

Minister's Admission Over List Of KGB Spies Sparks Uproar

By Laura Collura
Times Daily staff

Former Defense Minister Beniamino Andreatta said Thursday that while he was in office between 1996 and 1998, he was informed about a list of 261 Italians who allegedly worked as Soviet spies during the Cold War. His statement contradicted an earlier one made by Romano Prodi, the prime minister of that same government.

"How can you believe that a defense minister was not informed about important documents that passed through the secret service?" Mr. Andreatta said in a radio interview, adding that when he received the material from the British intelligence service, he and Gen. Sergio Siracusa, the chief of the military secret service, had examined it together and concluded that it appeared to be unreliable.

The disclosure caused a political uproar, as only a day earlier Mr. Prodi had issued a note denying that either he or his undersecretary, Enrico Micheli, had known about the list, part of the so-called Mitrokhin archive. The archive, which contains secret records transcribed by hand during a period of ten years by former KGB official Vasili Mitrokhin, was first turned over to Britain in 1992, when Mr. Mitrokhin

defected to the West. According to a recent book by Mr. Mitrokhin and British journalist Christopher Andrew, the KGB could count on a vast ring of Italian informants, including journalists and diplomats.

According to Luigi Ramponi, who in 1991 headed Sismi, the military secret service, "It is impossible that Romano Prodi, as prime minister, was not informed."

The center-right opposition also openly questioned the truth of Mr. Prodi's previous statement, accusing the center-left government of purposely neglecting the issue to protect its Communist allies from serious embarrassment. According to rumors reported by the press, some of the alleged spies included in the Mitrokhin list are well-known officials still active in public life.

"Should the Prodi government have known the truth or was it impossible that it didn't know? Should the D'Alema government have known, or is it impossible that it didn't know?" demanded Enrico La Loggia, the Senate whip of the center-right Forza Italia party. "If [Mr. Prodi and Mr. D'Alema] knew — and I don't think it possible they didn't — why did they fail to release the information? What do those papers hide that can induce two left governments to keep

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Hikind Joins With Community Members And Leaders In Urging Hillary Clinton To Intercede On Pollard's Behalf

Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn) and community members and leaders from throughout New York will assemble at the headquarters of Hillary Rodham Clinton's Exploratory Committee, at 450 7th Avenue at 11:00 a.m. on August 29th, 1999, to prevail upon Hillary Clinton to address the issue of Jonathan Pollard's prolonged sentence.

"There is still some discrepancy with regard to the First Lady's positioning on issues of concern to the Jewish community," Hikind said. "If she would consent to take an active role in reviewing all the aspects of the case, it would significantly reverse how she is perceived in certain sectors."

"I have written Hillary asking her to exert her influence with the President to secure the release of Jonathan Pollard. The sentence meted out to Pollard seems disproportionate to the crime he committed in spying for a U.S. ally. He has sincerely expressed remorse; many in the legal and intelligence communities propose that the interests of justice are not served with a life sentence."

"We have an obligation as Americans and as Jews to do whatever we can to evoke support on behalf of a man who has been confined beyond the terms of his original plea. We invite the public to join us to plead for justice for Pollard at the New York headquarters of Hillary Rodham Clinton's Exploratory Committee. We are pleading with Hillary to impress her husband with the humanitarian aspects of a pardon for Jonathan Pollard, so we can finally bring closure to this chapter of history."



Dov Hikind

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What's her sign?

Virgo Hillary Rodham Clinton may run in the New York 2000 Senate race against Gemini Rudy Giuliani.
Astrological signs of current senators:

Scorpio, Sagittarius, Aquarius, Cancer	11 each
Pisces, Taurus	10 each
Virgo	9
Libra	8
Aries, Capricorn	6 each
Gemini	5
Leo	2

Source: Congressional Yellow Book

By Anne R. Carey and Gary Vagstad, USA TODAY

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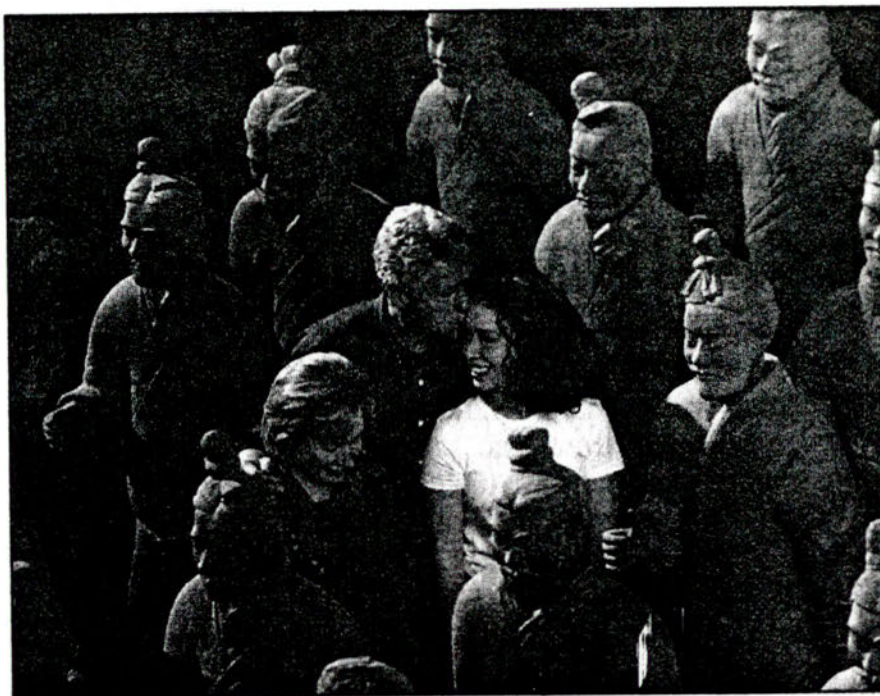
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Tourists in China

