

China before defecting to the United States, where he is awaiting a response to his request for political asylum. He gave a rare, detailed interview to *The Times* on Sunday regarding the activities of the MSS, China's Communist-controlled civilian spy agency.

His prior work as a Chinese spy was confirmed to *The Times* by a Western government source familiar with his defection. The source spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of Mr. Li's case.

Mr. Li told *The Times* that the MSS focuses on both counterintelligence—working against foreign intelligence agencies—and the collection of secrets and technology.

The MSS, however, is unique from other nations' intelligence services in that it is patterned after the former Soviet Union's KGB political police. Its most important mission is "to control the Chinese people to maintain the rule of the Communist Party," he added.

Wang Baodong, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, did not address Mr. Li's comments directly but repeated past Chinese government statements regarding its intelligence activities.

"Allegations of China conducting spying activities against the United States are groundless and unwarranted," he said Wednesday. "China never engages itself in activities that will harm other countries' national interests."

Mr. Wang said communist rule in China produced historic economic and social progress and that China has contributed to a more secure world. "This is a fact no one can deny," Mr. Wang said.

On those who leave the party, Mr. Wang said "there are also a handful of people who betray their faith and leave the party, whose acts as well as some people's political lies will never shadow the great feats of the party."

Mr. Li said he left China's intelligence services to protest the agency's role in government repression of political dissidents and religious groups that are outside of the ruling communist system.

The MSS, mainly a foreign intelligence service, is "deeply" involved in domestic repression of nonofficial Christian churches and the outlawed Falun Gong religious group, Mr. Li said.

"The Ministry of State Security is actually not doing things for the security of the country, but rather they spend a lot of effort to control the people, the dissidents, the lower-class Chinese people, and make these people suffer and also make their life miserable," he said.

In the interview, he also said:

China's spy agency is focused on sending spies to infiltrate the U.S. intelligence community, and also on collecting secrets and technology from the United States. "China spends a tremendous effort to send out spies to important countries like the U.S. to collect information," Mr. Li said.

China is censoring the Internet to prevent the population from knowing about what occurs outside the country.

An internal MSS manual that is kept secret from most officers outlines the primary role of the service as the promotion of Communist Party's interests.

Ongoing cooperation between the CIA and FBI and the MSS in countering international terrorism can be constructive, but U.S. agencies need to be cautious because the MSS is mainly an organ of the Chinese Communist Party, and does not directly serve the interests of the Chinese nation or people, he said.

Mr. Li said he worked in the MSS department in charge of gathering economic, political and technical information in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Some of the work involved targeting and recruiting foreign nationals who visit China.

He was born in 1968 in northern China and was first recruited into a provincial Chinese intelligence service before being promoted to the MSS in Beijing after several years.

Two groups in China that are a main focus of the MSS are unofficial Christian churches and the outlawed Falun Gong religious group, he said.

The MSS also has targeted pro-democracy activists, like those who were involved in the mass demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, he said.

The MSS is China's main civilian spy service that is viewed by U.S. intelligence officials as one of the world's most active in stealing secrets and running foreign spies. The military counterpart, the Second Department of the People's Liberation Army, or 2PLA, is focused on stealing foreign technology, much of it for weapons and military systems.

Together, the Chinese services are estimated to have several thousand trained operatives working around the world, most posing as diplomats, journalists, business representatives and academics. Thousands of other Chinese nationals also function as semiprofessional information gatherers.

Former FBI Special Agent I.C. Smith, a specialist in Chinese counterintelligence, confirmed that the MSS focuses its activities on penetrating U.S. intelligence and government agencies.

"The goal of every intelligence agency is to get someone inside, and in the case of Chinese, they use not just intelligence people but academics and everybody else," Mr. Smith said in an interview.

Mr. Li said his access to information that was banned for the general public helped him to turn against the system, including internal reports on party ideology and information on American values of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Li said that as a doctoral candidate, the MSS sent him to study at an American university, an experience that influenced in his decision to defect. In 2004, after he defected, he was declared an enemy of the state by the MSS in at least two notices sent to security offices in China.

According to U.S. counterintelligence officials, China, unlike the Soviet Union, has had only a small number of defections of intelligence officers like Mr. Li over the past 30 years.

Another spy who defected was a Chinese intelligence officer known publicly by the code-name "Planesman," who gave the FBI data that led to 1985 arrest of CIA interpreter Larry Wu-Tai Chin.

