, Inc.

NEW YORK — Her normally expressive eyes went suddenly dull as she sat in the Czech restaurant on New York's East Side on this cold January night.

"I believe Thomas may not be alive — he does not even write his mother," Mrs. Hana Riha said.

The words came hesitantly, and she stared fixedly at the door at the back of the restaurant. This door, she later disclosed, has a special significance, for it was beyond this door, in the restaurant's garden area, where she and Prof. Thomas Riha announced their engagement at a small party with friends in August 1968.

Strange Incidents

Now, almost 1½ years later, Mrs. Riha was talking with a newsman in the same restaurant about the many strange incidents surrounding the sudden disappearance March 17 of Riha, her former husband. When he vanished, the Czechoslovakian-born professor was an associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado.

"No, no," Mrs. Riha said, shaking her head determinedly. "Thomas would not do it this way — disappear so suddenly. (If he were alive), he would contact his mother, the university, his friends . . . even me.

"When he does not do this, I can only think he is not free to do what he wants, I know Thomas; he is a responsible man."

Mrs. Riha insisted that the hasty disposal of Riha's property after he disappeared wasn't at all in keeping with his outlook and attitudes. Riha's house and car were sold, and his art works were donated to the Denver Art Museum.

Documents connected with these transfers — along with checks issued, and credit card purchases made in his name — are being scrutinized by Denver and

Boulder law enforcement officers.

The professor also had a strong attachment to his Boulder home and especially to his art works, Mrs. Riha said.

"His home," she said, "was like a castle. He once said no one could throw him out of his home. If they would, he said he would be back in 24 hours. He never would have left his job, his home, his paintings. Not this way."

Mrs. Riha quickly dismissed the claims of Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum of 248 Logan

St. Denver, who has described herself as a friend of the professor.

Mrs. Tannenbaum was jailed early Saturday in Boulder after she was charged Friday in District Court there with forging Riha's name to a \$330 check used to pay for a charter airplane flight from Longmont to San Antonio, Tex., July 30. Lt. Ralph Ruzicka of the Boulder Police Department said a search of her residence Friday uncovered some books and letters allegedly belonging to Riha.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said in a recent interview in The Denver Post that Riha had visited her home twice after he disappeared — once in May and again last summer. Each time, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, Riha stayed only for a day or so, not contacting any of his friends or colleagues or his nephew, Zdenek Cerveny.

"This is not like Tom," Mrs. Riha said. She pictured her former husband as a man who enjoyed contacts with his friends and students.

Mrs. Riha also was openly skeptical of Mrs. Tannenbaum's announcement that Riha would be coming sometime this month to Denver from Montreal, Canada, where Mrs. Tannenbaum

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1-25-70
Edition: Home
Author: Fred Gillies
Editor: Palmer Hoyt
Title: Thomas Riha

Character:
or
Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver
☐ Being Investigated

105-78256-A
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105-78256
file 5.12

said Riha has been staying.

Again, Mrs. Riha cited the professor's failure to contact his mother and friends as the fuel for the growing fear that something has happened to Riha.

"Thomas," Mrs. Riha said, "loved his work, his writing. Not for the name it got him, but because he was this way."

She also said Riha spent much time outside his classes working with his students at his study on the CU campus and at his home.

"He was popular with the students," she said, "He liked Boulder; there was no reason for him to leave. This was his life."

Mrs. Riha said she "can't remember" whether she declined to have Boulder police file a missing person report on Riha shortly after he disappeared, while the couple was in the midst of divorce proceedings. (A divorce decree was granted her counter claim of cruelty by Boulder District Court Sept. 30, 1969.)

"I kept thinking Thomas was in hiding, because of the divorce, and that he will be back," she said. She became convinced that Riha truly was missing, she said, when she read the Dec. 28 article in The Denver Post noting that Riha's art works had been donated to the Denver Art Museum.

"His home was a museum," she said. She recalled that Riha, assisted by her father who was then visiting in Boulder, refinished many of Riha's art works in January 1969. This was less than three months before Riha vanished.

"Thomas was so happy (with the refinished art works) — he was like a child," Mrs. Riha said.

And friends of Riha said he was immensely happy at the marriage to Hana on Oct. 13, 1968, in Boulder.

It was at the wedding reception that Riha first met Mrs. Tannenbaum, Mrs. Riha said.

Riha and Mrs. Tannenbaum, who wasn't among the invited guests at the reception, spoke "a fairly long time" in a room near the main festivities, friends reported. Their discussion, it is said, centered on ways to bring Riha's nephew, Cerveny, to the

United States from Vienna, — bedroom, locking the door. After a while, she became aware of a strong odor coming through a furnace vent in the wall. She began to feel dizzy and closed the vent. She heard voices outside her bedroom and called out, "What are you trying to do?" The voices on the other side of the door were those of her husband and Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Mrs. Riha said her own days of trial began last February about the time her husband filed for a divorce. She began receiving strange telephone calls, she said, even as she and Riha continued to live at their Boulder home. These calls came at all hours of the day or night, and there never was any conversation on the other end of the line, she said.

And for some time, Mrs. Riha said, she had been under steady pressure from Mrs. Tannenbaum to sign some papers which she was told had something to do with her immigration status as an alien from Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Riha said she never was told of the exact nature of these papers.

This past week, Mrs. Riha's attorney in New York confirmed that he had steadily advised Mrs. Riha not to sign any document unless it was approved by him or her attorney in Boulder.

In a telephone conversation March 8, the attorney said he informed Mrs. Tannenbaum of the advice he had given Mrs. Riha.

The next morning, at about 12:30 a.m., Mrs. Riha was pulled out a window in her home as she screamed for help, and a strong odor of ether clung to her body and nightclothes.

Boulder police say they were called to the Riha house by

Mrs. Tannenbaum to investigate the incident. Mrs. Tannenbaum was in the house with Riha at the time, police said.

In New York this past week, Mrs. Riha gave this version of events:

She had returned to the house at about 10 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Most of that day she had stayed at the Boulderado Hotel in Boulder, renting a room to avoid seeing Mrs. Tannenbaum.

The house was dark when she entered, but she saw the study door close slowly and heard whispers from inside the room. She immediately went to her

bedroom, locking the door. After a while, she became aware of a strong odor coming through a furnace vent in the wall. She began to feel dizzy and closed the vent. She heard voices outside her bedroom and called out, "What are you trying to do?" The voices on the other side of the door were those of her husband and Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Then there was a hissing sound, and strong fumes, similar to those she detected earlier, began to waft under the bedroom door.

She became dizzy and opened a bedroom window, broke the screen and called for help.

Prof. Robert Hanson, a neighbor, ran to her assistance and pulled her out the window.

With the help of another neighbor, Prof. Richard Wilson, she was taken to the Wilson home. From here she telephoned her attorney in New York. Afterward she went with Mr. and Mrs. Hanson back to the Riha house. Here she packed some of her clothes and then went with the Hansons to the Boulderado Hotel. She stayed at the hotel until she left April 5 for New York City.

Boulder police said in their report of the incident that Mrs. Tannenbaum met them in front of the Riha house and told them Mrs. Riha had locked herself in the bedroom, from which ether fumes were coming. When she and Riha threatened to break the bedroom door, Mrs. Tannenbaum said, Mrs. Riha went to the window and started screaming.

Boulder police reported that Mrs. Tannenbaum told police Mrs. Riha wasn't a citizen, her visa had expired and the immigration authorities had been called.

Police said they found Mrs. Riha "in an evident traumatic state" at the Wilson home, where she had been taken.

A jar of ether and several gauze pads found by police in the bed covers of Mrs. Riha's bedroom were later turned over to her Boulder attorney. Mrs. Riha has said she doesn't know how the jar and pads got into her bed.

A U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) official in Denver said recently Mrs. Tannenbaum has no official connection with INS.

The week after the incident at the Riha home seemed uneventful for Riha — he met his classes, attended a departmental meeting and counseled his students. A note on his calendar pad Tuesday, March 11, indicated he was to have dinner with the "Colonel." Riha was often known to have used that name when speaking of Mrs. Tannenbaum.

LAST SEEN

Riha was seen up to about 12:30 a.m., Saturday, March 15, when he left a family party at a friend's home in Boulder. No one except Mrs. Tannenbaum has come forth to say he has seen the professor since that time.

Riha was officially declared missing Monday, March 17, when his briefcase was found open amid books and papers on his desk in his CU study where he had failed to appear all day.

Federal agencies apparently have issued conflicting reports

— telling some persons they know nothing about Riha and telling others they have knowledge of his whereabouts.

Denver and Boulder police say they've been told by federal agencies that Riha is "alive and well." But they decline to identify the agencies.

This past week, J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the FBI, said the FBI "has no knowledge of Dr. Riha's whereabouts. The Denver FBI field office," Hoover said, "has been in contact with Dr. Riha's mother (in Germany) and offered to place a missing person notice concerning her son in the files of our identification division. This offer was declined."

Riha's mother, Dr. Ruth Ann

Cook, is known to have written early in December to Scott Werner, FBI special agent in charge at Denver, seeking information about her son. Dr. Cook reportedly is quite ill, after undergoing two major operations.

Inquiries about Riha are being continued by the Denver Post, contacting federal agencies; U.S. Rep. Donald G. Brodzman; R-Colo., and Canadian immigration officials.

Denver Dist. Atty. Mike McKeivitt said he has been conducting an "extensive investigation" of Riha's absence and related matters. This investigation, McKeivitt noted, is being coordinated with probes of the Denver and Boulder Police Departments and the Boulder district attorney.

Here in New York, Mrs. Riha has been told about some of the misspellings and awkward grammatical expressions in letters and documents signed Thomas Riha, which have appeared since his disappearance. Her reaction has been instant: "These papers aren't genuine," she said.

"Thomas was fussy about the language," she insisted. "He would not write in this way."

And she added that her former husband was fastidious in all things. "Everything must be in its place."

DEEPER BASIS

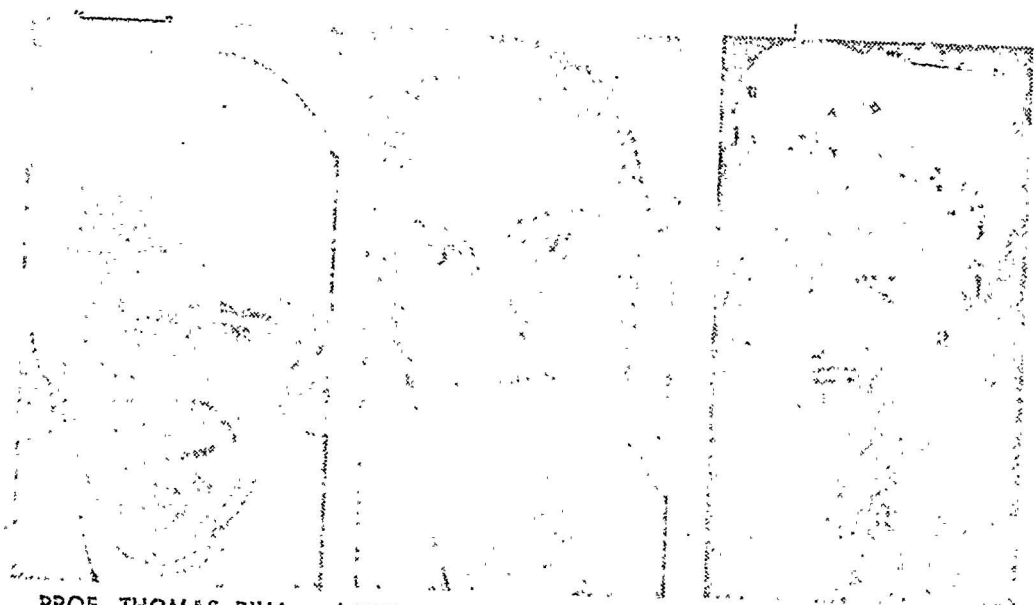
But there seems to be a deeper, almost intuitive, basis for the fears expressed by Mrs. Riha, who is employed in a New York bank. And this is most evident as she recalled a happier time with Riha.

One night, she said, she and her husband came home elated from a social event they attended in Boulder shortly after they were married. Riha wanted to take a walk because he was so keyed up. And along the

way he picked some wild flowers and presented them to his wife.

Recalling this time, Mrs. Riha was pensive. Her glance once again went to the door at the back of the Czech restaurant here. Then she smiled wanly and said:

"For him, life was like a flower. He enjoyed life so much. He was so alive."



PROF. THOMAS RIHA
Fussy about the language.

MRS. GALYA TANNENBAUM
Claims he visited twice.

MRS. HANA RIHA
"He is a responsible man."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Riha's nephew fears missing scholar dead

By RYKKEN JOHNSON
Rocky Mountain News Writer

His nephew looked at the last three paragraphs of the newspaper story Sunday and nodded in agreement. "I'm afraid Rose is right," was the young man's solemn remark. "My uncle's body is probably somewhere in the mountains."

The speaker was Zdenek Cervený, nephew of Dr. Thomas Riha, the missing University of Colorado Russian history professor who disappeared March 17, 1969, and who, in recent weeks, has become the subject of renewed investigations to discover his whereabouts.

"Rose," a name she picked in order to remain anonymous, is a Denver clairvoyant who, in the Sunday article in the Rocky Mountain News, said the missing Boulder man is dead and that his body is in the mountains, next to a cave.

Cervený is a dark-haired, handsome man like his 40-year-old uncle. The Czechoslovakian immigrant came to the United States in November, 1963, to work in Denver, then Lyons, Colo.

Speaking splendid English, Cervený, about 34, talked about the involved case that has been clouded and perhaps stifled by reports from Denver and Boulder law enforcement authorities that certain federal agencies have stated Riha is "alive and well."

Unnamed U.S. agencies

The local law offices have declined to identify the U.S. agencies, but they are believed to be the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Much of the speculation about Riha's welfare in the last two weeks comes from Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum, 248 Logan St., who claims close friendship with the professor. She insists he has visited her twice since his unannounced departure in March. He is in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, she said.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, who has substituted "Galya," a Russian name, for the "Gloria" found on earlier records, claims to have known Riha since about 1949 when he emigrated from Czechoslovakia.

She has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity on a charge of forging a will of another acquaintance and was arrested Saturday on a charge she signed Riha's name to a check Sept. 30.

Cervený adamantly disputes the claims Mrs. Tannenbaum has made about her association with Riha and with his group of friends, largely persons of Czech ancestry who have settled in the Denver-Boulder area.

"There was a tense relationship with the group, he explained as he sipped coffee in a comfortable Lyons restaurant.

"Tannenbaum presented herself as something she was not," Cervený stated.

Met before wedding

"She met Thomas early in October, 1968, at a party about two weeks before he was married to his former wife.

"As far as our friends could tell, it was the first time they had met. If they had met before that, like Tannenbaum says, they certainly played the roles will.

"I think after that she went into Thomas's past to find out about him so she could talk."

The introduction at the wedding party in the Black Bear Inn in Lyons was arranged by a Boulder lawyer who knew Riha wanted to get his nephew to America.

Cervený was in Vienna after leaving Prague, following the Russian invasion.

According to Mrs. Francesca Stein, who owns the Black Bear Inn with her husband George, both Czech immigrants, Mrs. Tannenbaum had impressed the lawyer with the understanding she could influence Cervený's arrival.

Submitted the papers

"Tannenbaum apparently took the papers, wrote 'approved by the Colonel' on the bottom space to impress our friends," said Cervený, "then took the papers and submitted them" to regular immigration channels after clipping off her officious notation.

"When regular approval came for my immigration, she simply told my uncle's friends that it was her work that got it through quickly.

"But I had suspicions even on the flight over here when I found the length of procedures for the other passengers were about the same as mine.

"My uncle had told me I would be met 'by a rich and powerful person' when I got to Denver. That person was Tannenbaum," Cervený said. Cervený said Mrs. Tannenbaum always wore a gun in a shoulder holster and told him she was an agent for a "corporation." (Mrs. Tannenbaum's word for what Cervený interpreted to imply a secretive government agency).

Cervený thinks his uncle, a respected scholar, believed Mrs. Tannenbaum's inferences that she was a "rich and powerful" individual, but all she had to show "was an old Illinois driver's license." Riha may even have believed she was endowed with powers similar to those of an Iron Curtain country secret police agent.

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. DeLoach.....
Mr. Walters.....
Mr. Mohr.....
Mr. Bishop.....
Mr. Casper.....
Mr. Callahan.....
Mr. Conrad.....
Mr. Felt.....
Mr. Gale.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Sullivan.....
Mr. Tavel.....
Mr. Soyars.....
Tele. Room.....
Miss Holmes.....
Miss Gandy.....

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1/27/70
Edition: Home
Author: Rykken Johnson
Editor: Jack Foster
Title: THOMAS RIHA

Character:
or
Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver
☐ Being Investigated B

105-4151-78256-A
NOT RECORDED
115 FEB 9 1970

Came to Riha house

His uncle told him Mrs. Tannenbaum came to the Riha house on March 8, 1939, with papers she said concerned Mrs. Riha's status as an immigrant. Hana Riha, now living in New York City, is also a native Czechoslovakian.

Cerveny said it was Mrs. Tannenbaum's intention to remove Mrs. Riha from the house that night. He said his uncle had taken a gun away from Mrs. Tannenbaum, but she persisted in wanting Hana Riha to accompany her. U.S. Immigration authorities say Mrs. Tannenbaum has never belonged to their bureau.

A nearly hysterical Mrs. Riha escaped from her bedroom window with the aid of a few neighbors. Fumes of ether were smelled inside the house. Cerveny stated his uncle told him the ether belonged to Mrs. Tannenbaum.

The nephew described the marriage between Hana and Riha as a frustrated one from its inception Oct. 13, 1938. Hana was much younger, about 26. Riha's 49th birthday took place shortly after his disappearance.

