

# Another 'Current' Story Highlighted In Lok Sabha

*Spirited attack on Chavan by Mrityunjay Prasad, M. P.*

**A Report on Parliament**

**C**URRENT's story about Soviet financing of candidates during the last general elections figured prominently in the Lok Sabha last week. Several members put pressing questions. HOME MINISTER CHAVAN had a hard time trying to evade giving direct answers.

Swatantra member D. N. PATODIA, refusing to be fobbed off by Mr. Chavan's "evasive" answers, said that the Russian agencies, through various methods, had systematically been interfering in India's elections "as if they are fighting their own elections."

Mr. Patodia said it had already come to Government's notice that Nav Bharat Enterprises, of 22, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi, was doing business with the Russians and was being used by them to siphon campaign funds.

He made a categorical statement that MR. VITALI JOURKINE of the Soviet Embassy was the liaison man between Moscow and the CPI, and that he regularly provided material for Radio Peace and Progress.

Mr. Chavan admitted he was concerned about hostile Soviet broadcasts and said India had protested. This reply did not appear to satisfy the House.

## "Proofs of Soviet Interference"

Mr. A. B. Vajpayee of the Jan Sangh now entered the fray. "Proofs of Soviet interference have come to our notice", he said. "I am greatly disappointed by the Home Minister's attitude; newspapers have published certain allegations but he can give no satisfactory explanation."

Mr. Vajpayee asked whether Mr. Chavan was aware of fabricated letters supposedly written by the U.S. Consul General in Bombay to Ambassador Bowles, and by British High Commissioner John Freeman in which grave allegations had been made against Mr. S. K. Patil and others.

The Jan Sangh leader was

surprised that the Home Minister was still talking about "allegations" when certain facts (such as the hostile broadcasts) were irrefutable".

But the most uncomfortable moment for Mr. Chavan came when Mr. Mrityunjay Prasad, referring specifically to the CURRENT story, highlighted the Home Ministry's lack of action.

Mr. Prasad: "In my hand I have a copy of CURRENT of October 14, in which it is written "Home Ministry Sits on its Biggest Story."

Is the Home Minister aware of this article?

"This article asserts that Rs. 1,60,00,000 was spent by the Soviets on the Indian elections. Has your attention been drawn to this? If so, has any enquiry been made?

"Has any attempt been made to find out how such money comes into India? I myself can cite two ways. Will you investigate?"

Firstly, huge quantities of literature, both vernacular and English, come in from Soviet and Chinese sources. These materials are sold for Rupees. Is there any account of how many books are imported, how many are sold, how much money is realised, how much is sent to Russia after deduction of commission, and how much remains here?

"If this money remains here, is it given to Russian and Chinese supporters? If not, what happened to it?"

"The Soviet Union, along with East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and other East Bloc States, carry on a large scale in case it tipped off the agents and his efforts to apprehend them might be frustrated.

"The goods they buy in India are paid for in Rupees. Has there been any attempt made to find out whether imports match exports? Do the incoming and outgoing figures tally, whether for cash or goods? By these two methods alone one can imagine what a huge quantity of Rupees must have come into the country and been distributed?"

## Complete break-down

"A further question arises. Young India has given a full account. If you wish I can submit copies of Young India and CURRENT. In these papers a complete break-down has been given, party-wise.

"Are you prepared to order an investigation at least on this information?"

"Furthermore, is it not a fact that Russians, Chinese and other Communist State nationals were, during the elections, touring places that had no tourist interest but were important from the political viewpoint alone?"

"I would also like to know whether names and information that is available in foreign papers will be revealed to the House?"

## Chavan was aware

Mr. Chavan, acknowledging he was aware of the Young India and CURRENT articles, said that "the use of foreign money in the General Election is a matter of some enquiry by the Intelligence Bureau" but that it had to be examined carefully.

This was too much for MADHU LIMAYE, who asked sarcastically, "How many years will the examination go on?"

Unable to extricate himself, the Home Minister could only retort that he did not wish to disclose information at this stage in case it tipped off the agents and his efforts to apprehend them might be frustrated.

# K. G. B. Agents Were Active 10 Years Ago

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian Army Officer, a Captain in the Signal Corps, was convicted for spying on behalf of the Soviets. Following the conviction, two Soviet officials posted in India were asked to leave.

This interesting information, which appears to have escaped public notice was revealed in the Rajya Sabha recently by Mr Loknath Misra, a Swatantra MP, after the leader of the Right Communist group in the House, Mr Bhupesh Gupta, challenged him to disprove his assertion that the Russians never interfered in Indian affairs.

Replying to Gupta's challenge, Misra said: "I have the judgment in my possession to justify what I have said."

Gupta promptly retorted: "Judgment by whom?"

Misra immediately revealed that it was a judgment on a case tried in a Court of Law in Delhi

itself. Found guilty and convicted was Army Officer G. D. Prasad who, being in the Signal Corps, had access to very sensitive military information.

The Court found Prasad guilty of engaging in espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union.

Not content with quoting the Judgment, Misra went on to reveal further details of the case, including the names of the Soviet spies.

In Misra's own words, "This case involved Georgi N. Pavlov, Mikhail Y. Abrushkin, Yuel V. Zozoulin and Aleksandr N. Postnikov. The last two, who were in India at that time, were asked to leave India.

"While Prasad was arrested and sent to jail, the persons who took vital information from him and made use of it were let off scot-free."

Misra further revealed that another incident involv-

ing espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union had occurred in December, 1953.

