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Philby Tells Russians How He Spied on West

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Washington Post Foreign Service
MOSCOW, Dec. 18—The Soviet security police, celebrating its 50th anniversary this week, introduced British defector Harold Adrian (Kim) Philby to Russian readers tonight.

In a five-column interview produced for the government newspaper Izvestia, Philby described proudly how he had outwitted Western intelligence agencies during the 1940s and 1950s and publicized his recently completed book of memoirs—which his associates have been attempting, thus far unsuccessfully, to place in British and American newspapers.

The Philby interview followed an article in Pravda earlier today accusing two former American military attachés here of espionage in the Ukraine in June, 1966,—ac-

cusations which the U.S. Embassy called "fabrications . . . without foundation." The organization, known since 1954 as the Committee on State Security (KGB), is currently headed by Yuri P. Andropov. It was founded six weeks after the Communist seizure of power as the Chckra, or Extraordinary Commission Against Sabotage and Speculation. Its leaders over the years have included Henryk Yagoda, Nikolai Yezhov and Lavrenti Beria—all of whom died violent deaths here—and Alexander Shelepin, a member of the present Politburo.

The Philby interview added little to what had been disclosed in British publications about the double agent's activities and was curiously reticent on several points. For example, Philby described a talk he had in 1951 in Washington

with Allen Dulles, Frank Wisner and Frank Lindsay of the CIA about organizing an anti-Communist revolt "in one of the Socialist countries in the Balkans." This operation, which Philby betrayed to his superiors in the KGB who thereupon foiled it, was revealed earlier this year to have been directed at Albania. Why the KGB preferred to avoid mentioning its role in saving the Albanian regime of Enver Hoxha was not known.

Philby appeared to rate the late Gen. Walter Bedell Smith highest of the various intelligence officials he met in Washington between 1949 and 1951. He said Allen Dulles "was attentive to people but in fact treated them condescendingly. He never considered matters deeply and I would say that, with all his aggressiveness, he was nevertheless a dilettante. The best proof of that was the adventure of the Cuban invasion, which resulted in such a shameful failure. It is believed he occupied this post only thanks to his brother, John Foster Dulles . . ." Philby said he had tried hard to have good relations with Richard Helms, the present director of the CIA. "He was an easy person to work with, though he was very reserved. He could never have invented gunpowder—he's certainly no Walter Bedell Smith . . . He is more of a politician than an expert at his trade. As I was once told by an FBI officer, Helms was connected with a certain influential political group which was always pushing him forward."

Philby said his conversations with J. Edgar Hoover were "sometimes of a very curious character," and dealt mostly with the methods of Soviet intelligence agencies. Philby claimed that Hoover's deputy, identified only as Ladd or Ladd, once tried to persuade him "in utmost seriousness that President Franklin Roosevelt was an agent of the Communist International."

[In Washington, an FBI spokesman said a man named D. Milton Ladd had been a deputy of Hoover, but had retired in 1954. The spokesman declined to comment on the Izvestia article.]

The Pravda charges this morning referred to an incident in Orsha, the Ukraine, 18 months ago involving Lt. Col. Robert E. Lilchow, the assistant U.S. Army attaché, and Lt. Comdr. Robert B. Bathurst, assistant Naval attaché. Both men were subjected to what U.S. officials said was "improper detention" but stayed on in Russia to complete their normal tours of duty last summer. Pravda gave the impression that the incident had just occurred.



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