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Finn's Demand Explanation

Moscow, Soviet European Service in Swedish, Aug. 21, 1960, 1700 GMT--L

(Text) The Finnish Foreign Ministry states it has received a reply note from the U.S. Government to the Finnish note asking for an explanation of the orders to Powers to land on a southern Finnish airfield if necessary. In its note the American Government tries to gloss over the gross violation of the sovereignty of another country by referring to the generally accepted practice according to which an aircraft in distress is allowed to land on the first available airfield.

However, it is obvious to everyone that this reference is unfounded because in this case there was no question of ordinary flights but of an aircraft which had penetrated into the Soviet Union for a hostile and aggressive purpose.

Salim Scores Aggression

Moscow, Soviet Near Eastern Service in Arabic, Aug. 20, 1960, 1930 GMT--L

(Recorded Interview with Maj. Salah Salim, chief editor of al-Jumhuriyah)

(Excerpts) (Correspondent): Maj. Salah Salim would you tell us the reason for your visit to the Soviet capital?

(Salim): I was invited to attend the trial of the U.S. pilot Powers. I shall take the opportunity to get to know your country. In the past I was unable to achieve that.

(Correspondent): Can you give us your impressions about this trial in Moscow?

(Salim): This trial was not really the trial of the U.S. pilot Powers. as much as it was the trial of U.S. aggressive policy, a policy which does not recognize international law or conventions. Its way has always been the way of aggression. This trial has exposed the dangerous role played by the states which are following the United States and which have surrendered their land and sovereignty so as to enable to United States to set up military bases and (word indistinct) to carry out aggression against other states from those bases.

Even neutral countries were spared the aggression of the United States. This trial has proved that U.S. pilots have been used to violate the airspace of neutral countries like Pakistan, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, and other (word indistinct). For this reason the U.S. pilot Powers was not in the dock. The real criminal in the dock is U.S. aggressive policy.

Zilliacus Says Trial Fair

Moscow, Soviet North American Service in English, Aug. 19, 1960, 2300 GMT-L

(Comment by British M. P. Konni Zilliacus)

(Text) I can sum up my opinion of the trial under three aspects. The first is the legal or technical aspect. Now, I'm not a lawyer myself, I'm only a politician, but I have some conception of how we work the law in England and I also know, of course, that the conceptions of jurisprudence under Roman law on the continent are rather different and that in many ways Soviet law is much closer to French law than it is to British or American law.

But I did talk with a lot of jurists, including a British queen's counsel who was at the court trial, and of course I saw the whole thing. And I would say that the unanimous opinion of the jurists of many countries was that this trial was conducted with the most scrupulous fairness. Indeed, the British queen's counsel said they are leaning backward, they have been leaning backward, to give the defendant every chance and to give him the benefit of every doubt.

The stress laid on the defendant's upbringing and his background and his social conditions and all that was the sort of thing that is done in French law. It is not done nearly to the same extent in Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence, but it is of course a very human aspect of the law, and the net impression made was that the verdict was just and humane, that Powers failed rather better than he would have done, or than his equivalent would have done if the situation had been reversed and the Americans had shot down a pilot engaged in the kind of mission that he was engaged in.

So much for the legal aspect of it. The second point, of course, is that the real indictment, the people who were really arraigned, were the cold warriors in the United States and their accomplices in other countries, because this trial did show up the sheer idiocy as well as the moral baseness and arrogance of this policy of constant aerial espionage along the shores and along the frontiers of the Soviet Union, let alone the sheer monstrosity of the claim, made by Secretary of State Herter and endorsed by President Eisenhower, that the United States was entitled to violate international law by flying over, by carrying out spy flights over the territory of the Soviet Union, (laughter) that the Soviet Union (should be forced?) to legalize such flights at President Eisenhower's suggestion.

