

## Defector to USSR Fights to Return Home

Moscow

A 47-year-old Californian who defected to the Soviet Union 17 years ago fought his way past four policemen yesterday to enter the American embassy and ask to return to the U.S.

Admitting disillusionment with the communism that first attracted him to Moscow, **Dean Hoxsey** expressed fears for his personal

safety when he returns to Volgograd (Stalingrad) where he has been working as a physician.

Embassy officials, who accepted his application for repatriation, advised Hoxsey to return to his home while the State Department investigates his claim for American citizenship.

Hoxsey was roughed up by

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the uniformed guards who patrol each embassy entrance and stop most Soviet citizens from entering. The guards had his arms pinned back and were dragging him toward a nearby interrogation room when two embassy officers who happened to be on the street pulled him free.

"I am an American," Hoxsey shouted to the embassy men. He showed them an old California driver's license to establish his identity and he was escorted into the consulate.

Appearing nervous and confused about his legal status, the tall, sandy-haired man talked freely to two American correspondents.

He said he was born in Washington and raised in Pico, Calif., now Pico Rivera, a Los Angeles suburb. He was graduated from Whittier High School. His fa-

ther, he said, was Lowell D. Hoxsey, a Los Angeles county tax assessor who died in 1964.

"I was raised as a Communist — my father was a Communist," Hoxsey said. "At one time I believed in it. My father wanted me to believe in it and I did."

Hoxsey served in the U.S. Marine Corps between 1944 and 1946, and was slightly wounded in the battle for Okinawa, he said. When he returned home he joined the Communist party but had a difficult time finding work.

He was living in Hermosa Beach in 1957 when he decided to attend a Communist-sponsored youth festival in Moscow as an individual, not a delegate.

His Communist party membership had lapsed for nonpayment of dues but he still believed in Marxism when he left home. "I thought Communists should be with Communists — I thought it would be better for me," Hoxsey said.

"I heard they had free education and I wanted to be a doctor. I was grateful for that. Frequently in America I had been unemployed a lot."

He had also fallen in love with a Russian woman attending Moscow State University.

After telling his Soviet hosts about his interest in defecting, Hoxsey was interviewed at the Foreign Ministry. He was told to accompany a youth group going on to Peking and to report there to the Soviet Embassy.

He was told in Peking that his request was granted and when he returned to Moscow he was met by an official who escorted him to the Peking Hotel, not far from the American Embassy.

There he lived for three

months on money supplied by the Soviet Red Cross.

"One day a man arrived who handed me a Soviet passport. He said my application was approved and that I was now a Soviet citizen. He asked me for my American passport and I gave it to him. I don't recall taking an oath and I am sure I did not."

For two years Hoxsey studied at a medical institute in Stavropol, in the northern Caucasus mountains. He asked to move to a warmer climate and was transferred to Tbilisi, capital of the Georgian Republic.

Hoxsey finished four more years of training and went to work in a city hospital as a diagnostician. In 1962, he married a Russian woman and they adopted a 4-year-old daughter, and in 1968 Hoxsey and his family moved to Volgograd where he took a job as a laboratory doctor in a clinic.

A feeling of discomfort, which had been developing for some time, grew so strong in Volgograd, Hoxsey said, that a year ago he decided he would try to leave the country.

"I had thought those feelings would pass, but instead they got worse," he said.

Hoxsey said his brother and stepmother, who is seriously ill, still live in California.

If the State Department recognizes Hoxsey's claim for citizenship, his name will be added to 11 others on the embassy "hardship list" of Americans seeking repatriation. The oldest case on the list has been waiting 30 years for the Soviets to grant her a visa.

"When you are young, the idea of your country does not mean very much," Hoxsey said. "But when you get older, pull of home gets very strong."

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