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TRIAL OF GERALD BROOKE IN MOSCOW

On July 22 the trial of Gerald Brooke, a 27-year old British citizen, started in Moscow. He is charged under article 70 of the RSFSR Criminal Code with conducting anti-Soviet subversive activities. Officials of the State Security Committee with the assistance of Soviet citizens in good time cut short Brooke's subversive activities who fully pleaded guilty to the charges preferred against him. Brooke realised his fault and has regretted that he got in touch with scum who had drawn him into a conflict with Soviet law. He still does not understand how he could have fallen so low.

Meeting With Georgi

In December 1963 Gerald Brooke visited the Collets Russian book shop to look through new books which had been received from Russia. Being a teacher of Russian language and literature in Holborn College, he regularly, at least twice a month, visited the Russian book shop.

Gerald became interested in the Russian language while at school. On finishing school in 1956, he enrolled at the Slavonic Studies Faculty of London University. While preparing to become a teacher of Russian language and literature Brooke visited the Soviet Union at the beginning of 1959 as a member of a group of 19, in accordance with the programme of cultural exchanges and took a post-graduate course in the Philological Faculty of Moscow State University. Another British citizen, Martin Dewherst studied with him in the University. It should be noted that Dewherst was on two occasions expelled from the Soviet Union for subversive anti-Soviet activities. It cannot be said that they were friends. However, as they had arrived in one group and studied at one faculty, they often visited each other.

On returning from Russia in 1960, Gerald Brooke described with admiration to his friends the year he had spent in Moscow. He hardly met Dewherst in Britain, worked hard, and in 1963 became a member of the Great Britain-USSR Society.

Brooke unexpectedly met Dewherst in the shop. The latter told him that he had also come for books. They spoke of family matters and their work. Unexpectedly Dewherst invited Brooke to become acquainted with his friend, "an interesting Russian who knows contemporary Soviet literature." Brooke

agreed and they went to the British Museum.

Apparently this meeting had been prepared in advance. No sooner had they approached the museum than a 35-year old stout man came up to them. He greeted Dewherst and the latter introduced him to Brooke. He was called Georgi. It was time for lunch and Georgi proposed that they go to a restaurant.

Acquaintanceship

There were many people in the large room of the Ivanhoe restaurant. They took a table near the entrance, ordered lunch, and while smoking, started to talk about literature. To be more exact Georgi and Dewherst did the talking. Brooke listened with interest to the talk. Dewherst in every way criticised the Soviet system, recalled his life in Moscow and his post-graduate studies in the University, while Georgi agreed with him, now and then adding some details.

At times they asked what Brooke thought about one or other thing as a specialist of Russian literature. Georgi asked Brooke about his life, showed interest in his parents, his wife and especially his studies in Moscow. He asked whether Brooke had made many friends while in Russia: Did he correspond with them? Had Brooke any intention of revisiting Russia? Georgi spoke very little about himself. When parting, they agreed to have lunch together within a fortnight, meeting at the British Museum.

Their next lunch was in Schmidts restaurant. They came when most of the visitors had already finished their lunch. Dewherst and Georgi looked through the room and proposed that they take a far-off table near which there were no customers.

After ordering lunch, they again started to talk about Soviet literature. Then Georgi brought up the subject of religion. One could feel that he did this specially for Brooke. He was indignant over churches allegedly being closed in Russia, that among the graduates of theological colleges there were as though many Communists-spies, that religious people were unable to observe church feasts. He fell silent unexpectedly, just in the same way as he had started on this topic. There was no trace of his indignation. He sat calm and unruffled, concentrating all his attention on his beefsteak.

When coffee with cream and pastries, Gerald Brooke's favourite delicacy, were served, Georgi gave him a thin magazine in the Russian language. He said that the organisation to which he belongs publishes this magazine and that in the past it had been sent to the Soviet Union, using air balloons. Now, however, they use the mails for this purpose. Brooke listened to him with interest, although many things were unclear to him.

"What is the name of your organisation?" he asked Georgi. Georgi looked at Dewherst and did not reply.

