Radio Liberty editor

A high-ranking editor of Radio Liberty who had disappeared in Munich two months ago turned up at a news conference in Moscow last week. Oleg A. Tumanov, who was born in the Soviet Union and defected to the West 21 years ago, when he was 21, refused to answer questions at the news conference regarding his disappearance and return to Moscow. Instead, he used the news conference to denounce the station and its affiliate, Radio Free Europe, as a front for U.S. intelligence operations against his native Soviet Union.

Tumanov was the third-ranking official of Radio Liberty, which broadcasts to the Soviet Union. The station and RFE, which broadcasts to Eastern European countries, are financed by Congress and supervised by the Board for International Broadcasting. The stations, which are jammed by the Soviet Union, are located in Munich. Tumanov was last seen in that city on Feb. 25, a day after he left work early complaining he was not well.

Tumanov said in a prepared statement that the radios “are a convenient front for covert operations against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.” He named directors of the stations he said were members of either the Central Intelligence Agency or U.S. Military Intelligence. As for his years in the West, Tumanov said they had been a “nightmare.” He said his return to the Soviet Union had been “tortuous.”

RFE was founded in 1950 and RLF a year later. For the first 20 years, they had secretly been funded by the CIA. When the CIA connection became known, Congress acted to provide them with their own funds that would be funneled through a semiautonomous agency, the BIB.

An RFE/RL spokesman in Washington said the radios had no more information on Tumanov than was available from the wire services. Asked for comment on the charge that the radios were a nest for CIA agents, the spokesperson said, “We’ve heard that from our own media.” Then she said there had been no RFE/RL employees who had also served the CIA for 15 years.

She said Tumanov had been considered “a nice guy and a good editor.”

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5/5/86

KVIQ-TV Eureka, Calif. Sold by California Northwest Broadcasting Co. to Miller Broadcasting Co. for $3.9 million. Seller is owned by Leah McConnell and her husband, Carl, who have no other broadcast interests. Buyer is owned by Ronald W. Miller, general manager of station. Miller’s wife, Diane, has interest in KMSI-TV Modesto and KJEOTV Fresno, both California. KVIQ-TV is independent on channel 6 with 100 kw visual, 16 kw aural and antenna 1,740 feet above average terrain.

KPOI-FM Honolulu. Sold by Robert W. Sudbrink to Kilohana Broadcasting Inc. for $2.6 million. Seller, Robert W. (Woody) Sudbrink, owns Delray Beach, Fla.-based group of four AM’s and two TV’s. Buyer is owned by Charles K. Cotton and three others. Cotton is former sales manager of KFMB-AM-FM San Diego. KPOI-FM is on 97.5 mhz with 83 kw and antenna 86 feet above average terrain. Broker: Blackburn & Co.

KTOB(AM) Petaluma, Calif. Sold by KTOB Inc. to North Bay Broadcasting Inc. for $800,000, comprising $400,000 cash and remainder note. Seller is principally owned by Robert S. Lipman and family and four others. It has no other broadcast interests. Buyer is owned by Barton J. Fenmore and Edward Gardner. Fenmore owns construction firm in Orange county. Calif. Gardner was San Francisco marketing vice president for Group W. KTOB is on 1490 kHz full time with 1 kw. Broker: William A. Exline, Inc.

KQWK(FM) Pittsburg, Kan. Sold by Heartland Broadcasting Inc. to American Media Investments Inc. for $747,405, comprising $100,000 cash and remainder note. Seller is principally owned by Timothy O. Menovsky, who also has interest in co-located KNZS(AM). Buyer is owned by Robert D. Freeman, Frank L. Carney and O. Gene Bicknell. It also owns KKWAM Pittsburg, Kan. KQWK is on 96.9 mhz with 100 kw and antenna 470 feet above average terrain.

KWBG-AM-FM Boone Iowa. Sold by Ken Kilmer Broadcasting Co. to KZBA Inc. for $606,344. Seller is headed by Dennis W. Borwick. It has no other broadcast interests. Buyer is owned by Ben R. Doud, Tim Hob-