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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Aug. 15, 1960

POWERS CASE PUTS U.S. POLICY ON TRIAL

Interview with Soviet Jurist

Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Aug. 13, 1960, 1800 GMT--L

(Text) On Aug. 17 in Moscow the trial of U.S. spy pilot Powers begins. An indictment confirmed by the prosecutor general has already been published in the press.

But how will the trial itself be held? Our correspondent asked this question to the distinguished Soviet jurist, corresponding member of the academy of sciences, Comrade (Strogovich?).

Question: Please tell us the (procedural?) standards which will lie at the basis of the forthcoming trial of Powers.

Answer: Powers committed a (gross?) state crime against the Soviet Union and against the workers and must bear criminal responsibility for it with all the severity of Soviet law. He will be tried, as has already been announced in the press, by the military collegium of the USSR Supreme Court. Powers will be tried on the basis of the same law and according to the same procedural system as any other criminal case in a Soviet court.

Under these laws, the defendant is granted wide opportunities to defend himself. He is granted the right to have a defense counsel, and Powers, like any other defendant in a Soviet court, will have the right to take part in the examination of all evidence, to make representations to the court, to contest the accusations, to give explanations, and so on.

The trial will be public, so broad sections of the Soviet Public and representatives of foreign states will be able to follow its entire course. All the evidence will be brought forward in court, and on this basis the case will be decided. Powers will be tried for the crime for which he was indicted and on the basis of the evidence and data quoted in the indictment or referred to in it.

The case against Powers is complete, unquestionable, and without doubt. All the facts of the crime committed by him have been proved, but the court will consider the case on the basis of (several words indistinct). This means that the court in its conclusions and decisions, and sentence, will base itself not on that which has been written down in the indictment but on that which is directly examined and investigated by the court with the participation of (word indistinct) in a juridical sitting.

Question: Will us please, will the decision, the sentence pronounced by the court, be final, or can an appeal be made?

Answer: A sentence of the USSR Supreme Court, in this case of the military collegium of the Supreme Court, is final, and under the constitution there is no right of appeal. The sentence of the collegium can be reviewed as a matter of judicial control only by a plenum of the USSR Supreme Court in a case where the chairman of the Supreme Court or the prosecutor general of the USSR protests against the sentence. Apart from this, the defendant has the right to ask for a pardon by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which has the right to grant such a pardon. The Powers trial will show all workers of the Soviet Union and the whole world (few words indistinct) of reactionary imperialist forces, which are doing everything to heat up the international atmosphere, to hinder the lessening of international tension and inflame the military psychosis.

Telpovskiy Commentary

Moscow, Soviet European Service in English, Aug. 12, 1960, 2130 GMT--L

(Text) U.S. leaders are apprehensive about the trial next week of their spy, Francis Powers, brought down in the USSR May 1 in the U-2 plane incident. Powers' trial in Moscow will at the same time be a trial of those in Washington who committed aggression against the USSR when they sent him into Soviet territory.

So, another anti-Soviet campaign is being boosted in the United States. The State Department has three times declared that when the USSR informs the world about U.S. spy activities it is trying to brainwash the public against the United States. (Now does that sound very logical??) The United States sends us a spy pilot, committing aggression against us, but this isn't supposed to influence the public against the United States.

It has elevated espionage and provocation into a doctrine of U.S. foreign policy. President Eisenhower, for example, admitted that spy flights are predetermined policy, and that also is not supposed to influence the public. But when a spy is caught redhanded and put on trial, in keeping with international law, the State Department complains that the world public is being incited against the United States.

Other espionage activities of the United States against the USSR have also come to light recently. There was a Robert Christner who came to the USSR disguised as a tourist. He was sent out of the country. The U.S. air attache in Moscow, Col. Edwin M. Lan, was also caught with the goods. But in defiance of the fact the State Department declared that when he was shipped out it was also an attempt to arouse the world public against the United States.