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You know, when the President said the other day that he thought that he would like to have a plebiscite among the peoples of the world as to which system they preferred, the Soviet or the American, I would like somebody to suggest, since the United States claims to be doing this thing for the sake of protecting its allies and defending them, although it's never asked them about it, whether he wouldn't like to have a plebiscite in, say, Norway and Britain and a few other countries concerned as to whether we really want to have the Americans doing these things and having bases on our territory. So far as Britain is concerned, at any rate, I'm absolutely certain that the result would be (the public would?) get rid of the American bases (word indistinct) to this kind of thing.

The third point is the horrifying light that the trial cast on the characteristics and shortcomings of the "I'm all right, Jack" civilization, the attitude which is particularly strong in the United States but which exists in all of the Western countries and is becoming a problem in my own country, in Britain. It's the attitude expressed in the old English saying about each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. After all, capitalism does base the whole of society on the private profit-making motive of the individual, and it hammered home the idea that if only every man does his best to better his own material conditions, by some curious process the greatest good of the greatest number will result. Well that never made much sense except from the point of view of the middle class, but in present-day conditions this philosophy has produced the kind of monstrosity that we see in the case of Powers, because the horrifying thing about this lad is that he is typical. (Further development of this theme omitted)

And when he was asked--this to me was one of the most dramatic moments of the trial--when he was asked, did it never occur to you what might be the consequences to world peace of your undertaking this flight on the eve of the summit conference, he said--with a note of stifled bitterness and despair in his voice--he said, "My chiefs ought to have thought of that before they gave me such orders."

And I'm sure that was sincere, I'm sure that was a cry of the heart. The boy had begun to think--a little late. And his case is typical. And this is the really terrifying thing about this civilization of ours: If we do destroy ourselves with our gadgets, it will not be, I think, because anyone is wicked and mad enough deliberately to want a world war, but because the capitalist powers have become so dependent on war preparations, to stave off unemployment in our private enterprise system, and because of such enormous vested interests in these war preparations, and because the cold war is the antisocialist opium of the people, that they cannot make peace and they have to keep up this atmosphere of hatred and fear. But I think this trial will strike a mighty blow against all this and will help to open the eyes of hundreds and thousands and millions of people in the West, and certainly, so far as Britain is concerned, I am quite sure it will vastly

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strengthen the already powerful movement in our country for getting rid of the American bases, turning our back on the nuclear deterrent strategy and refusing to be committed any longer to war by allies who will not come to terms with us on how to make peace with the Soviet Union.

Patterson Praises Soviet Justice

Moscow, TASS, Radioteletype in English to Europe, Aug. 19, 1960, 1605 GMT--L

(Text) Moscow--William Patterson, a New York lawyer who attended the Powers trial, declared that these court hearings testified to the magnanimity of Soviet justice. Patterson stresses that the prosecution had every reason to demand a death penalty. The American lawyer says that the sentence passed on Powers was exceptionally mild.

Patterson believes that such a sentence is explained by the might of the Soviet Union, the USSR'S desire for peace and peaceful coexistence, as well as by the fact that Powers was only an instrument of the American military.

Characterizing the personality of the defendant, Patterson says that Powers had no ideals or convictions of his own. His idol was the dollar. It is regretful and horrible, Patterson stressed, that millions of young Americans are brought up in such a way that they are ready to do anything for dollars.

(Editor's Note--L: Moscow Soviet North American Service in English at 2300 GMT on Aug. 20 states that Patterson also stated: "The trial of Francis Gary Powers took place in an atmosphere of great objectivity. The summation of the prosecution shows the great strength of the political power of the Soviet Union. It shows the Soviet Union desires peace and coexistence with all nations. It showed a recognition that Powers acted not as a free agent but as a tool for forces in American life who want war and who do not desire peace. The defense made a very adequate plea that Powers be dealt with leniently. It is my belief that Powers' act shows that American youth is not educated but rather mis-educated, that it has no concept of honor, of justice, of humanity or of right.")

