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'Spies' for U. S. on Red TV

4 Russians 'Confess' on Kremlin-Sponsored Show

By B. J. Cutler

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
MOSCOW, Feb. 6.—The Soviet Union put four "real-live spies" on television tonight in an effort to support its charges that the United States is carrying on a "secret war" of espionage against it.

One of the "spies" boasted he had fooled American military intelligence up to the moment of his appearance tonight by sending it messages for the last three years written for him by Soviet secret police.

All four "spies" are Soviet citizens who said that while displaced persons in Germany they had been debauched by Americans with liquor, gambling and easy women until they consented to return to Russia as secret agents.

The show was produced by the Foreign Ministry. Some 200 Soviet and foreign journalists were summoned to the House of Journalists and found batteries of television cameras trained on four "spies" sitting on the stage with Leonid P. Ilyichev, Foreign Ministry press chief, acting as master of ceremonies.

"Spies" Confess

For the next three hours, the "spies" confessed all, and Mr. Ilyichev charged the United States with mounting espionage against Russia to the point where it became "almost an aggressive act."

The performance was carried live on Moscow television and filmed for showings throughout the Communist bloc. It had all

the trappings of a massive propaganda effort backed by the Soviet government to paint United States officials as ruthless spymasters working against "peace-loving people."

On a long table below the performers were spread portable radio transmitters, forged documents, banknotes and gold coins, revolvers, cameras and poison capsules. The "spies" said they were instructed to use the capsules to commit suicide in case of capture. The "spies" said they were given the equipment by American intelligence agents. No explanation was given about how they were expected to walk with that quantity of spy material.

Mr. Ilyichev opened by charging that the United States for the first time in history had elevated espionage "to the level of state policy." He said this "cornerstone" of American policy was unprecedented in peace time. He also assailed American military attaches in Moscow as spies and railed against American military aircraft, balloons and radio broadcasts violating Soviet air space.

The "spies" all told similar stories. Young men in their early thirties, they said they were captured by the Germans during World War II and as displaced persons in Western Germany had been recruited by "white emigres" and American agents as spies.

The four identified themselves

as Nikolai I. Yakuta, Mikhail P. Kudryavtsev, Alexander Novikov and Konstantin Khmelnitsky. Yakuta and Kudryavtsev said they surrendered to Soviet authorities in April, 1954. Novikov and Khmelnitsky said they were captured in 1953.

All four obviously had been known to Soviet authorities for more than three years before tonight's show.

Yakuta, who praised Soviet authorities for their "humane treatment," told a harrowing tale of life under American agents in the "spy schools" he was put through in West Germany.

Wine and Women

"In order to turn us into obedient servants and make us forget our love for our motherland," he said, the Americans encouraged drinking, gambling and bad language among us and even took us to Munich to visit immoral houses to enjoy ourselves."

Khmelnitsky told how he duped the Americans by acting as a double agent. He said after his arrest in 1953 he confessed his treason and asked to make retribution by working for Soviet intelligence and deceiving his former employers.

He said he established contact with American agents by radio and as recently as Dec. 30 sent out false information supplied him by Soviet security men. He said the Americans believed he was a good agent and intrusted him with finding landing fields for spy planes.

His last message, he said, arrived Dec. 30 and was: "Happy New Year. Please collect infor-

mation about planes on Brevinsk Airfield and tell us the identification numbers on bombers and fighters. Also inform us who else you selected among Soviet citizens for our work. Give us full information on each one. God be with you."

E. Y. Time

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