

SANTA MONICA, CAL.
OUTLOOK

E-32,312

CPYRGHT

DEC 23 1967

Soviet Spies And 'McCarthyism'

It appears that the Soviet government has good reason to honor the renegade British master spy, Harold A. R. (Kim) Philby, as it did with an article in the Dec. 18 issue of Izvestia headlined, "Hello, Comrade Philby." The former double agent, who obtained U.S. and British intelligence secrets for Moscow while pretending to be working for London, is characterized by Izvestia as a hero of communism.

The turncoat spy was granted such fulsome praise in connection with the observance of the 50th anniversary of the KGB, the initials representing the Russian words for State Security Committee, the secret police. Izvestia disclosed to the people of the Soviet Union for the first time that Philby was one of them, having fled to Moscow five years ago. As might be expected, U.S. officials discount the Kremlin's and Philby's claims as "part of a series of Soviet fabrications."

However, during the years he masqueraded as a loyal British intelligence agent, working with the American Central Intelligence Agency, he must have passed on to Moscow at least a few of Washington's and London's top secrets. That assumption is borne out by his receiving one of the U.S.S.R.'s highest honors, the Order of the Red Banner. The Russians do not make such awards indiscriminately.

Philby fled to Moscow from Beirut, Lebanon, where he was a correspondent for a London newspaper, having quit the British intelligence service when it appeared his colleagues were closing in on him in the late 1950s. Last September, the London Sunday Times and the Observer reported that Philby had been confronted in Beirut late in 1962 with the evidence against him and that in January of 1963 he escaped to the Soviet Union.

The Izvestia article is a reminder that when the CIA gave British intelligence some alarming tips about Philby back in 1955, the Tory former Prime Minister Macmillan termed the allegations "McCarthyism." There was "no reason to conclude that Mr. Philby had at any time betrayed the interests of his country," said the prime minister. As a London Telegraph writer put it at the time, "the word McCarthyism has the paralyzing effect of nerve gas."

Unfortunately, fear of this smear word used by liberals still protects those of the far left. A recent example was the statement of government officials that they were reluctant to reveal the activities of Reds in the Oct. 21-22 "peace" march on the Pentagon for fear it would unleash "a new wave of McCarthyism."