■ President Clinton kisses daughter Chelsea on the forehead while first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton looks on during a tour of the famous excavation site of the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xian, China. The Terra Cotta Warriors are an army of more than 7,000 pottery soldiers and horses, created and buried 2,200 years ago to guard the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi. They were unearthed in 1974. For more on the Clinton China trip, see 10A.



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Chinese feminists, in rare display, tell first lady of progress, setbacks

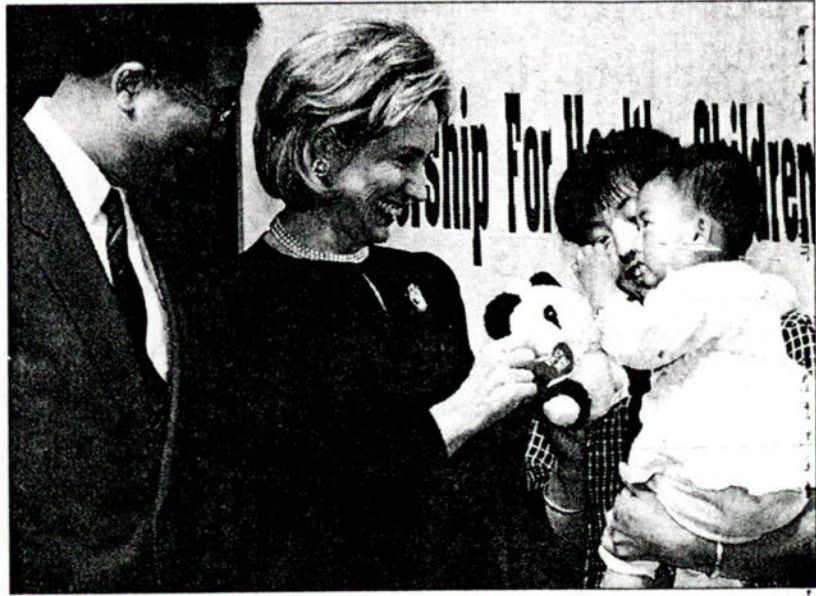
By Elisabeth Rosenthal
New York Times

BEIJING — Hillary Rodham Clinton met with some of the best and brightest of Beijing's vibrant women's movement on Saturday, discussing a wide range of sometimes sensitive issues from domestic violence to unemployment to China's high rates of female suicide.

Clinton mostly sat back and listened as the panel of seven Chinese women told of the multitude of problems women in this country face and of their work to solve them.

Although many of the panelists have long been outspoken on women's issues in front of small groups, such frank discussion in a public international forum was unusual. And the light atmosphere was in marked contrast to the tension surrounding the International Women's Conference that Clinton attended in Beijing in 1995.

The panelists included Xie Lihua, a journalist who has championed the cause of China's rural women, and Liu Bohong of the of-



Associated Press

Hillary Clinton meets a mother and her baby from Xianghe, Hebei province, Saturday. The baby, who is ill, and her family have been receiving medical benefits from a U.S. disease control center.

ficial All-China Women's Federation, who displayed the newly published Chinese translation of the American women's medical work, "Our Bodies, Ourselves" (Touchstone, 1996).

At the end, a clearly appreciative Clinton said, "I don't think I've ever been in a more lively, energetic and informed discussion than this one today."

The panelists described the many projects under way to improve the status of women, but their remarks were filled with reminders that deep-rooted cultural discrimination persists, particularly in the countryside.

Xie likes to remind people that if you knock at a door in rural China, women are likely to answer, "Nobody's home," if there are no men inside.

Three years ago, she founded the magazine Rural Women Knowing All to give women in the countryside a voice. At Saturday's forum, she described how the magazine had published self-help articles on reproductive health, set up programs for women who are migrant workers in Beijing and helped organize small loans for women to start cottage industries.

But she and other panelists described with bittersweet smiles the biases that such women's programs must overcome.

Ge Youli of the U.N. Develop-

ment Program in Beijing told of organizing meetings in the countryside to explain loan programs for women and having only husbands turn up.

"We say 'Where are your wives?'" Ge said. "They say, 'At home cooking, of course.'" She described how the men are then instructed to play a game of what Americans call "Telephone," where the first is given a message which is passed down a line of 10. By the end, she said, the message had changed. "That's why your wives should be here," she told them.