"Let's have it this way, Gerald," he said, "let's meet within a fortnight at my friend's flat and then I will reply to all your questions."

NTS Or Intelligence Service

They met at the beginning of last March about seven or eight in the evening at the Earl's Court underground station. Looking uneasily from side to side, Georgi offered Brooke immediately ^{to} go to Max Nikolsky's flat (23 Nevern Sq. London S.W.5). Georgi opened the door with his key. Nobody was at home. They were alone in the flat and Georgi immediately got down to business. He said that he belonged to the NTS (Narodno-Trudovoi Soyuz--People's Labour Union), the members of which were mainly persons of Russian origin. While listening to the story about the NTS Brooke noticed Georgi's small furtive eyes. He received the impression that Georgi was repeating a lesson by rote.

"No, the NTS is as yet not a rich or large organization," Georgi said. "However, we have ties and the necessary people will give us necessary support." If Brooke had pondered over the words of his recent acquaintance, he would have understood what this renegade, this "specialist on Russian literature" was hinting at. The intelligence organs of certain militarist states resort in their subversive activities to the assistance of such people. Living in poverty and in dirt, such people of Russian extraction have no scruples in undertaking any "work." Aware of the fact that their country would never forgive them, they are prepared to spread any concoction, to promise the inevitable fall of Soviet power for a shilling, just as Judas sold Christ for 30 pieces of silver. At first Georgi only asked Brooke to mail some letters when he would be in Moscow. Later, when Brooke agreed to do this Georgi asked him to bring back from Moscow envelopes with stamps, several Soviet-made articles to be used in future as caches for transporting NTS literature to the USSR. Finally this ended with Brooke agreeing to turn over an album and a dressing-case to citizen Konstantinov and to meet "artist" Titov and turn over NTS materials, as well as to get information of a political and socio-political nature.

Today, recalling some of the details, Gerald Brooke realises why Georgi, this "active freedom-fighter" met with him secretly, did not give him his telephone number, asked that he should call him by another name among his friends, whom he presented as like-minded members of his organization.

Citizen Konstantinov, "Artist" Titov and
Mr. Bishop

When examining how the NTS outfitted Brooke, the impression is that this organization consisted of two persons--Georgi and his wife. They bought a sports-shirt for Brooke in which Georgi's wife sewed several special pockets for carrying letters. Brooke was also given pyjamas. Judging from their appearance these pyjamas had served Georgi for many a year. However the main assignment Brooke received from Georgi was to turn over the dressing-case and the album with anti-Soviet materials to citizen Konstantinov. Georgi asked Brooke to remember Konstantinov's address, several times showed him on a map of Moscow how to find the flat without asking any passerby. The main thing he asked was to turn these articles over to Konstantinov personally, and to no one else.

Gerald Brooke was detained in Moscow at Konstantinov's flat at the time when he turned over to the latter the dressing-case and album which he had brought from Britain. Soviet security officers were interested in the contents of the album and dressing-case and found in them carefully hidden instructions on how to receive and decipher coded radio broadcasts and a code table; means for cryptography; instructions for drawing up anti-Soviet documents; a set of rubber type and cliches for putting out leaflets of a subversive nature and other materials designated for anti-Soviet activities.

Gerald Brooke failed to meet "artist" Titov. He was not informed of the fact that Titov is a mental case and spends much time in mental hospitals.

Another person should be mentioned in this case. His name became known after Gerald Brooke's arrest. Anthony Bishop of the British Embassy staff in case of failure or if Brooke discovered that he was being followed was to receive from the latter the album and its contents, which were designated for Konstantinov, and ship them to Britain in the diplomatic pouch. Bishop had already received from Dewherst NTS materials and had sent them to Britain through the diplomatic pouch.

The participation of British diplomat Bishop in this dirty business can be explained by the fact that the British authorities, despite good diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the USSR, allow in their country the existence of an organization which calls itself the NTS and conducts activities hostile towards the Soviet Union, encourage these activities and allow British citizens to be used for subversive work against the USSR.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Gerald Brooke will be tried for his subversive anti-Soviet activities in strict accordance with the laws of the Soviet Union and will get his