

High-Profile Internal Espionage Cases in the United States

1985

A series of high-profile espionage arrests characterized 1985, the Year of the Spy. In May, members of the John Walker spy ring were arrested. Former U.S. Navy personnel John Walker, Jerry Whitworth, Arthur Walker, and Michael Walker were convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, passing classified material to the Soviet Union. On November 21, Jonathan Jay Pollard, a Navy intelligence analyst, was arrested for spying for Israel. On November 23, Larry Wu Tai Chin, a former CIA analyst, was arrested on charges of spying for the People's Republic of China since 1952. On November 25, former National Security Agency employee William Pelton, was arrested and charged with selling military secrets to the Soviets.

1994

On February 21, FBI agents arrested Aldrich Hazen Ames, a 30-year Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) veteran, and his wife, Maria del Rosario Casas Ames on espionage charges. Ames's crimes began in April 1985, and resulted in the deaths of at least 10 Soviet sources used by the CIA and FBI. Other sources were imprisoned and more than 100 intelligence operations were compromised. Ames provided thousands of classified documents to the Soviet Union and later the Russian Republic.

2001

On February 18, FBI Agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested for conspiracy to commit espionage. The affidavit in support of an arrest warrant for Hanssen charged that he had engaged in a lengthy relationship with the KGB and its agencies.

Source: FBI History, www.fbi.gov/libref/historic/history/historicdates.htm.