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## AMERICAN PURGED BY CHINESE REDS

Rittenberg, Long an Aide,  
Reported Under Arrest

Special to The New York Times

HONG KONG, April 30—  
Syd Rittenberg, an American from South Carolina who has been living in China for 23 years and is reported under arrest, has been branded a "counterrevolutionary double-dealer" by a Chinese Communist pamphlet.

The pamphlet also linked Mr. Rittenberg to Wang Li, a senior official purged last year. It said the American had a "meteoric rise" last year, having been appointed head of Peking's Central Broadcasting Bureau, but was transferred when Mr. Wang fell.

According to informed sources, Mr. Rittenberg has been under arrest in Peking for the last five months. The pamphlet, published by the Red Headquarters of the Municipal Organs of Canton and marked "for internal circulation" did not give any clue to his fate.

Discharged from the United States Army in 1947, Mr. Rittenberg married a Chinese girl and began working with the Communists. Subsequently he became a member of the small band of Western expatriates working as writers and translators for the Peking propaganda machine.

### Strong Supporters of Mao

Among diplomats here, these expatriates are called "the 300 percenters" because they are such strong supporters of the Chinese Communist leader, Mao Tse-tung, and the Peking régime.

Apart from Mr. Rittenberg, several foreigners who have been working for the Chinese Communists have been reported in trouble during the last few months. They include Israel Epstein, whose parents were American, and his British-born wife, Elsie Fairfax Cholmonley Epstein. The Epsteins were based in Peking at the end of the war, according to reports by travelers.

Mr. Epstein, a former United Press correspondent in China, has for the last few years headed the Foreign Languages Press in Peking and edited China Reconstructs, a monthly magazine published in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian. In November 1965, at a party given in Peking to mark the 80th birthday of the American-born writer Anna Louise Strong, Mr. Epstein was photographed at the side of Mr. Mao.

A former American citizen, Mr. Epstein is thought either to be a Chinese citizen or stateless. The British Foreign Office said last month that it had asked Sir Donald Hopson, the British chargé d'affaires in Peking, to make inquiries about reports that Mr. Epstein, his wife and Michael Shapiro, an English-born writer who has also been working for the Foreign Languages Press, were being detained by the Chinese authorities.

Mr. Shapiro is believed to have been refused renewal of his British passport in 1954. However, the British Foreign Office said it was treating the three persons as entitled to British protection until their citizenship could be ascertained.

Mr. Rittenberg was "brought up a strict Methodist by his family near Charleston, S. C.," according to Edgar Snow in "The Other Side of the River." The United States Army sent him to China where he was "much impressed with the probity" of Communist military officers and their administration, in contrast to the Nationalists, Mr. Snow wrote.

### Married Chinese Student

Mr. Snow wrote that Mr. Rittenberg married a Chinese student, fathered two children and took up broadcasting work in Peking.

"He was, when I saw him, convinced that he was helping to promote good relations between the Chinese and American people—but not, of course, between China and American imperialism," Mr. Snow reported.

The author said Mr. Rittenberg had no intention of renouncing his American citizenship. The Canton pamphlet denouncing Mr. Rittenberg asserted that he had "retained his American citizenship."

The pamphlet said that Mr. Rittenberg in 1953 began to work as an adviser at the Central Broadcasting Bureau in Peking, which was also known as the Broadcasting Administrative Bureau.

Mr. Wang, as a senior member of the Central Cultural Revolution group and a deputy editor of the authoritative party publication Hung Chi, gained control of the broadcasting bureau, according to the pamphlet.

In February of last year, Mr. Wang "privately handed over powers of the Central Broadcasting Bureau to a three-man group headed by Rittenberg," the pamphlet declared. Kuan Feng, another member of the Cultural Revolution Group was also implicated.

The pamphlet stated: "In this way, under the scheming of anti-party ambitionists Wang Li and Kuan Feng, an American of the politician type with doubtful antecedents actually usurped leadership of the Chinese broadcasting station and moreover exercised dictatorship over the proletariat for thing rarely heard of in the half a year. This is an odd world."