

LETTERS ON C.I.A. SHOWN IN MOSCOW

Editor—in a CBS Interview
Says Readers Complained
About 3 U.S. Newsmen

MOSCOW, May 26 (AP)—The Soviet publication that suggested that three American correspondents here were associated with the United States Central Intelligence Agency added some details to its accusations.

The correspondents are George A. Krimsky of The Associated Press, Christopher S. Wren, bureau chief of The New York Times, and Alfred Friendly Jr. of Newsweek magazine. All three and their news organizations denied any C.I.A. involvement when the accusation appeared in the latest issue of Literaturnaya Gazeta, the weekly of the Soviet writers.

In an interview with Richard Roth, a CBS News correspondent, the foreign editor of the weekly produced a dozen letters, purportedly written by Soviet citizens, that the editor said "point to the conclusion" that the three were in the service of the C.I.A.

Link to Tass Charged

The editor, Oleg Prudkov, was quoted as having said a letter from an unnamed Moscow resident accused Mr. Krimsky of having recruited a young Soviet citizen to work for the official Tass press agency and thereby subsequently receiving unauthorized "special material" from the agency with the employee's help.

Mr. Krimsky denied that he had recruited anyone or that he had received unauthorized Tass material. "The whole thing is a trumped-up charge," Mr. Krimsky said. "I knew someone who worked for Tass but he was one of many Soviet acquaintances and we transacted no illicit business."

Mr. Roth said he had been told that, Mr. Wren, The New York Times correspondent, was accused of efforts to elicit information about Soviet troop and rocket strengths.

Mr. Wren said in comment to The Associated Press: "I would rather not comment until I hear from Literary Gazette myself." He has formally asked the editors to show him the accusing letters.

Mr. Friendly of Newsweek, was accused of having tried to incite anti-Russian nationalist feelings in the republics of Estonia and Georgia, according to the interview with Mr. Prudkov.

"No, I have not done anything to oppose the Georgians to the Russian or Estonians to the Russians," Mr. Friendly said when asked.

A.P. Rejects Accusation

In New York, an Associated Press spokesman said "The Soviet charges are a complete fabrication. To begin with it is ridiculous to assume that Krimsky or any American correspondent would have the slightest influence on who might or might not work for Tass.

"All three correspondents are fluent in Russian and able to talk directly to the Russian people and have been in contact with the dissidents in Moscow.

"Soviet magazines and newspapers have trumped up charges in the past against foreign correspondents in Moscow who have been able, through their knowledge of languages, to deal directly with the Russian people, particularly dissidents. They hope in this way to intimidate the correspondents and cut off news sources with the Soviet people.

"The only difference this time is they are trying to tie the discussion in the United States about the C.I.A. to the situation in Moscow. The connection is entirely false."

Kenneth Auchincloss, managing editor of Newsweek, said: "We are confident that Friendly has no connection with the C.I.A."

State Department to Protest

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 26—The State Department said today that it would protest to Soviet authorities against the article in Literaturnaya Gazeta suggesting that three American correspondents were closely allied with the Central Intelligence Agency.

The American Embassy, the three reporters and their organizations have all denied the allegation, and today the department said, "We deplore such irresponsible charges."

It said the three correspondents are "highly respected journalists, and the charges slander their reputations and organizations they represent."

"We plan to protest the charges," said the department spokesman, Frederick Z. Brown.