Another intelligence defector was Sr. Col. Yu Jungping, a military intelligence officer once posted to the Chinese Embassy in Washington who came over in the 1990s.

Mr. Li was in Washington to participate in a conference sponsored by the Falun Gong, a Buddhist-oriented group that advocates the replacement of the Chinese communist government. Mr. Li said he announced his formal withdrawal from the Communist Party at the conference, along with that of his father, who is also in the United States.

Mr. Li said he is neither a Christian nor Falun Gong member, but that his interest in religion and fear of being persecuted by the MSS contributed to his decision to defect.

Mr. Li said he thinks there are significant numbers of pro-democracy MSS officers inside the service, including those at high levels, who do not support the party and are "even anti-Communist Party" but fear taking any action.

"But I sincerely hope these people can play a special role in getting rid of the Communist Party," Mr. Li said.

The former intelligence officer, whose family left China with him, said it took him sev-

eral years to change his views. "After a few years of my personal experience inside the system, I really knew that the Communist Party is very bad," he said.

"My true ideal, actually, in this Chinese security department is really to do something for the Chinese people and the nation. But I really hated doing things just for the interest of the Communist Party and a lot of times those things that are in the interest of the Communist Party are doing harm to the Chinese people."

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH EVELYN WRIGHT, FOUNDER OF VOORHEES COLLEGE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, a visionary educator and an unsung American hero. Ms. Wright founded Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina in 1897, a remarkable accomplishment for a 25-year-old African American woman during the post-Reconstruction era. Her tremendous legacy will be honored by Voorhees College on April 7, 2009 as the campus commemorates and Founders' Day and celebrates the extraordinary contributions of this amazing young woman.

When Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was born on April 3, 1872 the seventh child of John and Virginia Wright in a poverty-stricken black community in Talbotton, Georgia, it would have been hard for anyone to believe she was destined for great things. Yet her academic talents were clear as she worked on the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic in the basement of St. Phillips AME Church. Her instructors urged and encouraged her to further her education, and despite significant financial challenges, she enrolled at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1888.

While at Tuskegee, Elizabeth worked in the cafeteria to pay for her tuition, and she caught the attention of its principal Booker T. Washington and his wife Olivia. They became her mentors and encouraged her to dedicate herself to the education of young African Americans as they had.

Elizabeth was forced to drop out of Tuskegee in her senior year due to illness. However, she was summoned by Mrs. Almira Steele, a white trustee at Tuskegee, and asked to teach at a school in McNeill, South Carolina. Elizabeth accepted, and in 1892, she began teaching in the Hampton County School. She spent only six months there before arson fueled by bigotry burned the school to the ground.

In 1893, Elizabeth returned to Tuskegee and completed her degree. Still committed to her mission in McNeill, she returned and opened another school for the black children in the area. Two more times, arson destroyed any hope of the school's success, but Elizabeth didn't let that destroy her dream. She encouraged the school's other teachers to join her in opening another school in Denmark.

As it was with her educational pursuits, finances were the primary obstacle for getting the school started. Undeterred Elizabeth began visiting churches to collect donations

for the new school. In a fortunate turn of events in 1897, she met Mrs. Sontag, the white owner of a two-story general store in Denmark who gave Elizabeth permission to house her school on the store's vacant second floor. On April 14, 1897, the Denmark Industrial School opened its doors to 14 students.

In one year the enrollment swelled to 270, and Elizabeth's mentors, the Washingtons, sent Martin Menafee, a Tuskegee graduate, to Denmark to help her raise money for a more permanent school. He was able to arrange a meeting with blind-philanthropist, Ralph Voorhees of Clinton, New Jersey. He and his wife Elizabeth became the primary benefactors of the school and enabled it to purchase land for a new structure on the outskirts of Denmark. To honor their generous contributions, the school was renamed Voorhees Industrial School, and in 1904, the South Carolina State Legislature voted to incorporate it.

The following year, Elizabeth Wright and her financial officer, Martin Menafee, married on the campus of their beloved school. But their life together was cut short when Elizabeth again became gravely ill. She went to a hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan to receive treatment from two of the country's best physicians—Dr. Jean Harris Whitney and one of the Kellogg brothers, Dr. John Kellogg. Despite their best efforts, Elizabeth died on December 14, 1906 at the age of 34.