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Hargens Says Trial Meticulous

Moscow, in German to Germany, Aug. 22, 1960, 1000 GMT--L

(Christian Vilhelm Hargens, advocate of the Danish Supreme Court, on the Powers trial)

(Summary) I attended all sessions and was surprised at the meticulousness with which the trial was conducted. The trial was well prepared by a number of commissions, which submitted the results of their investigations. Every word at the trial was translated into English by the two experienced translators. As a lawyer I was particularly interested in the defense, and I must say that Powers' counsel was outstanding. His address was excellent and effective. Powers could not have had a better lawyer. One cannot but say that the defendant was sentenced with complete justice. The sentence was lenient if one considers the gravity of his crime.

"Although I am convinced that Powers kept many things back, he nevertheless confessed frankly that he had committed a crime, and he understood the nature of the crime." Summing up one's impressions of the trial, it must be stated that all demands which could be made for a just trial, whether in the East or the West, were met.

"Anyone who attended the trial finds it difficult not to make comparisons. Above all, I am impelled to compare it with the Rosenberg case. Everyone will remember how those two innocent people were sentenced on the basis of completely unproved accusations, and everyone will remember that they were sentenced to death as the result of an indictment, the credibility of which does not bear any comparison whatsoever with the lawful character of the charge against Powers who was sentenced to 10 years of deprivation of freedom, including 3 years in prison.

"The thoughts which I expressed here are not subjective, because I have talked to many lawyers from various countries and whomever I talked to said exactly the same thing: The trial was conducted in an unimpeachable manner and cannot give rise to any objections."

Rogers Hails Grinev's Defense

Moscow, TASS, Radioteletype in English to Europe, Aug. 19, 1960, 1920 GMT--L

(Text) Frank Rogers, the lawyer of the Powers family, told a group of Soviet newsmen that a few months before their arrival in the Soviet Union his colleague Alexander Parker and he had studied the Soviet court procedure.

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It must be said, Rogers pointed out, that it was strictly observed at the trial. Rogers said that his colleague and himself were of high opinion about Mikhail Grinev. No other, he said, could have put up a better defense than did Grinev. He fulfilled his professional duty and did it well.

USSR COVERAGE OF AUG. 19 PROCEEDINGS

Home Service Report

Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Aug. 19, 1960, 2000 GMT--L

(Recorded reportage from the Hall of Columns of Trade Union House)

(Excerpts) Commentator: The entrance of the judges. For three days running, these words have been spoken at the beginning of each hearing. They produced a threatening reverberation in the ears of Powers' of all calibers, big and small, all those who have made war their business, who are gambling on the black stock exchange of death for bigger profits, turning the grief and tears of mothers into streams of gold to enrich arms merchants. The echo of these words has resounded throughout the world, for some as a call of justice, for some a hope for the victory of law, and for some as the toll of the funeral bell. What has been buried is the idea that one can go unpunished for committing crimes against peace, that one can go unpunished for violating the sacred frontiers of our homeland.

The state prosecutor, an outstanding lawyer who gained world fame as long ago as the trial of the major Hitlerite war criminals in Nuremberg, Roman Andreyevich Rudenko, begins his speech for the prosecution. With head bowed, the defendant listens to it, a small black figure against the light background of the white-columned hall. He is obviously ashamed, painfully ashamed.

In his speech, the procurator general quoted incontrovertible facts proving that U.S. state organs and military offices took part in preparations for the criminal flight as well as his majesty moneybags himself. The aircraft which Powers flew was made by the Lockheed firm. The managers of this large California company assumed the obligation not only of manufacturing the spy plane but also of training its pilot. It is not out of place to mention here that one of the Lockheed company bosses is U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon. Is this not the reason for his raging attempts to discredit Soviet justice?

The prosecutor continues to speak. I am looking toward the balcony at a young man with a thin moustache. He is an American journalist. At the beginning of Rudenko's speech, he hastily took out his notebook and his pen. Ten minutes have passed and his notebook is still empty, 20 minutes, and it is still empty. But this American blushes. Finally he takes his notebook and fans himself. (Recording of Rudenko stating that the U.S. Government inspired and organized Powers' crimes omitted.)

