

The Warren Report As Barred by Soviet NYT-9/1/68

By PETER GARDNER
Special to The New York Times
MOSCOW, Aug. 31—The Soviet Government has ordered the United States Embassy to halt the distribution of a Russian-language edition of the Warren Commission Report, saying it considered the Soviet action objectionable.

The Foreign Ministry, in asking the embassy to stop supplying the book to Soviet citizens, did not say what it considered objectionable, but a senior American diplomat denied that any slander was involved.

The Soviet action, together with recent hints, suggested that the Kremlin was mounting a campaign to challenge the report's findings by influencing President

Johnson in the assassination of President Kennedy, it was said. This was the intention of the report, presumably to have copies of the full report circulating among ordinary Russians. In the last two months, an embassy spokesman said, 178 copies have been sent to persons who requested them and 478 copies have been sent to Government officials and editors. A total of 2,000 copies of the Russian edition were printed.

Soviet propaganda campaign based on the case would be consistent with the Soviet attacks on President Johnson for his policies on Vietnam and expressions of regret that the more conciliatory atmosphere identified with President Kennedy's Administration had been interrupted.

But it would contrast sharply with the Soviet attitude immediately after the assassination in November, 1963.

Relief Shown at First
Within days of the President's death, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington volunteered a voluminous dossier on the activities of the presumed assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, during his two-year residence in the Soviet Union.

When the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren published its report in September, 1964, American officials found clear signs of relief among Soviet officials that

Moscow was not being blamed for the assassination. Instead, the evidence suggests that a high-policy decision was made here about two weeks ago to capitalize on lingering doubts about the report's conclusion that Oswald was the sole assassin.

On Aug. 17, the Soviet Government newspaper, Izvestia, printed a long article describing the theories of a German-born American author, Joachim Joesten, in which President Johnson is accused of having seized power and having maneuvered to cover up the "ultra-rightwing plot" to kill President Kennedy.

On Aug. 25 the trade union paper, Trud, printed a further article on Mr. Joesten making the accusation against President Johnson more forceful.

U.S. Rejects Charge
The day before the Trud article appeared John C. Gumbert, minister-counselor of the United States Embassy, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to hear the Soviet Government's charge of slander and be told that further distribution of the report was to be considered "improper and impermissible."

After consultation with Ambassador Foy D. Kohler, the State Department, Mr. Gumbert returned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday and assigned the chief of the ministry's American section, George M. Korniyenko, that the embassy rejected the slander charge and would not accept the view that distribution of an official statement was improper and impermissible.

It was noted, according to a State Department spokesman,

material critical of United States policy and that a basis of American policy was the access to information from any political standpoint.

There is no legal requirement that the United States Embassy must honor the Soviet Government's wishes about the type of official material it distributes to interested persons, American officials said, but it is the practice to avoid affronting a host government by ignoring its request.

A hard-cover edition of the Warren Report was prepared in Washington largely for distribution in the Soviet Union. About 700 copies of the edition remain on hand at the United States Embassy. Others have been distributed in other capitals.

Each Edition Cost \$11 a Copy

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, August 31—The Russian-language edition of the Warren Report is identical to the full-length, 816-page version printed by the Government Printing Office, according to a spokesman for the United States Information Agency.

The cost of producing the edition was \$11 a copy, the spokesman said.

State Department spokesman said "since they are saying that we cease distribution, regrettably we will do

References to Soviet

Index of the Warren Report, officially known as "Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy," contains 60 references to the Soviet Union. The report absolved the Soviet of any part in President Kennedy's death, but it also reviewed other theories of conspiracy that have been reported in the Soviet press. It also contained testimony about Oswald's presence in the Soviet Union, which was critical of Soviet leadership and of general conditions there.

The report quotes from "The Alternative," a manuscript written by Oswald while in the Soviet Union, as follows:

"A man, having known, having lived, under the Russian Communist and American capitalist system, could possibly make a choice between them. There is no choice, one offers oppression, the other poverty. Both offer imperialistic injustices, but with two brands of slavery."

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