

Father's Death 'Ghastly,' Svetlana Reveals in Book

Father Slowly Choked to Death, Says Daughter

LONDON (AP) — Joseph Stalin's daughter, Svetlana, disclosed in memoirs published here Thursday that the Soviet dictator choked to death for 12 hours, his face turning black in agony.

Svetlana sat by her father's bed in March 1953, "for those three terrible days it took him to die."

She said frantic efforts were made to save him—leeches put on his head and neck, cardiograms, X-rays and continuous injections.

GHASTLY DEATH

It was, Svetlana wrote, a "ghastly death." Slowly asphyxiated throughout the last 12 hours, Stalin's face turned black, became unrecognizable and in terrible agony he choked to death.

Svetlana implied that her father hastened his own death. He believed there was a doctors' plot against him and permitted no physicians in his Kremlin home for several months before he died.

He took pills and iodine from time to time, and the day before suffering a cerebral hemorrhage, he took a steam bath, something Svetlana says a doctor would never have permitted.

NO WAY HELPED

She said her heart was bursting with grief and love for her father — "I felt I had been a good-for-nothing daughter and had in no way helped this lonely soul, this old and sick man who was rejected and alone on his Olympus."

This is recounted by Olga Franklin, Russian-language expert of the Daily Mail-Evening News, in reviewing Svetlana's book, "Twenty Letters to A Friend." It was published here in Russian by Hulchinson's at \$7 a copy.

In the book, Svetlana depicted her father as a man awful in his cruelty—but a man who did not know how to kill. Referring to a story that Stalin killed his second wife, Svetlana's mother, Svetlana said:

NOTHING TO EXPLAIN
"How easy and simple it

would be if that were the case. There is nothing to explain, and the fact is that he himself never killed anybody in his life except hawks and hares and he did not know how to."

Throughout her childhood, Svetlana saw all her aunts and uncles disappear. Some, like Anna Segeyevna, came back "a bit silly" from years of solitary confinement. Some never returned.

Svetlana wrote that her father feared crowds and was annoyed by foreign dress and perfume. She said he slapped her twice across the face because, at 17, she fell in love with a middle-aged Jewish dramatist.

AFRAID TO GO OUT

She said Stalin told her he was afraid to go out because the crowds would come and applaud, standing, clapping, "mouths open, the fools."

Stalin sulked because he saw some Kremlin wives and daughters wearing foreign-style sweaters and dresses. When Svetlana wore some perfume, Stalin complained: "Can't breathe in here."

He shouted at his eldest son, Yasha, who had tried to kill himself after his first marriage failed: "Missed, eh, you great fool."

FATHER'S SPIES

Svetlana said that during World War II she and her boyfriends tried to find a sheltered place along Moscow's streets to kiss—but her father's spies dogged her footsteps—and were afraid to tell Stalin what they saw.

Mrs. Franklin called the book a masterpiece, worthy of Tolstoy.

But, Mrs. Franklin added, seekers of political sensation will find none in these memoirs.

BOOK NO COMFORT

"Those who might want to find some political comfort out

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of Svetlana's revelations will be disappointed," she wrote. "Svetlana's book will bring no comfort, little joy, to the enemies of

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the Soviet Union. All the characters have stature and greatness. Their courage and idealism is beyond question."