

HUMAN EVENTS

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Svetlana Alliluyeva's 'Only One Year'

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 P-Stalina, Svetlana  
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# Why Have Administrations Ignored

By J'AIME ADAMS

After reading Svetlana Alliluyeva's second book, *Only One Year*, one is again reminded of the tremendous significance of her defection to the West and the unfortunate failure of both the Johnson and Nixon Administrations to utilize this courageous woman's escape and subsequent commentary on Soviet life as important weapons in the Cold War.

It is incredible to think that Joseph Stalin's daughter, who knew virtually all the top Soviet brass and led a far easier life than most Russians, still despised communism so much that she was willing to risk her life, lose her loved ones and leave Russia with nothing but the clothes on her back.

How splendid it would be to see Henry Kissinger occasionally squire *this* lovely and gracious woman around Washington society as well as such anti-Nixonites as Gloria Steinem and Barbara Howar.

While Dr. Kissinger's reputation as a "secret swinger" might drop a notch or two, his knowledge of Soviet foreign policy might go up. Miss Alliluyeva, for instance, could impart some interesting perspective on one of the Administration's most thorny problems: Soviet intransigence toward Israel.

Soviet anti-Semitism, she maintains, has become the "militant official ideology" of the Communist party, an assertion that bolsters the opinion of a number of Cold War scholars that Soviet enmity toward Israel may be fueled as much by what motivates Gerald L.K. Smith as by anything else.

She is convinced that her father hated Jews because of his bitter struggle for power with Leon Trotsky (whom Stalin later had killed) and that the Great Terror was initiated in large part to rid the Soviet hierarchy of Jews. Today Soviet universities have strict Jewish quotas and she maintains there are no Jews serving on the party's Central Committee.

When the party needs some scientific

or technical problem solved, it doesn't mind using Jewish talent, but Jews are consciously removed from the decision-making process. It is said that Andrei Gromyko vetoed a young man with brilliant qualifications for the foreign service solely on the grounds that he was Jewish. As Miss Alliluyeva stresses, this did not take place in the '50s under her father, but in 1966—a point that Jerry Rubin, et al., might wish to ponder.

Importantly, Stalin's daughter states that her father was evil—not insane—and maintains that the system was no less evil because it allowed him to flourish and protected him.

"My father had been a despot and had brought about a bloody terror, destroying millions of innocent people, but . . . the whole system which had made it possible was profoundly corrupt . . . all its participants could not escape responsibility no matter how hard they tried."

She discusses "de-Stalinization" under Khrushchev and remarks that Khrushchev failed in his attempts to liberalize the government because he "was unable to get his way with the party apparatus. Too much has to be smashed. He was afraid to do it. In the end he paid for it—the *apparatchiki* got rid of him.

"Khrushchev couldn't openly declare that the party itself had supported the 'cult of Stalin' and that, after yielding him the full measure of power, it had become the obedient agent of his absolute will.

"By fearing to admit the party's guilt and dumping all the blame on the terrible dead man, he had eloquently discredited not only himself but the entire party. For this the party could not forgive him.

"It became clear to the whole world that a totalitarian regime could neither accuse nor transform itself; suicide was not in its nature, it could only kill others."

## Stalin's Daughter?

A bit further on, she says that the purges could start again at any time for "the apparatus, created and trained by Stalin, has only been temporarily switched off . . . the way one pulls an electric plug out of its socket. But the machinery itself is intact. Just plug it in and it will work again."

In her portrayal of Soviet life, Svetlana leaves the reader with the impression that the most degrading aspect of life under communism is the endless picking, meddling and snooping by bureaucrats.

The most routine matter, such as moving or getting library books, becomes a major project with numerous bureaucrats getting involved and the concomitant delays, mind changes, permits, and requisition slips. "Oh, those ever-changing whims of Moscow!" she cries out.

While government office buildings continue to mushroom, families living in one-room apartments find it extremely difficult to have repairs made. Doctors complain that massive paperwork keeps them from patients and study.

Scholars are continually hampered in their research because they can't travel and must get permission to read foreign publications. Soviet artists never know from one day to the next what subjects are taboo. Shoppers must wait in time-consuming queues because few market places are permitted.

Speaking to foreigners is frowned upon, but attending party meetings and participating in planned recreation are encouraged. Communism has made Russians into a people who unconsciously talk in undertones, something Madame Alliluyeva didn't even realize until she had an opportunity to live in India.

The Russians, she contends, are forced into a position of continuous dissimula-