She was not the housekeeper Riha apparently had expected, Cerveny said. Hana smoked and had a casual attitude toward the language classes Riha had arranged for her to learn better English. There also were arguments, the nephew said.

After the ether affair, Hana moved into the Boulder Hotel and left for New York City April 5, apparently presuming her husband's disappearance the previous month was due to the marital problems. A divorce was granted Sept. 30.

Cerveny tells that Mrs. Tannenbaum maintained a tenacious grasp on her relationship with Riha. "Often," he said, "Tannenbaum would come to his house unannounced and barge in on Thomas when he was in his private study.

"She would stay and talk for hours," unconcerned that he might have had other things to do.

The young engineer scoffed at Mrs. Tannenbaum's description of Riha's childhood during World War II.

Riha, half Jewish, was not abandoned as a wartime waif in Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia and put to work in a German slave labor camp.

Young Thomas did not have to live by his wits in the streets before his arrest, as Mrs. Tannenbaum also contends. Instead, although he was kept under surveillance by the Germans and periodically had to report his activities to them, Riha lived with Cerveny and his parents, according to the nephew.

Soviet troops

This closeness developed in the 1940s between Riha and the Cerveny's accounts for the uncle's desire to bring Cerveny to this country after the Soviet Union sent troops into transitional Czechoslovakia, the young man said.

Cerveny feels that Riha would not have left Boulder without conferring with other friends and if he were living, he would attempt to communicate with them.

Mrs. Tannenbaum has said Riha has no intention of talking to "fair weather" friends, apparently meaning these individuals Riha had associated with during his tenure at CU. But Cerveny implies Riha was not a person to disregard long friendships and valued those he had.

Like many naturalized Americans and aliens in the United States, Riha enjoyed companionship with persons from the old country. He was not the type to reserve companionship and confidence to a single person and to shut out so-called "fair weather" friends.

His introduction to Hana was by some interpretation an "arrangement" through acquaintances in New York City, with whom the young woman, their cousin, was staying.

Couple introduced

The New York people were aware that Riha might be inter-

ested in matrimony with a woman of Czechoslovakian ancestry and the fact that Riha was married during August, 1948, party in New York, and the impending celebration again during the early October social gathering in Lyons.

Cerveny also came to know Mrs. Tannenbaum. "She once asked me to join the 'corporation.' I would be valuable because I knew Russian she said," Cerveny remembers.

When asked if there had been attempts to have the women verify her claims, Cerveny said she would laugh and become evasive.

She once told Cerveny she had "connections" with the Denver police and would "fix" a ticket he got for going through a stop light.

She did. According to Cerveny, Mrs. Tannenbaum simply paid the \$25 violation and told him the matter "had been taken care of."

But Cerveny went through another stop signal recently, and, with the points lost from the ticket Mrs. Tannenbaum "fixed," is in danger of receiving a court subpoena, he said.

Chartered plane

Cerveny was with Mrs. Tannenbaum on the privately chartered airplane flight to San Antonio, Tex., for which the woman paid with an allegedly worthless check.

Cerveny related the incident came after he decided to drive to San Antonio to see Czechoslovakian friends there. He did not want to use his small auto for the planned road trip and asked Mrs. Tannenbaum if he could borrow her larger automobile, the services of which she had offered on previous occasions.

No, Mrs. Tannenbaum told Cerveny, she would not lend the car to him. She had to use it for something important in Denver during the next few days.

But, better yet, she would use her position to have him flown to Texas, Cerveny was told.

"Tannenbaum said she couldn't fly us (Cerveny and a friend) on a military plane, for obvious reasons," but she would get another one."

Cerveny said his unidentified friend did not want to use Mrs. Tannenbaum's invitation, but after viewing the advantageous economics of the offer and Mrs. Tannenbaum's insistence, they took it.

Flying service

The party, with Mrs. Tannenbaum once again self-inserted into the situation, left a Fort Collins flying service on July 30.

for San Antonio. Mrs. Tannenbaum returned with the plane the next day and reportedly paid \$330 for the charter with a check signed with Thomas Riha's name.

Because of insufficient funds, the check was not accepted at the bank and the owner of the flying service found Cerveny at the Black Bear Inn.

Cerveny said he took the check and, with several payments, repaid the flying service owner \$226. "He said he didn't want to make money off me, so that's all he took."

But then Mrs. Tannenbaum pleaded innocent and later innocent by reason of insanity to forging the will of the late Gustav Frederick Ingwersen, her acquaintance, who died June 18. Ingwersen was a Czech and a friend of Riha. He died of cyanide poisoning.

"It was then (when charges came) I returned the check" to the Fort Collins aviation service, "and told them to do what should be done," Cerveny said.

Another acquaintance of Mrs. Tannenbaum, Riha, Cerveny, and Ingwersen, to die of cyanide poisoning was Mrs. Barbara Egberg. A Czech, too, she died Sept. 13.

Cerveny speculates that if the federal authorities which purported to know Riha was "alive and well" had been less discreet, perhaps the deaths of Ingwersen and Mrs. Egberg could have been avoided.

Both Cerveny and Mrs. Stein of the Black Bear Inn conjecture if foul play is involved in the disappearance of Riha, more than one person is implicated.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

March 19, 1970

1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. Redfield

REC-13 105-78256-29

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director
Center for East European Affairs
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dr. Fischer-Galati:

Your letter of February 18, 1970, to the Vice President concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha has been referred to the FBI for reply.

The concern you expressed in soliciting the Vice President's assistance for a careful investigation and meaningful resolution of the case is understandable.

Based on the information which has been reported to us concerning Professor Riha's disappearance, the FBI has conducted no investigation. There is no indication of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's jurisdiction. Moreover, the FBI has no information regarding Professor Riha's whereabouts.

As you are probably aware, Professor Riha's mother inquired of this Bureau in December, 1969, concerning her son's whereabouts. She was informed that we had no information in this regard. Professor Riha's mother was asked if she desired a missing persons notice be placed in the files of the FBI Identification Division. Our offer was declined.

You have furnished information that local authorities are currently conducting investigation into Professor Riha's disappearance. In the absence of information indicating a Federal law within its jurisdiction has been violated, the FBI cannot conduct investigation into the disappearance of Professor Riha.

JWR:ebp
(9)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

56 APR 8 1970

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

While I am certain the Vice President would like to be of more assistance to you in this matter and appreciates your concern for your colleague, in the absence of information indicating Federal interest or a violation of Federal statutes, this matter appears to be one solely within the investigative province of authorities in your area.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

Note:

Above letter written pursuant to referral from the Office of the Vice President. Xerox copy of the original referral and its enclosures being returned with the copy of the letter to the Vice President.

Riha, Czechoslovak-born, naturalized, former professor of Russian history at Colorado University, departed from Denver area March, 1969, without notifying friends, associates, or his estranged wife. His disappearance has been glamorized in recent months by energetic Denver reporter and spiced up with references to a mysterious paramour under whose influence Riha had fallen.

Fischer-Galati, according to Bufiles, was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement.

SENSITIVE SOURCE INFORMATION

He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. Fischer-Galati has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate. He is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book.

Copy of letter being sent to The Vice President's Office by Liaison.
CC BEING SENT DENVER OFFICE SEPARATELY.

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

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Fischer-Galati, according to Bufiles, was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement. He has been in periodic routine contact in the past with the Romanian Embassy and contacts not of known security significance. He was born in Romania. In 1966 CIA advised Fischer-Galati was of interest to and used to a limited degree by that agency since the early 1950s. He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. Fischer-Galati has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate. He is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book.

Copy of letter being sent to The Vice President's Office by Liaison.
CC BEING SENT DENVER OFFICE SEPARATELY.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REFERRAL

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover

To: Director, Federal Bureau of
Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Date: March 16, 1970

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ACTION REQUESTED

- _____ Draft reply for:
 _____ Vice President's signature.
 _____ Undersigned's signature.
- _____ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.
☒ Furnish information copy.
- _____ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- _____ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- _____ For your information.
- _____ For comment.

THOMAS RIHA

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Description:

☒ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: The Vice President

From: Mr. Stephen Fischer-Galati, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

Date: February 18, 1970

Subject: Investigation Into Disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha

10 MAR 25 1970

By direction of the Vice President

G. Andrew Lawrence

COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

GAL:gyj

105-78256

CENTER FOR EAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302

DIRECTOR OF

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI

B. IN ROMANIAN

February 18, 1970

The Honorable Spiro T. Agnew
Vice President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

In the hope that you have read the accounts of the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha and the mysterious circumstances surrounding the investigation of that disappearance by the proper authorities, local and federal, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of the latest relevant account from The Denver Post.

As a trustee of the Thomas Riha Fund, I should like to solicit your assistance in securing a careful investigation and meaningful resolution of the case. The failure of the local authorities and of the University of Colorado to conduct a proper investigation at the time of Professor Riha's disappearance in March 1969 is reflective of the lack of concern and bureaucratic ineptness which has been so rightly criticized by you in recent months. In an age of repudiation of the fundamental moral values which have historically differentiated democratic from totalitarian, bureaucratic societies, it seems imperative that the truth be uncovered no matter what the embarrassment to those who failed to fulfill their moral and even legal obligations.

Professor Riha's case is particularly relevant in that respect since he was a refugee from communist Czechoslovakia. It would be a sad commentary indeed on our democratic society if he were to be the victim of bureaucratic negligence or of tactics identified with the regime which he escaped.

I would be pleased to send you all materials pertinent to the case, should that be required, to facilitate the honorable resolution of the case of Professor Riha.

Respectfully yours,

105-76236-

Stephen Fischer-Galati
Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director

ENCLOSURE

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

[illegible][illegible]

1. The first of these is the fact that the United States has a long and proud history of supporting the people of the world in their struggle for freedom and independence. This policy has been a cornerstone of our foreign policy since the end of World War II.

2. The second is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing economy. This economic strength has enabled us to provide aid to other countries in need, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

3. The third is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing military. This military strength has enabled us to defend our country and our interests around the world, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

4. The fourth is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing culture. This cultural strength has enabled us to share our values and our way of life with other countries, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

5. The fifth is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing population. This population strength has enabled us to provide aid to other countries in need, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

6. The sixth is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing leadership. This leadership strength has enabled us to guide the world in its struggle against communism, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

7. The seventh is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing influence. This influence strength has enabled us to shape the world in our image, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

8. The eighth is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing power. This power strength has enabled us to defend our country and our interests around the world, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

9. The ninth is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing spirit. This spirit strength has enabled us to inspire the people of the world in their struggle for freedom and independence, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

10. The tenth is the fact that the United States has a strong and growing hope. This hope strength has enabled us to believe in a better future for the world, and to support our allies in their struggle against communism.

March 25, 1970

J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

gdp
Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 19, 1970 with reference to the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha.

Since I am not aware of the extent of the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I am unable to provide any information which will allow investigation of the disappearance by the FBI. The only basis which may permit action by the FBI appears to be Professor Riha's status as a recipient of funds from the Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under the provisions of the National Defense Education Act at the time of his disappearance in March 1969. Whether the receipt of monies from a Federal agency constitutes a legal relationship with the Federal Government which would fall within the jurisdiction of such Federal agencies as the FBI is unknown to me but, conceivably, it would provide a rationale for participation in the case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Fischer-Galati
Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director

3/31/70
JWG/elp
XEROX
Copy to DENVER
by routing slip for
date 4/6/70
by JWG/elp

REC-35

SFG:ml

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

105-78856-30
MAR 27 1970

REC-35
SINO-SATELLITE

EXP. PROC.

34 - MAR 27 1970

33

REC-35

105-78256-30

March 31, 1970

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. Redfield

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director
Center for East European Affairs
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Dear Dr. Fischer-Galati:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 25, 1970, concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha.

The information you furnished has been carefully reviewed. Based upon the available facts, there is no indication of a violation of any Federal statutes over which this Bureau has jurisdiction. Therefore, I am unable to be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JWR:ebp
(9)

NOTE:

Riha, Czechoslovak-born, naturalized, former professor of Russian history at Colorado University, departed Denver area March, 1969, without notifying friends, associates or his estranged wife. His disappearance has been glamorized in recent months by energetic Denver reporter and spiced up with references to a mysterious paramour under whose influence Riha had fallen.

Fischer-Galati previously wrote to the Vice President concerning the disappearance of Riha, which letter was referred to the Bureau for reply. He was informed the FBI had conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance of Riha; had no information regarding his whereabouts and there was no indication of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's jurisdiction. Our reply to the information in his current letter was coordinated with the Accounting and Frauds Section, General Investigative Division.

56 APR 10 1970
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

NOTE CONTINUED PAGE 2

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Copy to DENVER
by routing slip for
☒ info ☐ action
date 4/16/70
by [signature]
olson _____
eLoach _____
alters _____
ohr _____
ishop _____
asper _____
allahon _____
onrad _____
elt _____
ale _____
asen _____
ullivan _____
avel _____
yars _____
elo. Room _____
limes _____
andy _____

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

NOTE CONTINUED:

Fischer-Galati is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book. According to Bufiles, Fischer-Galati was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement.

SENSITIVE SOURCE MATERIAL

born in Romania.

He was

SENSITIVE SOURCE MATERIAL

He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. He has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate.

On 3/30/70, Fred Schmidt Director of Security, He was advised
SAC Hengeman like, Bureau Liaison, that the High Institute of International
Studies, Office of Educational Contributions funded to an Eastern
European (Slavic) Program at the University of Colorado.
Approximately 50% of the cost of the program is paid by OLI with
the University contributing the balance.
Thomas Riha was one of the instructors hired by
the University under this program. His salary would
be paid by the University and he receives no
funds directly from OLI and OLI has no control
over his employment. He is not a federal employee.
JR

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

NOTE CONTINUED:

Fischer-Galati is a professor of history, Colorado University. Salutation of Dr. taken from established reference book. According to Bufiles, Fischer-Galati was deferred in World War II for psychoneurosis, anxiety type. He reportedly advised State Department in 1950 he was a close friend of the Director's, an untrue statement. He has been in periodic routine contact in the past with the Romanian Embassy and contacts not of known security significance. He was born in Romania. In 1966 CIA advised Fischer-Galati was of interest to and used to a limited degree by that Agency since the early 1950's. He communicated with Justice Department 4/7/69 concerning Riha's disappearance. Justice acknowledged his letter. He has been mentioned in several press items in the Riha case as an acquaintance and University associate.

On 3/30/70, Fred Schmidt Director of Security, HEW advised SA Hengeman, Bureau Liaison, that the Dept. of International Studies, Office of Educational Consultants funded to an Eastern European (Slavic) Program at the Univ. of Colorado. 50% of the cost of the program is paid by OTE with the University contributing the balance. Thomas Riha was one of the instructors hired by the University under this program. His salary would be paid by the University and he receives no funds directly from OTE and OTE has no control over his employment. He is not a federal employee.
BHR

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A Justice Story

The Strange Case of the Missing Professor

*A woman friend insists he is alive,
but a district attorney doesn't think
so as he seeks the truth in a maze of
forgeries and two strange deaths*

The Washington Post _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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 Daily News (New York) _____
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 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
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 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

Date MAY 3 1970

By KERMIT JAEDIKER

IN MILE-HIGH DENVER, economic and cultural capital of the Rockies, investigators are working to unravel a mystery that at times has been fantastic, absurd and more than a little frightening. Its central figure is Galya Tannenbaum, a heavyset, domineering woman of 39 who had three friends who, to put it mildly, were awfully unlikely.

The ill-starred three were:

- Thomas Riha, 40, a Czechoslovakian-born associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado in nearby Boulder. He vanished in March, 1969, amid a spate of rumors hinting at a link with espionage. Denver District Attorney Mike McKevitt says today he has "grave doubts" that Riha is alive.

- Gustav Friedrich Ingwersen, a 78-year-old plastics engineer. He died last June from cyanide poisoning. Galya is charged with forgery in connection with his will, which made her a beneficiary.

- Mrs. Barbara Egbert, a 51-year-old divorcee who was found dead last September in her Denver apartment. Her death, too, was attributed to cyanide. A typewritten suicide note was found, but McKevitt says it's a fake.

According to the district attorney, both known deaths are suspected of being homicides. Galya's lawyer, John Kokish, admits the police wanted to question her about them but "I told her not to open her mouth." Galya took his advice. Ordinarily, she's quite a talker.

For months, a fascinating aura of international spying clung to the Riha case and still hangs over it, although it lacks official corroboration. A contributing factor undoubtedly was Galya's claim, to a number of persons in the Denver area, that she was a colonel in U.S. Military Intelligence.

Galya's attorney says that just isn't true, and Intelligence heartily concurs, but Galya is still known around town, perhaps only in jest, as The Colonel. Just before he disappeared, Riha himself, who reportedly knew her very, very well, was believed to have referred to her as Colonel in a notation on his calendar.

Logic itself militates strongly against the possibility that Galya was an officer

in the American intelligence. She was a free-lance commercial artist by profession, as good a cover for a spy as any, but if she went around broadcasting she was an intelligence officer, that automatically blew her cover.

The Colonel stuff aside, there have been serious questions as to whether Riha himself may have dabbled in secret activity. He had just been reckoned for it. He was born in Prague in an Iron Curtain country, came to the U.S. in 1947, became a naturalized citizen, studied hard and received bachelor's and masters' degrees at the University of California, to say nothing of a doctorate from Harvard.

HE TAUGHT at the University of Chicago, at Marburg University in West Germany and then joined the faculty of the University of Colorado. He'd been around a lot, geographically speaking, had professorial pals all over the country and, what's more, was a leading authority on Russian history.

In addition, he had made at least two visits to Moscow. He went there in 1958-59 to attend Moscow University as an exchange student and he revisited Moscow in 1968 as a guide for a touring group of college professors.

