I Chose Freedom

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...January, acting of ...under higher authority, ...had [illegible] on various ...charges of "espionage" and ...were [illegible] his appearance with frantic speed. In a ...days they called a special ...meeting of the History ...Committee to resume consideration of my case. Only two ...attended to come over to ...Tony, were Silkin and ...Gladkin, both plain workers ...had been older men. Apparently ...age had protected them.

...Then Lee had taken pre-...cautions against interference ...with his frantic determination ...to smuggle out another "subversive." Every actor had his lines ...and his cues. Lee provided the overture. His speech was a masterpiece of innuendo and mob appeal. My guilt, he said, had been proven "in great part." ...That my fidelity was in "particular doubt" did not relieve him ...of the obligation "by other means" ...to protect the [illegible]. ...I must say, it is remarkable ...how much [illegible] in spite of my ...[illegible] for my ...[illegible] by my ...[illegible] of the [illegible] ...the N.K.V.D.? Similar ...[illegible] followed.

"Enough! Let's end the ...and expel this enemy!" a ...— Meinert's, I thought — ...

"In conclusion," Lee declared, "Stavrogin is entitled to the ...[illegible] if he wishes. He has ...minutes."

...Krakhmal "Kropf" ...walked to the stage. In my ...mind I had prepared for this ...moment but I had not foreseen ...the possibility that I would have ...[illegible] In interrupting my ...opponents I unavoidably weakened ...mine. I felt that I was not ...[illegible] the trial's climax. ...As I talked I could not keep ...my eyes from Dorogan, still ...standing dictatorially in the door-...way. I knew that everyone of ...the audience, everyone on the ...platform, was more submissive of ...this fleshy symbol of the police-...state than of the words I was ...uttering.

...When the vote was taken, only ...[illegible] raised against expulsion. Lee, disappointed, threw ...

"By unanimous vote," he announced, "the meeting [illegible] ...to the City Committee the expulsion of Victor Andreyevich Kravchenko."

"Well, are you going to appeal?" Dorogan, chief of the Ni...kopol N.K.V.D., asked as I reached him.

"Yes, certainly," I replied. "I shall telegraph Comrade Ordzhonikidze and lodge protests in Moscow and Kharkov, and tomorrow I shall appeal to the City Committee."

"Kravchenko," he gulped. He ...stopped and blew out the smoke ...slowly before finishing the sentence. "Andreyev, it would be ...a pity if [illegible] as many people. You a pity. . . .

"I went out into the dark and ...walked toward home. I dreaded ...to enter the house once again, ...for the last time, for the wretched ...[illegible]. As I passed by ...[illegible] from intuition. I went to ...a closet where various coats hung ...[illegible] were in disorder. ...[illegible] at the top of the pile lay a ...[illegible] coat.

"Beware of Miracles!"

...This time I looked into the ...little pocket, and there — multiple ...of miracles! — were the rough ...copies of the orders for instruments ...and the carbon copies ...[illegible] I had been minding. I ...glanced at the dog-eared, crumpled ...[illegible] ...[illegible]. I knew what the winning of the first prize in a grand ...[illegible] feels like.

...Among the papers were copies ...of [illegible] made by the ...Chief Trust of the Oil Industry, ...based on plans later curtailed. ...These would prove, to any sober ...mind, that the quantities of ...spare parts and special tools ...[illegible] were fully justified by ...[illegible] specifications. The ...[illegible] were counterfeits. ...[illegible] had [illegible] ...[illegible] against ...[illegible] shattered. ...[illegible] in my ...[illegible] the gold away ...[illegible] ...[illegible] to ...[illegible] ...[illegible] ...[illegible] by ...[illegible] ...[illegible] ...[illegible]