The State Department modestly keeps quiet about the fact that spying U.S. diplomats had been exposed long before the Powers case. Remember the former military attaché, Gen. Robert Grow. A British army officer, Richard (Squires?), wrote in one of his books that while General Grow was in Moscow he held a place of no little importance in the U.S. military intelligence apparatus.

The provocative campaign now prompted by U.S. leaders due to the Powers trial is only confirmation of their ill fame. The State Department hysterics have not got with understanding either in Europe or in the United States itself. If there is anyone who can't be accused of wishing harm to U.S. leaders it is the Washington STAR, and even it says the Russians have no reason for trying to rouse public opinion since they have enough proof of Powers' guilt. The paper asks for what reason is the State Department blaming the Russians? The answer is obvious. The State Department is fanning up an anti-Soviet campaign to soften the blow when the Powers trial hits out at Eisenhower-Nixon politics. No wonder Andrew Berding, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, has said that the administration is going through a very difficult period.

(Editor's Note--L: Moscow Soviet European service in Hungarian at 1830 GMT on Aug. 13 carries the same commentary, but gives the concluding paragraph as follows: "The campaign of provocation launched by Washington in connection with the Powers trial only serves to confirm its reputation as an organizer of bandit attacks and widespread espionage. The Washington STAR recently set the poser: Why did Washington accuse the Russians of wanting to undermine the reputation of America, since the Russians have enough proof to show that Americans indulge in spying and that Washington places its trust in it? To this we may add that if the destruction of Powers' plane was a just act on the part of the Soviet Union and amounted to a resounding slap in the face of the notorious American prestige, Powers' court trial will amount to another no less resounding slap."

Kalugin Dispatch

Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Aug. 12, 1960, 1930 GMT--L

(Dispatch from New York)

(Text) The coming trial of the U.S. spy pilot Powers is attracting much attention among the American public. The pages of the U.S. press are full of articles about Powers and his relatives.

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The report that Powers admitted to the accusations against him aroused nervous concern in Washington. A representative of the State Department refused to comment on the indictment published in Moscow. Nevertheless, he saw fit to note that the accused had been under the control of Soviet authorities for over 100 days and for this reason, so he said, no great significance should be attached to his admissions. This served as a signal for the liars and clairvoyants of the yellow press. In their eagerness to do the right thing by their bosses, some U.S. newspapermen go to absurd extremes. "There are no objective proofs that Powers is still alive," wrote observer (Starnet?) in the New York WORLD-TELEGRAPH AND SUN. Then, thinking better of it, he noted: "One should assume all the same that Powers is alive," as his presence at the trial will be necessary."

What is it that is putting Washington in a sweat? Why is this sweat depriving the U.S. press of reason and logic? A reply to these questions is, wittingly or unwittingly, supplied by the same (Starnet?). He is compelled to admit that, as a result of the evidence which Powers will supply at the trial, the United States will experience new shocks and blows. So this is the crux of the matter. This is why the Starnets are trying to discredit Powers' evidence in advance.

After all, Powers' trial is a trial of those who sent the spy plane into Soviet airspace. The White House, the State Department, the Pentagon and the yellow press have been overcome with fear. They fear new exposures of their criminal policy directed at aggravation of the international situation.

Interview with Iranian Officer

Moscow, Soviet Near Eastern Service in Persian, Aug. 13, 1950, 1100 GMT--L

(Aleksandrov interview with Reza Zadeh, defecting Iranian Army officer)

(Summary) Aleksandrov: Mr. Reza Zadeh, the Iranian officer who came to the USSR for political asylum, is now in the studio. Would you like to take part in the conversation, Mr. Reza Zadeh?

Reza Zadeh: Willingly. I, like so many people of the world, am concerned with the problem of peace and war.

Aleksandrov: Well, let us talk about it. Many people now in the USSR are awaiting Powers' trial.

Reza Zadeh: "In Iran, too, the people talk of Powers, the U.S. pilot. All the Iranian people express their hatred of U.S. provocations against the USSR."

Aleksandrov: "The Shah said that he did not know anything of U.S. provocations."