Elizabeth Wright Menafee believed her mission in life was "to try and help my fellow man to help themselves and if a way was not open for them, I must open it myself." President Cleveland Sellers, his faculty and staff, and the students and alumni of Voorhees are to be commended for celebrating the life and sharing the story of Elizabeth Wright. Hers is an example for others to follow.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in applauding the tremendous legacy of Elizabeth Wright-Menafee. Her life is a testament to President Lincoln's declaration that "it's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years." The accomplishments of this extraordinary woman, within such a short life are truly inspirational.

HONORING GEORGE R. BARBOSA, JR.

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize George R. Barbosa, Jr. for his determination to strive for the best by winning 4th place in the State Wrestling Tournament on behalf of Klein High School.

Mr. Barbosa has shown through his hard work that anything is possible if one has the passion and determination to do so. Winning 4th place in the State Wrestling Tournament on Klein High School's behalf has made him the possessor of the best finish ever by a Klein High School male wrestler. Mr. Barbosa will continue his pursuit for greatness as he has now qualified for the National High School Wrestling Tournament.

I extend my highest regard for Mr. George R. Barbosa, Jr., a student who has chosen to become a role model for not only his sport,

but also for his school. On behalf of Klein High School and the City of Houston I send my congratulations.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION & TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1256, The Family Smoking Prevention & Tobacco Control Act. As an original sponsor of the legislation, I want to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman TOWNS for their leadership, and for helping to bring this important piece of legislation to the floor. The bill grants the FDA authority to regulate tobacco products and authorizes the agency to restrict the advertising, promotion and sale of tobacco.

I want to also thank Ms. Sandra Landis for her efforts to bring to my attention a long standing problem that has affected a small number of federal employees since 1990. Due in part to her persistent dedication, I was able to successfully amend this bill and address that issue.

HONORING MTSU'S COACH DEAN HAYES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dean Hayes, Head Coach of the Middle Tennessee State University Men's and Women's Track teams. On March 26, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved MTSU's request to name the University's state-of-the-art track and soccer stadium after Coach Dean Hayes—a timely accolade as the Blue Raiders are set to host the Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships this year from May 8–10.

Recently, Coach Hayes was inducted into the 2008 Class of the U.S. Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Phoenix, Arizona. This is Coach Hayes' fifth hall of fame induction—he has been inducted into the Blue Raider Hall of Fame (1982), Illinois Sports Hall of Fame (1993), Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (1994), and the Mason-Dixon Athletic Club Hall of Fame (2005).

Coach Hayes is in his 44th year at MTSU. He is credited with opening MTSU's track & field to minorities and welcoming the University's first international student-athletes. Coach Hayes has led Middle Tennessee to 29 Ohio Valley Conference titles, 14 Sun Belt Conference Championships and 18 NCAA Top 25 finishes.

He has won 15 OVC Coach of the Year and 12 SBC Coach of the Year awards, and he was named NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Coach of the Year in 1981. In 1977 and 1981, Coach Hayes was named NCAA District Coach of the Year. He also served as the President of NCAA Division I Track and Field Coaches from 1981–83.

The athletes under his care have gone on to compete in the Olympic Games, World University Games and Pan-American Games; 44 of 84 have won All-American honors; and four have become national champions.

Congratulations, Coach Hayes, on your latest success. I wish you many more. I'm glad Middle Tennessee was able to steal you away from your alma mater, Lake Forest College. Your leadership and dedication to MTSU is truly admirable.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PING

HON. JOHN. B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize today the 50th Anniversary of PING, a company that has become a legend for its contributions to the beloved game of golf.

It was on March 23rd in 1959 that Karsten Solheim, PING's founder, applied for a patent on the 1-A putter that made the famous "ping" sound heard round the world. Not long after that, PING opened their headquarters in Phoenix—where they have proudly stayed for many years.

Their Phoenix facility both manufactures and assembles PING golf clubs and over the years has provided countless jobs for Arizonans. Karsten and his wife Louise have always been mainstays of our community, as widely respected as the clubs they produce. Though Karsten sadly left us nine years ago, his legacy lives on and his story is a credit to our community and a testament to the drive and creativity of the American entrepreneur.

I congratulate PING and all its employees on this most auspicious occasion and wish them another 50 years of great success.

FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act, a bill to empower millions of working and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty". Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the