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THE ATOM SPIES

By: Oliver Ramsay PILAT

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312 pages

No index

This book deals principally with the net of spies in the U.S. occupied with atomic espionage during and after World War II. As such it deals mainly with Klaus FUCHS, Harry GOLD, Julius and Ethel ROSENBERG, David and Ruth GREENGLASS and their Soviet contacts. It makes only incidental references to the Canadian spy case as necessary.

The author employs a narrative style using somewhat of a psycho-analytical approach to the main characters, such as FUCHS, GOLD, the ROSENBERGS and the GREENGLASSES, going into their backgrounds so as to give the reader some insight into any possible motivation for their subsequent actions in the field of espionage.

The author states that during World War II as many as 1,500 unidentified NKVD members swarmed over the U.S., ostensibly as helpers in the dispatch of lend-lease materials

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to the Soviets, and that as late as 1946, some 1,000 of these secret police operatives were still in the US picking up blue-prints and anything else available. They carried as invited guest of the US. He also adds that during this period there was a tendency to soft-pedal any action against Soviet personnel such as NKVD agents masquerading as industrialists under cover of the Amtorg Trading Corporation.

By the same token, US CP members and their activities and contacts with Soviet officials such as YAKOVLEV, GROMOV, IVANOV, KASPEROV, KHEIFETS, et al., were by and large ignored except for occasional warnings by the FBI, ONI and Army intelligence. One such case cited relates to SILVERMASTER who operated freely both at the Board of Economic Warfare and later at the Department of Agriculture despite the fact that he had been tagged by the FBI and ONI as an NKVD operative.

According to the author, Arthur Alexandrovich ADAMS seems to have been the chief NKVD-MVD agent in the US as well as a Stalinist functionary. He arrived in New York for the first time in 1921 as engineering advisor to a Bolshevik Commission, remaining about one year. In 1927, he returned to the US, briefly, in the guise of Soviet auto expert desiring to learn about setting up an automobile plant. In 1932, he materialized again as a purchasing agent for Curtiss-Wright fighters for

the Soviet Aviation Trust. The author adds: "So perfectly masked was his 1938 arrival from Canada, that the US counter-intelligence people had no notion until the fall of 1943 that ADAMS was in the country."

Another one who arrived in the US in 1938 was a man who carried a passport originally issued to Ignacy WITCZAK, a naturalized Canadian who had lost it fighting with the Loyalists in Spain. He was actually in Washington when the Canadian Spy case broke. The FBI got on his trail and he disappeared from the US without a trace.

Analyst Comment: An identical British edition of this