

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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ALIN FOUCH

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~~RYBAT/PESUCCESS/SECRET~~

19 MAY 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala

LINGOIN

INFO: Hqs. [] (for Hegarty); [] (for Wallbank)

KUGOWN/SHERWOOD

Script: "Flight from Red Army terror"

1. Attached is another in our series of scripts for SHERWOOD. It may be expected to be used within the next few days. Like the previous ones, this is for your personal information and general guidance only, not to be shown to any agent personnel.

2. The topic dealt with in subject script, defections from communist armies as a suggestion, is one of the main themes of our effort to influence the target armed forces in favor of PESUCCESS. While you cannot use the script directly in order not to identify yourself with SHERWOOD, we strongly urge you that you suggest variations from this theme to all suitable outlets available to you.

3. We are trying to obtain for your direct use other material related to the same general theme.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

Attachment

EFL/b

19 May 1954

Distributions:

Guat - 2

Wash - 2

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LING - 5

~~RYBAT/PESUCCESS/SECRET~~

(For our Army)

FLIGHT FROM RED ARMY TERROR

In Russia, as in all communist countries, military service is not based on honor and love for the fatherland (feelings for which there is hardly any space in the materialist ideology of the communists), but on compulsion and terror. Barbaric punishment, usually deportation to forced labor in the mines and quarries of northeastern Siberia or Central Asia, awaits not only the soldier for even minor infractions of the inhumane, harsh code of discipline - but even a soldier's parents, wife or children, if the soldier is late in returning from leave or comes under suspicion of being politically "unreliable" (that is, if he is careless enough to have an opinion of his own even if it deviates only by minute degrees from the official party line) - let alone, if he deserts.

This harsh regime is maintained not only through regular military command channels, but even more through an elaborate system of political spying and control. In the early days of the Red Army, immediately after the revolution of 1917, this control was rather crudely exercised by Political Commissars who were usually the real commanders of troops and beside whom the commanding officers played only a rather pitiful role of "technical advisers". Today, most Red Army officers are the product of communist education and indoctrination and their authority of command has been restored - at least outwardly. Political control is better camouflaged, but no less effective or cruel: there are informers in every unit, among the officers as well as among the enlisted personnel, who do not report to their military superiors but to the dreaded, all-powerful Secret Political Police.

Despite this brutal, degrading system - or perhaps rather just because of it - , there are more cases of desertion and defection from communist-controlled armies than from any other army in modern times. Notwithstanding all communist indoctrination efforts, officers and enlisted men have been rebelling again and again since they could not bear to feel the leaden fist of the power-crazy communist party and government bureaucracy crushing their human dignity every day.

During World War II, hundreds of thousands of Russian soldiers, including thousands of officers and even several scores of generals not only surrendered to the German armies, but volunteered to fight on the German side against Stalin's forces, in a desperate effort to help liberate their homeland from communist dictatorship. During the Korean war, over 30,000 North Korean and Chinese Communist soldiers, taken prisoner by the United Nations Forces, refused to be repatriated to their communist-ruled homelands. Many of them threatened to commit suicide rather than return under the Soviet knout - even though they knew that they were hereby endangering their own families whom they left behind as virtual hostages.

In time of peace, it is of course far more difficult for a communist officer or soldier to escape from his cruel masters: the borders are tightly guarded, long stretches are barred with wire entanglements and even with mine fields. If a communist country sends an officer as military attache to a non-communist country, his family is retained home as hostages not only for his return, but also for his "good behavior" abroad. Communist troops permanently stationed in foreign countries, for instance, the many Russian

Divisions stationed in the Soviet occupation zones of Germany and Austria, in Poland, Hungary, Finland, etc., are virtually quarantined in barracks usually far distant from the nearest town, kept from all contacts with the local populations and rigidly guarded and spied upon.

Nevertheless, the stream of defectors from Red Army terror has never ceased completely. Among the most daring cases of escape to freedom, we may mention particularly pilots and airmen from communist lands who are using the freedom of the air to cross an otherwise hermetically sealed border. From Czechoslovakia alone, several crews of military as well as civilian planes landed in Germany or in Austria, asking and receiving political asylum. In a particularly dramatic flight, a Polish pilot, hotly pursued by other Polish planes, landed a Soviet-built MIG-15 jet fighter on the Danish island of Bornholm. Several similar flights were reported during the Korean war where both North Korean and Chinese airmen rode the airwaves to freedom.

In a free country, in an army which is left independent to serve its natural role of defending the country, you might call these men "deserters". But under the conditions to which we have referred above, under a communist dictatorship, where the army has been degraded to become a soulless tool of unbounded political ambition, such flight is actually return to duty. These men are joining their fellow-countrymen in exile in the struggle for the liberation of their homelands. They help to expose the sinister conspiracy of the dictators and they make thereby a valiant contribution to the cause of peace and liberty.

May the men who conspire today to turn our Guatemalan army, too, into

an instrument of communist dictatorship and aggression, stop to consider the ominous example of the Red Army with its mass desertions and may all officers and men in our armed forces study the experiences of all armies under communist rule as a stern warning in the last hour!