More and more absolutely irrefutable proofs are quoted by the prosecutor general. We are sitting next to the box where the members of the family of defendant Powers are. His mother, a woman with white hair, is tormented by shame. Each word of the prosecutor falls on her heart like a stone. In fact, the purpose of that speech is to protect millions of mothers from the torment to which the bosses of Washington have condemned this woman. Soviet justice is being done in this hall so that smiles, not tears, may be seen on the faces of mothers, Russian or American, Japanese or Cuban, Congolese or British, all those who think of peace, not of war.

(Recording of Rudenko asking the court to sentence Powers to 15 years imprisonment omitted)

Commentator: The hall is applauding. That is not customary at a trial, but those who are present in this hall could not refrain from applauding. Those applauding are Soviet people who admire the strength and logic of the ideas of socialism heard in the vivid speech made by the USSR procurator general. Those applauding also include foreigners, people who are very remote from the (sensations?) in our country, even blasé bourgeois journalists whose editors had told them not to spare any effort in their attempts to blacken Soviet legal procedure.

They applaud the humanity of socialist law which tries criminals for their crimes and never proceeds from considerations of hatred and revenge. The procurator had every reason to demand exceptional punishment, the death sentence, and did not demand it. He did not demand it because Soviet law does not seek revenge.

Mikhail Ilyich Grinev, the defendant's counsel, begins his speech. It is difficult to act as counsel for the defense in a trial in which the defendant's great guilt has been proved so fully and clearly, but Soviet law demands that counsel for the defense should seek and find all circumstances which may mitigate the guilt of the defendant, if they exist.

Grinev: Comrade presiding judge, comrades, people's assessors of the Military Collegium of the USSR Supreme Court! I will not conceal from you the extremely difficult and unprecedentedly complex situation in which counsel for the defense finds himself in this case. Defendant Powers is accused of a serious crime, of intruding into USSR airspace with a view to gathering espionage information and carrying out aerial photography of industrial and defense objectives as well as gathering other data of an espionage order.

Commentator: The hall listens attentively to the speech of counsel for the defense.

Grinev: It is regrettable that it is only Powers who sits in the defendant's dock. If those who sent him to his crime were sitting beside him one could be sure that the position of defendant Powers would be different for he would then occupy a place of secondary importance and could consequently doubtless rely on a considerable mitigation of his punishment. First of all, I would like to draw the court's attention to the defendant's age. Powers is still young. Quite recently he had his 31st birthday. I also believe it my duty to remind the court of the fact that when he signed his contract with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency he did not know the true aims of the tasks given to him.

When I, as Powers' counsel, ask for a mitigation of his punishment, I proceed not only from the motives of the crime, the circumstances in which it was committed, and Powers' behavior after his detention. I also proceed from the strength, might, and power of the USSR and from the proposition that initiative and strength are now in the hands of peace-loving forces, the camp of peace and socialism. That, comrade judges, is why I again ask you to take into account, when you pass sentence, the considerations I put forward and to apply to Powers a milder measure of punishment than the one demanded by the state prosecutor.

Commentator: The defendant waits for the moment when the presiding judge will allow him to speak in conclusion. Oh, how those who sent Powers on his senseless flight have feared this moment. They provided him with a poisoned pin. They fitted an explosive device to his airplane. They hoped for, wanted, thirsted for his death, and now they would without a doubt be overjoyed at a death sentence. Criminals like to know that none will be the wiser. Powers' death was necessary to them to draw the punishing sword of the law away from the chief criminals in this trial, from those who devised, prepared, and launched this provocation against the Soviet people, against the whole of mankind. The accused is speaking.