One report has it that he told friends in Denver that he was once approached in the Moscow subway by a man who asked if he would do intelligence work. But Riha told the story jokingly, the implication of the joke being that just about every American tourist in Russia was open to approach by Soviet agents seeking spy recruits.

Galya has hinted that Riha had worked for Uncle Sam, which proves nothing. Still another source, completely without official support, says he was connected with an American espionage outfit.

But McKevitt insists, "I don't suspect espionage," and in Washington, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State Department have all denied knowledge of the Riha case. But even bereft of the cloak-and-dagger angle, the case has its moments, thanks largely to Galya.

"A fascinating, brilliant person with a complex mind," says District Attorney McKevitt in speaking of her.

The first and perhaps the most terrifying of a cluster of strange events tied in with Galya occurred March 9, 1969, a Sunday, at Prof. Riha's ranch-style home on a picturesque hill slope in the university town of Boulder, 20 miles from Denver.

Riha's 25-year-old wife, Hana, stood screaming at a bedroom window of the house. She was helped out the window by neighbors. About her was a strong odor of ether.

Boulder police were summoned to the scene, by none other than Galya, who was in the house. So was Riha. Galya, clearly a take-charge gal, met the cops at the door. She told them that Mrs.

Riha had locked herself in the bedroom, that ether fumes were emanating from inside the room and that Mrs. Riha fled screaming to the window when Galya and the professor threatened to break the bedroom door open.

Mrs. Riha's story conflicted sharply with Galya's version. She insisted that the ether came into the room through vents or under the door and that she only started screaming when she feared the anesthesia would overcome her.

Police made a search and found a jar of ether and several ether-soaked gauze pads in the bed covers in Mrs. Riha's bedroom. Who put them there, and when, was not explained.

Galya coolly told investigators that Mrs. Riha, a Czechoslovakian, was not a U.S. citizen and that immigration authorities had been called because her visa had expired. However, a New York attorney and longtime friend of Mrs. Riha declared that "there was nothing urgent about Mrs. Riha's visa status that night, nothing pressing, no imminent deportation."

MRS. RIHA phone her attorney friend that very night and sobbingly told her story and pleaded for his help. Eventually she moved east to Brooklyn, obtaining a job in a New York bank. Prof. Riha had already filed divorce proceedings to end his five-month marriage and after he disappeared, his wife filed a counter suit and won it. She also won a \$5,000 judgment.

When District Attorney McKevitt was asked about the ether business, he hinted it may have been "an attempt to scare Mrs. Riha" that sprang from the "thought process of a mixed-up mind." He didn't elaborate.

Galya's presence in the household may be explained by the fact that she and the professor had been friends for some time—perhaps even more than friends. An authoritative source quotes Galya as having said she lived with Riha for about two and a half months prior to his marriage.

The police report on the ether episode described the chunky, 160-pound Galya as "the fullback type." What drew the rather good-looking professor to her is a puzzler. Probably the attraction of opposites.

He was known to be quiet and soft-spoken, given to scholarly pursuits and

to writing. She has been described as "appearing passive, in a way naive," and yet not without a certain charm.

Her first name indicates European, even Slavic origin, but actually, attorney Kokish says, she was born in St. Louis and her real name was Gloria Forest. She has been divorced twice. A few years ago, according to Kokish, she flared in a paternity suit involving one of her three children and she won it. Later, she changed her name legally to Galya Tannenbaum.

Kokish says her mother lives in Galva, Ill., and suggests Mrs. Tannenbaum may have arrived at Galya by "playing around with the word Galva." It was certainly more exotic than Gloria.

A week after Mrs. Riha made her precipitate exit via a window of the house, Prof. Riha disappeared. He was to have attended a meeting of history professors in Denver on March 15, a Saturday, and, characteristically methodical, had noted this on his calendar pad. He failed to show up at the meeting.

Friends repeatedly phoned the house that day and got no answer. Next day, a group of acquaintances, whom he was to have picked up for a dinner engagement, called at the house, rang the doorbell, got no answer and peered through the kitchen window.

They could see the kitchen table and on it a place setting consisting of a cereal bowl, dishes and silverware. Apparently it had been set for a breakfast Riha never ate.

Investigating police discovered that while Riha was a man known for precision and neatness, his personal papers were rather wildly scattered across his desk, where he had been preparing his income tax return. Among his effects was his calendar pad bearing the March 11 entry: "dinner Colonel." This was believed to refer to Galya.

The mystery of his disappearance almost immediately touched off rumors that the quiet professor of Russian history might actually be a pedagogic James Bond.

Close friends expressed fears he might be dead. But a university official announced reassuringly that he had received a report—from "reliable sources" in Washington—that Riha was "alive and well." Later, however, McKevitt said the alive-and-well conclusion sprang from a misunderstanding and termed the report "an honest mistake."

Rep. Donald G. Brotzman (R-Col.), according to his administrative assistant, Robert Tonsing, "made inquiries to Military Intelligence, the CIA and the FBI

and received unqualified negative responses." The investigation, he added, "We received no information lending credence to suppositions about espionage."

With the approach of last summer, the Affaire Tannenbaum took a new and chilling turn. Ingwerson was found dead June 18 in his home at 1141 Forest St., Denver. Death was at first attributed to a heart attack, but an autopsy showed traces of mercuric cyanide.

As an engineer, says Kokish, Ingwerson used cyanide in mineral assaying. The district attorney's office developed an interest in Ingwerson's death. The police were intrigued to learn that Galya knew Ingwerson, who was a widower. She told the cops they had picnicked together and even talked marriage.

Interestingly enough, Ingwerson also knew Prof. Riha. Indeed, during a cleanup of Ingwerson's home last December, Ingwerson's son, Donald, found Riha's wedding ring.

The next development came when Galya was arrested on a charge of having forged, in part at least, the Ingwerson will and presented it in Denver Probate Court with alleged intent to defraud Donald Ingwerson of Denver and Mrs. Esther Foote of Colorado Springs.

POLICE quoted Mrs. Foote as saying Galya asked her to witness the document, but Mrs. Foote said she didn't sign it and that the witness' signature on it was a forgery of her name. Under the terms of the will, Galya was left 100 shares of stock. The will was drawn up 13 days before Ingwerson's death.

Galya denied the forgery, but authorities were unimpressed. After all, she had dabbled in forgery before. She had an arrest record dating back to 1950 when she was taken into custody in San Antonio, Tex., on a charge of forging government checks. She was later sentenced to a year and a day for mail theft, but was placed on probation.

In 1960, she was sentenced in Illinois to nine months for getting money by false pretenses with a check. Later the same year she drew 1 to 5 years in a women's reformatory on two charges of forgery and one of embezzlement.

In the midst of the Ingwerson inquiry came the revelation that an investigation was under way into the death of a third most unfortunate friend of Galya—Mrs. Egbert. She was found dead in her flat at 1330 Race St. on Sept. 13 and District

Attorney McKevitt said: "There was a suicide note, and it was a forgery."

The autopsy, McKevitt noted, disclosed potassium cyanide. He subsequently searched Galya's rented house at 248 Logan St. In the basement they found a round of what McKevitt identified as potassium cyanide. He said Galya had a photo laboratory in the basement and worked with chemicals in that connection.

The Denver press was still kicking the Riha mystery around this January when Galya, free pending the forgery investigation, consented to be interviewed, but solely on the subject of Riha, in lawyer Kokish's office.

She declared unequivocally that Riha was still alive. She said, in fact, that he had visited her in Denver twice since his disappearance, once in May and later in the summer. She said he was living in Montreal, although she had no address for him. "I don't know what he's doing," she added. "I never asked him."

She said he left Boulder "because things were pressing in on him" both at the university and in his household, the latter an apparent reference to his divorce proceedings. She insisted she didn't know how he left Boulder, but in the next breath admitted she picked up his car at Stapleton International Airport after his departure.

When the interviewer remarked that Riha was said to be a "perfectionist," Galya said sardonically, yes, he was a perfectionist—in leaving Boulder. She shook with laughter.

Before closing the interview, she made a prediction: "Tom [Riha] will be here some time in January." The seeress was wrong on that one, but a lot of things that didn't show up in her crystal ball materialized in January, to say nothing of February, and they were all on the wrong side for Galya.

She was accused of forgery of a warranty deed in the sale of Prof. Riha's home, forgery of a deed of trust linked with the house, and forgery of Riha's name to a \$330 check to finance a chartered plane trip for herself and two companions last July 30 to San Antonio.

She was also charged with forgery in the transfer of the title to Riha's car, sold for \$1,250 to Anthony J. Stone, a high school principal. Stone said he bought the car April 1, which would be about two weeks after Riha's disappearance, with a check payable to Riha.

It was further disclosed that Galya, in a burst of generosity, donated a large part of Riha's art collection, with an appraised value of more than \$10,000,

to the Denver Art Museum. Galya claimed Riha left the collection in her custody.

From Riha's ex-wife in New York came a statement that the professor "may not be alive—he does not even write his mother." Riha's mother died in Germany in February, and Riha failed to show up for the funeral.

Galya, facing trial on the forgery raps, pleaded innocent by reason of insanity and was lodged in Colorado Psychiatric Hospital, where two state-appointed psychiatrists examined her. They reported her legally sane.

However, Kokish said, one "hedged a bit" and indicated she had a "severe personality disorder" and it was further suggested she might be "a pathological liar." Kokish obtained permission to have a third psychiatrist examine her and it is expected a sanity trial will be conducted, probably in June.

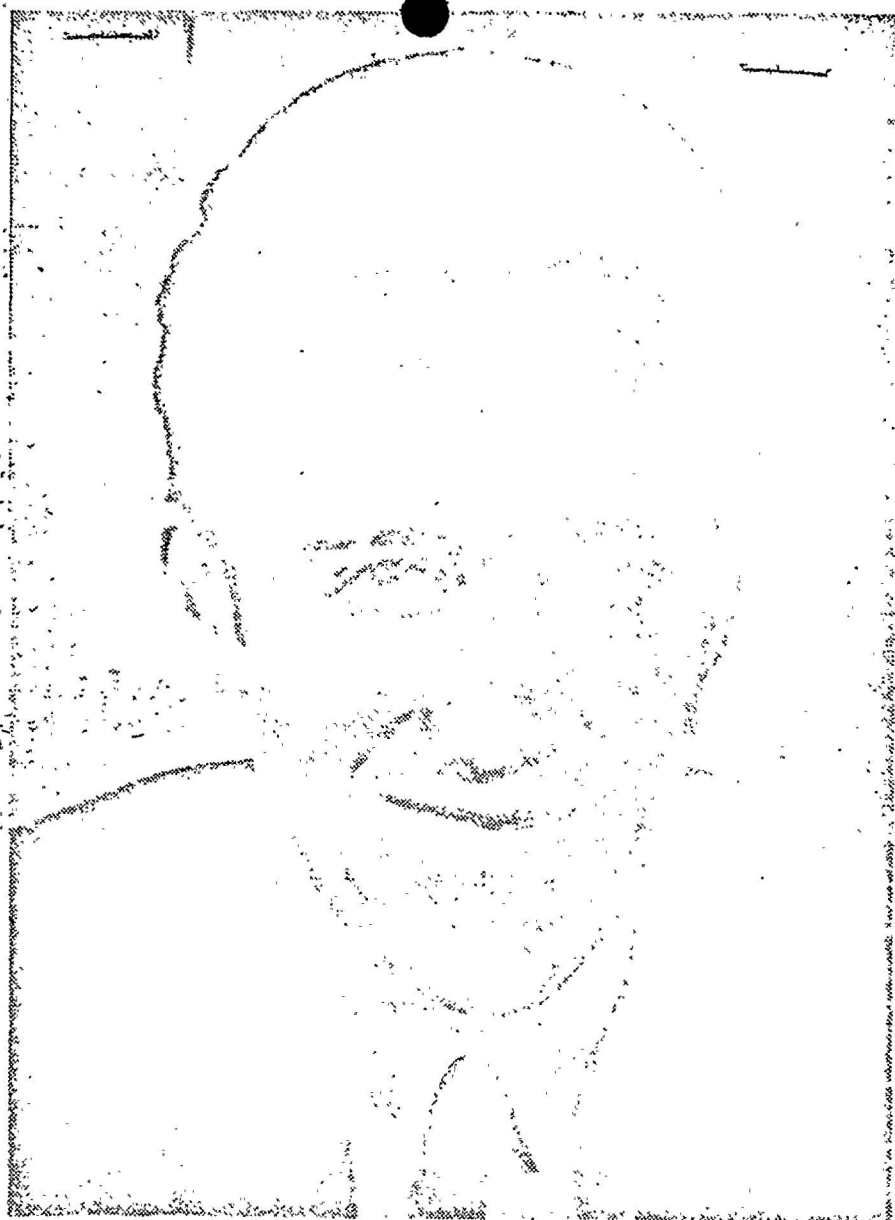
EVEN though two doctors had reported in a manner highly unfavorable to the defense, Galya's stay at Colorado Psychiatric was not entirely unproductive. Between talks with the doctors, she whiled away the hours by taking a fling at fine art.

The pictures she turned out were considered good enough to be exhibited in the highly prestigious Miller Stockman Galleries. They consisted of water colors and acrylics, a paint that looks like oil paint but dries faster.

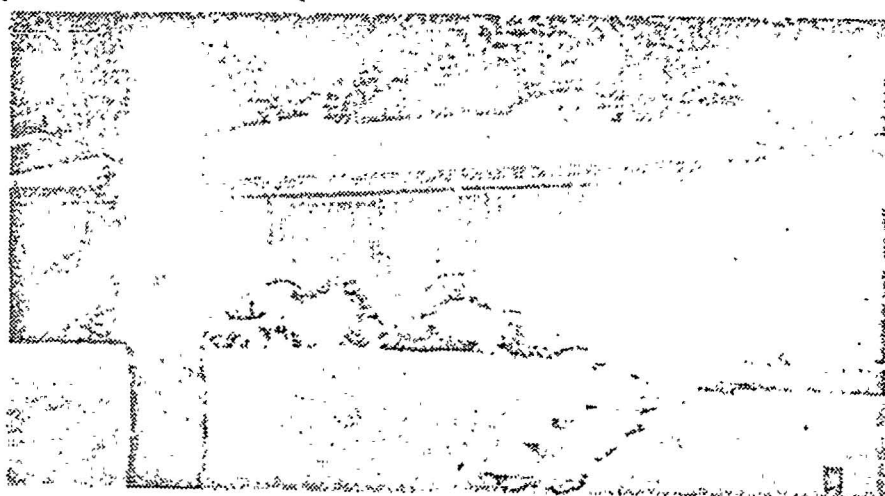
Denver Post art critic Rena Andrews viewed them and reported that the acrylics were close to the works of the German expressionists but that Galya "uses very sunny colors like Van Gogh." The artist had "a disturbing technique" in that it appeared she ran a comb through the paint, leaving ridges, but for all that she seemed to have genuine talent.

The exhibit drew wide interest, partly, to be sure, because of the notoriety surrounding the artist and, at \$40 a throw, the paintings were reported selling well. Indeed, the gallery has requested that Galya turn in some more paintings with the hint that the price may be upped.

This leads to the reasonable conclusion that if Galya beats the charges against her, she may be launched on a new career, perhaps even more lucrative than forgery—and certainly a lot less risky.

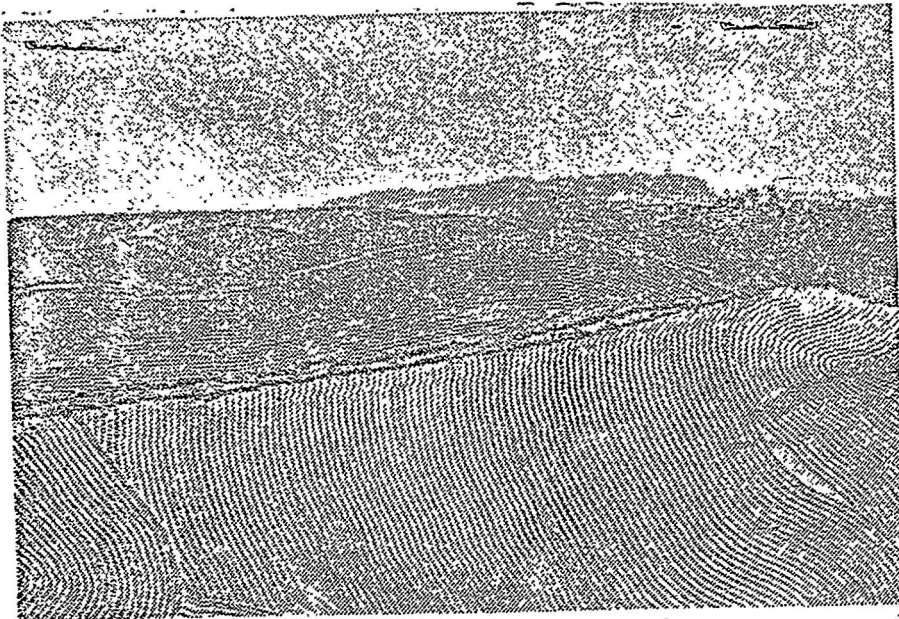


Prof. Thomas Riha's disappearance more than a year ago from his home (below) in Boulder, Colo., produced a flurry of rumors that he was involved in international espionage.

