

FOIAb3b

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER 18, 1960

UPI-18

ADD AMERICANS, VIENNA (UPI-3)

(IN MOSCOW THE SOVIET TRUTH UNION NEWSPAPER SAID THAT KAMINSKY, LIKE PILOT FRANCIS POWERS, HAD SPIED BECAUSE HE WAS MERCENARY. THE NEWSPAPER CARRIED A PHOTOGRAPH OF KAMINSKY'S NOTES AND DESCRIBED HIM AS "A LITTLE GROUND POWERS.")

KAMINSKY SAID HE PLANNED ORIGINALLY TO TOUR RUSSIA FOR FIVE WEEKS TO GATHER INFORMATION FOR A BOOK "TO SHOW THAT THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUALLY TALKS ABOUT PEACE BUT IS PREPARING FOR WAR."

HE SAID THE NORTHCRAFT EDUCATIONAL FUND IN PHILADELPHIA GRANTED HIM AND BENNETT EACH A \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP TO FINANCE THE TRIP.

THE TWO AMERICANS SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN "BRAINWASHED," ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE EARLIER QUESTIONING SESSIONS HAD GONE ON FOR EIGHT HOURS AT A STRETCH. THEY SAID SOVIET GUARDS TOLD THEM THAT THEIR SENTENCE WOULD BE MADE LIGHTER IF THEY PLEADED GUILTY.

KAMINSKY AND BENNETT SAID THEY WERE FIRST PICKED UP WHEN THEY TRIED TO LEAVE RUSSIA VIA CSOP, AN EXIT POINT ON THE CZECH BORDER. THEY SAID THAT DESPITE EARLIER CLEARANCE FROM THE OFFICIAL SOVIET TRAVEL AGENCY INTOURIST THEY FOUND THE AREA TO BE RESTRICTED.

THEY SAID THAT IN UZHGOROD, NEAR THE CZECH BORDER, POLICE DETAINED THEM "UNTIL WE CLEAR UP THE SUBJECT MATTER IN YOUR FILM."

THEY SAID THIS DETENTION, WHICH AMOUNTED TO HOUSE ARREST IN A HOTEL, LASTED FOR NINE DAYS UNTIL THEY WERE FLOWN TO KIEV. KAMINSKY WAS PUT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. BENNETT WAS LODGED IN A HOTEL AS A WITNESS.

KAMINSKY SAID THAT "ALTHOUGH I KNEW THAT I WAS BEING TRIED UNDER ARTICLE TWO OF THE SOVIET LAW AND THAT CARRIES THE DEATH SENTENCE, I WAS REPEATEDLY ASSURED BY THE RUSSIANS THAT THEY WOULD NOT EXECUTE ME."

HE SAID THAT THE PROSECUTOR EVEN TOLD HIM: "KEEP YOUR HEAD UP KAMINSKY, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE HERE."

10/18--GE943A

COPYRIGHT