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# STUDIES IN INTELLIGENCE



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**Recent Books**

**THE HOUSE OF SECRETS.** By *Gordon Young*. (New York: Duell, Sloan & Pierce. 1959. Pp. 179. \$3.75.)

Gordon Young, a veteran foreign correspondent whose name frequently appears on these pages, gives in this book an account of the Narodno Trudovoi Soyuz (People's Alliance of Russian Solidarists), or NTS, as the group is more commonly known. The NTS is an organization of Russian emigrés who believe that Communism in the Soviet Union can eventually be overthrown through popular revolution. To hasten this day, it has been active since 1930 in trying to introduce propaganda into the USSR.

During World War II members of the group reached the German-occupied areas of Russia and attempted to organize NTS cells. By infiltrating various German institutions and agencies, they had a direct influence on the initiation and furtherance of the Vlasov movement. This period of "collaboration" with the Germans was ended by the Gestapo's arresting the Solidarist leaders. After the war the NTS was reorganized in West Germany, began a boisterous search for Western support in all quarters, and in recent years has carried on a sizable propaganda program through leaflets, pamphlets, books, radio, and personal contacts with Soviets travelling abroad.

Mr. Young's description of the NTS organization, of the ideology of Solidarism which it proposes as an alternative to Communism, and of the group's propaganda operations is highly readable if somewhat superficial. The author has obtained most of his information from interviews with NTS leaders and members, rather than from the fairly large mass of available documentary material. Necessarily, the picture of the NTS that emerges is an extremely favorable one.

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Available information does corroborate the bulk of the factual material in Mr. Young's book. There are exceptions, such as the grossly exaggerated claim that within the past five years more than 100 million copies of NTS newspapers and leaflets have been dispatched into the Soviet Union. (The 100 million figure is more probably the amount of literature printed by the NTS Posev publishing house for the five-year period.) By and large, however, the story of the group's unequal, often tragic, sometimes heroic struggle against the Soviet Goliath is told without the wishful thinking that has characterized pro-NTS publicity in the past.

For the professional intelligence man, *The House of Secrets* will be useful as an easy-to-read, rapid review of this militant emigré group.

**W. P. ZIMMOCK**