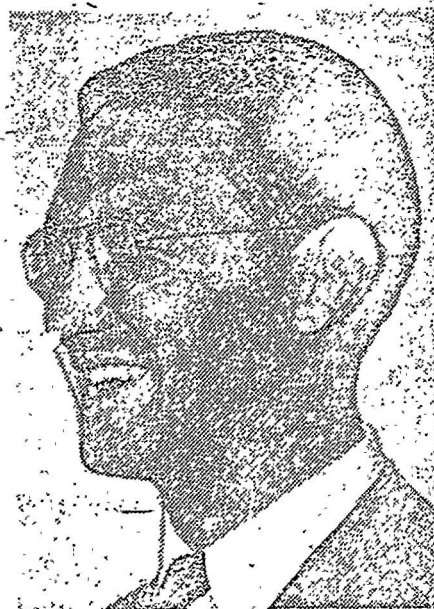




Colorful, domineering and talented Galya Tannenbaum is shown conferring with her attorney, John Kokish (←) between hearings on charges of forging the missing Prof. Riha's name to papers disposing of his home and car.



In her spare time, she dabbled at paintings [A], some of which were shown in a Denver gallery. Colorado Congressman Donald Brotzman (→) sought clues to cloak-and-dagger activities in Washington, but received negative replies from the FBI, CIA, and U.S. Military Intelligence.



CENTER FOR SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 5, 1971

J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Reference is made to your communication of March 19, 1970
with respect to the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha.

I am aware of the position of the FBI with respect to
Professor Riha's disappearance; nevertheless, I am sending you
a letter addressed to me which was sent from Cincinnati, Ohio
a few days ago. It is my assumption that inasmuch as this communi-
cation was sent through the United States mails from a place other
than Boulder it falls within the jurisdiction of the FBI.

I do not necessarily envisage the enclosed letter as a
threat. However, I cannot exclude that possibility and it is
for this reason, as well as for the obvious implication of the
contents, that I am writing to you again at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Fischer-Galati
Stephen Fischer-Galati
Director

EX-103

REC-6

MAR 15 1971

SFG:ml

ENCLOSURE

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Dr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

NOTE CONTINUED:

Fischer-Galati previously wrote to the Vice President concerning the disappearance of Riha, which letter was referred to the Bureau for reply. He was informed the FBI had conducted no investigation concerning the disappearance of Riha; had no information regarding his whereabouts; and there was no indication of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's jurisdiction.

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SENSITIVE SOURCE INFORMATION

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- 2 -

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Stephen Fischer-Galati

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- 2 -

ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Puzzle clouds

Tannenbaum case

Page, name of
paper, city and state.)

By ALAN CUNNINGHAM
Rocky Mountain News Writer

CHICAGO — Her name is neither Galva nor Tannenbaum, according to those who knew the enigmatic Denver woman when she lived in Chicago in the 1950s and 1960s.

But Mrs. Gloria Ann Forest McPherson Scimo's use of an exotic assumed name is in keeping, they say, with her lifelong flair for playing mysterious roles and weaving webs of part truth and part fantasy.

Mrs. Scimo—or Tannenbaum, if you accept the name by which she is better known in Denver—remains the key figure in a multi-faceted Colorado mystery. The most perplexing facet, without a doubt, is the question of what happened to Dr. Thomas Riha, the Czech-born associate professor of Russian history who disappeared from the University of Colorado and seemingly from the face of the earth last March.

The Denver woman, who was arrested by Boulder police last Friday and charged with forging Riha's name to a check last July, says she is one of a very few people, if not the only one, who knows the answers. She also insists he is alive and well. Many people are willing to agree with the first statement,

but there is controversy on the second point.

Probably no one in Chicago knows where Thomas Riha is. But few people here whose lives have crossed paths with Gloria Forest—or McPherson, or whatever name she might have used at times—are likely to forget it.

She has acquired a reputation for making an imprint on people. Usually, it seems, the imprint has been a painful one.

Not surprisingly, some of those who have thus felt her impact are reticent to talk about it. But from those who will talk, this much has emerged about the remarkable life of the former Gloria Ann Forest:

• She was born in Chicago March 30, 1931, the only daughter of an interior decorator, the late Joseph Forest. She had two brothers.

• She spent part of her childhood in Galva, Ill., near Galena in northern Illinois. It is interesting to note that when one adds a small line to the "V" in Galva, one comes up with Galva, the name she chose to assume later in life.

• She attended a parochial school in St. Louis, Mo., and dropped out of a Catholic high school there, but got a

1 Rocky Mountain News
—Denver, Colorado

Date: 1/28/70
Edition: Home
Author: Alan Cunningham
Editor: Jack Foster
Title: (C)

THOMAS RIHA

Character:
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Classification: 105-4151
Submitting Office: Denver
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high school certificate when she was 20. She never received a college degree, although she later claimed to have a Ph.D.

She has been wed twice, although she claims a third marriage, to Chicago artist Leo Tannenbaum. She was engaged to be married in 1965 to Tannenbaum (whose name is spelled differently from that she now uses), but actually was not divorced from her second husband, Charles R. Scimo, until 1963.

More interesting than these biographical tidbits, however, are reports that Mrs. Scimo worked her way through a series of bookkeeping jobs in Chicago, a small Missouri city and elsewhere, winding up in jail several times and once for a three-year term in the state prison in Dwight, Ill.

Still more fascinating, the 38-year-old Denver woman is said to have posed as an expert on virtually everything from geology to aeronautical engineering to medicine, even though she had only a smattering of expertise in any field—except, perhaps, that of influencing people to her own advantage.

Once, she claimed to have invented a system by which in-flight airplane collisions would be avoided, using the repulsion principle of magnets whose like poles are placed next to each other. And only last week, she claimed in an interview with the News that she had developed a cobalt process for detoxifying Army chemical and biological materials and had built what she termed a "12-bank laser."

Most remarkable of all, perhaps, were two of the stories Mrs. Scimo is reported to have told acquaintances here in the 1960s.

One was that her true name was Galva Zakharovna, and that she was the daughter of a Russian general. The other, which required Mrs. Scimo to do something few women ever do—namely, claim she was older than she really was—made it appear she had suffered extreme tortures as a prisoner of the Nazis during World War II.

In fact, say those who knew her in Chicago—Gloria Forest McPherson Scimo never has been out of the United States. She was in grade school in Galva and St. Louis during the war years.

Chartered airplane flight

Earlier this week, Longmont pilot Robert Gaines told the News about other extraordinary claims made by "Galva Tannenbaum" when he flew her, another woman and Riha's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny, to San Antonio, Tex., on a chartered flight last July 30. (It was in paying for that flight that she allegedly passed the check which led to her most recent arrest.)

In their first conversation, Gaines reminded Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed she was working for the Secret Service, and had personally been responsible for bringing her two fellow passengers from the Soviet Union. She added that such services were a regular part of her work.

Later, Gaines said he learned Cerveny had first planned to drive to San Antonio, where he and the second woman were going to visit a Czech-born family, but had been persuaded by Mrs. Tannenbaum to fly instead. Cerveny, Gaines repeated, agreed to change his plans in the belief that the U.S. government was paying for the flight.

It was not Gloria Scimo's first trip to San Antonio, either. Records here show that she received a suspended year-and-a-day sentence from a federal judge there in November 1959, after being convicted of theft and forgery of a government check. She also was put on three-year probation.

In 1954, the then-Mrs. McPherson was accused of embezzlement and forgery while working for the mayor of Wellston, Mo. An accountant's report purported to show that Mrs. McPherson's endorsement had appeared on 11 unauthorized city checks, totaling \$8,060.

The mayor, who was in the midst of an election campaign, declined to press charges.

Probation violator

Similar accusations led to her leaving a bookkeeping job with a Chicago hospital in 1957 and an advertising firm here in 1953. In the lat-

ter case, she pleaded guilty to embezzlement and forgery of checks totaling \$16,000. She was placed on three-year probation.

Arrested once more in 1930 on charges of forgery and receiving stolen property, she was sent to prison as a probation violator. She was paroled into the custody of a rabbi in 1932, after reportedly persuading him she was Jewish.

She moved to Colorado in 1967, more than a year after her second divorce—and after her encounter with Leo Tannenbaum. She says it was part of a mutual agreement with Tom Riha, whom she terms a close friend of 26 years' duration, to start their lives anew in Boulder.

But on this point, yet one more facet of "Galva Tannenbaum's" fascinating stories seems to come under question.

Tannenbaum discussed his own painful relationship with her during a conversation in the Chicago suburb of Evanston. He recalled that Galva had made a specialty of working her way into people's lives, and of conspicuously dropping the names of virtually everyone she knew to each of the others at frequent intervals.

Yet throughout the time he knew her, Tannenbaum said, he could never recall having heard her mention the name of Thomas Riha—who was at that very time teaching on the nearby campus of the University of Chicago.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Insanity plea will be entered for Mrs. Tannenbaum

By RYKKEN JOHNSON
Rocky Mountain News Writer

The lawyer for Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum said Tuesday an insanity plea of innocent will be presented during a Feb. 4 preliminary hearing in Boulder District Court on charges against her of allegedly forging the name of Dr. Thomas Riha to a check.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, of 248 Logan St., received a reduction in the \$2,500 bond set after her arrest last week for allegedly forging the name of the missing University of Colorado professor to a check last July 30.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, about 50, is a key figure in a swirl of discussion and speculation over the health and location of Riha.

He is the associate professor of Russian history who disappeared from CU March 17, 1969. She has claimed to be the Czechoslovakian native's confidant and has said Riha will soon return to the Denver area. Other persons fear Riha is dead.

Bail was reduced to \$1,000 by Boulder Dist. Judge Howard O. Ashton after receiving a motion filed by John Kokish, a lawyer from Denver who is representing Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Kokish also asked the bond to be a temporary one, lasting until Feb. 4, to allow Mrs. Tannenbaum to arrange her personal affairs.

The lawyer said the free time is necessary because extensive litigation in this case and others is expected.

Mrs. Tannenbaum pleaded innocent by reason of insanity last Thursday to a charge of forgery involving the will of another acquaintance of hers, the late Gustav Frederick Ingwersen, of 1434 Forest St., who died June 18, 1969.

She was free on \$1,500 bail in the alleged will forgery case after being ordered by Denver Dist. Court Judge Robert T. Kingsley to take psychiatric tests. However, she was arrested Friday by Denver police and charged Saturday

by Boulder officials on the check charges and has not been able to begin the tests.

A hearing on the findings of the tests will be held Feb. 25 in Judge Kingsley's court.

In asking for the reduction, Kokish was denied a request for Mrs. Tannenbaum's release on her own recognizance. An objection came from Asst. Dist. Atty. Robert M. Jenkins of Boulder. Jenkins said his office wanted a waiver of extradition and the responsibility of bail to exist during Mrs. Tannenbaum's release.

Kokish said the woman is "destitute except for personal property." He asked for the "one

week of freedom" for Mrs. Tannenbaum to get her affairs in shape.

"She would like to get her children (she has a three-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son) to a daughter in Chicago," Kokish told the judge.

Judge Ashton then asked if Mrs. Tannenbaum were planning to leave the state. "No, not under any circumstances," replied Kokish.

Kokish continued that Mrs. Tannenbaum also would like to put her furniture into storage and liquidate her assets. He said his client's landlord is seeking to evict Mrs. Tannenbaum from her residence.

Mrs. Tannenbaum voluntarily signed the waiver after Ashton and Kokish explained it to her.

Kokish said he hoped the bail money could be raised by Wednesday.

During the hearing, Mrs. Tannenbaum spoke in a low, almost inaudible voice. She wore a solid black dress with a bright, luminescent, reddish scarf and loafers.

Mrs. Tannenbaum said she had been a resident of Denver intermittently since 1964 and continuously during the last three years.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 Rocky Mountain News
Denver, Colorado

Date: 1/28/70

Edition: Home

Author: Rykken Johnson

Editor: Jack Foster

Title:

THOMAS RIHA;
GALYA TANNENBAUM

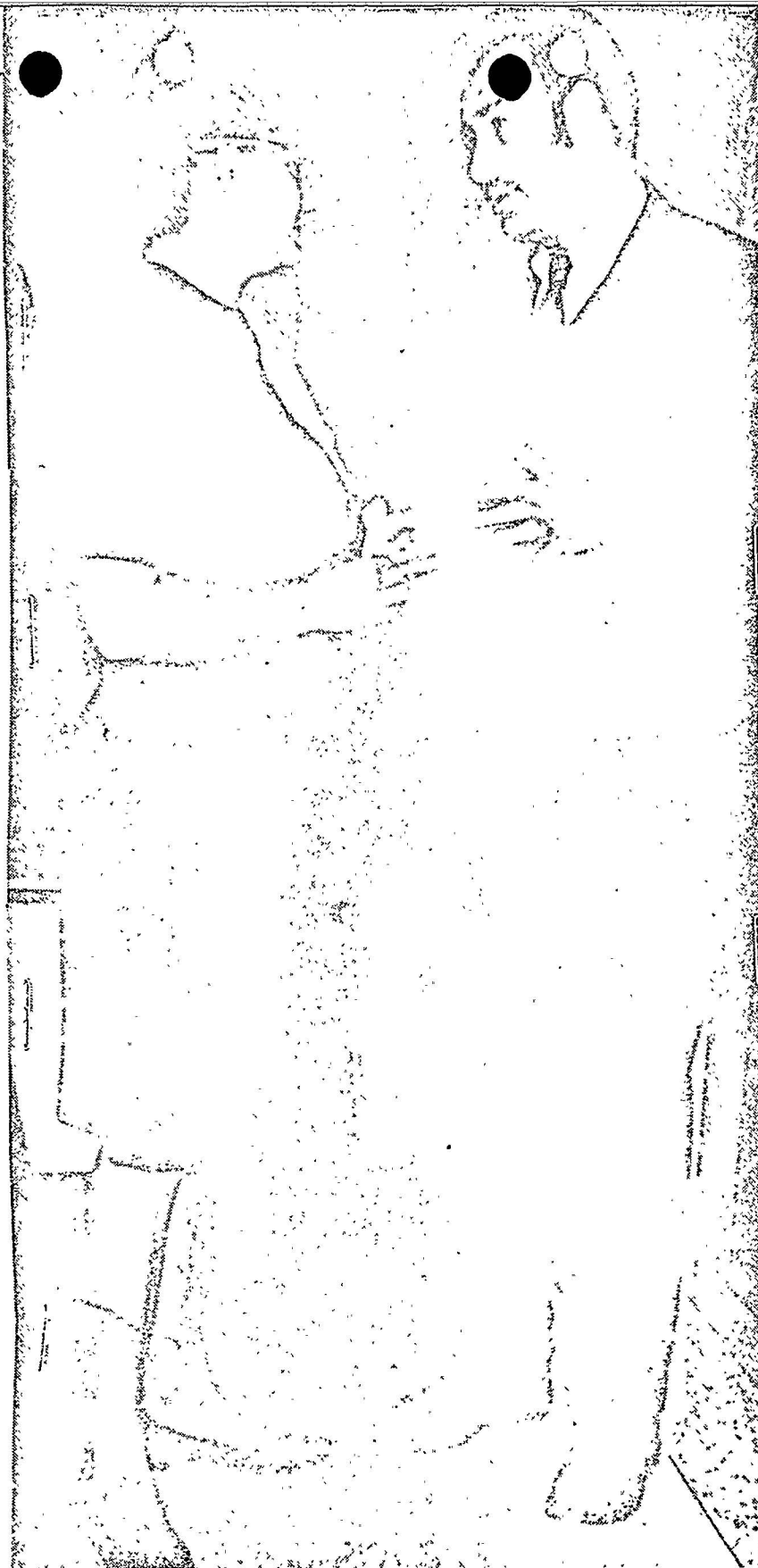
Character:

or 105-4151

Classification: 47-3190

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated B



47-545-119

Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum, left, self-proclaimed confidante of missing University of Colorado professor Thomas Riha, appeared in Boulder District Court Tuesday. She was accompanied by attorney John Kokish of Den-

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS PHOTO BY HOWARD BROCK

ver. The court accepted a motion to reduce the Denver woman's bond from \$2,500 to \$1,000. She is being held on charges of allegedly signing the Russian history scholar's name to a check after he vanished.

MYSTERIES

Tom Cat and the Colonel

She called him "Tom Cat," she explains coyly, because "he earned it." He called her "Colonel," she says, "because sometimes I get a little bossy. It was just a joke." More serious is the fact that "Tom Cat," or Thomas Riha, 40, associate professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado, has been missing since March. Only the "Colonel"—Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum, a prison alumna with a knack for forgery and a yen for mystery—claims to have seen him since.

When Riha vanished, he left a four-bedroom house full of furniture, a collection of religious statuary, a kitchen table set for breakfast and a pending divorce action. Denver police received assurances that Riha was "alive and well" and that no investigation was necessary. That word ostensibly came from Government agents, but federal officials in Denver and Washington now deny any involvement in the case.

Ether Smell. Friends and associates in Colorado continue to wonder if the professor is indeed alive and well. The Czechoslovak-born teacher was first missed on March 18, when he failed to show up for class at the university. Then Riha's property began to be sold off. His car went to a Denver public school official; a signature purported to be Riha's was on the title assignment.

His house was sold. Some of the professor's papers and furniture were sent to Mrs. Tannenbaum's house, and she donated Riha's statuary to the Denver Art Museum. Roy, *has on Readings in Russian Civilization*, a three-volume history text published by Kado in 1964, are now sent to Mrs. Tannenbaum's Denver address. The professor's lawyer has received a number of letters in Riha's name, but he suspects that neither the signatures nor the grammar belong to his client.

One of the few things that is clear is that Riha disappeared shortly after his wife Hana, 25, fled their house, her clothes smelling of ether, crying that someone was trying to do her in. At that time, Riha and Hana had sued each other for divorce. A \$5,000 judgment was finally awarded Hana, but only after Riha had vanished.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, 38, says that she met Riha when he was a professor at the University of Chicago. She was born Gloria Ann Forest and was married and divorced twice. A third marriage, she says, gave her the name of Tannenbaum. She was twice imprisoned in Illinois for forgery and embezzlement. The Colonel apparently followed her friend to Boulder, and the two remained close—so close that Riha's attorney claims to have seen an IOU that Riha gave to Galya, which specified cancellation in the event of their marriage. The two remained friends after Riha's marriage to Hana, and Galya was present the night that Hana ran screaming from the house. Galya alone claims to know Riha's whereabouts. "He is somewhere between Montreal and Toronto," she told TIME Correspondent Champ Clark, "a summer-resort sort of place."