Reza Zadeh: "Yes, but we did not believe it, because there are thousands of U.S. officers and experts, including pilots who fly everywhere, any time, and do what they please."

Aleksandrov: "It is true. Powers said he was authorized to use any Iranian airfield. Besides, Powers said Lockheed U-2's were flying along Soviet borders as early as 1953. Powers said he used Iranian airfields when it was necessary."

Reza Zadeh: "Yes, but the Shah is lying. 'The Shah and the members of Eghbal's government know full well that the Americans use Iranian soil for aggression against the USSR.' The Shah is aware of this fact. A relative of his, General Khatami, is head of Iranian Air Force."

"Doubtless, the Shah is not only aware of air espionage and subversive activities of the United States, but he himself takes a major part in preparations for such activities. Like the majority of Iranians, I will never be deceived. I know that the Shah, quite consciously, helps his U.S. bosses in machinations and provocations against the USSR."

Only a handful of reactionaries support the Shah, and the people despise him, as he has sold out the national wealth to U.S. imperialism. "Until a short time ago, I was living among ordinary Iranian people. I am aware of their life and their opinions. Expressing the feeling of millions of Iranians, I declare that the Iranian people ask for friendship with their northern neighbor and want to live in peace and quiet."

Aleksandrov: "I know, too, that the Shah is assisting U.S. imperialists, and I share the anger of the Iranian people. Powers' trial is the trial of Iranian rulers as well. The Soviet people believe that the Iranian nation is peace-loving. We are convinced that the healthy Iranian national forces will not permit the Shah's clique to drive the country toward the abyss of war for the sake of U.S. imperialism. We are sure that the courageous Iranian people will be able to direct the country along the path of progress and exaltation."

Reza Zadeh: "Iranian officers are awaiting an opportunity to expell the Yankees and to overthrow the Shah."

Aleksandrov: Thank you for coming along to the studio.

Reza Zafsh: It was a pleasure.

AMERICAN USED TOURISM TO SPY FOR U.S.

Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Aug. 12, 1960, 1500 GMT--L

(IZVESTIYA article by /Chitayn/: "The Spy with the Tourist's Travel Bag")

(Text) A lean, bespectacled young man entered the compartment. One immediately recognized him as a foreigner, but he spoke Russian well. As always when traveling, a conversation was soon started. The young man's traveling companion was N.V. Denisov, a worker of the Lvov statistical department. The man introduced himself as Charles, an American tourist taking a trip through the Soviet Union. He had already been in Uzhgorod, Lvov, and was going to spend a few days in Kiev. "Well, I hope you have a pleasant trip. Lvov is a beautiful town. In Kiev, too, there is a lot to see", said Denisov. Unfortunately, in Lvov Charles lost his wallet. That was bad luck, and Denisov was not going to see the American starve all the way to Kiev, so he shared his lunch with him. Then they had dinner together. In short, he helped as best he could the man who found himself in difficulty.

Many visitors from abroad, including the United States, come to our country. We are happy that they want to see our towns with their own eyes, to get to know our people. In July alone 14,751 tourists from capitalist countries, including 3,400 Americans, visited the USSR. Only a few days ago 3,000 Americans, passengers from the SS Argentina of the Moore-McCormack Shipping Company, visited Leningrad and Moscow. Other groups of American tourists are expected. We welcome you, dear guests, so long as you are not like Charles. He is not a good guest.

When the train approached a station, or passed major industrial buildings, Charles, under one pretext or another, tried to sneak out of the compartment, frequently locking himself in the toilet. Denisov was a little surprised by this conduct. Deciding once to follow Charles, he found him photographing the station. Denisov was suspicious and waited to see what was to follow. Soon he saw him photographing factories, trains, and freight on the platforms. At a junction near Kiev the guest stood at a window and drew a diagram of the railway system in his notebook. Just before arriving in Kiev Charles tried to make Denisov a present of two anti-Soviet books.

