

Briton Tells Of Red Spy's Help to U.S.

By Gwen Gibson

Of The Herald Tribune Staff

Greville Wynne, British business man and intelligence agent, told a news conference yesterday that had it not been for Soviet counterspy Oleg Penkovsky "you might have had more than a blackout in this fine city of yours."

Mr. Wynne had flown here from London to help publicize his own projected book and "The Penkovsky Papers," which Doubleday has just published.

Mr. Wynne said Col. Penkovsky's information was vital to the West in the East Berlin military showdown and the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. The London businessman-spy, who served 18 months in a Russian prison, has said that President Kennedy was supplied crucial information by Col. Penkovsky, a top man in the Soviet intelligence system, at the time those two explosive situations were reaching a showdown. The U. S. government has never confirmed this, either officially or unofficially.

At his tape-recorded, hour-long press conference yesterday in the offices of Doubleday, at 277 Park Ave., Mr. Wynne said it was probably Col. Penkovsky's swift response to President Kennedy's request for top secret facts about the Soviet buildup in Cuba that led to Col. Penkovsky's arrest and death.

Col. Penkovsky, known, according to Doubleday, in intelligence circles as "the West's superspy in Moscow," was sentenced by a military tribunal in May 1963 to death by a firing squad for high treason. Tass announced shortly thereafter that the Russian spy and friend of the West had been executed.

"I believe Penkovsky is dead now," Mr. Wynne said at his press conference. "But I don't believe he was shot when they said he was. They (Russian intelligence) were waiting to see what I would say. They still aren't sure how deeply I was involved."

Mr. Wynne said that Col. Penkovsky, whom he called "Alex," was privy to the "holiest of holies in the Russian hierarchy and he used this to the limits for the West. They (the Russian government) haven't gotten over it yet."

Mr. Wynne, then a representative of 12 London manufacturers, first met Col. Penkovsky in Moscow in 1960 and, after elaborate consultations, served as his chief co-between while Col. Penkovsky, for 16 months during 1961 and 1962, gave Soviet secrets to the West.

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