Galya has had other interesting but

troublesome relationships. Last June a friend of hers, Gustav F. Ingwersen, a Denver inventor, painter and potter, died of potassium cyanide poisoning. Ingwersen's will left less to family than expected. He did leave small amounts of stock and an assignment of personal possessions—including a cuckoo clock, a color TV and a dinosaur bone—to Galya and her two children. Galya is now charged by Denver police with forging that will, she pled not guilty by reason of insanity.

Strangely, one witness to Ingwersen's will was Zdenek Cerveny, Thomas Riha's nephew. Cerveny now denies witnessing the will. He also says that Galya instructed him to help dispose of Riha's property after his disappearance. He now believes that his uncle is dead. And it was Cerveny who filed the official complaint in the Riha case—a related missing-persons report last October. Another minor beneficiary of Ingwersen's will, Barbara Ebert, also a friend of Galya's, died last September also of cyanide poisoning.

Bad Check. Denver police last week arrested the Colonel and charged him with forging Riha's name to a bad check. The check was payment for a plane that she had chartered for Cerveny from a Colorado flying service. The charter pilot says Galya claimed to be a Secret Service agent hiring the plane for two citizens of the Soviet Union.

Did Thomas Riha vanish—as the Colonel claims—simply to escape his troubles with a young wife? Who represented the "federal agencies" that stopped a police investigation last year? Denver District Attorney James D. McKevitt intends to find out. "This one," says the D.A. now, "is right out of Agatha Christie."

TIME MAGAZINE

February 9, 1970

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/12/70

SAC, DENVER (47-3190) (C)

GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
IMPERSONATION
OO: Denver

Re Denver airtel to Bureau 1/22/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a letterhead memorandum reflecting additional investigation conducted regarding captioned matter.

For information of the Bureau, subject TANNENBAUM is presently undergoing psychiatric examination and evaluation at the Colorado State Hospital, Denver, Colorado. As previously noted, subject has been charged in Denver District Court in the 1969 forgery of the will of a deceased individual, and she is presently on \$1500 bond on this charge. TANNENBAUM is also free on \$1,000 bond in connection with charges filed in Boulder District Court where she is alleged to have forged the name THOMAS RIHA to a \$330 check. This forgery allegedly occurred in July, 1969, some four and a half months after the mysterious disappearance of THOMAS RIHA, Professor of History, University of Colorado, about which the Bureau has been previously furnished newspaper clippings and detailed information.

All persons interviewed in this investigation were specifically advised by interviewing Agents that the purpose of this investigation was to ascertain whether GALYA TANNENBAUM had in any way violated Federal statutes concerning impersonation. Interviewees were specifically advised investigation was not in any way connected with the disappearance of THOMAS RIHA, a currently missing Assistant Professor of History at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

This statement was made to interviewees because the Denver Office has received inquiries by news media concerning RIHA's disappearance and they have been specifically advised

2 - Bureau (Enc. 5)

1 - Denver

MRS:pr

(3)

ENCLOSURE 4 cc sent to Liaison - 19-70

File 47-54549

FEB 16 1970

47-54549

EX-100
This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

DN 47-3190

there is no evidence relating to his disappearance showing any violation of Federal law over which this Bureau has jurisdiction. The circumstances of his disappearance suggest a missing person situation and that investigation is being handled by the Boulder Police Department.

Because of the close personal relationship between TANNENBAUM and RIHA, it would be possible, without the above statement by interviewing Agents, that interviewees could gain the impression the FBI is investigating the disappearance instead of the impersonation of a Federal officer by TANNENBAUM.

Pursuant to current Bureau instructions, this office is not and has not conducted any investigation concerning RIHA.

Interviews of additional sources in captioned matter have been for the purpose of clarifying additional statements allegedly made by subject TANNENBAUM regarding her affiliation with Immigration and Naturalization Service, U. S. Army and Military Intelligence. In this connection all logical sources have been interviewed and the results of these interviews discussed exhaustively with the Assistant U. S. Attorney in Denver, Colorado, having jurisdiction in this matter, and prosecution has been declined. The Assistant U. S. Attorney in Denver does not feel there is any possibility of prosecuting subject TANNENBAUM regarding these false statements under the Federal Impersonation Statute. In view of this fact, no further investigation is contemplated by the Denver Office in this matter.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
February 12, 1970

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION MATTER

Robert Duane Gaines, Pilot, Judson Flying Service, Longmont, Colorado, was interviewed at Fort Worth, Texas, on January 27, 1970, and stated Galya Tannenbaum had telephoned him at the Longmont Airport in July, 1969, inquiring about the price of chartering an airplane to fly to San Antonio, Texas, and back. Gaines stated Tannenbaum told him over the telephone that she was a Secret Service Agent with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). She also stated she worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Gaines stated he had quoted a price of \$330 for the round trip charter. Gaines stated that Tannenbaum called him later and accepted his offer. He stated he subsequently picked up Tannenbaum and one Zdenek Cervený at Stapleton Airport, Denver, and flew them to San Antonio, Texas. Gaines stated that during the trip to San Antonio and back Tannenbaum talked at great length about her affiliations with various Government agencies, including the Secret Service and CIA. Gaines stated Tannenbaum told him that the Government would pay for her trip to San Antonio; however, when they arrived back at Stapleton Airport in Denver, Tannenbaum presented him with a check which she took from her purse and which was completely filled out in the sum of \$330. The check was already signed with the maker's name Thomas Riha.

Gaines stated that at no time did he actually believe that Galya Tannenbaum was affiliated with the Secret Service, CIA, or any other Government agency. He said that her statements to this effect did not influence him either in providing the air transportation or in accepting the Riha check in payment. He said that he would have handled the transaction in exactly the same manner regardless of statements made by her claiming affiliation with various Federal agencies.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

ENCLOSURE

44-3440-4

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Paul Morris, Attorney, Woolworth Building, Boulder, Colorado, advised on January 28, 1970 that Galya Tannenbaum had been introduced to him in June, 1968 by another Boulder attorney, Dennis Blewitt. At this time he stated Blewitt and others were interested in the Lake Valley Home Owners Association and were attempting to secure financing of a one million dollar (\$1,000,000) loan. Morris stated that Tannenbaum had indicated to Blewitt that she could obtain such a loan for the Association and as a result certain payments were made to her for alleged expenses. Morris stated that Tannenbaum had stated that she would be able to secure the loan through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and that she seemed to be quite well informed on financial matters. He recalled that during the summer of 1968 Tannenbaum had been successful in obtaining a preliminary approval of an FHA loan for the Association; however, it was never finalized.

Morris stated that several months after the FHA negotiations fell through he had occasion to contact Tannenbaum further and at this time Tannenbaum made representations to him that she was a Colonel in the United States Military Intelligence and had connections with the office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Morris stated although he was somewhat skeptical concerning Tannenbaum's military connections, she did appear well versed in immigration matters. He stated, however, at no time during his dealings with her had she ever obtained anything from him or through him as a result of her representations.

Dennis Blewitt, Attorney, 1966 13th Street, Boulder, Colorado, was interviewed on February 3, 1970 and furnished substantially the same information as attorney Morris concerning Tannenbaum's affiliation with the Lake Valley Home Owners Association and Tannenbaum's efforts to obtain an FHA loan for this association. Blewitt stated after it became apparent Tannenbaum could not secure the loan from the FHA she was advised by the Association that her services were no longer required. He recalled at this time that Tannenbaum on one occasion had claimed affiliation in some manner with Military Intelligence and on another occasion had stated she was an instructor at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Blewitt stated by this time as a result of his associations with Tannenbaum, he had formed the personal opinion that Tannenbaum was not a truthful person

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

and that he had not actually believed she had any affiliation with such military agencies of the United States Government.

Mrs. Francisca Stein, owner of the Black Bear Inn, Lyons, Colorado, advised on January 21, 1970 that she had met Galya Tannenbaum through her attorney, Paul Morris, Boulder, Colorado, and had seen her on several occasions when Tannenbaum visited the Black Bear Inn. Mrs. Stein stated Tannenbaum had been introduced to her by Morris as one who might be able to assist her in getting Zdenek Cervený, a nephew of Thomas Riha, admitted into the United States. Mrs. Stein said that on one occasion Tannenbaum made a statement to her that she was a Colonel in the Military Intelligence and was soon to be promoted to the rank of General. Tannenbaum also told Mrs. Stein that she at one time had belonged to an extermination group which killed people. Mrs. Stein said in view of this and other similar wild statements made by Tannenbaum, she soon formed the opinion that Tannenbaum was not a truthful individual and did not believe any statements made by her.

Mrs. Hana Riha, wife of Thomas Riha, was interviewed at the residence of Rose Grossman, 240 East 18th Street, Brooklyn, New York, on January 28, 1970. Mrs. Riha advised that she had first met Galya Tannenbaum on the occasion of her marriage October 13, 1968 to Thomas Riha. She said following her marriage to Riha, Tannenbaum had visited at their residence in Boulder approximately twice a week until February, 1969. On several of these occasions Tannenbaum made statements to Mrs. Riha indicating she was working for the United States Army and expected to be promoted to the rank of General. Mrs. Riha said that Tannenbaum also claimed to have connections with the Immigration and Naturalization Service but was not specific as to the nature of her affiliation. Tannenbaum claimed to have lived in Russia during World War II. Mrs. Riha said that she became tired of Mrs. Tannenbaum's incessant talking and had as little to do with her as possible.

Mr. Zdenek Cervený, a nephew of Thomas Riha, was interviewed at the Black Bear Inn, Lyons, Colorado, on January 21, 1970 and advised that he has known Galya Tannenbaum since his arrival in the United States from Czechoslovakia. He stated Mrs. Tannenbaum met him at the bus depot in Denver upon his arrival November 16, 1968. She drove him to the residence of his uncle, Thomas Riha, 1055 6th Street, Boulder.

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Mr. Cervený said that he had been told by his uncle, Thomas Riha, that Mrs. Tannenbaum was a very important person and had been influential in getting him into the United States. He said he resided with Thomas Riha and wife Hana until January 8, 1969 and during this period Mrs. Tannenbaum had visited in the Riha house on many occasions. He recalled Mrs. Tannenbaum had made numerous statements claiming to be either an officer in Military Intelligence or influential with authorities of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and had indicated on one occasion that if he did not behave, she would have him sent back to Czechoslovakia.

Cervený stated Tannenbaum accompanied him to the Federal Building in Denver once when he had to go to the office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He said that Tannenbaum refused to go with him into the office, however, and remained outside. Cervený advised that at no time did Tannenbaum ever obtain anything from him as a result of her representations of affiliation with governmental agencies.

Rose Grossman, 240 East 18th Street, Brooklyn, New York, advised on January 27, 1970 that she had attended the wedding of Thomas Riha and wife Hana in Colorado in October, 1968. She stated she is an aunt of Hana Riha. At the wedding Mrs. Grossman said she heard of Mrs. Tannenbaum but did not actually meet her. She said the first she had spoken to Mrs. Tannenbaum had been by telephone from New York about March, 1969. Later she said she went to Boulder, Colorado, and Mrs. Tannenbaum came to the hotel where she was staying and told her that Hana Riha was in trouble concerning her immigration status. Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed to have influential friends at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. She also told Mrs. Grossman she was a Colonel in the Pentagon Military Intelligence, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Grossman said her husband, who had accompanied her to Boulder, asked Mrs. Tannenbaum if she worked for the Military Intelligence in Washington, and Mrs. Tannenbaum said that a smart person would not ask such questions.

According to Mrs. Grossman, this conversation left her with the impression that Tannenbaum had some type of connection with the United States Government; however, she never exhibited any identification as such.

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Vaclav Havlicek, owner of a business known as Fasco, located in the Denver Merchandise Mart, Denver, Colorado, advised on January 23, 1970 that he had met Galya Tannenbaum on two occasions through Thomas Riha, a personal friend. Havlicek said that Riha on a number of occasions had referred to Mrs. Tannenbaum as the "Colonel" and had indicated she had influential Government connections. He stated, however, that Mrs. Tannenbaum had never made any such statements to him, and he had no knowledge of her ever having claimed to be affiliated with an agency of the United States Government.

Stephen Fischer-Galati, Professor, Department of History, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, advised on January 26, 1970 that he first met Galya Tannenbaum in May, 1969, when he began making inquiries of individuals he had reason to believe might have information concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha. He said that Mrs. Tannenbaum had told him she had known Thomas Riha for many years and had indicated to him that she helped Riha come to the United States and gave no further explanation. Fischer-Galati advised that he had heard from unrecalled sources that Tannenbaum claimed to be a Colonel in Military Intelligence. He said after several conversations with her; however, he became convinced she was not connected with any type intelligence work and was not connected with Eastern European history. He stated Tannenbaum was extremely careful in her conversations with him and made no statements concerning affiliation with any intelligence or governmental agency.

David Regosin, Attorney, 30 Broad Street, New York, New York, advised on January 23, 1970 that he is attorney for Rose Grossman and has also represented Hana Riha. Mr. Regosin stated his only contact with Galya Tannenbaum had been on or about March 8, 1969 when he received a telephone call, allegedly from Mrs. Tannenbaum, who said she was calling from Colorado. Mr. Regosin said this person indicated she was taking care of the immigration problems of Hana Riha and she was not "going out on a limb any more." Tannenbaum during this conversation appeared to be screaming and hysterical. Mr. Regosin stated she did not directly represent to Mr. Regosin that she was an officer or employee of the United States Government.

Mr. Bill Wade, Chief Underwriter, Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Denver, Colorado, advised on February 2, 1970 that Galya Tannenbaum came to his office in the summer of 1968 in an effort to obtain a one million dollar (\$1,000,000) development loan for the Lake Valley Estates of Boulder. After reviewing the material furnished by Mrs. Tannenbaum, Mr. Wade

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

stated the financial structure of the Lake Valley Estates was not sufficient to grant such a loan. Mr. Wade stated that Tannenbaum made a trip to Washington, D. C., in January, 1969, and registered a formal complaint against the Denver FHA Office. She also wrote a letter of complaint to FHA in Washington making complaints against FHA personnel in Denver. Mr. Wade advised that at no time did Tannenbaum ever represent herself to him as an employee of the United States Government, either in a civil or military capacity.

John L. Todd, District Director, United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, Lieutenant Colonel Lynn B. Fritchman, Commanding Officer, Region IV, 113th Military Intelligence, and Paul S. Rundle, Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service, New Custom House Building, all of Denver, Colorado, were contacted and advised that there is no information in records of their respective offices indicating that Galya Tannenbaum is or has ever been affiliated with their respective organizations.

Galya Tannenbaum was interviewed at Boulder County Jail, Boulder, Colorado, January 28, 1970 and results of that interview are set forth on FD-302, copy of which is attached hereto.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date February 3, 1970

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GALYA TANNENBAUM was interviewed at the Boulder County Jail, Boulder, Colorado. She was advised of the identities of Special Agents MERRILL R. SMITH and J. HALE MC MENAMIN, after which it was explained to her that the purpose of the interview was to elicit information concerning allegations that she was in violation of the Federal Extortion Statute. She was orally advised of her rights by Special Agent MC MENAMIN and waived these rights, as shown on an executed Waiver of Rights form.

By way of background information, TANNENBAUM advised that the name GALYA TANNENBAUM is a name she has chosen for herself, and that the name has been legally affirmed in the County Court of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois. She stated the name derives from a ballet dancer whom she admired by the name of GALYA ZAKHAROVNA and a former common-law husband, LEO TANENBAUM. She noted she still occasionally utilizes the name GALYA ZAKHAROVNA, and explained that she spells the name "TANNENBAUM" slightly different from that of LEO TANENBAUM to avoid any implication that she was ever legally married to him.

TANNENBAUM stated she was born GLORIA ANN FOREST in Chicago, Illinois, on March 30, 1931, to JOSEPH J. FOREST, now deceased, and MARGARET JOSEPHINE DAHLGREN FOREST, age 69, who currently resides in Galva, Illinois. She advised she married ROBERT STUART MC PHERSON on August 15, 1947, in Alton, Illinois, when she was 17 years of age, and MC PHERSON at that time was a member of the United States Army Band Corps as a Staff Sergeant. Two children, MARGARET ANN MC PHERSON, now Mrs. JAMES ZIGMUND, age 22, 6236 North Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and DEBORAH ANN MC PHERSON, age 15, Kewanee, Illinois, were born of this marriage. She stated DEBORAH ANN was adopted by Mrs. MARGARET THEILE, an aunt by marriage of her brother, PETER FOREST. She explained the child was adopted after she had commenced serving a two-year sentence in the Illinois State Reformatory, Dwight, Illinois, in 1960, pointing out that she had been previously divorced from MC PHERSON in St. Louis County, Missouri, in 1954.

On 1/28/70 at Boulder, Colorado File # Denver 47-3190

SA's MERRILL R. SMITH and
by J. HALE MC MENAMIN JHM:law Date dictated 1/29/70

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.

Prior to this adoption in 1960, TANNENBAUM advised she married CHARLES RUSSELL SCIMO, a graphic artist, on November 20, 1958, in Chicago, Illinois. Their divorce became final in Chicago in about April, 1966. One child, JAMES DAVID SCIMO, was born of this marriage on November 3, 1959. He presently resides with her in Denver, Colorado.

According to TANNENBAUM, the present whereabouts of MC PHERSON and SCIMO are unknown to her.