Reporting all these incidents involving the American tourist in coach No. 7 of train No. 9 from Lvov to Kiev, Denisov wrote to the Kiev militia department: "I am deeply indignant at the insolent behavior of this American tourist spy. He took advantage of the hospitality and good will of the Soviet people to do his dirty deeds."

From our previous issue of IZVESTIYA readers will know what sort of person this Charles is. The American Robert Harold Christner, who came to our country as a tourist, started assiduously collecting intelligence information the day he arrived in the USSR. A postgraduate student of Georgetown University in Washington, and a historian by profession, in our towns he was engaged in activity completely unrelated to his subject.

From Kiev Christner went on to Simferopol, then to Yalta, Sochi, Baku, and Stalingrad. In Yalta, incidentally, his wallet and money were returned. If on his way to Kiev he was interested in industrial objectives, in Baku Christner was intensely active photographing warships in the bay and taking masses of notes on the sheets of his small travel notebook.

I saw all these intelligence notes and 28 photos that were developed. I was shown several prints of Baku. One of them is a general view of naval objectives. When this photo was shown to Christner, he was asked why he had been taking photos of forbidden subjects. "You are aware that it is forbidden to photograph this", he was told. The historian replied: "I don't remember taking it. The camera shutter must have worked by accident."

Accident, indeed! The photo was sharp, clear, and precisely a subject that might be needed for intelligence. The second and third snapshots showed closeups of warships. Again the explanation: the shots were taken accidentally, perhaps a passer-by jerked the camera. He was then asked why he needed a compass. "I was afraid of losing my direction," replied Christner. "What, in town, and with your knowledge of Russian?"

Next to the notebook were separate sheets with intelligence notes on them. On one was the layout of a section of railway indicating scale and direction. On another, several words were written such as "tank", "military truck," and the inscription: "taking fuel from a railway cistern at a small station". Times for the scenes are given as 12:45 and 12:50. Another inscription said (few words indistinct) a fuel store in a wood is seen", and others "without wooden fence", and "the railway line goes off only to the right". Adjoining these are diagrammed sections of (localities,) indicating bridges, radio antennae, and high tension power cables.

What have entries of this kind got to do with history? These sheets with intelligence entries were kept by Christner in a special secret leather belt with two zipper pockets, which he wore next to his skin.

Nothing helped Christner, a Texan and postgraduate student of a Washington college--neither his special study of the Russian language in a military school, the foul anti-Soviet books, nor his secret body belts and their fasteners. The spy was caught redhanded.

Appropriate protests were made to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow about the impermissibility of using tourism for intelligence purposes. On the same day Robert Christner was expelled from our country.

The U.S. State Department hastened to deny the report that under the guise of touring the Soviet Union Christner was engaged in intelligence work. But these denials, which have become the rule in Washington, are empty and completely unfounded. There is a saying: "If you make haste you will only make people laugh." Another thing, you cannot go against facts.

The Robert Christner incident is not an isolated instance. It is unfortunately not the first attempt by American intelligence organs to use U.S. tourists in the Soviet Union for hostile activity. We welcome real tourists wherever they come from. Genuine visitors, people without evil intent we are glad to see. For them the door of our house is always wide open.

NATO NATIONS IMPLICATED IN ESPIONAGE

W. German Hotbed of Spying

Moscow, TASS, Radioteletype in Russian to Europe, Aug. 14, 1960,
0315 GMT--L

(Text) In defending their "right" to spy, U.S. imperialists indicate that subversive espionage is something usual and natural in the relations between states; says Colonel V. Mikhaylov in a SOVIET FLEET article, entitled "Espionage Is a Weapon of Aggressors." U.S. ruling circles, the author says, have made espionage part and parcel of state policy and do not spare any funds for this black activity. Up to 3 billion dollars a year are allocated for the upkeep of various intelligence bodies which have more than (1,000?) agents outside the United States. Enormous sums are spent on the recruiting of spies and on blackmail and bribery.

