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Kaminsky Says He 'Spied' Only To Write Book



Associated Press

Two American tourists, Harvey C. Bennett, 26, at left, of Bath, Me., and Mark I. Kaminsky, 28, of Niles, Mich., shown at a news conference held in Vienna yesterday. Both men were expelled from the Soviet Union last week.

VIENNA, Oct. 18 (AP)—A young American tourist today said he was convicted of espionage in the Soviet Union after he admitted traveling through that country to gather material for a book on the Kremlin's preparations for war.

Mark I. Kaminsky, 28, whose family lives on a farm near Niles, Mich., arrived here last night from the Soviet Union, where he received a 7-year sentence Sept. 16 on spy charges. The Russians suspended the sentence and expelled Kaminsky and his traveling companion, Harvey C. Bennett, 26, of Bath, Maine.

"They told me it would be foolish not to plead guilty," Kaminsky told a news conference today. "They gave me a lawyer. He was not of much assistance, but he cheered me up. He advised me to confess to the charge wholeheartedly and tell the court I felt very remorseful. He stressed the part about 'remorseful' time and again.

"I did not carry out espionage nor did I confess to espionage. I did confess though that I was getting material for a book."

Photographs Confiscated

He explained later that under Soviet law it is considered espionage to gather the material he collected—"such facts as that there are soldiers everywhere in Russia." He said the subject of the survey was:

for use in a "slanderous" book about the Soviet Union.

Tass also reported that Bennett denounced Kaminsky as a spy during the trial. Bennett denied this and said:

"I explained to the Russians that Mark was writing a book and that was why he gathered information. But I had to agree that this was not the sort of activity a normal tourist would do."

Both said they made the trip under scholarships of \$2000 each from the Northcraft Educational Fund in Philadelphia. A U. S. attorney for the fund has refused to name the group's backers or give the location of its headquarters. Tass called it a "spy organization."

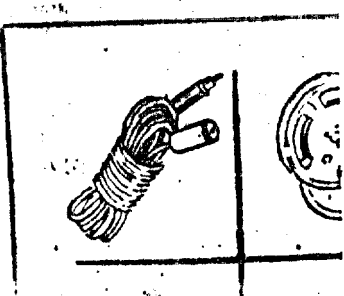
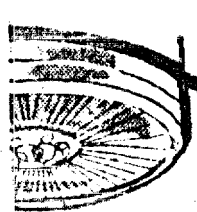
Bennett and Kaminsky were the latest in a series of American tourists arrested as spies this summer after the trial of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers on espionage charges.

Mentioned Many Times

Kaminsky said Powers' name popped up many times during the questioning, but the Russians also were clearly afraid that his case might have a bad effect on American tourism in the Soviet Union.

"The treatment simply was too good," he said. "The guards fell over themselves to do things for me."

However, he added that when they tried to get in contact with the U. S. Embassy



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