TANNENBAUM advised she commenced living with LEO TANENBAUM in a common-law relationship in 1964 at 5135 Kenwood Street, Chicago, Illinois. She stated TANENBAUM is approximately 48 years of age and a graphic artist in the Lincoln Tower Building, 75 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. She stated REBECCA EVA TANENBAUM was born of this union on February 12, 1966, and currently resides with her in Denver. TANNENBAUM stated she and LEO ceased their relationship in approximately May, 1966.

With regard to her relationship with THOMAS RIHA, TANNENBAUM stated she first met him in the Washington, D.C. area in approximately 1949 when her husband, ROBERT MC PHERSON, was stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. She recalled that her husband had met RIHA while he was in the Army overseas under circumstances she either does not know or does not recall, and knew him only slightly as a visitor in their home on a few occasions. She continued that the next time she met him was while he was teaching at the University of Chicago in 1961 or 1962. She recalled she was sharing a house with a woman named PHYLIS KAPLAN, and they lived next door to a woman named JULIE STORM, whom she described as a lesbian employed as the Advertising Director of the University of Chicago Press. She advised she had occasion to contact STORM from time to time seeking free-lance graphic art work, and recalls on one occasion noting some manuscripts of RIHA in STORM's house. She recalled having met him previously and had STORM arrange for her to meet him again at her residence. She stated she met with him briefly on one occasion at STORM's residence, but did not actually see him again until she broke up with LEO TANENBAUM in 1966.

On the above instance, TANNENBAUM stated she had a chance meeting with RIHA on the University of Chicago campus

DN 47-3190

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where she had been seeking art work at the press office, and in conversation with him at that time determined that they were neighbors in that she resided at 5135 Kimbark Street and he resided in the 5600 block of Kimbark Street. Thereafter, she stated RIHA would visit her residence on occasion for dinner, and eventually in the summer of 1967 they made tentative plans to marry. RIHA, however, lost his position at the University of Chicago at about this time, and in August, 1967, he moved to 1155 - 6th Street, Boulder, Colorado, where he had obtained a teaching position with the University of Colorado. She followed him to Boulder in October, 1967, and commenced residing with him in a common-law relationship at this address until December, 1967, when they broke up over the fact that he was not able to get along with her two children who were residing with them.

TANNENBAUM continued that she returned to Chicago at this time, where she remained until May, 1968, and then came back to Colorado to establish residence in Denver where she hoped to continue her profession as a graphic artist. She stated she did not resume the common-law relationship with RIHA upon her return; however, she stated she was still emotionally involved with RIHA and was considerably upset when he married HANA RIHA, a much younger woman and a person he had known only a short period of time prior to his marriage to her.

TANNENBAUM categorically denied she ever represented herself as being connected in any way with the Armed Forces of the United States or that she had ever tried to give anyone the impression that she was an employee of the United States Government. She specifically denied ever telling anyone she was a member of Military Intelligence, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Central Intelligence Agency, or the United States Secret Service. She also stated she had never attempted to give the impression that she had ever been connected in any way with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She stated that RIHA has many times in the past jokingly referred to her as "Sarge" and "Colonel" when he thought she was being too demanding of him, and as a result of this tendency on his part other people began calling her by these names, with the whole matter actually being interpreted by her as a joke.

TANNENBAUM continued that there is a magazine entitled "M-Intelligence" to which she subscribes and submits articles. She described this publication as being that of an organization called "Mensa," which she explained is for people of superior intelligence. She qualified membership in the organization by stating she had an I.Q. of 139 on a Stanford-Binet scale. TANNENBAUM advised she may have been misunderstood by Mr. GERALD CAPLAN, Boulder, Colorado, the attorney for HANA RIHA, regarding certain statements allegedly made by her that she was affiliated with Military Intelligence. She recalled a conversation in the office of Mr. CAPLAN concerning the immigration status of HANA RIHA during which she told CAPLAN she was with "M-I," a term utilized to impress him with her intelligence rather than to assert affiliation with Military Intelligence.

TANNENBAUM also stated that in July, 1969, she made a trip by private plane to San Antonio, Texas, with ZDENEK CERVENY, nephew of THOMAS RIHA, to visit relatives of RIHA and CERVENY. She stated she made the trip at CERVENY's insistence, principally because she would not allow him to utilize her automobile for the trip as well as the fact that since she felt she would eventually probably have to pay for this trip anyway, she might just as well go along for the ride. TANNENBAUM advised that when she called the Judson Flying Service in Longmont, Colorado, to arrange for this trip, she had not made any statement that she was in any way connected with any branch of the United States Government. She denied making any statements whatsoever to the pilot of the airplane concerning her affiliation with the Government, and stated that when she arrived back in Denver she paid the pilot with a \$330 check drawn on the First National Bank, Boulder, Colorado, which had been previously signed by THOMAS RIHA for her convenience. She denied that she made any representations when presenting this check to the pilot of the airplane, and insisted that as far as she knew RIHA had sufficient funds in the bank with which to cover the cost of the flight.

At this point, TANNENBAUM stated she was tired of being made a fool of by the false allegations that she had been impersonating military and Government personnel, and did not desire to discuss the matter further.

TANNENBAUM advised she wished to go on record with the FBI that the disappearance of THOMAS RIHA from Boulder, Colorado, on March 15, 1969, had nothing to do with her past association with him, and could only offer the opinion that he decided to abruptly leave Boulder due to marital difficulties and numerous personal clashes with other members in the Department of History at the University of Colorado. She stated she has received several long distance telephone calls from RIHA since his disappearance, but did not know from what location they emanated as he refused to divulge his whereabouts. She also stated that in August, 1969, he called her from Stapleton International Airport in Denver and she met him there for a short period of time; however, he refused to tell her his destination or where he had been between that time and March 15, 1969. She stated the conversation was strictly personal. TANNENBAUM stated the last time she received any written communication from RIHA was in November, 1969, which communication she recalls was postmarked Toronto, Canada. She also stated she received a telephone call from him just before Christmas, 1969, for the purpose of extending Christmas greetings. According to TANNENBAUM, the call came from a pay telephone from an unknown location.

She continued that the notes she received from RIHA were removed from her residence in Denver, Colorado, on January 23, 1970, by detectives of the Boulder, Colorado Police Department on the basis of a search warrant; however, she stated that her attorney, JOHN KOKISH, has advised her that he has a specific address for RIHA in his possession which he has obtained through independent investigation. She pointed out she is certain RIHA will again return to the Boulder area.

The following descriptive data was obtained concerning TANNENBAUM through interview and observation:

Race:	White
Sex:	Female
Date of Birth:	March 30, 1931
Place of Birth:	Chicago, Illinois
Height:	5'7"
Weight:	170 pounds
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Brown/gray

DN 47-3190

6

Address:	248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado.
Occupation:	Graphic Artist
Relatives:	Father - JOSEPH J. FOREST (Deceased) Mother - MARGARET JOSEPHINE FOREST, age 69, Galva, Illinois. Brother - PETER FOREST, age 35, 420 Oakland Street, Iowa City, Iowa. Brother - CHARLES ANDREW FOREST, age 34, Sandia, New Mexico. States employed as mathematician, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.
Military Service:	None
Education:	St. Anthony Grade School, St. Louis, Missouri; attended St. Elizabeth Academy, St. Louis, Missouri where completed tenth grade; received high school diploma while incarcerated in Illinois State Reformatory for Women.
Status of Health:	Received psychiatric treatment from Dr. ERIC SACHS, 30 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 1956 - 1959.

RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

Mr. James R. Richards, Assistant United States Attorney, Denver, Colorado, was contacted on February 6, 1970 and furnished results of complete interviews of persons contacted in this investigation. Mr. Richards stated Tannenbaum apparently did not obtain anything of value as a result of her false representations. He also noted there was no indication that persons to whom these false representations had been made relied upon them or acted directly as a result of her false claims. Mr. Richards stated he did not feel the actions of Mrs. Tannenbaum constituted a prosecutable violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute, and added that the matter did not appear to be one that had prosecutive merit.

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.

-13*-



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

18218 Federal Building
Denver, Colorado 80202
February 12, 1970

Mr. James L. Treece
United States Attorney
United States Courthouse
Denver, Colorado 80202

Attention: Mr. James R. Richards
Assistant U. S. Attorney

Re: Galya Tannenbaum
Impersonation Matter

Dear Sir:

On February 6, 1970, Special Agent Merrill R. Smith contacted Assistant United States Attorney James R. Richards and discussed in detail results of investigation conducted by him regarding allegations of false statements made by captioned individual in claiming to be associated with various Federal agencies, including Military Intelligence, Secret Service, Central Intelligence Agency and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

As a result of these discussions, Mr. Richards declined prosecution of Tannenbaum, noting that she had apparently never obtained anything of value and that persons to whom such claims were made apparently did not rely upon her false representations. Mr. Richards stated that he did not feel Tannenbaum's actions constituted a prosecutable violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute and stated the matter was one which did not appear to have prosecutive merit.

A copy of a letterhead memorandum reflecting results of interviews of individuals contacted in this investigation is being enclosed for the completion of your file in this matter.

No further investigation is contemplated by this office regarding Tannenbaum.

NOT RECORDED

Very truly yours, 10 FEB 16 1970

SCOTT J. WERNER
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure 1

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

FBI

Date: 7/9/70

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DENVER (47-3190)
GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
IMPERSONATION
OO: Denver

Re Denver letter 2/12/70, and letterhead memorandum enclosure thereto.

Referenced communication sets forth background investigation conducted by the Denver Division concerning TANNENBAUM.

Enclosed is a newspaper clipping which appeared on page 53 of today's edition of the Rocky Mountain News, a Denver local newspaper.

The article is captioned "GALYA. She Talked to Church Statues." It sets forth testimony given by one Dr. JOHN MACDONALD, a psychiatrist, at a sanity hearing involving TANNENBAUM, which hearing is being held in Boulder District Court before Judge JOHN BARNARD without a jury. Dr. MACDONALD was testifying concerning the results of his mental examination of TANNENBAUM.

According to the article Dr. MACDONALD set forth various allegations and claims which Mrs. TANNENBAUM has made to him, including a claim that she worked for the FBI.

This claim by TANNENBAUM of Bureau employment is absolutely untrue.

Denver indices negative concerning Dr. MACDONALD

2-Bureau (Enc-1)
2-Denver (1-47-3190)

JFM:hg (1-105-1151 Riha)

Approved: _____

Sent _____

Per _____

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

DN 47-3190

Upon reading the enclosed article ASAC JOHN F. MORLEY immediately contacted the SRA in Boulder, Colorado and instructed him to contact Judge BARNARD today and advise him that not only had Mrs. TANNENBAUM never worked for the FBI, but she has never in any way whatsoever been associated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

That information was given to Mrs. ESTHER DONNELLEY, Judge BARNARD's secretary, this morning since Judge BARNARD was again in court hearing the sanity matter involving Mrs. TANNENBAUM.

When contacted by the Bureau Agent Mrs. DONNELLEY stated when the Judge heard that comment of alleged Bureau employment by Mrs. TANNENBAUM he immediately discounted it knowing it was absolutely untrue.

Mrs. DONNELLEY stated she would bring the FBI refutation of this comment to the Judge's attention at the first recess in court.

Various criminal proceedings are pending against Mrs. TANNENBAUM in the Denver-Boulder area, and they are being held in abeyance, pending the outcome of her current sanity trial.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

By BARBARA BROWNE
Rocky Mountain News Writer

Mrs. Gayla Tannenbaum claimed statues in a Catholic church talked to her, a Denver psychiatrist testified Wednesday.

"I felt it really happened," Dr. John Macdonald, Colorado Psychopathic Hospital forensic psychiatry director, quoted Mrs. Tannenbaum.

"I felt I belonged to something. At home, everything was wrong."

"There, people liked me."

Macdonald, however, said the stocky 39-year-old woman friend of missing University of Colorado professor Dr. Thomas Riba is legally sane.

But, Macdonald testified in response to a question by defense lawyer John Kokish, that Mrs. Tannenbaum "been charged with killing someone," he could have found her legally insane.

'Relates to need'

"I would have to know the circumstances," Macdonald said. "If it relates to her need to hold on to her man I would say, yes."

"In other words if it were someone who had rejected her?" Kokish asked.

"I would say, yes, possibly," the psychiatrist said. (Macdonald said Mrs. Tannenbaum told him she lived with Riba for a time, and was upset by his "sudden marriage.")

Mrs. Tannenbaum, however, is not charged with murder, but forgery.

The gray-haired mother of four is undergoing a sanity trial on her plea of innocent by reason of insanity to forgery.

Mrs. Gayla Tannenbaum
told Riba's name to a \$330 check.

Mrs. Tannenbaum is accused of giving the check to a charter airline service last July 30 for a flight to San Antonio, Tex. after Riba was first missed March 14, 1939.

Macdonald — testifying for eight hours — said Mrs. Tannenbaum made one claim after another to him, stating:

"Nazis implanted the fetus of a monkey inside her while she contended she was in a German concentration camp during World War II."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

58

The Rocky Mtn. News

Denver, Colorado

Date: 7-9-70

Edition: Home

Author: Barbara Browne

Editor: Jack Foster

Title: Gayla Tannenbaum;
aka, Imp.

Character:

or

Classification: 47-3190

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

Macdonald also said, to his father (a Chicago sign painter) who died in 1958.

She was a colonel in some intelligence service, who helped get citizens out of Czechoslovakia to Western countries.

Mrs. Tannenbaum used the names of both Col. Zaccaro, after a Russian ballerina—and Col. Tannenbaum.)

She was an associate of the Costa Nostra and went to dinners "with the family."

"She said she went through a ceremony and promised not to rat on the code," Macdonald said. "She said she'd probably be killed for talking about the code."

Mrs. Tannenbaum said she was present when someone dropped what she thought was a body into a lake in an oil drum, Dr. Macdonald said. She also told him she knew about another gangland killing.

However, Mrs. Tannenbaum also claimed to have worked for the FBI.

'Pollution plan'

"She said she's written to the CIA and the Atomic Energy Commission and the Pentagon about a plan she worked out to use Cobalt 60 to clean up pollution in the Chicago area," Macdonald said.

"She said she took films of Cuba for the government," Macdonald said. "She admitted telling other people about doing things like what you see on Mission Impossible. (A TV show)."

Mrs. Tannenbaum admitted telling elaborate lies to some people, but claimed some of her wild stories were true.

"She said she heard voices since age 8," Macdonald said. "She said she often talked to her

father (a Chicago sign painter) who died in 1958."

Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed to have had an unhappy childhood, in which she was told her parents wanted a boy, was frequently beaten and was locked in the basement.

Married musician

Because of this she said she lived in a world of "illusion." When she was 16, she said, she married a dance band leader who later joined the Air Force.

During this marriage, Bolling Air Force Base Hospital records, introduced by Kokish state Mrs. Tannenbaum apparently suffered a "conversion reaction" in which she was unable to move her left leg — hospital officials felt because she feared her husband might leave her.

She was pregnant with her first child at the time.

Macdonald said Mrs. Tannenbaum suffered from feelings of dependency. One of her reasons for becoming pregnant, he said, was that this would help her to hold her men.

Mrs. Tannenbaum was twice formally married and had a common-law relationship, Macdonald said.

Drug overdoses

Hospital records, produced by Kokish, indicate Mrs. Tannenbaum was admitted to three hospitals in an unconscious state; in 1954 and 1955, twice from overdoses of barbituates and once from an overdose of morphine.

"During her life, she says she's had very few friends," and the only person she can confide in is her attorney, Mr. Kokish," Macdonald said.

Mrs. Tannenbaum made several claims concerning an

alleged proficiency with weapons, Macdonald said. Among them: That she could shoot birds on the wing with a rifle.

"She talked about killing Russians, and said she can assemble a gun behind her back," Macdonald said. "She also claims to be very familiar with dynamite."

"She said she would do very dangerous things, like flying over Loveland Pass at a low altitude so 'pictures' could be taken."

'Friend of Joe's'

Mrs. Tannenbaum also claimed to be a friend of Joe Barras, a gangland figure, Gov. John Love, Lt. Gov. Mark Hogan and the late U.S. Sen. Everett Dirksen.

Mrs. Tannenbaum claimed the statues in church talked to her when she was 26 or 27 years old.

"At one time she said she was from another planet," Macdonald said.

Macdonald said there "can be no question but that Mrs. Tannenbaum is a very sick woman."

Nevertheless, he said, she is not legally insane in that she is not so deranged as not to be able to tell the difference between right and wrong, or, knowing the difference, to refrain from wrongdoing.

The sanity case is being tried to Boulder Dist. Judge John Barnard without a jury.

Figure in 2 Colorado Mysteries an Apparent

Special to The New York Times

DENVER, March 9.—Mrs. Gloria Tannenbaum, the central figure in two unsolved Colorado mysteries, has died sane, apparently a suicide.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, 39 years old, once regarded as a suspect in two poisoning deaths and in the disappearance of a University of Colorado professor of Russian history, died Sunday at the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo.

The hospital authorities confirmed today, after earlier denials, that a suicide note had been found in a pocket of Mrs. Tannenbaum's dress.

Protests Her Innocence

Although an autopsy report will not be available until Thursday, the cause of death was believed to have been cyanide, the poison that killed two of Mrs. Tannenbaum's neighbors in Denver in 1969.

The woman, who once claimed to be a general doing intelligence work and bragged of her friendships in influential places, gave some of her possessions to fellow patients and wrote farewell letters to friends and family before she died.

In her suicide note and a letter to her lawyer, John Kokish of Denver, Mrs. Tannenbaum again protested her innocence in the disappearance of Dr. Thomas Rih, 79, and the deaths of Gustav F. Ingvaldsen, 78, and Mrs. Barbara Lebert, 51.

The letter to Mr. Kokish said, "It doesn't matter really, but I will tell you this. I didn't do Tom or Gus or Barb in. I went nuts with hurt over losing them."

