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Sveltana's Works Help

While Washington officials fumbled the opportunity to exploit the propaganda opportunity offered by the defection last spring of Svetlana Alliluyeva, her published works appear to be making up for that failure.

The New York Times and Life Magazine this week begin publication of excerpts from "Twenty Letters to a Friend," an autobiographical book by the only daughter of the late Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. U.S. and English publishers plan to put out the book Oct. 2.

All of these publication dates were advanced because of fears that unauthorized European publishers may have portions of the book. A pirated manuscript appeared a few weeks ago in England and West Germany where it was sold by the Soviet journalist, Victor Louis, to publications competing with those which had paid huge sums for original rights.

All of this has given Svetlana's book advance publicity rivaling that of William Manchester's "The Death of a President." Her 80,000-word autobiographical work represents more than \$2.5 million in first serial rights and advance book royalties.

Its propaganda value is perhaps best attested to by the reaction in the Soviet Union. A Moscow magazine recently charged that the Central Intelligence Agency ghostwrote her memoirs. It further claimed the CIA was planning to use the memoirs as the highlight of a flood of "pulp literature" to be disseminated in Russia to spoil the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution Nov. 7.

A passage from Svetlana's document "To Boris Leonidovich Pasternak," published by The Atlantic last June, adequately answers the Soviet charges.

She writes: "... pay no attention to the slanderous things they will say about me — but this was the way life would have it. . . . You must understand that events are taking their inevitable course. Fate has decreed that I leave you, that I change my whole life and not return to that futile existence which I have led for 40 years."

CIA 4 - *India*
(Svetlana)

P. Svetlana,
Svetlana