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ROGERS REPORTS:

'63 Was a Bad Year for Soviet Spies

By WARREN ROGERS

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WASHINGTON:—All in all, the hit program on the espionage circuit during the year just past was "Sing Along With Ivan Ivanovich."

And the star of that show was a reserve Russian colonel named Oleg V. Penkovsky, who unfortunately paid for that dubious honor with his life. Penkovsky, probably a double agent, talked to American and British intelligence experts and, when finally arrested, sang to their Russian counterparts in Moscow's bleak Lubyanka Prison.

The upshot was a rash of arrests, exposures, and defections among espionage agents in many countries, including the United States. It is difficult to pinpoint precisely which among these are attributable to Penkovsky. Those who know are in a profession which makes a fetish of discretion, but they concede that the loss of Penkovsky had a vast chain reaction.

The 44-year-old colonel, a trusted scientific coordinator who worked intimately with Russia's top scientific and military leaders, was executed in May. He confessed to a Moscow military court that he had passed military, political and economic secrets to the British and Americans for 17 months. Greville M. Wynne, a British businessman, confessed he was Penkovsky's "contact" and drew an eight-year sentence.



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Many a spy, counterspy and double-spy ran for cover. H. A. P. Phibey, journalist and former British diplomat, was unmasked as "the third man" in the Burgess-Maclean spy case. He promptly scooted into asylum in Russia. Anatoly Dolnytsin, billed as a Soviet "master spy," fled to London, where U.S. and British agents eagerly interrogated him.

The Russians were badly shaken by the Penkovsky affair. They called home many of their military attaches, whose work is frankly to gather intelligence. Some returned to their posts but others, apparently compromised by Penkovsky and Dolnytsin, shifted to other jobs. Reports are that the entire Soviet spy apparatus was revamped throughout the world.

In Russia itself, the ax fell on Soviet scientific and military officials who had been associated with Penkovsky. They found themselves walking a beat on the steppes as a result of charges that they talked too freely to Penkovsky and failed to figure out he was passing along all they told him to the Allies.

It is a strong speculation that Ivan-Asen Khristov Georgiev might be alive today if they had not caught Penkovsky. Georgiev, dapper 56, confessed to Bulgaria's Supreme Court on Dec. 26 that he voluntarily spied for the United States for seven years. There is no published proof Penkovsky fingered him, but it is a good bet.

Georgiev was counselor to Bulgaria's United Nations Mission from 1956 to 1961. During that time and for the two years after he returned to Europe, the court said, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency paid him a total of \$200,000. He confessed he spent it on high living with "loose women" and "many mistresses." He was shot to death in Sofia.

Some years, as when Francis Gary Powers and his U-2 shamed the United States, nothing our side does seems to turn out right. But there are others when the breaks in the never-never land of espionage go against the Russians. And 1963 was one of them.

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