

Philby Offers to Withdraw Book On Career as Part of Spy Trade

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A. R. (Kim) Philby, the British espionage official who defected to the Soviet Union in 1951, was reported today to have offered to withdraw the manuscript of a book damaging to Western intelligence if an ex-

change of Soviet and British spies was arranged.

In the book, which he wanted published in the West, Philby said he would name the colleagues he was involved with, "but not in an unkindly way, I hope."

"Just setting down the facts," he added in an interview with a British reporter. "I think the truth should come out."

[In Moscow, Izvestia introduced the Soviet public to Philby in an article praising him and the Soviet intelligence services and deriding Western intelligence.]

Philby's offer of the book and the subsequent terms of its withdrawal were made to Murray Sayle, a correspondent for The Sunday Times of London.

Two weeks ago Philby took the initiative by telephoning Mr. Sayle, who was in Moscow on a scientific assignment. Philby offered The Sunday Times an 80,000-word manuscript dealing mainly with his work as a trusted member of British intelligence when in reality he was, for almost 30 years, an important Soviet agent.

At one of a series of meetings with Mr. Sayle, Philby offered to withdraw his manuscript if the convicted Soviet spies Peter and Helen Kroger now serving prison sentences in Britain, were exchanged for Gerald Brooke, a British lecturer who is serving a prison-camp sentence in the Soviet Union as a spy.

Philby said Mr. Brooke had been working for N.T.S., the People's Labor Front, a Russian refugee organization, which was formerly financed by British intelligence but which he had himself handed over to the Central Intelligence Agency. Therefore, he concluded, "it's up to you and the Americans to decide who wants him back."

Soviet Publicizes Philby

The Sunday Times, which in October published a series of articles disclosing details of Philby's 30-year career as a Soviet spy, said that it turned down his offer after learning that he was not interested in money but in making "a deliberate attempt to damage Western interests, including Western intelligence organizations."

Foreign Secretary George Brown has criticized Lord Thompson, who owns The Sunday Times, for having permitted publication of the October series, which embarrassed the British and American intelligence establishments. Whether to print Philby's own story now appears to have become something of an issue of conscience among London publishers.

Mr. Sayle wrote that Philby spoke critically of the way the Soviet Union had treated Daniel and Sinyavsky, who were sent to a labor camp for having smuggled their two books criticizing the Soviet Union to Western publishers.

"I was completely against it," he said, "I thought the whole thing was a regrettable reversion to the old spirit. They would have got a week in jail, or perhaps a public censure from their colleagues in the Writers Union. What's the point of sending them to a labor camp?"

Philby was also critical of the way Soviet policy had been carried out in Africa. Alluding to the overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah's as president of Ghana, Philby said that he had warned against deep Soviet involvement in Africa and said:

"Well, we did. Million of rubles down the drain. I was sorry to see Nkrumah followed by the people who are in there now, but at any rate I was proved right. Our policy now is, Watch, help, but no deep involvement. Incidentally, the Chinese seem to have done even worse than we did."

About himself Philby spoke readily.

"I love life, women and children, food and drink," he declared.

Asked how he felt about leaving his own family he replied:

"I suppose I am really two people. I am a private person and a political person. Of course, if there is a conflict, the political person comes first."

How did he feel, he was asked, about being called a traitor.

"To betray," he replied, "you must first belong. I never be-

longed. I have followed exactly the same line the whole of my adult life. The fight against Fascism and the fight against imperialism were, fundamentally, the same fight."

The celebration of the jubilee of the dreaded organization that was the principal executor of Stalin's terror has caused some Russians to smile without being amused and has led foreign observers to speculate on the reasons.

Most of the observers connect the spate of articles, film showings and issuance of a K.G.B. commemorative stamp to a campaign to draw attention to weakness in Western intelligence as well as to discredit it, and to publicize the degree of Soviet knowledge and vigilance.

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