

Radaslau
OSTROVSKI

TREASON IS THEIR PROFESSION

Article by A. Stuk, published in Soviet
Belorussian newspaper Litaratura i Mastatstva
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After a lengthy introduction in which Stuk attacks the ex-President of the Belorussian Central Council, Radaslau Astrouski, accusing him of treason and collaboration with the Germans during the war, the author continues:

"...But he (Astrouski) is confident that the Americans will not stop at that (referring to the war in Vietnam). He is sure that in the autumn of his life he will ride through the streets of Minsk (capital of Belorussia) as a victor on a white horse...

"His foster-children turned out well. Without them there would be no 'Institute for the Study of the USSR' or 'American Committee for Liberation' today; nor, of course, would there be any Radio 'Liberty'.

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"Many of Astrouski's old friends found shelter in Radio 'Liberty.' Their voices can be heard on the air from time to time. Some of them claim to be experts on the Belorussian economy, others—experts on culture. To lend themselves more importance, some have assumed fictitious academic titles, such as 'Professor' or 'Doctor of Sciences.' They don't all have the courage to call themselves by their true names. Many of them cling stubbornly to assumed names; for instance, Arciom Zahorny (actually Arsien Zahorny-trans.), Ales Halubicki, Andrej Zaleski, Vasil Krycki, Kastus Ramanovic, etc.

"What do these 'qualified' experts on Soviet Belorussia and their special advisers (reference to Americans-trans.) talk about? Naturally, about 'deficiencies' in the Soviet economy and about agricultural 'failures'. And this is done VERY nicely. For instance, when a Belorussian newspaper publishes something about delays in the flax harvest, then there is something to write about! The 'ex economy will arrive at conclusions that ten American supervisors would never dream of: 'Look here, brother,' they will say, 'the kolkhoz system has not panned out.' Nor can one write in any other way: Salaries are pegged to the writer's level of fantasy.

"A few people at the radio station specialize in Belorussian literature. Their methods are the same: They search out passages criticizing a particular phenomenon in our life, such as instances of delay, symptoms of bureaucracy, or when some hero is criticized for individual acts. From these excerpts they prepare articles that draw the following conclusions: Forces are maturing in Soviet Belorussia that are dissatisfied with the Soviet regime and with the Communist Party...

"Stanislau Stankievic, ex-Burgomaster of Barysau during the Nazi occupation, Kastus Rananovich and Arciom Zahorny are the ones who most often discuss literary topics. The last two continue to hide behind pseudonyms.

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"The ex-Hitlerite burgomaster now calls himself 'Professor' and 'Doctor of Sciences.' He often does interviews for his Radio Liberty employers on Belorussian literary affairs. (Reference is to the interviews transmitted every Sunday in Part II of the Belorussian Program prepared in New York-trans.) He claims to be a bona fide expert on literary affairs.

"Kastus Ramanovic has a pet theme: He usually mentions writers' anniversaries, particularly those of writers who have been rehabilitated. Not long ago he referred to the Mienskaja Hazeta (Minsk Journal) published during the Hitlerite occupation of Minsk. According to Ramanovic, the newspaper paid proper tribute to the poet Uladzimir Khadyka. He even had the courage to criticize the Hitlerites for murdering Khadyka's wife in the ghetto." (The article Stuck refers to was transmitted by Radio Liberty from Pals in the early morning of 5 Jan. 1966 and was repeated a few days later-trans.)

(The article "Literature and Art" goes on to attack Stanislaw Stankievic and Kastus Ramanovic, revealing the real name of the latter (Kazak) and describing the past of both men in defamatory fashion. It accuses both of high treason and collaboration with the Germans during the war. At the end, the article mentions "Dachauerstrasse 46/48 as the address of RLC headquarters.)

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