

Time Inc. Says It Is Publishing Reminiscences by Khrushchev

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By LAWRENCE VAN GELDER

A manuscript described as the reminiscences of Nikita S. Khrushchev, the former Soviet Premier, will be serialized in Life magazine beginning later this month and will be published in book form next month by Little, Brown & Co.

Announcement of the pending publication was made yesterday by Time Inc., publishers of Life and owners of Little, Brown, but details surrounding the acquisition of the property were enveloped in secrecy.

According to the announcement, the book, entitled "Khrushchev Remembers," incorporates more than 275,000 words "and is made up of material emanating from various sources."

"Life and Little, Brown," he

announcement said, "are convinced beyond any doubt, and have taken pains to confirm, that this is an authentic record of Nikita Khrushchev's words."

A spokesman for Time Inc., refused to expand upon these statements. When asked if Mr. Khrushchev was aware of the pending publication, the spokesman replied: "I can't say anything about that either."

United Press International reported yesterday that Mr. Khrushchev had been ordered to bed in his country villa 25 miles west of Moscow with a lingering heart ailment described as "cardiac insufficiency."

The spokesman, Donald M.

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Wilson, vice president of Time for corporate and public affairs, would shed no light on the original form of the materials, their sources, the means by which they had reached this country, the identity of use of intermediaries, royalty arrangements or methods used in authenticating the materials incorporated in the manuscript.

So tight was the secrecy surrounding the project, he said, that it was given a code name—the Jones Project—and was known to fewer than a dozen people at life and Little Brown Co. of Boston.

The Life serialization, incorporating about 35,000 words, will appear for four successive issues beginning with the issue on sale Nov. 23.

The book, with a retail price of \$10, will be put on sale Dec. 21. It carries an introduction by Edward Crankshaw, a British analyst of Soviet affairs and the author of "Khrushchev: A Career," a biography published here by Viking in 1966. (In London, Mr. Crankshaw was unavailable for comment on the announcement.)

But in an excerpt from his introduction, Mr. Crankshaw was quoted by Time Inc., as describing his reaction upon first reading the reminiscences: "Here was Khrushchev himself, quite unmistakably speaking, a voice from limbo, and a very lively voice at that . . . What we have here is an extraordinary, a unique personal history."

Mr. Wilson of Time said that the material encompassed most of Mr. Khrushchev's life and included some disclosures of a "newsworthy" nature, but he declined to elaborate.

The Life excerpts and the Little, Brown book will include photographs described as previously unpublished, and the book version is scheduled for distribution early next year by the Book-of-the-Month Club.

In Moscow recently reports circulated that the 76-year-old Mr. Khrushchev, who was ousted from power in October, 1964, was eager to compose his memoirs but was having difficulty in finding a ghost writer.

United Press International, citing unnamed European sources, said that the manuscript planned for publication here has been known for some time to a limited number of publishers and journalists in Western Europe.

The news agency described the bidding for the publication rights as spirited. The manuscript was said to deal with the Stalin era, the arrest and execution of the security chief, Lavrenti P. Beria, power struggles among Soviet leaders, and Khrushchev's views on international events in the past decades, including the events in the Middle East and the Cuban missile crisis. But it was said not to deal with events leading to Mr. Khrushchev's ouster.

Mr. Khrushchev, who led the Soviet regime from 1953 until 1964, has been living in recent years what he has described as "the life of a pensioner." Consigned to oblivion by the current regime, he is regarded as a nonperson within the Soviet Union, and his 75th birthday last year was ignored.

Last August, he was released from the Kremlin Hospital after three months of treatment for a heart ailment. He has an apartment in Moscow and a country home.

Although Mr. Wilson of Time declined to comment on the book, there was some speculation here that arrangements for acquisition of the property had been carried out through Victor Louis, a Soviet citizen suspected by Western intelligence sources as being an agent of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency.

Mr. Louis, a journalist, is known to have access to Mr. Khrushchev and was a key figure in arrangements made by the National Broadcasting Company for a documentary entitled "Khrushchev in Exile: His Opinions and Revelations," which was presented in 1967.

Mr. Louis, whose original name is said to be Vitaly Yevgenyevich Lui, became a focus of considerable interest in publishing circles in 1967 amid preparations for the publication of the memoirs of Stalin's daughter, Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva.

At that time, Mr. Louis was offering Western publishers

photographs of the Stalin family and a version of Mrs. Alliluyeva's memoirs. Mrs. Alliluyeva, now Mrs. William Wesley Peters, fled from the Soviet Union in March, 1967, and came to the United States a month later, saying she was seeking "the self-expression that has been denied me for so long in Russia."

Publication of her memoirs, entitled "Twenty Letters to a Friend," began later that year. It was suspected that Mr. Louis's efforts to sell an unauthorized version of her book were intended to spoil sales of the authorized version and to discredit Mrs. Alliluyeva.

In connection with the Khrushchev memoirs, one authority here on Soviet affairs said that the book undoubtedly would not be published in the Soviet Union. He theorized that any involvement by Mr. Louis would mean that publication here had the approval of the Soviet Government and was designed to bring in foreign exchange.

Another expert on Soviet affairs speculated that publication in the West might have had the approval only of a faction within the Government, a faction opposed to Mr. Khrushchev's successor, Leonid I. Brezhnev.

In speaking of the foreign exchange advantages to the Soviet Union of publication in the West of a book that would undoubtedly stir widespread interest, it was noted that in February, 1969, the Soviet agency Novosti and a British publisher, Macdonald & Co., Ltd., made an arrangement for the publication of the memoirs of Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov, the Soviet wartime commander.

On Thursday, Doubleday & Co. made an agreement with the Soviet Union in which the Soviet Union formally recognized for the first time the copyright of an American publisher.

In London, this morning's editions of The Daily Mirror said that Victor Louis was "the mastermind" in getting the Khrushchev manuscript from the Soviet Union to Time.

In Stockholm, the Reuters news agency cited unnamed literary sources as saying that the manuscript might have been smuggled out of the Soviet Union without Mr. Khrushchev's knowledge and that it consisted of little more than 100 pages.

Earlier this week, The Washington Post reported from Copenhagen that a source in Stockholm had said that a manuscript by Mr. Khrushchev had recently reached the West.

The newspaper reported that Mr. Louis had been in Copenhagen from Aug. 20 to 27, according to the Danish press, and had met with chief news editors and Moscow correspondents of Time and Life to arrange a news deal of international interest.

Khrushchev Ordered to Bed

MOSCOW, Nov. 6 (UPI)—Former Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev has been ordered to bed with a heart ailment that has been plaguing him since last summer, friends of the family said today. The illness has been diagnosed as "cardiac insufficiency."