Paul Coleman interview with Donald Kazan in 1981

MCC-00476

Total items: 1
Cubic feet: .006

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Fort Kent, Maine

Paul Coleman interview with Donald Kazan in 1981 (MCC-00476)

Shelf List Number: AA-476, AJ-476, AA-476

Collection Overview

Creator

Paul Coleman

Dates
1981

Extent
1 audiocassette (.005 cubic feet)

Provenance
Material was found in the accessioning room of the Acadian Archives

Language
English

Conservation notes
Audiocassette content was transferred to an archival gold compact disc for preservation and on a white label compact disc for patron's use.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

None

Physical:

None

Technical:

A compact disc player is needed to access this collection.

Rights Statement

Copyright has not been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes

Recommended Citation

Paul Coleman interview with Donald Kazan, MCC-00476, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Description

Biographical Information

From an article in the New York Times on December 12, 1972, on Donald Kazan's father, Vladimir Kazan-Komarek: Vladimir Kazan-Komarek was an American citizen of Czech decent who was charged with espionage and murder in Czechoslovakia.

Vladimir fled Czechoslovakia in 1948 after the Communist take-over. He lived in Paris until 1953 and then came to the United States where he married, became a citizen and was president of the Harvard Travel Service. When he was returning from a conference of travel agent in Moscow in 1966, his flight to Paris was diverted to Prague for "mechanical reasons". Mr. Kazan-Komarek was taken off the plane and charged by Czechoslovak authorities with setting up and operating an underground espionage and terrorist network in Czechoslovakia from 1948 to 1950 that was responsible for the death of a police officer.

Earlier Czechoslovak press reports dating from 1951 had characterized Mr. Kazan-Komarek as an agent of the United States Army Counterintelligence and was linked to the Prague bureau of the Associated Press, which the Czechoslovak Government had charged as a center of espionage.

During his trial in 1967, the earlier charge that he had been an American intelligence agent, was quietly dropped. It was suggested he had been linked to a French intelligence organization that was never identified. He was released with intervention from Senator Edward Kennedy. After his release, Mr. Kazan-Komarek did say that the charges against him were partly true, that he had helped people escape from Czechoslovakia and that he was working for French intelligence.

In the last few years of his life, he severed his relationship with Harvard Travel Service, and in October 1971, he left his wife and five children in Wellesley, Massachusetts and went to Europe. He appeared in Estepona, Spain in November 1971. The Spanish police reported that he led a very normal life working on a book and occasionally ferrying small planes to new owners. On June 5 1972, the United States consulate in Seville was informed that Mr. Kazan-Komarek had been missing since May 11. The discovery of his body by the Spanish police in September was not reported to the

consulate until the end of October when the State Department learned of the death. State Department officials said there was no indication that Mr. Kazan-Komarek was still involved in intelligence work and they insisted he had not been employed by any United States intelligence agency.

Scope and content
This collection consists of an audiocassette interview with Donald Kazan by Paul Coleman for a class at the University of Maine at Fort Kent in March of 1981. The place of the interview is unknown. Donald Kazan talks about the secret life of his father, Vladimir Kazan-Komarek.

Arrangement

Separated materials
Not applicable.

Subject Headings

Cold war
Czechoslovakia – History
Espionage
Interview
United States – History

Related Materials

MCC-00022: Paul Coleman oral history with James (Pop) Hoyt

Collection Inventory

1 audiocassette (AA-476)

Notes:

- The white label CD has the following call number: ACADIAN A-V AudioCD GR110.M2 K3 1981
- The Archives gold CD is located in collection room with the following shelf listing: MCC-00476 AJ-476