The Bullfrogs' Chorus: 1963–1964

s, and it established three times a week or recorded of Don-

middle fifties, unceit. From our first ie friends. His wife extremely nervous eating herself. On e was lost between new to talk to. We ry for her.<sup>41</sup>

gidly controlled was Moscow that he was aclean alone was the ijoyed the Macleans à la moutarde when o, the Macleans had 1d Kim and Eleanor 's dacha; they almost a the forest. At first ey were active in the sat around exchangpast and laughing at emarked to Eleanor, Philby by now." The e in Italy and Paris cleans, Eleanor had fficer, Sergei, Viktor,

several hours of each buld hear a murmur al visitor was Sergei, rs whom Kim never but he was well paid ear; about £2,400 of rest for the upkeep s rent was no more tors and dental care re very much as an upper-middle-class *apparatchik*. His only extravagance was the maid, and her salary was negligible. As for Kim's relationship with the KGB officers who called on him, Philby seemed

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pathetically pleased by the approbation of the Russians. Every pat on the back was like a medal or a bouquet of flowers. The Russians understood his psychological need for reassurance. Far from throwing him on the scrap heap now that his main work was over, they treated him with great deference. To them he must have been an extraordinary phenomenon, a model of ideological dedication. For thirty years he had served them devotedly, but now he was in their hands. He wanted recognition and got it . . . Kim's excitement at any word of praise seemed disproportionate. To me it seemed out of character, and he went down in my estimation.<sup>42</sup>

Philby's decision to rid himself of Eleanor took another step in November, when Eleanor learned she needed minor surgery. Almost the first thing the KGB did when Eleanor arrived was to provide "a complete physical check-up at a special KGB clinic"; she claimed that it was more thorough than any she had experienced before. The KGB confirmed Eleanor's need, previously recommended by an SIS doctor in London, for surgery to strengthen a sphincter weakened when Eleanor gave birth to her daughter. Her doctor arranged for a KGB nurse to treat her at home until she entered the hospital. Once she was hospitalized, Kim came twice each day, and she was still there on November 23. As Eleanor recorded afterward, she spent the day lying in bed trying to understand what the three other Russian women in her room were saying. All she understood was the name John Fitzgerald and that all three women were upset. When Kim arrived, Eleanor

learned the terrible news that President Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas on the previous day. The effect on the hospital was shattering. Doctors, nurses and patients wept openly. As most of them knew I was an American I was offered the most tender condolences. Whatever the political cynicism of the Russian leaders, the Russian people were profoundly attached to peace. They lost millions of men in the war. In spite of giant reconstruction, bullet scars are still to be seen in the cities of Western Russia. No one can live in Russia and witness the first signs of affluence, after the depredations of war and the rigours of its aftermath, without coming to believe in the sincerity of the Russians' longing for peace. To them Kennedy was a man of peace, and they mourned his death. Kim, who talked a great deal

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## TREASON IN THE BLOOD

about American politics, was also profoundly moved and depressed by the tragedy.

The "high points" of each week were the couple's trips to the central post office to get their foreign mail. Their chief relaxation was music, and Kim had already established what was to become a large collection of Red Army marching songs and Russian opera. They seldom missed a performance at the Bolshoi. Life was reasonably pleasant, except the discipline. As Eleanor was to write of that aspect of their lives:

Several months had passed before I was fully aware of the strict control to which we were subject. The Russians were taking no chances. Just what they feared I could not fathom, until Kim hinted that they thought the British, perhaps even the the CIA, might try to assassinate him if they could find him.

In May of 1964, Eleanor reminded Kim of her promise to Annie, her daughter, that they would meet in New York on June 10, 1964. Could he obtain the exit visa she required to leave the Soviet Union? When Sergei opposed her departure - there was great suspicion in the United States that the KGB had trained President Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald -- Philby warned Sergei that Eleanor was determined to go and that if she was stopped she would complain to the U.S. Embassy that she was being held in Moscow against her will. Go she did. Sergei obtained Eleanor's ticket and her exit visa and prepared her for the interrogation to which she would inevitably be subjected by the FBI. At length, it was decided that Eleanor knew so little of Kim's work that if she withheld his address, telephone number, and his work name, it would not matter what she said. If she did give them away, it would only complicate life; Kim would have to move. Kim felt sure that Eleanor would encounter trouble with the FBI or the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and he gave her four specimen cables to send: ARRIVED SAFELY ALL LOVE would mean that she had encountered no difficulty on entering the United States; AR-RIVED SMOOTHLY ALL LOVE would indicate that there was trouble with the FBI; LANDED SAFELY ALL LOVE would indicate passport difficulties; GOOD FLIGHT ALL LOVE would mean that Eleanor was in trouble with both the FBI and the INS.

At the beginning of July, Eleanor was seen off at Moscow Airport by Kim and Sergei. She flew to Copenhagen by Aeroflot and then on to New York by SAS. There, her passport was confiscated, and in return she received a letter from Secretary of State Dean Rusk, informing her, she wrote, that "in view of my marriage to H.A.R. Philby and my activities in the Soviet Union which were against the interest of the U.S. government, my p: sent the appropria the next five mor Philby to Eleanor v at the CIA. These of this odd affair a mind, his relations period immediate

Each letter was r dated by the mont first, and it dealt v Philby had by tha Maclean revealed so for more than tween them that m may have been del people close to h spondence, he be which gave Eleance began with Eleance

> My darlingest be I have been p of documents! -Department is b the withdrawal c Soviet Union in etc." Surely it is You are, after all of a housewife . seems far-fetche you would have against its intere safe, and one ca convinced them else, I am sure doubtless be tak please keep me way, if you fores time, if necessa need.43

This intercept n passport, but tha

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