

Khrushchev 'Memoir'

By Victor Zorza

London

The mysterious appearance in the West of Nikita Khrushchev's "Reminiscences" looks like a move in a deep-laid psychological warfare plot hatched in the Kremlin. The linking of the name of Victor Louis with the transmission of the Khrushchev material to Time-Life means that the Soviet government, whose servant Louis is, has had a hand in the affair.

The credibility of Louis as a purveyor of this kind of material had been established by his role in making available to the West a filmed interview of Khrushchev's reminiscences.

The truth of that operation (never before fully published) is that the wellknown American television producer, Lucy Jarvis, was approached by Louis during a visit to Moscow, and he offered to procure for her a filmed interview with Khrushchev. Louis was then invited to New York to discuss the arrangements with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC). He asked for a fee of \$25,000 and for the cameras and tape recorders which were to be used in making the film.

SALINGER

It so happened that Pierre Salinger, the White House press secretary during the Kennedy and early Johnson years, had for some time been trying to obtain Khrushchev's views on his dealings with President Kennedy, to form part of the Kennedy memorial library. When NBC came to consider the questions which should be put to Khrushchev, it was decided that these should be drawn up by Salinger.

Salinger insisted on some proof that the Khrushchev interview would be made genuinely in response to his questions, and that he — and NBC — would not be presented with some clever fake. Louis flew from New York to Los Angeles, to discuss the whole matter with Salinger and he undertook to provide the required proof.

Salinger gave him a copy of his recently published book about President Kennedy, and it was agreed that Khrushchev should be shown in the film handling the book during the interview. Louis was given a \$5000 advance and the film cameras and recorders he had asked for. He went back to Moscow and soon delivered the film, which became a worldwide television scoop. (It included a shot of Khrushchev with the book.)

VERSION

At least part of the Khrushchev material now made available to Time-Life ap-

Russia Deletes Praise of Stalin In Peking Note

Moscow

The Soviet Union deleted praise for Josef Stalin in republishing the text of a message from Communist China congratulating the Soviet government on its 53rd anniversary.

"The Chinese people are firmly confident that the Soviet people educated by the great Lenin and Stalin can continue to develop the glorious traditions of the October (1917) Revolution," the greetings from Peking said.

Russian censors deleted the reference to Stalin in printing the greeting in Pravda, the Communist party newspaper.

United Press

appears to be an extended version of the recording Louis had made previously and had then passed on to NBC.

The earlier recording was abruptly cut off at a number of critical points of the narrative. These cuts have now been made good. There is not likely to be any question about the authenticity of this part of the material, if the recordings can be checked. But a Time-Life spokesman has also said that the reminiscences are made up of material "emanating from various sources," and this would have to be judged on its merits when it is published.

There is a pattern in all this activity which suggests

that the KGB's "Department D" (for disinformation) is building up step by step a network of contacts and arrangements which would enable it to command the use of the West's massive publicity media for some special purpose of its own.

TALES

Any similarity between all this and an international spy thriller is not purely coincidental. Louis has often figured as the hero of such tales in situations which were not at all fictional.

Louis, a Soviet citizen residing in Moscow, also acts as a correspondent for Western newspapers. This enables him to undertake frequent foreign travels during which he has performed important if unorthodox duties for the Soviet Foreign Ministry in countries where Russia has no formal representation — as, for instance, in Spain and Formosa.

Louis and several men from Time-Life are reported in the Danish press to have stayed at the Hotel D'Angleterre in Copenhagen at the end of August, when the new Khrushchev deal was apparently negotiated.

His non-journalistic func-

tions have often been mentioned in the world press. The New York Times once said in a biographical note that Victor Louis is "a Soviet citizen believed to have close connections with the Soviet secret police." he had carried out in the past "special tasks" in the field of foreign propaganda — "apparently at the behest of the Soviet KGB, or secret police, of the Soviet foreign office, or both."

Perhaps the most widely known psychological warfare operation in which Louis has been previously engaged concerned the memoirs of Svetlana Stalin. The Kremlin professed to believe that she had been spirited out of Russia by the CIA in order that the publication of her memoirs in the West might be used to put in the shade the impending 50th Anniversary of the Soviet Revolution. It therefore sought to anticipate the impact of publication by sending Victor Louis to the West with copies of the manuscript which the KGB had somehow acquired to place them in the hands of Western publishers and magazines before the anniversary celebrations.