

Paul William Hampel

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Paul William Hampel is the fictitious name of a man accused by the Canadian government of being a Russian spy masquerading as a Canadian citizen. He was arrested on November 14, 2006 at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport at about 6 p.m. just prior to boarding a plane departing Canada.^[1] When he was arrested, he had in his possession a fraudulent Ontario birth certificate, US\$6,810 in five currencies, a shortwave radio, index cards with detailed notes about Canadian history, two digital cameras, three cell phones and five cell phone sim cards, some of them password-protected.^[2]

He was detained under a security certificate, signed by Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg. According to the *National Post*, the certificate asserts that the individual "was a foreign national engaged in espionage, a member of an espionage organisation and 'a danger to the security of Canada.'"^[3] Specifically, he is suspected of being an elite agent in the SVR, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service.^[4] A Federal Court judge has found the certificate reasonable and ordered *Hampel* to be expelled from Canada.^[5] In order to speed up the deportation, Federal Court Justice Pierre Blais made a deal with the accused to seal the man's real name because of concerns for the safety of his family. In exchange, Hampel will not contest deportation to his homeland.^[6]

Hampel has admitted through his lawyer "that he is not Paul William Hampel, that he is a Russian citizen, born on October 21, 1961, and that he has no legal status in Canada." He does not admit to being a spy.^[7]

Hampel started an "emerging markets" consultancy in Dublin, Ireland, but the business was stagnant in recent years. In 1997, Hampel set up in Dublin a company called Emerging Markets Research and Consulting Limited, and put one million dollars of capital into the company; however, the company never filed any returns. The company formed part of a business empire that Hampel controlled, and which operated in Sark, Belgrade, Cyprus and Canada.^[8]

Paul William Hampel frequently traveled to Balkans and published a book of photographs "My Beautiful Balkans"^[9].

References

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- ³ ^ "Canadian authorities hold 'Russian spy'", *The Courier Mail*, November 17, 2006 05:16am, accessed on November 16, 2006. <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,20773241-23109,00.html>

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5. ^ "Russian spy to be expelled from Canada" (http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-12-04-canada-spy_x.htm) , *USA Today*, 4 December 2006
6. ^ "Ottawa to deport Russian 'agent'" (http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1165272611050&call_pageid=968332188492&StarSource=RSS) , *The Toronto Star*, 5 December 2006
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8. ^ "Ireland 'Russian spy training camp'" (http://www.newsmedianews.com/News/nirelandnews.php?subaction=showfull&id=1164300054&archive=&start_from=&ucat=39&) , *Newsmedianews*, 23 November 2006
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