The article goes on to point out that the hotbed of espionage is now the Federal Republic of Germany, whose intelligence service is headed by Hitlerite General Gehlen. Over 400 spy centers of the United States, Federal Germany, and several other imperialist countries operate on West German territory. In West Berlin there are hundreds of branches and secret addresses of various secret services and thousands of conspiratory points for the meetings of agents. It is from West Germany, the author stresses, that spies are sent into the USSR and other socialist countries. (Passage indistinct) Such espionage is pursued in the United States not only by the Central Intelligence Agency but also by many other espionage bodies, including the army and the navy (few words indistinct).

Never before has the espionage (machines) of imperialism been so big and so technically well equipped. Various modern machines ranging from spy planes and balloons to portable electronic devices for spying on radar installations and tapping telephone conversations, as well as special instruments for long-distance photography and the recording of negotiations which are taking place at a considerable distance, have now been placed at the disposal of espionage. Thus, the author goes on, imperialist aggressors are feverishly preparing a new war and are applying every means to gain information about the military and economic potential of the USSR and other socialist countries, particularly about rocket weapons, the location of units of the Soviet Army and ships of the Navy, their armaments and combat readiness.

Espionage, the article says, is a vile weapon, a poisoned weapon of imperialist aggressors. The forthcoming trial of U.S. agent Powers, the article stresses, will be a serious blow to imperialist espionage and its bosses.

Swedish, Norwegian Implication

Moscow, Soviet European Service in Swedish, Aug. 11, 1960, 19:5 GMT--L

(Chernokov commentary)

(Text) The American air spy Powers said during his interrogation that he had been instructed that in carrying out his espionage task he could use a Norwegian airfield for landing. If necessary, however, Powers could, according to his instructions, also land on a Swedish or Finnish airfield. The Swedish Foreign Ministry said yesterday it had not given permission for Powers' aircraft to land on Swedish territory.

Nothing else could have been expected. It is clear to everyone that the policy of neutrality which Sweden is pursuing is incompatible with participation in aggressive military and anti-Soviet actions carried out by U.S. militarist circles and their NATO allies, who are dependent on them. As premier Tage Erlander declared only a few days ago, the policy of neutrality has the support of the overwhelming majority of the Swedish people. The Swedish premier has often said that this policy conforms not only with the interests of the Swedish people but with the interests of peace in general.

Facts show, however, that there are sufficiently active circles in Sweden who seek by all means to guide the country away from the path of neutrality and in one form or another link the country with the aggressive NATO bloc. These circles (admit?) (few words indistinct) aircraft of the Powers U-2 espionage type to land on Swedish territory. SVENSKA DAGBLADET, commenting yesterday on the Swedish Foreign Ministry's statement, said frankly that a foreign military pilot who had no permission to land in Sweden would be well received there. True, this is only an assumption on the part of this rightwing paper.

But, unfortunately, concrete facts also bear witness to the efforts of certain Swedish circles to tie the country to the NATO cart, which is threatening peace throughout the world. The (SWEDISH?) TELEGRAPH AGENCY reported from Bodoe yesterday that two Norwegian military aircraft from the base at Bodoe had made a flight to Kallax airfield near Lulea. The Norwegian general, Johnson, characterized such flights as a link in inter-Scandinavian military aviation cooperation. Military aircraft on Norwegian airfields have long had the reciprocal right of landing on Swedish territory. Johnson's reference to Scandinavian cooperation in this case does not stand up to criticism. The governments of the Scandinavian countries have repeatedly stated that current Scandinavian cooperation is not of a military character. In this case what is involved is a neutral country, and its military cooperation with a country which is a member of an aggressive military bloc.

It is also known that U.S. military aircraft are located on Norwegian airfields. And if you say "A," you must evidently also say "B." In other words, the consequences would be to grant the American and the West German military aircraft (passage indistinct) participation in NATO and that its airfields are utilized by U.S. aircraft, the unenviable role in the Powers case and the affair of the American espionage bomber RB-47.