The Indian Officer concerned was Capt. Prakash Chandra, who was arrested for contacts with Soviet agents who had worked under a number of important Soviet Embassy officers, including G. B. Bokrovsky, Nikolai T. Krestnikov and the KGB Resident at the time of Svetlana's defection, Radomir G. Bogdanov.

It is significant that while the Communist press in India keeps hurling unsubstantiated charges about CIA activities, not a word is said about specific instances of espionage involving Soviet officers.

One would like to know why the Government of India is so reluctant to reveal the facts even when they have been established in judgments by Indian law courts.

BALTIMORE SUN  
5 NOV 1968

CPYRGHT CPYRGHT

## British Airman Sentenced As Spy

By CHARLES V. BLOOMER

(London Bureau of The Sun)

London, Nov. 4—A chief technician in the Royal Air Force was sentenced her today to 21 years in prison for serving as a spy for Russia.

Douglas Ronald Britten, 36, who has been in the Air Force for almost 20 years, admitted in Old Bailey he had been selling information to the Russians for 6 years in violation of the Official Secrets Act.

One of his contacts, known to him as "Yuri," was identified by the government as Alexandrov Ivanovich Borisenko, who was a first assistant in the cultural department of the Soviet

Embassy here for two years. Mr. Borisenko left the country last September 20, just

six days after Britten was first taken to a lower court.

"The Dirty Business"

Sir Elwyn Jones, the attorney general, told the court Britten had confessed giving the information to the Russians for money only, not for any ideological reason. He described Britten as a weak man who was a big spender, always in debt, and whose family was breaking up. Britten has a wife and four children.

Lord Parker, the chief justice, told Britten: "You have be-

trayed your family, your friends, the service of which you are a member, and you

have been a traitor to this country. Nobody in court failed to realize the dirty business spying is."

According to Sir Elwyn, Britten worked his way up in the Air Force from telegraphist to chief technician in communications. He was also a ham radio operator, and it was as a result of his amateur radio work that he became involved in selling information.

Ham Call Sign Used

the Kensington Science Museum

and was approached by a Russian who addressed him by his ham call sign, G3KEL.

The Russian introduced himself as a ham operator and asked if Britten could get him a radio manual. They agreed to meet a month later at a subway station. Britten told the man at the second meeting that he had not been able to get a manual.

Nevertheless, the Russian handed him an envelope containing \$23 and suggested Britten have a good dinner on him. Britten told the man that he was being transferred to Cyprus and arranged for him to meet a friend there.

Using identification sentences given him by the London Russian contact, Britten met another Russian in Cyprus who went by the name of Alex.

**Was Given \$10**

Alex gave Britten \$70 after asking him about his family life. Then, at a later meeting, Alex and a woman companion showed Britten a photograph of Britten receiving the \$28 in London.

Britten realized now, Sir Elwyn said, that pressure was being applied. The airman was caught, fearing he could be exposed for accepting money from Russians, and he began turning over whatever information he could, though most of it seemed so inconsequential that the Russians were frequently annoyed.

He gave the names of three other airmen who might be good contacts, and he was questioned about the morals and

sexual habits of his officers.

The Russians also asked him about the Air Force signals and communications networks. He passed along information in a false-bottomed beer can which he left at a phone booth.

**"Threatened My Family"**

Toward the end of his tour of duty in Cyprus, Britten said the Russians "threatened by family and complained they had given an awful lot of money for useless information."

After his return to England, the Russians became increasingly dissatisfied with his performance.

They gave him an ingenious device that looked like a wallet but opened up and could photograph documents by rolling across them. Britten said he never used it. The device was displayed in court.

The Russians wanted to know about the TSR-II, the British prototype swing-wing plane, but

Britten could not help and the government canceled the plane, anyway.

Finally, disgusted, the Russians told him that if his work did not improve his would "disappear." Britten said he was becoming very frightened and tired of living a "perpetual lie."

**A Secret Document**

But he did perform for his masters what the British government considered very serious. He copied off a secret document at the Royal Air Force station at Digby, Lincolnshire.

RAF security police and military intelligence agents had become suspicious and they arrested Britten last September 13.

Throughout Sir Elwyn's account of the case today in Old Bailey, Britten sat with his head on a railing in front of him. His sentence began tonight.

February 1969

London, November 7, 1968 (AP) -- A second Soviet diplomat has been recalled to Moscow, following disclosure that a spy was working from the diplomatic cover of the Soviet Embassy here, it was learned today.

Well-informed sources said at the same time that the British Government is considering restrictions on the size of the huge Soviet Embassy, which now has nearly twice as many diplomats as the British Embassy in Moscow.

Col. Valentin Elistratov, an assistant Air Attache at the Soviet Embassy, was the second Russian with diplomatic status to be quickly recalled in recent weeks.

Elistratov lived in the same block of apartments as a Soviet diplomat named in court Monday as the man who pulled the strings in the spy case.

The spy trial identified Alexander Yanevich Borisenko, first Secretary in the cultural department of the embassy here, as a spy.

The court sentenced Douglas Britten, a Royal Air Force technician later recruited by Borisenko, to 21 years in prison for spying. Borisenko left London for Moscow September 20, six days after Britten made his first appearance in court.

Neighbors in the block of apartments where both Russians lived said both left unexpectedly at about the same time.

"They hardly gave us any notice at all," a spokesman for the landlord said.

The British government is taking a new look at the size of the Soviet Embassy, which a year ago had 67 diplomats and service attaches and now 79. The corresponding figure at the British Embassy in Moscow is 40.