

MASTERS OF DECEIT

Red Spies In America

By J. EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI since 1924, emphasizes that the danger to the United States from master Red plotters is as great as ever. In this week's installment, he reveals how the underground can serve the Soviet espionage network in the United States at the same time Russia's spokesmen in the country profess good will and peaceful intentions.

INSTALLMENT TWENTY-FOUR

The communist underground in the United States is designed, among other things, to aid Soviet Russia's espionage, to place members in strategic positions in industry for potential sabotage, to discredit law enforcement, and to infiltrate the armed forces.

Lenin taught the leaders of Soviet world conquest that the "enemy" must be weakened in advance. To wait for something to happen is not the way to achieve revolution. The way must be prepared.

The enemy must be softened up; weaken his will to resist, nullify his capacity for counter-action, impair his morale. Then, when the crisis comes, communists can march to power through the ranks of demoralized opponents as Lenin's followers did in Russia in November 1917.

The Party's relation to Soviet espionage is one of the most potent weapons in the communist underground arsenal. As past events have proved—for example the Harry Gold-Klaus Fuchs combination and the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed in 1953 on espionage charges—Moscow-directed spying is a vital danger to the integrity and safety of free government.

Espionage is utilized not

only to secure information but also to weaken the "enemy" from within.

The Soviets instituted espionage operations against the United States very early with the full cooperation of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Comintern "regs" became common figures in Party circles.

Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, a member of the Russian Communist Party, was sent to the U.S. in January, 1919. Although never recognized by the United States government, he set up an office in New York City. Arthur Adams, who was identified years later as a Soviet spy, on U.S. atomic weapons secrets, was a member of Martens' staff.

In comparison with today's well-organized, efficiently operated spy apparatus, the Soviet agents in the early days were crude and clumsy. Many were not proficient in English. They lacked knowledge of our customs and possessed no special espionage training.

U.S. Reds Aid Soviet Spies

Suppose a Russian espionage agent entered the United States secretly, en route to another country, or to fill an assignment in Washington, New York or elsewhere in the U.S.

Most likely, he would need a new identity, or, in espionage language, a change of "feathers," a false birth certificate, a false passport, and other identification papers. The Party had the means of supplying these.

There are instances of a Party member setting up a business, ostensibly for legitimate purposes but actually for espionage. World Tourists, which was incorporated in New York in 1927, was operated by Jacob Golos, a communist "steerer," as an espionage "cover."

The Party has helped arrange the transfer of espionage funds, established mail drops with espionage communications centers to a third person, later to be given to the espionage network, and operated couriers.

Back in 1924, Amtorg Trading Corporation was established as a Soviet government commercial agency. This gave the Soviets an initial "legal" base for espionage operations.

In 1933 diplomatic recognition was afforded the Soviet Union. Now, trained espionage agents operating under diplomatic immunity, were enabled to direct operations.

After World War II Russians assigned to the United Nations headquarters in New York gave additional striking power to Soviet espionage. In addition there were espionage networks of Soviet satellite countries operating in the United States.

One former Communist Party member who did Soviet espionage work told the FBI that the Soviets had instructed agents to conceal their Party affiliations. This soon became a regular tactic. "If engaged in espionage, cut off all connections with the

Party, even contacts with former Party friends."

When Ethel Rosenberg became a link in the Soviet espionage system, she no longer bought the Daily Worker at her usual newsstand. Another agent, while in the company of a Soviet superior stopped to purchase a communist publication. He was severely reprimanded.

The Soviets, however, still depended on communists or sympathizers for assistance. In one major apparatus detected by the FBI, twelve of seventeen participants had been Party members.

Elizabeth Bentley told how she collected dues from secret members of the Party when she went to Washington as a courier of the Soviet espionage system. Among those from whom she stated she collected dues were officials of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Department of Commerce, the Air Corps, the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the Treasury Department, and others.

FBI Infiltrates Soviet Spy Rings

SOVIET ESPIONAGE in the United States is no longer a clumsy, crude affair, but a steadily efficient profession, skillfully directed from Moscow, with well-trained agents supplied with money, modern technical equipment, and experience. To the Soviets espionage is a part of overall state policy.

Monument in the U.S. Capital

On an April night in 1951, just two minutes before seven o'clock, a tall man wearing a tweed sport coat walked through the darkness toward the Washington monument. He was dressed in the usual business attire of a diplomat. Everything was quiet.

Suddenly the tall man stepped from the circle of darkness into the light. He stopped a moment, peered up at the 555-foot top, looked at his watch, then started to walk around the base. On his left hand he wore a glove. A band of adhesive tape circled the middle finger of his right hand, and he carried a red-covered book under his left arm.

This man, whom I shall call Mr. A., was an employee of the United States Defense Department. As part of his work he had access to highly confidential information which the Russians wanted.

Exactly at seven o'clock, an



What in The World . . . !

