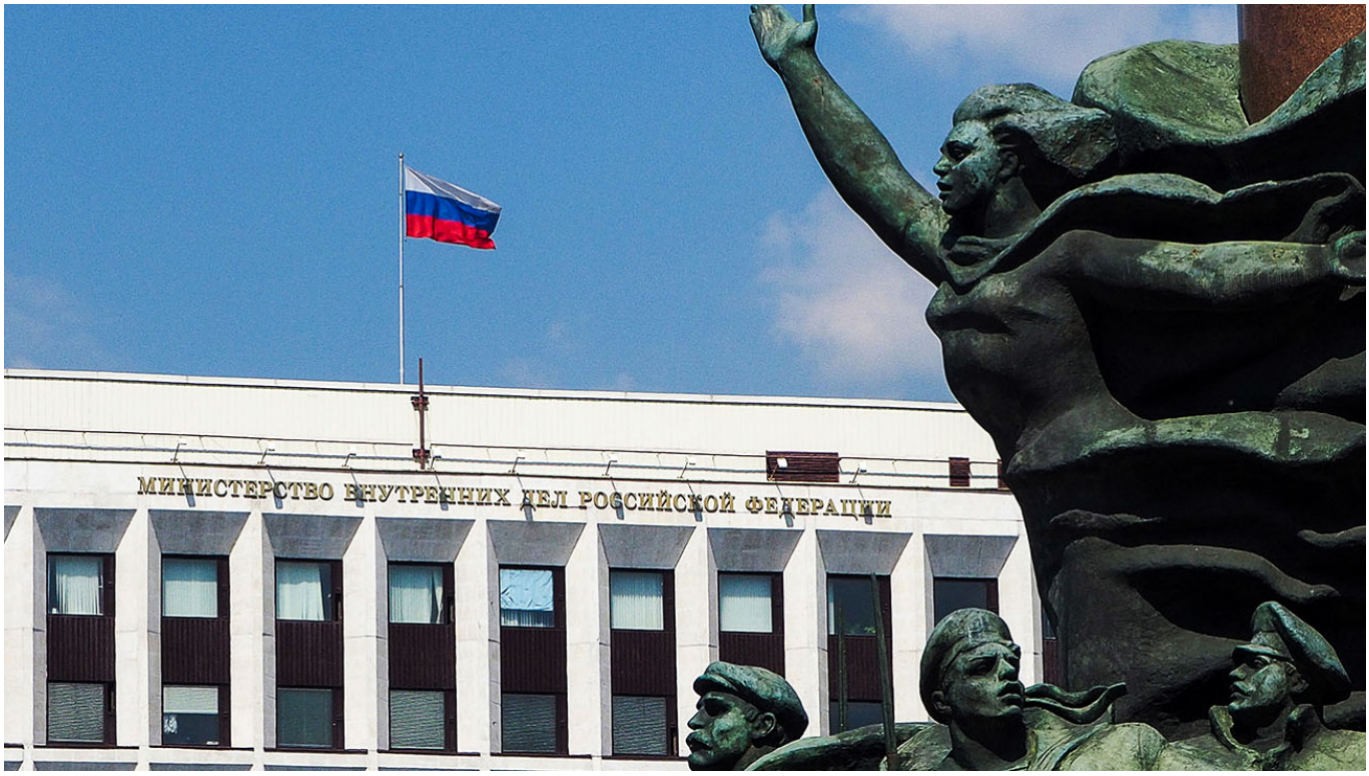
The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Formally Declares Alleged CIA Mole Missing, Search Underway – Reports

By Reuters

September 23, 2019



The Interior Ministry **Vladimir Gerdo / TASS**

Russia has officially declared a former Kremlin official alleged to have been a CIA informant missing and is looking for him, according to an entry in the Interior Ministry's database, the state-run RIA news agency reported on Monday.

U.S. media reports, confirmed to Reuters by two sources, have said a CIA informant in the Russian government was extracted and brought to the United States in 2017.

Related article: U.S. Spy Evacuated From Russia Was Possibly a Senior Kremlin Official's Aide – Kommersant

The official may have been a man called Oleg Smolenkov, who disappeared with his wife,

Antonina, and three children while on holiday in Montenegro in June 2017, the Kommersant business daily has reported.

RIA said the Interior Ministry's database showed that Smolenkov had now been declared missing and that the ministry was looking for him.

U.S. media reports have described the informant as a high-level CIA source.

The Kremlin has confirmed that Smolenkov worked in the Russian presidential administration, but said he was fired in 2016-17 and was not senior.

Russia asked the United States via Interpol earlier this month to clarify the whereabouts of Smolenkov after Russian news reports identified a house listed as belonging to a man with his name in Stafford, Virginia, near Washington D.C.

The area where the house is located is inhabited by many former U.S. military and FBI personnel, according to RIA.

Russia fired officials who allowed Smolenkov to flee the country via Montenegro, which he did in contravention of a ban on employees of the presidential administration traveling to the Balkan country, Interfax news agency reported on Sept. 13.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/09/23/russia-formally-declares-alleged-cia-mole-missing-search-underway-reports-a67392