Dr. Rih, who lived near the university campus in Boulder, disappeared March 14, 1969, and Mrs. Tannenbaum was subsequently charged in both Boulder and Denver in four separate felonies involving the disposal of his property.

As a result of one of those charges, that she had forged Dr. Rih's name to a \$300 check, Mrs. Tannenbaum was found by a Boulder District Court jury to be legally insane and was ordered confined.

Search Is Unsuccessful

In the following months, the police in the Denver-Boulder area made a wide search for his body. They looked into abandoned mountain mine shafts and along isolated roads, and dug up the basement of

an East Denver home once occupied by Mrs. Tannenbaum. But the missing professor has never been found. In the poisoning deaths, no evidence was developed that could support charges against Mrs. Tannenbaum.

Mr. Kokish said here today that a grand jury should be asked to investigate how Mrs. Tannenbaum obtained the poison that killed her. He said that the grand jury should also investigate complaints made to him in letters from Mrs. Tannenbaum that she had been mistreated and persecuted by the hospital staff.

Mr. Kokish said that his client was apparently looked upon at Pueblo "as a kind of the witch of the ward."

He quoted her final letter to him as saying, "Everything that has made me feel good about myself has been taken away. Life is very cheap."

Suicide

Place copy in 47-54597
re Galya Tannenbaum

Tolson _____
Sullivan _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Brennan, C.D. _____
Callahan _____
Casper _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
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Tele. Room _____
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The Washington Post _____
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date 3.11.71

NOT RECORDED

47 MAR 22 1971

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

11-18-75 392 CAG

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO San Antonio TX	Gloria Ann Mc Pherson	11/14/50	forg gov't checks	
USSS San Antonio TX	Gloria Ann McPherson J-3-15-1082	11/14/50	mail theft forg & pass gov't chk (\$336)	sent to 1 yr & 1 day susp for 3 yrs & placed on prob for 3 yrs under supervision
SO Clayton MO	Gloria Ann McPherson 5288	4/29/54	forg	warr
PD Chgo IL	Gloria McPherson P File	9/2/58	not given	DWP 3 yrs prob
PD Chgo IL	Gloria McPherson E 43193	9/2/58	embz (1) forg (2)	
PD Chgo IL	Gloria Fores E 43193	5/27/60	OM FP (checks)	9 mos H of C
Cook Co Jail Chgo IL	Gloria Forest 252549	5/28/60	277-38	7/27/60 sent to H of C
Cook Co Jail Chgo IL	Gloria McPherson 259721	9/26/60	forgery	sent to pent'y 10/21/60
SRef for Women Dwight IL	Gloria Ann McPherson 3843	10/21/60	forg (2M) embz (1M)	1 - 5 yrs (CC) 12/21/62 par to Chgo IL 6/25/64 disch expiration of sent while on parole
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

11-18-75 392 CAG

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 DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Denver CO	Gayla Ann Tannenbaum 162895	10/27/69	inv forg	
PD Denver CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 162895	12/5/69	CC Wrt #23327 S-check	
PD Boulder CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 20534	1/23/70	forgery	
SO Boulder CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 11371	1/23/70	forgery	
PD Denver CO	Gayla Ann Tannenbaum 162895	1/23/70	hld fug det	rel to SO Boulder CO
SO Boulder CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 11724	3/12/70	forgery	
SO Golden CO	Gayla Ann Tannenbaum 23024	3/20/70	Wrnt: Hab Corp	
Dept of Security SHosp Pueblo CO	Galya Tannenbaum 54609	7/17/70	mental patient	
SO Littleton CO	Galya Ann Tannenbaum 364517	12/7/70	hold for Denver	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Riha Search To Be Asked Of U.S.S.R.

Government officials in the Soviet Union will be requested to determine if Prof. Thomas Riha is in that country, a spokesman for the Soviet ambassador to the United States said Monday.

"But I cannot promise whether any answer will be given," said the assistant to Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Speculation over Riha's whereabouts was renewed after the probable suicide March 7 of Mrs. Gloria (Galya) Tannenbaum at Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo.

Before she lapsed into unconsciousness from the effects of cyanide poisoning, Mrs. Tannenbaum reportedly said Riha "had just made it" to Russia after he vanished March 14, 1969, from Boulder.

The U. S. State Department has said it has no information suggesting Riha is in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Brennan CD _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3 The Denver Post
Denver, Colorado

Date: 3-16-71

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Charles R. Fuxton

Title: Mrs. Gloria (Galya) Tannenbaum

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Denver

☐ Being Investigated

58 APR 2 - 1971

NOT RECORDED
191 MAR 31 1971

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. A. Rosen
1 - Mr. D. J. Dalbey

DATE: 10/20/71

1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. W. R. Schlarman

Tolson _____
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Bishop _____
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Casper _____
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Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. E. S. Miller

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Letter received from Oren Jarinkes and Francis B. Randall of New York City who described themselves as schoolmates and friends of Professor Thomas Riha. They referred to an article which appeared in "The New York Times" on Sunday, October 10, 1971, stating "The FBI learned that there had been no foul play, that the professor had chosen to leave for personal reasons." They asked to be advised if we could inform them if Riha is in fact alive and if they can communicate with him. Recommend they be advised we conducted no investigation into Riha's disappearance.

Professor Riha is the Czech-born naturalized US citizen who was a former professor of Russian history at Colorado University, Boulder, Colorado. In March, 1969, he departed the Denver area without notifying friends, associates or his estranged wife. We did not conduct any investigation into his disappearance since there was no evidence of a violation of a Federal law within our jurisdiction. Local authorities in Denver did conduct an investigation into his disappearance, however, to date his whereabouts has not been ascertained.

EX-102

REC 201

Bureau files indicate Jarinkes, Queensboro College, New York, professor, has previously been interviewed by us regarding Soviet matter and was cooperative; however, while in the US Army 1954-56 he received psychiatric treatment and admitted "emotional pressure because of homosexual tendencies." Randall is a professor at Sarah Lawrence College, New York. He was interviewed by us in 1954 in connection with a student trip to the Soviet Union and was cooperative. In 1968 he supported and participated in antidraft and anti-Vietnam war activity.

16 OCT 26 1971

Enclosure *sent 10-21-71*

105-78256

1 - 134-16839 (Jarinkes)
1 - 105-30830 (Randall)

WRS:kml

(9)

CONTINUED - OVER

File 105-78256
in

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller
THOMAS RIHA
100-78256

ACTION:

With your approval, the attached letter will be sent to Jarinkes informing him and Randall that we have not conducted an investigation of Riha and suggesting that they may desire to contact the District Attorney in Denver for further information.

WRS

HHS/RS

DEM

EM

✓ 100-78256 JS

AS
Jim

EX-102

REC-15

October 21, 1971

39

Mr. Cren Jarinkes
425 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10025

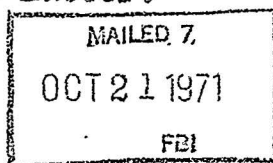
1 - Mr. A. Rosen
1 - Mr. D. J. Dalbey
1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. W. R. Schlarman

Dear Mr. Jarinkes:

Reference is made to the letter from
Mr. Francis B. Randall and you dated October 13, 1971.

The FBI has not conducted an investigation
concerning the disappearance of Professor Thomas Riha
since there is no indication of a violation of any
Federal law within our jurisdiction. We have no
knowledge concerning Professor Riha's whereabouts.

Professor Riha's disappearance was the
subject of an investigation by local authorities in
Denver, Colorado, and you may desire to contact the
District Attorney in Denver for information regarding
this matter.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Denver (105-4151) (Enclosure)

NOTE FOR SAC, DENVER:

Enclosed is one copy of referenced letter for your
information in the event you receive an inquiry from local
authorities in Denver relating to this matter. For your
information, Bureau files indicate Jarinkes is a Queensboro
College, New York, professor and has previously been inter-
viewed by us regarding Soviet matters and was cooperative.
However, while in the US Army 1954-56 he received psychiatric

105-78256-

1 - 134-16839 (Jarinkes)
1 - 105-30830 (Randall)

NOTE FOR SAC, DENVER,
CONTINUED PAGE TWO

OCT 29 1971
(11)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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Mr. Oren Jarinkes

NOTE FOR SAC, DENVER, CONTINUED:

treatment and admitted "emotional pressure because of homosexual tendencies." Randall is a professor at Sarah Lawrence College, New York, and was interviewed by us in 1954 in connection with a student trip to the Soviet Union and was cooperative. In 1968 he supported and participated in antidraft and anti-Vietnam war activity.

NOTE:

See memorandum W. A. Branigan to Mr. E. S. Miller dated 10/20/71, captioned "Thomas Riha, Miscellaneous - Information Concerning," prepared by WLS:kml.

Mr. Oren Jarinkes
Mr. Francis B. Randall
425 Riverside Dr.
New York, NY, 10025

Oct. 13, 1971

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs,

In The New York Times of this Sunday, October 10, a reporter makes an extraordinary statement about the disappearance of Prof. THOMAS-RIHA from the University of Colorado in March, 1969. he says, "The F.B.I. learned that there had been no foul play, that the professor had chosen to leave for personal reasons."

We have been friends of Thomas Riha for many years. Both of us went to school with him, one of us (Oren Jarinkes) served in the Army with him. We appeal to you out of the strongest concern for our friend whom we have thought dead for two years. Can you tell us that Thomas Riha is indeed still alive, or is this just one more New York Times error? Is there anything that you can tell us about him and his situation, consistent with your professional discretion? Can his friends help him? Can we communicate with him, through you or in any other way? May we beg you to tell us what you can about our friend, as soon as possible?

Thank you very much for anything
you can do!

Oren Jarinkes
Oren Jarinkes

EX-102

REC-15

Francis B. Randall

Francis B. Randall

OCT 22 1971

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. W. R. Wannally

DATE: 2/26/74

FROM: W. O. Cregar

1 - Mr. Nicholas
1 - Mr. Cregar

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECH

DEK Act 6 (1)(B)

On 2/20/74 [redacted] telephonically
furnished the following information.

[redacted] WHO
[redacted] Recently advised his
[redacted] contact that he had learned from a **SUB-SOURCE** who
in turn learned from a friend, not identified to **SOURCE**
that the friend had seen subject in Bratislava,
Czechoslovakia, in late 1973.

According to [redacted] the **SOURCE** had no additional
information regarding this matter and had failed to obtain
the identity of the friend of his **SUB-SOURCE**.

Inasmuch as we do not have a current investigative
interest in Riha, no further action is warranted in this
case.

ACTION:

For information and record purposes.

WOC:ebc

(3)

REC-19

EX-10

3 FEB 27 1974

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

55 MAR 5 1974

Assoc. Dir. . .
Dep. AD Adm. .
Dep. AD Inv. .
Asst. Dir.: .
Admin. . .
Comp. Syst. .
Ext. Affairs .
Files & Com. .
Gen. Inv. . .
Ident. . . .
Inspection . .
Intell. . . .
Laboratory . .
Plan. & Eval. .
Spec. Inv. . .
Training . . .
Legal Coun. .
Telephone Rm. .
Director Sec'y .

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

Mr. W. R. Wannall

DATE: 2/26/74

FROM : W. O. Cregar

1 - Mr. Nicholas
1 - Mr. Cregar

SUBJECT: THOMAS RIHA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CZECH

JFK Act 6 (1)(B)

On 2/20/74 [redacted] telephonically
furnished the following information.

[redacted]
[redacted] Recently Byrnes advised his
[redacted] that he had learned from a former student who
in turn learned from a friend, not identified to Professor
Byrnes, that the friend had seen subject in Bratislava,
Czechoslovakia, in late 1973.

According to [redacted] the Professor had no additional
information regarding this matter and had failed to obtain
the identity of the friend of his former student.

Inasmuch as we do not have a current investigative
interest in Riha, no further action is warranted in this
case.

ACTION:

For information and record purposes.

WOC:ebc
(3) *ebc*

REC-19

3 FEB 27 1974

55 MAR 5 1974

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

NOV 9 1975

The following FBI record, NUMBER 237 764 H, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
US IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.	TOMAS ANDRE KAREL RIHA #247 P 23936	10-17-52 (finger-printed)	APPLICANT FOR NATURALIZATION	
U.S. ARMY New York New York	Thomas A.C. Riha #US 51 288 063	Enlisted 12-2-53	APPLICANT FOR U.S. ARMY	
AC of S G-2 Department of the Army Washington DC	Thomas Riha #A-3	(finger-printed) 1-13-54	APPLICANT	

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

Since neither fingerprints nor a identifying number which is in our files accompanied your FBI cannot guarantee in any way that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

NOV 9 1975

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

237 764 H

Description and Related Data:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 70"

Weight: 127

Hair: brown

Eyes: blue

Date and Place of Birth: 4-17-1929 Czechoslovakia (Prague)

Scars and Marks: none listed

Address: 5085 Rockledge Drive Riverside, Calif. (1-13-54)

Occupation: U.S. ARMY (1954)

Social Security Number: none listed

Since neither fingerprints nor
identifying number which is
in our files accompanied you
FBI cannot guarantee in any
that this material concerns the
individual in whom you are interested.

INFORMATION RELATING TO GALYA TANNENBAUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, DENVER (47-3190) (C)

SUBJECT: GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
Galya Ann Tannenbaum,
Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum
ILP
OO: Denver

DATE: 12/24/69

The above captioned individual was the subject of an impersonation case, twice declined by USA, Denver. Circumstances associated with the investigation are being made available in the enclosed LHM in the event subsequent inquiries might be received at the Bureau regarding this matter.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

② - Bureau (Encs 4) /- 1-255
1 - Denver
MRS/cal
(3)

REC-78

47-3190-1



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Denver, Colorado
December 24, 1969

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

This investigation was opened after the telephone call to the Denver office by the Colorado University campus police, Boulder, Colorado, was received advising the Boulder Police Department had been called to the home of a Professor Thomas Riha, a history professor, at the aforementioned institution. Interview of Boulder Police Department Officers disclosed they were called to Riha's home, 1055 Sixth Street, Boulder, Colorado, 12:30 a.m. on March 9, 1969, and subject answered the door. The call was placed by subject Tannenbaum. Their investigation disclosed Riha was attempting to obtain a divorce from his wife Hana and that subject Tannenbaum was attempting to get Mrs. Riha to sign some papers. They learned Mrs. Riha had locked herself in her bedroom which was on the main floor and had been screaming out the window for help. Results determined she could have stepped from the room without assistance and that her bedroom door had been locked from the inside. Also a small bottle was found under her bed covers which was subsequently determined to be ether. They also recalled what appeared to be Xerox copies of immigration papers and Mrs. Tannenbaum advising that Mrs. Riha had out-stayed her visa. Tannenbaum also used the telephone and claimed to have called the immigration authorities.

Captain Lowell Friesen, Boulder Police Department, on April 14, 1969, advised their department did not open a case on this matter inasmuch as they determined the problem to be a civil matter. Friesen pointed out that Mrs. Tannenbaum had been living with Mr. Riha before this marriage, that Riha wanted to divorce his wife whom he had married in the fall of 1968, and that Riha had left the city.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

Mrs. Veva Nye of Boulder, Colorado, who described herself as the only real friend Mrs. Riha had in the Boulder area furnished the following information:

She advised she met Mrs. Riha the first week in November, 1968 at a Boulder beauty college. She said they became friends and she was often invited to the Riha home. She also recalled that even at this early date when Mr. and Mrs. Riha had been married for little over a month, Mrs. Riha advised her husband had already mentioned divorce. She also recalled a nephew of Mr. Riha's, Zdenek Cerveny, had been living with the couple. She advised Mrs. Riha had been in the country about three years and had met Riha either through mutual friends or a relative of Riha's. She recalled numerous complaints by Riha that his wife had no interest in his work, that she was a poor housekeeper, spent too much of his money and did not seem to "shape up" to what he expected in a wife. Nye recalled that near the end of January, 1969 Riha called her to give her a message for Hana that he intended to divorce her and would she find out what Hana intended to do. She also recalled Hana mentioning Mrs. Tannenbaum called her often and was a visitor at the house. She recalled Mr. Riha referred to Tannenbaum as Colonel. Nye recalled that both Tannenbaum and Riha were working on Riha's wife to get her to sign papers which they indicated were immigration papers but may have really been connected with property settlements or divorce papers.

Facts of this case were discussed with the U. S. Attorney, Denver, Colorado, on May 7, 1969, who advised he did not consider this to be a true violation and requested no further investigation be conducted.

Tannenbaum was contacted by Agents of the Denver office and was severely admonished for giving the impression that she was connected with the ~~Internal Revenue Service~~ *Immigration* *Naturalization Service*.

The above case was again opened after Mr. L. W. Gillette, who was visiting in Boulder, Colorado,

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

and subsequently located in Portage, Michigan, contacted the Denver office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Gillette advised that Tannenbaum had been dating a Gus Ingwersen, who was the father-in-law of his daughter. Tannenbaum had indicated to Ingwersen she was connected with the U. S. Army Intelligence and was a full colonel and indicated to him she usually traveled two or three times a week to Washington, D.C. in connection with her employment and in the near future was to be made a brigadier general. Gillette related he believed no one acquainted with Tannenbaum believed her claims and that most persons who knew her believed her to be emotionally unstable.

Also, an Esther Foote of Colorado Springs, Colorado, appeared in the Denver office and was subsequently interviewed. Foote advised she met Tannenbaum after she, Foote, placed an ad in the "Denver Post" soliciting fortune telling. Foote advised she tutored two of the subject's children, ages 3 and 9, at the subject's home, 243 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado. Foote advised she received two bad checks for this work, one was a closed account and the other was a non-sufficient funds check. Foote recalled the subject indicated to her she was working for the U. S. Government and was going to travel to Washington, D.C. and visit the pentagon and also displayed a briefcase with the word "Army" on it. She advised subject never displayed any credentials and had obtained nothing of value from her.

