

**CAROLINE  
'DIDN'T  
ENTER  
ROOM'**

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Caroline Kennedy has denied reports that she might have entered her cousin David Kennedy's hotel room shortly before two employees found him dead of a drug overdose.

In a brief statement released this week, the 26-year-old daughter of John F. Kennedy said: "I was never in David Kennedy's room in the Brazilian Court hotel in Palm Beach, Fla."

She issued the statement after documents made public last week revealed that she and another woman were seen at the Brazilian Court Hotel about 90 minutes before Kennedy's body was discovered.

Kennedy, 28, was found slumped between the two beds in his \$250-a-day suite by hotel concierge Vincent Moschiano and hotel operator Betty Barnett. An autopsy revealed Kennedy died of a mixture of cocaine and two prescription drugs — the painkiller Demerol and the tranquilizer Mellaril.

Moschiano has told authorities that Caroline Kennedy "could have" gone into David Kennedy's room the morning of April 25 when his body was discovered.

He also told police he saw no drug paraphernalia when he entered Kennedy's suite that morning, but a toxicologist said that drugs were discovered in the toilet of Kennedy's room.

Police said they found 15 milligrams of cocaine on a \$20 bill in Kennedy's room, according to a document released Tuesday. This appeared to back up testimony by a 42-year-old Palm Beach woman who told investigators that she was with Kennedy in his room the night of April 23 and saw him roll up a \$20 bill and inhale cocaine through it.

Under court order, the Palm Beach County state attorney's office last Friday released hundreds of pages of investigative material.

According to the crime lab report, traces of cocaine and the pain killer Demerol were found in the toilet in Kennedy's room, apparently prompting investigators to wonder whether anyone had disturbed the scene before the body was found.

**'My dog inspired TV ads'**

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Mark Putman says a home movie of his Labrador retriever, Tiba, getting him a beer from an ice chest in his pickup truck may have spawned a Stroh's beer commercial about a suds-fetching dog.

"Some people teach their dogs to get the paper or retrieve their shoes," Putman said this week. "I taught mine to do something useful for me."

He said he has shown off nine-year-old Tiba's trick to hunting buddies, who "tell me to just name my price, but I couldn't sell her."

Putman said he sent Stroh Brewery Co. the movie of Tiba's stunt a few months before its ad, suggesting — but not showing — a dog fetching beers from a refrigerator, went on the air.

"She can also get one out of the refrigerator," he said.

**RECORD NUMBERS SEEKING ASYLUM**

**Gander becoming our defection capital**

By JULIAN BELTRAME  
Southam News

GANDER, Nfld. — Meek and edgy, cautiously glancing from side to side, they sidle up to the first uniform they see and, in broken English, speak the magic words "political asylum."

The scene has been occurring with increasing frequency inside the spartan corridors of this refueling stop for international air traffic in the isolated, northern interior of Newfoundland.

Gander, ideally situated on the trans-Atlantic route from Eastern Europe to Cuba, is gaining the reputation as the defection capital of Canada.

Forty-four people have defected to the West this year during the one-hour refueling stopovers by Eastern bloc airlines. That's more than the previous record for a full year and close to double the annual average.

"We can't think of any reason why there's been so many, but there seems to be a lot this year," said regional immigration manager Jeffrey Letto.

If there's no particular reason for the record number of defections, there are good reasons

why Gander has been picked as the spot to make a break.

Cubana, Aeroflot and Interflug, the national airlines of Cuba, the Soviet Union and East Germany, make about 1,000 stopovers in Gander each year. Since all traffic takes passengers from one communist country to another, Gander is their only opportunity to jump ship.

Ralph Mousaw, immigration program adviser in Ottawa, says although the department doesn't keep specific figures on defections from communist countries — the department lumps defectors with refugees from Third World countries — there is no doubt Gander gets the lion's share.

The defections are achieved with relative ease because all three airlines allow passengers to disembark during the stop.

He recalls one serious incident in 1981, when Cuban officials tried to prevent a woman doctor from seeking refuge in Canada and refused to take off without her. The flight was delayed for five hours while officials from the two countries haggled. In the end the woman stayed and the Cubana flight departed with an empty seat.

So far this year, immigration officials have processed defectors from Cuba, Iran, Poland, Romania, East Germany, Bulgaria and Sri Lanka. There have been Soviet defections in previous years.

"We don't get the high-profile ones," says Letto. "Most are doctors, accountants, teachers, students and some tradesmen."

"They say they're defecting because of lack of freedom, or they don't have freedom of religion, or freedom to study and travel. They all say they want political asylum because they'll be persecuted if they return."

Once they defect, the passengers are interviewed by Letto's staff and, because Gander has little hotel space, transferred to St. John's or other parts of the country.

The normal procedure for people claiming refugee status requires they be formally inter-

viewed by a senior immigration official and the report be reviewed by the Refugee Status Advisory Committee, which makes its recommendations to the immigration minister, who makes the final determination.

Refugees must show they have "justifiable concern" that returning home would endanger their lives or liberty because of race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.

Graham Hall, an official with the advisory committee, said most defectors from Gander are automatically processed as refugees "under compassionate and humanitarian grounds" because they come from Cuba or Iron Curtain countries.

Not all the defectors stay in Canada. Most East Germans defect to join families in West Germany, while many Cubans have relatives in the U.S.

**YOUNG FINDING RELIGION**

**Pravda alarmed at 'drift'**

MOSCOW (Reuter) — The Soviet Communist party newspaper Pravda indicated increased Kremlin concern Thursday that large numbers of young people are drifting to religion and called on schools and youth organizations to step up atheist propaganda.

A front-page Pravda editorial said sociological research shows a significant proportion of the population still holds religious beliefs.

"It is imperative to carry out more active propaganda of scientific-materialist opinions, pay more attention to atheist education," the paper said. "The party is particularly concerned that young people should form firm atheist convictions."

The editorial accused "imperialist circles" in the West of using religion as a weapon against communism.

Specific regions where religion was cited as causing most concern include Lithuania and the city of Lvov, both areas with strong historical links to neighboring Roman Catholic Poland, and Moslem Turkmenia on the border with Iran and Afghanistan. Pravda referred also to such ancient centres of Russian Orthodox faith as the cities of Ryazan and Vladimir.

The Russian Orthodox Church was repressed in the early days of the Bolshevik revolution but demonstrated a patriotic appeal during the Second World War and was rewarded by Stalin with a great relaxation of restrictions.

Orthodox leaders, headed by Patriarch Pimen, now make regular "peace appeals" which never fail to praise Soviet foreign policy initiatives.

But with large numbers of young people now noticeable at services, even if not always as full participants, there are signs of growing official unease as the church prepares to mark

the 1,000th anniversary of Russian Christianity in 1988.

"The party's problem with the Orthodox Church is that it opposes religion on ideological grounds but approves the Russian patriotism historically linked with the church," a western diplomat specializing in religious affairs said.

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