It appears from the exchange of notes between the governments of the Soviet Union and Norway, published today, that Norway repeats Washington's old methods--to deny evident facts. Bound by its membership in NATO, it was evidently unable to speak for itself. However, be that as it may, either the Norwegian authorities were aware of (few words indistinct)

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and the RB-47 flight and agreed (two words indistinct) to it, or the U.S. command did not consider it necessary to ask the Norwegian Government's permission to land its military aircraft in Norway. In either case, the Norwegian Government has provided aid to the aggressor, with all the consequences that may emanate from it.

The NATO leaders, and their echo in Sweden, are also seeking to make Sweden a participant in the aggressive actions of this military bloc, if only an indirect assistant. In this connection one may recall the fairytale by the Grimma brothers about the wolf and seven kids. Even today, there are gray wolves roaring, knocking on doors. The wise old goat was right in strictly warning her children and the neighbor's children against opening the door to the wolves, even if these spoke in sweet voice and showed white paws.

Danish Press Propaganda

Moscow, Soviet European Service in Norwegian, Aug. 12, 1960, 2115 GMT--L

(Text) If one reads recent issues of certain Danish and Norwegian papers one inevitably gets the impression that a competition has been started in the Nordic countries for a specific subject of anti-Soviet content--Soviet espionage.

The editors of BERLINGSKE TIDENDE and DAGENS NYHETER have felt that their own imagination is inadequate and instead of their own work they publish the stories of an American news agency, UPI. These include one to the effect that Soviet diplomats carried out espionage during a helicopter flight over the Faroe Islands. Isn't it rather strange that Danish press reports about events on Danish territory are based on reports from an American news agency? Or, has this gradually become the normal practice of the NATO press?

INFORMATION is also taking an active part in this competition. If one is to believe this paper, the main task of the Soviet Navy is to investigate (one or two words indistinct) in Langeland. These ardent journalists are not interested in facts. They care very little if they are caught redhanded spreading lies. Thus, FOLKETIDEN has published a statement by the naval commander in the Faroe Islands in connection with newspaper canard cooked up by American chefs and dished up the waiters of BERLINGSKE TIDENDE and DAGENS NYHETER. The statement declares the matter to be a complete fabrication. INFORMATION was (two or three words indistinct) of the story by the spokesman of the naval command, Commander Jansen, who called it "an anecdote."

When old BENJAMIN KRAFT, nevertheless, later tried to turn this unsuccessful fabrication into a reason for a debate in the Folketing, INFORMATION had to admit sorrowfully that the official explanation did not give cause for further debate on the matter.

Why are the journalists working so hard? The reason is not difficult to understand. In an editorial article a week ago, INFORMATION expressed its dissatisfaction with the fact that the Danish public was taking so seriously the sharp Soviet reaction to the American espionage antics. And as an argument, INFORMATION utilizes its own underhand inventions to prove that espionage is a pretty normal activity, a military and political reality of the 1960's.

In this way the patriotic NATO journalists try to influence the public, which is indignant about the American provocations and is worried because Norwegian territory is already being used to implement them and that also Danish territory--for example, Greenland--could be used at any moment for this purpose. There is every indication that the time for the anti-Soviet campaign has been very carefully chosen. Only a very few days remain before the trial of the American air spy Powers opens in Moscow.

U.N. ARMS GROUP SESSION A U.S. DODGE

Report on Soviet Letter

Moscow, TASS, Radioteletype in English to Europe, Aug. 13, 1960,
2135 GMT--L

(Text) The Soviet Government thinks it unwise to convene the U.N. Disarmament Commission at present and objects to its convocation, the Soviet Union's permanent representation at the United Nations writes in its letter to U.N. Secretary General Hammarskjold and chairman of the Disarmament Commission Nervo.

This letter was sent to Hammarskjold and Nervo in reply to the telegram received by the USSR representation at the United Nations from the secretary general dated Aug. 11 and informing it of the decision to call a meeting of the Disarmament Commission on Aug. 15 at 1500.