Denver — (RNS) — Sisters Amata (left) and Jane, teachers in the Archdiocese of Denver, appear baffled by an object of abstract art at the Children's Museum here. They were among 75 nuns attending an art workshop for religious of the archdiocese.

other man had in a dark business suit stepped from the shadows. An espionage contact set up months previously in Austria was being consummated to the exact minute. This second man was Yuri V. Novikov, Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Novikov was well known to the FBI since he had been in the United States for some time far beyond those of a diplomatic official.

He was audacious almost beyond belief. His brazenness reached a climax when he sat with defense counsel during the espionage trial of the one-time U.S. Department of Justice employee, Judith Coplon. During this trial Novikov wrote out questions and handed them to defense counsel to direct to FBI agents on the witness stand. He was particularly interested in having questions asked pertaining to our internal administration and procedures.

When Novikov met Mr. A. that night in April, 1951, he said, "I'm Mr. Williams," the code of recognition, along with the glove, tape, and red book. The two shook hands, then Novikov took the military specialist by the elbow, directing him from the light. A few words, arranging another meeting, and they parted.

From that night, for an entire year, the Soviets made secretive contacts with Mr. A. Seldom were meetings held in the same place. Some were on lonely lanes or in dead-end streets; one on a narrow-rook bridge on a deserted Maryland road after dark.

One time Novikov stood in a movie line; the government employee was to pass by and, seeing him there, would know that a meeting was scheduled one hour later at a nearby school. At other times there were chalk marks on trash cans and a pencil mark on page 100 of the Manhattan (New York) telephone directory in Washington's Union Station, as code signals between Novikov and Mr. A.

Mr. A. was a loyal American, and in meeting Novikov he was merely carrying out a duty imposed upon him when he was assigned in Austria with the United States Air Force.

HIS SERVICES were solicited by Otto Verber, who came to the United States as a refugee, as did Kurt L. Ponger, who had married Verber's sister. Both Verber and Ponger were in the armed services, both had acquired American citizenship, and after the war, both had served in Europe. Upon returning to private life, both settled in Vienna, where they took advantage of the GI Bill and benefits and enrolled in the University of Vienna.

In 1949 Ponger was recruited by the Soviet intelligence service, and he in turn recruited Verber. It was later learned that

Ponger had been a member of a Communist Party cell in England before he came to the United States as a refugee. He also had indoctrinated Verber.

Mr. A., having immediately reported to superiors the endeavor of Verber to obtain information from him, acted thereafter under instructions. Prior to his return to the United States, Verber and Ponger arranged the rendezvous which Novikov kept with Mr. A. at Washington Monument that April night in 1951. I must add that the Treasury of the United States received the thousands of dollars of Soviet funds paid to the loyal American, Mr. A.

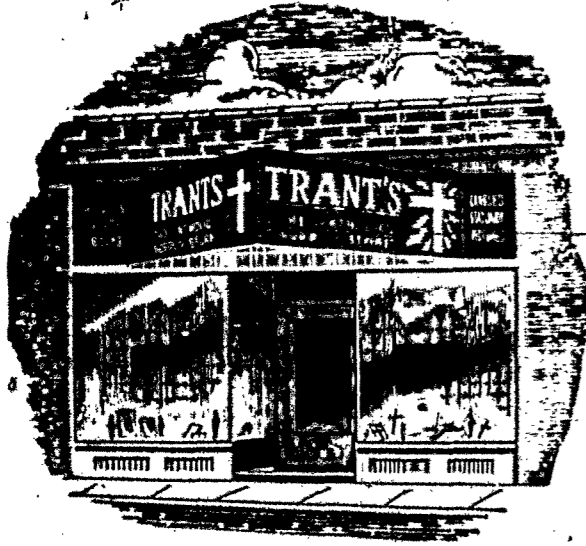
In June, 1953, after pleading guilty to an espionage indictment, Ponger was sentenced to a prison term of from five to fifteen years, while Verber received a sentence of from three years, four months, to ten years. Novikov, who was named in the indictment as a co-conspirator, was declared persona non grata and returned to the Soviet Union.

There are the "legal" networks; that is, espionage controlled by legal representatives of the Russian government, such as diplomats. Novikov was an example.

Then there are illegal networks, meaning spy rings operated by Moscow independent of the legal establishments. The detection in 1948 of Igor Gouzenko, a cipher clerk assigned to the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, revealed a close link between Soviet espionage and Canadian communists.

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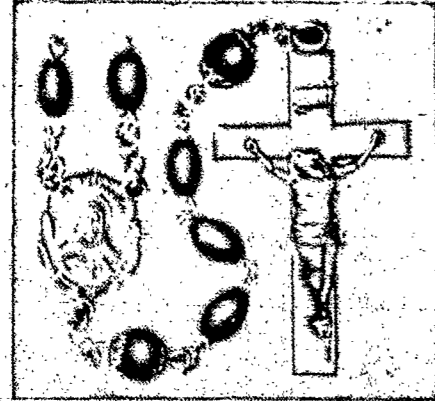


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