But the panelists also told of poor rural women who with the help of such loans had escaped dreary lives by setting up prosperous businesses, such as tofu shops and pig farms, and of how the traditional notion that "only men are important" was changing.

Another panelist, Chen Mingxia, a lawyer at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, described work in educating women about their legal rights. Although China has a fairly comprehensive women's rights law on paper, discrimination against women is common in areas like hiring and housing.

At Beijing's prestigious universities there is a saying to describe the hiring hierarchy on graduation: first men with a Beijing residency permit, then men without a Beijing residency permit, only then the women.

First Lady Again Sounds Themes for Women's Rights

■ **Diplomacy:** In local gatherings, Hillary Clinton discusses family issues and criticizes Beijing's abortion policies.

By JONATHAN PETERSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SHANGHAI—At a long-neglected synagogue here, she admired a Torah to highlight American support for freedom of religion in China. At a medical center in Beijing, she applauded Chinese research on spina bifida and other birth defects.

And in this city's modern library Wednesday, she played on the popular aphorism that "women hold up half the sky," taking aim at China's practices of forced abortion and sterilization to limit family size.

"Women can't hold up half the sky," declared Hillary Rodham Clinton, "if they are denied the freedom to plan their own families."

A world away from the embarrassments of the investigation into Monica Lewinsky's alleged relationship with her husband or even lingering fallout from the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, the first lady is conducting a China trip of her own. It is much lower key than that of the president, with whom she has appeared across China, typically taking the background role expected of a leader's spouse.

Yet Mrs. Clinton also has managed to fit in a round of her own appearances, often reflecting her cherished themes of women's rights, children's well-being and health care.



Reuters

Hillary Clinton listens to rabbi during tour of restored synagogue in Shanghai.

At these local gatherings, she has heard Chinese women speak candidly about abusive husbands, exploitative employers, housing woes of divorcees and the need for education in China's increasingly unregulated economy.

In a village near the Chinese city of Xian, a professor told her that some families now sell their donkeys so their daughters can afford college tuition. Mrs. Clinton later lamented at another appearance that many able young women "may not have a family

to sell a donkey" to pay for their schooling.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, northern Thailand, the Philippines and the Andes Mountains of South America, this first lady has made a practice of seeking out those sorts of conversations, always in the hope of gleaning a little bit of insight that might be put to wider use.

"She's always gone out of her way to meet with women and girls," Melanne Verveer, the first lady's chief of staff, said

as Mrs. Clinton, with daughter Chelsea and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, observed exhibits in the old synagogue. "What she's often said," Verveer continued, "is that we face common challenges."

Sometimes she is the one facing challenges—to make the best of a situation engineered by well-meaning foreign hosts. At a stifling, overcrowded legal conference room in Beijing, where microphones were spewing out ear-splitting feedback, Mrs. Clinton settled into the chair reserved in her honor—the biggest and cushiest—only to sink and sink until she sat half a head lower than everyone around her.

Still, she remained composed and kept the conversation moving, earnestly asking one participant for examples of "major important cases" that the center has handled. At another point, she wanted to know how a client had "found her way to the center to seek legal assistance."

If Americans are divided in their views of the first lady, the Chinese have mixed feelings too. While often speaking of her in admiring tones, in random interviews some also seemed taken aback by her unabashedly modern style.

"She is very able, very aggressive as a lawyer," said a woman in her late 20s who identified herself as Miss Tang. "She is totally unlike any of the Chinese leaders' wives."

A career woman in her mid-40s, who, like many in this nation unaccustomed to freedom of expression, declined to provide any name, observed of Mrs. Clinton: "She is a lawyer and a politician. She may be a good partner, but I don't know if she is a good wife and mother. For most of the people, it is very hard to make a balance."

While the president's movements require a huge motorcade and bring a

retinue of staffers and press that can impart a circus-like atmosphere to events, Mrs. Clinton can maneuver a bit more easily, accompanied typically by just a few staffers.

In China, her appearances have included participating in a round table at Beijing University, meeting with physicians from the Beijing Medical Center and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as visiting a girls school and retraining center in Shanghai.

It was in Beijing in 1995, at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, that she delivered a well-received speech, replete with implied criticism of the Beijing regime for its policies of forced abortion.

That appearance made a big impression on Mrs. Clinton and her close aides. "While we spoke different languages and came from different places, we shared a universal belief—that women's rights are human rights and that human rights are women's rights," Mrs. Clinton on Wednesday recalled of the U.N. conference.

In her remarks at the Shanghai library, which aides had described in some ways as a sequel to the 1995 address, Mrs. Clinton said that progress for society depends broadly on women "having equal access to life's tools of opportunity" such as medical care, education, employment and legal rights. "Only when we create a world where every citizen enjoys fundamental freedoms and every child is valued and given equal opportunities—then, and only then, will we be able to say with honesty, 'Yes, women hold up half the sky.'"

Times staff writers Maggie Farley and Tyler Marshall contributed to this story.