The facts of this case were discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney, Denver, Colorado, who advised that inasmuch as Tannenbaum did not display any credentials and did not obtain anything of value, he desired no further investigation be conducted in this matter and inasmuch as Tannenbaum had previously been admonished, did not desire to have her recontacted.

The Detroit office also advised that Gillette thought there were mysterious circumstances surrounding Ingwersen's death by cyanide poisoning together with the fact that a will had been found naming the subject as the chief beneficiary.

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

On December 12, 1969, Captain of Detectives Willard Spier, Boulder, Colorado Police Department, advised that Thomas Riha, formerly a professor at the University of Colorado (CU), was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969. Spier advised that Riha had not been carried as a missing person until October 28, 1969, when Riha's nephew Edenek Cerveny, presently in Denver, Colorado, inquired as to Riha's whereabouts. Riha was described by Spier as a person who was fluent in five languages in addition to English. Spier advised that some have felt Riha disappeared inasmuch as he may have been in some type of undercover work for an agency within the United States Government. Spier advised Riha's attorney who handled his subsequent divorce was a Richard Hopkins at Boulder. Spier also advised that a number of checks have been cashed in Riha's account at the First National Bank with no complaints of forgery. Spier also advised Tannenbaum's name had appeared on the wills of a Bashor Eghert and also an Ingversen, whose deaths had been described as suicidal and accidental, respectively, and are now being investigated by the Denver Police Department. Both individuals had lived in Denver.

Richard E. Hopkins, Lawyer, 2014 Fourteenth Street, Boulder, advised he was Thomas Riha's attorney for his divorce from his wife Hana. The divorce was granted in Boulder County District Court on September 26, 1969, based on the grounds of mental cruelty. Hopkins advised the couple was married in the fall of 1968 and the marriage "did not seem to work out according to Riha's likings." Hopkins advised Riha was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969. He advised he received a telegram on March 19, 1969, from Chicago, advising that a letter would be sent later explaining; that friends may think he should have consulted them before leaving but did not think he needed permission for what was necessary and to please subdue the panic. The telegram was signed T. Riha. Hopkins advised he received numerous letters discussing home mortgage on the home to be sold, bills of Riha's, various papers concerning his wife and the use of the returns on the sale of his house. Hopkins also advised that Riha obtained his property through the use of a \$7,000, 4 percent loan from Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum. Hopkins advised that one of the letters received from Riha which all had been mailed from Canada was shown to his wife Hana at the divorce trial, and Hana claimed the signature was not genuine. Hopkins advised the

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

only way he could describe the whole affair was to call it "goosey" and that he does not know if Riha is alive. Hopkins advised he has talked with Tannenbaum four or five times on the telephone and before Riha's disappearance had been given a number to call for Tannenbaum and heard Riha talking in the background. Hopkins also advised Riha's nephew had been living with Tannenbaum in Denver for some time. He described Tannenbaum as persuasive, domineering, very defensive once anyone questions confidence in her, a rambler and finally, as a neurotic. By neurotic, he advised she has delusions of grandeur of importance, of her own ability and of official capacities. He advised it was his opinion that if Tannenbaum were ever taken to court and was pushed, she could plead insanity with no difficulty. He also advised Tannenbaum claims she knows the whereabouts of Riha and has been in contact with him. Hopkins also made available documents including a letter to the Denver Art Museum, listing eleven items valued from \$30 to \$6,000 which he assumes belonged to Riha, to be made gifts to the public.

The Denver office has also been in receipt of a letter from a Mrs. Ruth Ann Cook, indicating that Riha is her son, inquiring about his well being and whereabouts. The letter was possibly mailed from Switzerland.

The following is a description of Galya Tannenbaum:

Name	Galya Tannenbaum
Aliases	Galya Ann Tannenbaum, Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum
Sex	Female
Race	White
Date of birth	March 30, 1930
Place of birth	Chicago, Illinois
Height	5 feet 6 inches
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Heavy
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Greying

GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

Complexion	Ruddy
Address	248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado
Occupation	Public Relations
Speech	No particular accent
Driver's license	Colorado B29832, expires March 30, 1972

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1/22/70

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DENVER (47-3190) (P)
SUBJECT: GALYA TANNENBAUM, aka
IMP
OO: DENVER

Re Bureau telephone call, 1/22/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies of a LHM pertaining to investigation conducted by the Denver Office to date.

For the information of the Bureau, subject has been charged in District Court, Denver, Colorado, for forgery and investigation is currently being conducted by the Boulder, Colorado PD in an attempt to develop similar charges against subject.

On 1/21/70, Detective Captain WILLARD SPIER, Boulder, Colorado PD, advised his Department expected to complete a forgery investigation against subject on 1/23/70 and attempt to obtain a warrant for her arrest. He also stated that it is the desire of his Department to obtain a search warrant for her residence in Denver in an attempt to develop information which may lead to the whereabouts of THOMAS RINA.

Denver considers it advisable to hold a reinterview with TANNENBAUM in abeyance until this action is completed by the Boulder, Colorado PD.

For further information of the Bureau, this matter was originally presented to the USA, Denver, Colorado on 5/7/69 at which time he advised he did not consider the facts sufficient

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 5)
- ② - Denver (105-4181)
(47-3190)

MRS/sip S)
(4)

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DN 47-3190

to warrant prosecution under the Federal Impersonation Statute. The case was reopened on the basis of subsequent information furnished by Mr. L. W. GILLETTE, who was visiting in Boulder, Colorado, who contacted the Denver Office of the FBI, at which time he furnished additional information concerning representations made by TANNENBAUM concerning affiliation with U. S. Army Intelligence.

The facts of this case were again discussed with the USA's Office, Denver, Colorado, who advised that inasmuch as there was no evidence that TANNENBAUM displayed credentials or obtained anything of value through her representations, prosecution would not be authorized.

Investigation is being expeditiously conducted by the Denver Office, at the conclusion of which the matter will be again presented to the USA Denver, concerning other information received by the Denver Office regarding representations made by subject.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Denver, Colorado
January 22, 1970

See file

GALYA TANNENBAUM

On March 9, 1969, the Boulder, Colorado Police Department was summoned to the residence of Professor Thomas Riha, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 1055 Sixth Street, Boulder. The call to the Police Department had been placed by captioned individual. Investigation by the Boulder, Colorado Police Department disclosed that Professor Riha was attempting to obtain a divorce from his wife Hana Riha and that an altercation had taken place at this residence between Professor Riha, his wife and Galya Tannenbaum. It was learned by the Boulder Police Department that Professor Riha's wife had locked herself in her bedroom, which was on the main floor of their residence, and had been screaming out of the window for help. A small bottle was found under the bed covers of her bed which was subsequently determined to be ether.

Patrolman Douglas John Dorsey, Boulder, Colorado Police Department, determined during his investigation on the night of the altercation that Tannenbaum had been attempting to have Mrs. Riha sign some type of immigration papers and she advised Dorsey that she was "doing a little work for immigration now and then." Officer Dorsey then asked Tannenbaum for identification which she stated was located in her car. At no time did Tannenbaum ever explicitly advise Dorsey that she was officially connected with the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, nor did she show him any identification to this effect.

On April 14, 1969, Mrs. Veva Permilla Nye, 3635 Buckeye Court, Boulder, Colorado, advised she was a personal friend of Mrs. Hana Riha, having first met her as a fellow student at a Boulder beauty college. She stated she was often invited to the Riha home and that shortly after the marriage of the Rihas in October, 1963, the couple was considering divorce. She recalled a nephew of Mr. Riha's, Zdenek Cervený, had been living with the couple. She advised Mrs. Riha had been in the United States about three years and had met Riha either through mutual friends or a relative.

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

105-78256-23

GALYA TANNENBAUM

of Riha's. She recalled numerous complaints by Riha that his wife had no interest in his work as a professor at the University of Colorado; that she was a poor housekeeper; and that she spent too much of his money. She stated that near the end of January, 1969, Riha called her to give her a message for Hana that he intended to divorce her and desired that she determine from his wife what she intended to do about it. She also recalled that Hana mentioned to her that Galya Tannenbaum called her often and had been a frequent visitor to the house. She stated Mr. Riha referred to Tannenbaum as "Colonel." She also recalled that both Tannenbaum and Riha were attempting to have Hana sign some type of immigration papers, the importance of which was not known to her.

On May 14, 1969, Tannenbaum was contacted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at her residence, 248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado, during which she stated she had never impersonated an officer of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or implied to anyone that she was in any way connected with this agency. She stated that she assists immigrants on many occasions by filling out forms and in other ways by helping them become adjusted to life in the United States. Tannenbaum was admonished for giving the impression in the past that she was connected with the U. S. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. Mrs. Tannenbaum stated she did not wish any confusion to arise from any of her actions and was sorry if any such confusion did result. She stated she would make every effort in the future to see that no misrepresentation was made by her which would cause anyone to believe that she was in any way connected with any Federal agency or actively associated with the Immigration Service.

On December 12, 1969, Esther R. Foote, 1209 South Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado, advised she first met Galya Tannenbaum as the result of an ad Foote placed in the "Denver Post" daily newspaper soliciting her services as a fortune teller. She stated as a result of this meeting with Tannenbaum she subsequently tutored two of Tannenbaum's children at Tannenbaum's residence, 248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado. She stated for her services she received two bad checks from Tannenbaum, one of which was a closed account and

GALYA TANNENBAUM

the other an insufficient funds check. Foote recalled Tannenbaum stating to her that she was working for the United States Government and was going to travel to Washington, D. C. and visit the Pentagon. She also displayed a briefcase with the word "Army" on it. She stated Tannenbaum never displayed any credentials to her, nor did she obtain anything of value.

On December 12, 1969, Captain of Detectives, Willard Spier, Boulder, Colorado, Police Department, advised that Thomas Riha, formerly a professor at the University of Colorado, was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969. Spier advised Riha had not been reported by anyone to his Department as a missing person until October 28, 1969, when Riha's nephew Zdenek Cervený filed such a report with this Department. Riha was described by Captain Spier as a person who is fluent in five languages in addition to English. Spier advised Riha's attorney who handled the divorce proceedings between Riha and his wife Hana was Richard Hopkins in Boulder, Colorado. Spier also advised Tannenbaum's name had appeared on the wills of Bashor Eghert and on a will of a Gus Ingwersen, whose deaths had been described by authorities as suicidal and accidental, respectively. He stated that both are now being investigated by the Denver, Colorado Police Department.

On December 12, 1969, Mr. Richard E. Hopkins, Attorney at Law, 2014 14th Street, Boulder, Colorado, advised he was Thomas Riha's attorney during the divorce proceedings between Riha and his wife Hana. The divorce was granted in Boulder, Colorado on September 26, 1969. Hopkins advised Riha was last seen in Boulder on March 15, 1969, however, he stated he received a telegram on March 19, 1969, from Chicago, Illinois, supposedly from Riha, advising that a letter would be sent at a later date explaining his disappearance. He stated in the telegram that friends might think he should have consulted them before leaving, but he did not feel he needed permission for what was necessary and requested Hopkins to subdue the panic. The telegram was signed Thomas Riha.

Hopkins advised that subsequent to the disappearance of Riha he received letters from Riha or at least signed with a signature which appeared to be authentic, which discussed the sale of the couple's home in Boulder. Hopkins also advised that Riha had originally obtained the home in Boulder

GALYA TANNENBAUM

through the use of a \$7,000.00 four percent loan from Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum. He went on to state that one of the letters purportedly sent by Riha had been mailed from Canada, which was shown to Hana Riha at the divorce hearing. At this time Hana stated that she did not consider the signature of Riha appearing on this to be genuine.

Hopkins stated that subsequent to the disappearance of Riha he had numerous telephone conversations with Tannenbaum and on one occasion she indicated to him that she was connected with the U. S. Army Intelligence Service and that she was a full Colonel.

Hopkins advised that to his knowledge Tannenbaum at no time received anything of value from either of the Rihas as a result of any representations made by her concerning affiliation with either the U. S. Immigration Service or Army Intelligence.

On January 16, 1970, Mr. Gerald A. Caplan, Attorney at Law, Boulder, Colorado, advised he represented Hana Riha in her divorce proceeding from Thomas Riha. He also represented her in connection with a deportation proceeding which the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service was attempting to place against her. Caplan advised that on either February 11, 1969 or February 12, 1969, he met with Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum in his office and as a result of this visit reduced the results of her visit to memorandum which is attached hereto.

Mr. Caplan also stated that through interviews with Mrs. Riha he had determined from her that Tannenbaum had also represented herself to Mrs. Riha on numerous occasions as a member of Army Intelligence and also as some type of official with the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The following descriptive data of Galya Tannenbaum as set forth below was obtained through records of the Colorado State Department of Motor Vehicles, Denver, Colorado, and from the various individuals contacted in this case:

Name	Galya Tannenbaum
Aliases	Galya Ann Tannenbaum, Julia Galya Storm Tannenbaum
Sex	Female
Race	White

GALYA TANNENBAUM

Date of Birth	March 30, 1930
Place of Birth	Chicago, Illinois
Height	5'6"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Heavy
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Greying
Complexion	Ruddy
Address	248 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado
Occupation	Public Relations
Speech	No particular accent
Driver's license	Colorado B29832, expires March 30, 1972

The circumstances concerning alleged impersonation representations made by Tannenbaum have been discussed with the U. S. Attorney, Denver, Colorado. Based upon details available, the U. S. Attorney has declined to authorize prosecution of Tannenbaum for violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute. An official of the Boulder, Colorado, Police Department advised on 1/21/70, that his Department expected to complete a forgery investigation against Tannenbaum on 1/23/70 and attempt to obtain a warrant for her arrest and a search warrant for her residence in Denver in an attempt to develop information leading to the whereabouts of Thomas Riha.

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.

MEMORANDUM

On Tuesday, February 11, or Wednesday, February 12, 1979, I met with Mrs. Galya Tannenbaum in my office at my request. This visit was in connection with the deportation and divorce matter in which I was representing Mrs. Hana Riha.

It had been my understanding prior to this visit that Mrs. Riha was being assisted by Mrs. Tannenbaum with regard to her immigration status and other matters. Based upon my conversations with Mrs. Riha and her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Grossman, prior to my visit with Mrs. Tannenbaum, Mrs. Tannenbaum was apparently exerting a substantial amount of pressure on Mrs. Riha and had indicated to them that she had some official position in the Government.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, at the meeting in my office, told me that she was with MI 4, which I asked her to explain. She indicated that MI 4 was the Military Intelligence Division of the Army in this District. She further stated that she had been associated with Military Intelligence for 25 years and that because of her connections in Military Intelligence she had many friends in the Justice Department and in the Immigration Service, whom she had been contacting in an effort to assist Mrs. Riha. She further stated that she had obtained Mrs. Riha's immigration file and that at that time she had possession of the file. She appeared to be knowledgeable concerning the various immigration laws. She stated that there were certain documents which Hana must file. She also mentioned that because her position in Military Intelligence enabled her to arrange for the Postoffice Department to place an earlier postmark date on some correspondence which Hana had filed after the time for filing the documents had expired.

I stated to her that I thought it was appropriate, in order to protect my client, to ask her to produce certain credentials or identification. She stated she did not have any identification with her, that she did have a plastic card which identified her with Military Intelligence, and that she would see that I received a proper identification card at our next meeting. We had no further meetings and that was the only direct contact which I had with Mrs. Tannenbaum other than some telephone calls, which I believe preceded the office visit.

James A. Cullen

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your 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.

ENCLOSURE

105-78256-23

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 27, 1970

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Huppert
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

SUBJECT: GALYA TANNENBAUM
IMPERSONATION

Captioned subject has been under investigation by Denver for possible violation of the Federal Impersonation Statute. She has indicated connections with Immigration and Naturalization Service as well as referring to herself as a "Colonel" with U. S. Army Intelligence at various times. The U. S. Attorney, Denver, has thus far declined to authorize prosecution, based upon subject's alleged misrepresentations. Additional investigation being conducted by Denver to determine if Tannenbaum has, in fact, violated the Impersonation Statute.

Considerable interest in the subject has been generated by the press because of her connection with Thomas Riha, former professor of Russian history at the University of Colorado, who disappeared in March, 1969. Riha, born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, came to the United States in 1947 and became a naturalized citizen. Investigation of the Tannenbaum Impersonation case has disclosed that Boulder, Colorado, police were called to Riha's residence on 3/9/69 because of a disturbance. Tannenbaum was at the Riha home and police determined she had been attempting to get Mrs. Riha to sign some papers relating to Thomas Riha's efforts to obtain a divorce from Mrs. Riha. Boulder, Colorado, police authorities have advised that Thomas Riha was last seen in Boulder on 3/15/69. A missing person report was not filed with the police until 10/28/69 when such a report was filed by Riha's nephew, Zdenek Cerveny.

Articles appearing in newspapers concerning this matter have indicated that Galya Tannenbaum may have information concerning the disappearance of Thomas Riha. Basic facts were furnished to the Attorney General by letter dated 1/14/70, prepared by the Domestic Intelligence Division. The Crime Records Division has also advised U. S. Representative Donald Brotzman (Republican), Colorado, that the FBI has conducted no investigation concerning Riha's disappearance. It is anticipated that other inquiries may be received in view of the continuing interest in this matter by the press.

JDH:dvj
(8)

1 - 105-78256 (Thomas Riha)

REC-30

—SEE ACTION— OVER

FEB 6 1970

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FEB 4 1970

FEB 13 1970

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum
RE: GALYA TANNENBAUM

ACTION:

Above submitted for information. Denver's investigation of Tannenbaum under the Impersonation angle is being closely followed. Any inquiries concerning her alleged knowledge of Riha's disappearance will be appropriately handled.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
JEM
✓
WEL
RS
WIS