

STATINTL

## Soviet Colonel Called a Hero In Cuba Crisis

Soviet Col. Oleg Penkovsky, shot by the Russians for spying in 1963, was described yesterday as a cold war hero who sacrificed his life to get vital information to President Kennedy during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

"If it had not been for Penkovsky," said British businessman Greville Wynne, "you would have had more than a blackout in your city."

### Both Convicted in Russia

Wynne, the colonel's contact man in the West, was convicted in Russia along with the Russian intelligence officer and later exchanged. He flew here yesterday



Greville Wynne  
*Contact with the West*

for the publication of the "Penkovsky Papers" by Doubleday.

Wynne said that Penkovsky had ignored elaborate safeguards to answer Kennedy's questions about Russian nuclear readiness during the crisis.

### A Crucial Answer: "No"

Penkovsky, said Wynne, answered "no" when Kennedy asked if Khrushchev were ready to begin a nuclear war.

The Penkovsky Papers contain most of the 5,000 secret documents and manuscripts the Russian colonel smuggled out to the West between 1960 and early 1963.

Wynne said Penkovsky's information was also important in undermining Nikita Khrushchev's strategy in the Berlin crisis of 1960.

### Says Death Was Delayed

The Soviet Union announced the execution of Penkovsky on May 5, 1963. Wynne told a press conference he felt certain that Penkovsky was now dead.

"But he certainly wasn't shot when they said he was," he added. He believes that the Russians delayed the execution to assess the damage his intelligence work had done.

Penkovsky was described by Wynne as a man sickened by top level intrigues that he was convinced were driving the world toward nuclear holocaust.

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