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(Powers' voice, taken from the English, translated into Russian phrase by phrase) You've heard all the evidence in the case, and now you must decide what my punishment is to be. I answer that I have committed a grave crime and must be punished for it. I ask the court to weigh all the evidence and take into consideration not only the fact that I have committed the crime but also the circumstances which led me to do so. I (answer?) that the Russian people (count?) me as an enemy. I can understand that, but I would like to stress the fact that I do not feel nor have I ever felt any enmity whatsoever for the Russian people. I plead with the court to judge me not as an enemy but as a human being who is not a personal enemy of the Russian people, who has never had any charges brought against him in any court, and who is deeply repentant and supremely sorry for what he has done.

(Commentator repeats Powers' last sentence, which was not translated, and continues.) The court leaves for consultation. Those present in the hall go out into the foyer. All are awaiting the decision of the court which is to fairly judge the crime committed by Francis Gary Powers.

But somebody brings joyous news. A new Soviet spaceship, a new step by the Soviet people in the conquering of interplanetary space. The faces of the journalists are confused. They do not know whether to go and get detailed information on the new feat of Soviet scientists or to wait for the verdict. When necessary, the journalist must deal with both jobs at once, and I hear of a correspondent dictating an account of the court proceedings on the telephone who interrupts his dispatch and almost shouts into the mouthpiece: "Stop. I have a flash. A new Soviet spaceship." He pronounces the word "korebl" (Russian for ship). It has already become international.

At one time, the bourgeois press wrote of a miraculous coincidence in the Soviet space program. Well, gentlemen, you may regard this event as a coincidence also. At the time Soviet technicians and engineers launched yet another peaceful star, the Soviet court proclaimed a verdict on an American who used American machinery for aggression against a peaceful people, for a provocation against peaceful toil. There was no need for Powers to be at the bar. He could be preparing for space flights. His experience and health are suitable for such a purpose, but he has become a criminal, a spy. He was pushed onto this road by those who threaten universal peace. He was pushed on this road by the whole savage system of capitalism.

The Hall of Columns is crowded once again. The concluding part of the verdict states: (Conclusion of verdict omitted)

Commentator: The sentence passed on Powers sounds as a warning to all those who intend to encroach upon the Soviet Union's borders, on our people's peaceful toil. It will cool the ardor of small and big Powers' beyond the oceans.

The trial has ended. American imperialism has been condemned.

Coverage of Trial

(Editor's Note--M/H) Several regional transmitters relay Moscow Radio's broadcast of recorded excerpts of Powers' testimony and Moscow Radio's broadcast of the indictment Aug. 19.

Several Soviet regional transmitters also carry a Moscow relay--an announcer's reading of Prosecutor Rudenko's final summation--on Aug. 19. Blagoveshchens, Khabarovsk, Ulan Ude, and Vladivostok extend their usual Moscow relay time to air Rudenko's remarks. Petropavlovsk breaks into regular local program time. Birobidzhan, Yakutsk, and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk do not carry the Moscow relay, but continue with locally originated programs.

Soviet regional transmitters, in general, refrain from commenting independently on the trial of Francis G. Powers during the trial, but relay Moscow Home Service accounts or give translated vernacular versions. Several transmitters report that the local press carries official TASS reports on the trial.

On Aug. 20, Soviet regional transmitters report workers meetings and comment on the sentence passed on Powers, unanimously claiming that the sentence is just, that Powers had a fair trial, and that the conduct of the Soviet court of justice was very humane. All Soviet regional commentaries make a point that in the dock with Powers were the ruling circles of the United States.

An Aug. 20 late evening newscast from Baku reports that workers at the Lenin textile combine met to discuss the sentence as soon as newspapers arrived at the plant. Expressing general satisfaction at the sentence, workers said that the sentence was aimed also against those who take part in provocations against the Soviet motherland. "At the same time the decision of the court has shown the whole world the humanitarian attitude of the Soviet people toward persons like Powers, a simple instrument in the hands of the warmongers."

Regional commentaries have made no allusion to the future prospects of American-Soviet relations, but some commentaries state that the Soviet people wish to live in peace and maintain good relations with other nations.