

JAN 16 1964

CPYRGHT

Allen-Scott Report

# Barghoorn Will Be Back

By ROBERT S. ALLEN

CPYRGHT AND PAUL SCOTT



Mr. Allen

FOIAb3b

The mystery-shrouded case involving Professor Frederick Barghoorn's surprise imprisonment and release by the Russians is going to make new headlines.

The Yale "expert" on Soviet affairs has privately admitted signing several written statements under threat of long prison sentences by his Soviet interrogators during his 18-day confinement in Moscow last November.

Under intensive grilling by members of a House Judiciary Investigating subcommittee, Professor Barghoorn disclosed that the signed statements contained detailed information on his activities and travels in the Soviet Union and his work with the State Department.

While admitting that he didn't know whether any of the information given the Russians could be used against the U. S. he flatly denied his statements were "confessions."

Barghoorn, a key figure in U.S. - Soviet cultural exchange programs, stressed that the documents he signed were "protocols" containing his answers to questions put to him in day-long grillings by his Soviet interrogators.

Although the Russians did not mistreat him during his imprisonment, Barghoorn reported that food was withheld from him during part of his confinement, and that bright lights were kept on in his cell at all times.

Barghoorn also startled the legislators, who are making a thorough investigation of the U.S. - Soviet cultural exchange program, with some heretofore unpublished details concerning his arrest.

Under questioning by Representative Michael Feighan, D-O., chairman, the Yale professor revealed that the Soviet employe who serves as Ambassador Foy Kohler's chauffeur, witnessed his arrest but did not report it to U.S. officials. The incident took place in front of Barghoorn's Moscow hotel after the chauffeur drove him back from a meeting at the U.S. embassy.

Barghoorn was held 12 days before Russian authorities notified Ambassador Kohler of his arrest, and American officials never were allowed to talk to him. He was finally released on the personal intervention of the late President Kennedy.

This reluctant testimony of Barghoorn, which the subcommittee plans to make public later this month, already has cast a dark shadow on U.S.-Soviet negotiations to extend the cultural exchange program and for the opening of consulates in both countries.

These Moscow talks are deadlocked over the Soviet's refusal to agree to a demand by U.S. negotiators to sign an agreement permitting U.S. officials immediate access to any U.S. citizens taken into Russian custody.

This safeguard was sought by the State Department after members of Feighan's subcommittee, who grilled Barghoorn, demanded that extension of the cultural exchange program be held up pending a thorough investigation.

By unanimous bipartisan action, the subcommittee vigorously called on Secretary Rusk not to engage in the new negotiations on the ground "the benefits are so heavily weighted in favor of Russia as to make further U.S. participation ridiculous and not in the national interest of our country."

The group made this demand in the form of a letter signed by every member — Representatives Feighan, Frank Chelf, D-Ky., Peter Rodino, D-N.J., Arch Moore, R-W. Va., and Richard Poff, R-Va.

The negotiations, which were resumed last week in Moscow, had been suspended in November in retaliation for the arrest of Barghoorn on espionage charges.

The legislators are planning to recall Barghoorn to question him further about his imprisonment after receiving additional information from intelligence sources about this strange affair.

On orders from Secretary of State Rusk, State Department legal officers have been directed to press their ouster case against suspended security officer Otto Otopka. They have sent him a list of six foreign service officers from which he is to select one as the officer to hear the Department's charges against him and his appeal. President Johnson's efforts to mediate the dispute failed.