

Intrigue Besets Svetlana's Story

By Jack Anderson

The international intrigue over the premature publication of the memoirs of Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, is even stranger than so far has leaked into print.

The mystery man in the story is Victor Louis, a bespectacled 39-year-old Soviet journalist, whom U.S. intelligence has now identified as a Kremlin agent.

The intrigue began after Svetlana's startling defection to the West, an event that jolted the Russians as severely as the defection of any prominent American to Russia would shock Americans.

The State Department, not wishing to get involved officially, asked former Ambassador to Moscow George Kennan to keep Svetlana from stumbling into any pitfalls. He called in his next-door neighbor, attorney Edward Greenbaum, whose Madison Avenue law firm obligingly took Svetlana under its wing.

Svetlana had brought out of Russia her memoirs, all neatly typed and ready for translation. But she also left a copy behind.

Greenbaum immediately parceled out the rights to Svetlana's writings.

Harper and Row, a Greenbaum client, purchased the book rights. The New York Times, another Greenbaum client, bought the first serial rights. Life magazine also pur-

chased rights to print advance excerpts from the book. Although Life is not a Greenbaum client, Marian Sulzberger, daughter of the New York Times publisher, is married to Andrew Heiskell, the Time-Life board chairman.

All belong to Greenbaum's circle of friends and clients.

How much these distinguished publications paid Svetlana hasn't been announced, but it's no secret that she became a millionaire capitalist quicker than any Communist on record. Time magazine claimed she collected a record \$3,200,000 from both American and British publishers, and Time should be in a position to know.

Harper and Row set October as the release date for Svetlana's memoirs, and the New York Times planned a 12-installment serialization beginning in late September. Life magazine will print its excerpts simultaneously.

Enter Victor Louis

The autumn publishing date happens to coincide with the Soviet Union's 50th anniversary celebration, and the conspiratorial-minded men in the Kremlin detected a plot. They darkly concluded that the United States hoped to detract from the celebration by raising the ghost of Stalin by way of Svetlana's memoirs.

Soviet intermediaries first tried to persuade Harper and Row to change the publication

date, but the publisher refused.

Then Victor Louis suddenly appeared on the scene with the manuscript Svetlana left behind, plus pictures from her family album. He offered these last May to Parade magazine, whose editor, Jess Gorkin, turned him down. Gorkin considered it unethical to run a story that other publications had purchased.

Louis finally peddled his bootleg manuscript to European publishers. To protect their copyright, the legitimate British publisher, Hutchinson and Company, rushed a Russian-language version of the book into print.

The highlights of Svetlana's story were picked up and printed around the world. Presumably this was the Kremlin's aim, since the story will now be stale news when the Soviets begin celebrating their 50th anniversary.

But the New York Times and Time-Life, which paid through the nose for the first rights, were furious over being scooped. They began digging into how it happened, and found Victor Louis at the bottom of the woodpile.

Time angrily accused him of peddling the manuscript and pictures like "a salesman of obscene postcards." The New York Times ran a series of stories exposing Louis as a Kremlin agent.

In Europe, Louis fussed and fumed. He got on the transatlantic phone to find out

whether he could sue. He claimed plaintively that he was merely an enterprising Russian journalist, and there is no denying that he made a sizable capitalist profit on the deal.

However, U.S. intelligence is convinced that Louis is a Soviet agent with excellent pipelines into the Kremlin.

Meanwhile, the Russians are exploring the possibility of filing suits in the United States and Europe for the profits on the memoirs. The Soviets contend that Svetlana wrote her memoirs originally as letters to her children, therefore they are the legal owners of the manuscript.

Note—A spokesman for the Greenbaum law firm refused all comment, except to acknowledge that Harper and Row and the New York Times were clients.

Dorticos Irks Congress

Some Congressmen have privately urged taking military action against Cuba. As justification, they point out that Cuba has virtually declared war on the United States by calling for guerrilla warfare in our cities.

Cuban President Dorticos, in his opening address to the Communist Solidarity Conference in Havana, announced a policy of "armed struggle" not only against the United States but against other Latin American governments.