

# Say Leftists Held Girl a Prisoner

*NY Post early edition 1/3/74*

By JAY LEVIN

Six members of a left-wing political group were being held today on charges that they kept another member prisoner for two days because they believed she was a brain-washed Soviet agent.

In what police called one of the oddest cases on record, 22-year-old Alice Weitzman was freed by officers last night after she managed to drop a not pleading for help out of the window of her Washington Heights apartment.

Arrested in the apartment were six members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees, who told investigators they were merely trying to "de-program" Miss Weitzman from "hypnotic brain-washing" supposedly given her by the KGB, the Soviet secret police agency, before she unconsciously "infiltrated" their organization.

Police spokesmen scoffed at the notion, but said the department's Security and Investigations Section, which keeps tabs on radical groups

here, was investigating anyway.

Spokesmen for the Caucus said that several other members had been found to be "agents" of what they called a joint conspiracy of the KGB and CIA to destroy their organization, and that those members were also being "de-programmed" in undisclosed locations around the city.

The NCLC is an independent Communist organization, best known for its electoral arm, the U. S. Labor Party, which ran Tony Chaitken for Mayor in the last election. The group claims to have several thousand members throughout the country and to have "decimated" the Moscow-oriented U. S. Communist Party.

#### Gives Note to Cops

The bizarre case surfaced last night when a man walked up to a patrol car and gave the police officers a note he said he found on the street. The note read: "I Alice Weitzman am being held against my will at 9 Cabrini Blvd., apartment 42."

Several officers went to the address but were refused admittance. They forced their way in when they heard Miss Weitzman screaming to them from a back room.

"She was glad to see us. They hadn't allowed her out of the bedroom, wouldn't allow her out of the house," said Police Officer Leroy Reid. "They wouldn't allow her to make telephone calls or communicate with her friends."

Miss Weitzman told police the Caucus members had attempted to give her a "mental de-briefing" because they believed she was a KGB agent. Police said the arrested suspects claimed that Miss Weitzman had been picked up by the KGB in various locations, such as West Berlin, Turkey and Iran—all of which she had admitted being in—and had been programmed against her will, primarily through hypnosis.

#### She's Under Strain

Detectives said they could not tell whether Miss Weitzman had ever been hypnotized and she admitted that they were having difficulty questioning her because she seemed under strain.

A spokeswoman for the Caucus, which has offices at 231 W. 29th St., said the group put Miss Weitzman and a number of others "in isolation" — though not against their wills, she insisted—after a British member admitted under "de-programming" that he had been sent here by the KGB to arrange for the assassination of NCLC founder-chairman Lyn Marcus, 51.

The KGB, she said, wanted to destroy the Caucus "to make sure there is no revolution. The KGB is tremendously afraid we are going to take over and destroy the Communist parties of Eu-

rope."

The CIA and other Western intelligence agencies were conspiring in the plot because it was in their advantage to do so, she said.

The spokeswoman, who asked that her name not be used, said the KGB had a multi-million-dollar program under which it lures or blackmails radicals into its clutches, then brain-washes them with hypnotism, shock therapy and drugs until they are unconsciously programmed to respond to certain post-hypnotic stimuli.

The Caucus first discovered this in August, she said, when Marcus inadvertently triggered a hypnotic state for one European member. In that condition, she said, the European revealed that he had been assigned to assassinate the party chair man.

Then last Monday, she said,

*Continued on Page 18*

## Charge Six Held Girl A Prisoner

*Continued from Page 2*

a party member named Christopher White arrived here from England and, because he, too, had been acting suspiciously, he was tested with a surprise command in Russian—to which he responded, she said.

Thus alerted, Marcus arranged to have White "deprogrammed" and under interrogation he revealed that he had been assigned to set up Marcus for assassination by a squad of seven Latin Americans hiding aboard a freighter docked here.

The names of the seven were turned over to Det. John Finnegan of the SIS, she said. Finnegan could not immediately be reached.

The spokeswoman also

said White inadvertently revealed other agents in the organization when his arrival triggered certain post-hypnotic responses in them.

One of the "agents," she said, was Miss Weitzman.

The spokeswoman said that White had been programmed into killing himself by biting into a cyanide capsule hidden in a tooth should the assassination fail. He tried just that, she said, but his life was saved when he vomited up the cyanide. He was treated at St. Vincent's Hospital, she said.

A police spokesman said the hospital had reported that there had been no traces of poison found in his system.

"This guy has a history of being a paranoid, we found out," the spokesman said. "There was no poisoning."

The Caucus official said that White was now voluntarily in a concealed location undergoing further "de-programming."

"For us it's a life and death story," she said. "It's not just an entertaining film script."

The arrested members, who were to be arraigned today, were identified as Fernando Quijano, 26; Mary Fletcher, 25; Daniel Snider, 22; Edward Spannus, 30, and Khushro Gandhi, 22, all of Washington Heights; and Renee Typaldos, 22, of the Bronx.

All six were charged with unlawful imprisonment in the first degree, which carries a sentence of from one to four years upon conviction.