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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

Vorwärts, Bonn  
26 June 1963

SEE IF HE IS STILL ALIVE

By R. Philipp

STOCKHOLM. -- After the return of the Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson from his state visit in Moscow, almost all the Swedish dailies -- from the Social-Democratic main organ Stockhoms-Tidningen to the opposition Svenska Dagbladet -- published on the first page: "The Wallenberg Affair Has Not Been Settled".

Foreign Minister Nilsson had specifically summoned Wallenberg's mother and guardian and the representatives of the struggle for the liberation of this diplomat who, as the "Hero of Budapest" has not yet been forgotten in his homeland and told them, "The most important purpose of his Soviet trip had been the repatriation of Wallenberg. In connection with the great Kremlin conference referred to in the press he therefore had sought a clear answer from Mr. Khrushchev with respect to Wallenberg at a special interview in the presence of the oldest colleagues of an interpreter. Mr. Khrushchev stated: His government could only refer to the information which had been communicated by Foreign Minister Gromyko in the memorandum of 6 February 1957 to the Swedish Government."

Until 1957 the Government of the USSR had always replied to all Swedish notes that Wallenberg was never a Russian prisoner, he had never been on Soviet soil, and that he had probably lost his life due to German bombs or in any case in the battle area in Hungary.

In actuality Wallenberg, who was sent by the Swedish Government in July 1944 as First Secretary of Legation to Budapest with the special order to rescue if possible the rest of the Jews who had not been deported to the gas chambers, remained as the only foreign diplomat in the Pest part of the city, which had a population of 1,000,000, when the German troops abandoned Pest and retreated to the Buda part of the city on the other side of the Danube and the Gestapo fled by airplane with Eichmann to the Austrian border.

When the Swedish Minister summoned him to come to Buda, where all missions and consulates remained in relative security, Wallenberg asked permission to await the arrival of the Red Army in Pest and to be permitted to deal with the Soviet High Command as Charge d'Affaires in the interests of those under his protection.

On 15 January the first Soviet patrol came to Wallenberg's Legation. Wallenberg asked to be taken to the city commander. The latter, General Chernishev, "took him under his protection". Raoul asked to be permitted to drive to Debrecen beforehand, where the headquarters of Marshal Malinowski (now Defense Minister of the USSR) and the High Commissioner of the Allies, Voroshilov, were. Wallenberg received permission on 17 January to drive to Debrecen. Under escort of military police he was permitted to say goodbye to his personnel. He said to witnesses, "I am driving to Debrecen. Whether as a prisoner or a free man, I don't know."

On 10 January 1945 -- one day before this trip -- the Soviet Foreign Office informed the Swedish Minister in Moscow in a note that the military authorities had taken Wallenberg and his property under their protection.

On 30 January 1945 Wallenberg was brought to a cell in Moscow's Lubyanka prison, where the German Attache was. After his return home the latter transmitted to us a long message of Wallenberg immediately after his transfer to Friedland.

Despite these official Russian "receipts", the Soviet authorities have denied for 12 years that Wallenberg was a Soviet prisoner. And when we had collected overwhelming evidence from many prominent returnees who had had contact with Wallenberg in prisons, and when Minister President