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U.S. Man Bids To Quit Soviet After 17 Years

By Murray Seeger
Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW, May 15—A 47-year-old Californian who defected to the Soviet Union 17 years ago fought his way past four policemen today to enter the American embassy and ask to return to the United States.

Admitting disillusionment with communism which first attracted him to Moscow, Dean Hoxsey expressed fears for his personal safety when he returns to Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, where he has been working as a physician.

Embassy officials, who accepted his application for repatriation, advised Hoxsey to return to his home while the State Department investigates his claim for American citizenship.

Hoxsey was roughed up by the uniformed guards who patrol each embassy entrance and stop most Soviet citizens from entering. The guards had his arms pinned back and were dragging him toward a nearby interrogation room when two embassy officers who happened to be on the street pulled him free.

"I am an American," Hoxsey shouted to the embassy men. He showed them an old California driver's license to establish his identity and he was escorted into the consulate.

Appearing nervous and confused about his legal status, the tall sandy-haired man talked freely to two American correspondents. He said he was born in Wenatchee, Wash., and raised in Pico, Calif.

"I was raised as a Communist—my father was a Communist," Hoxsey said. "At one time I believed in it. My father wanted me to believe in it and I did, too."

Hoxsey served in the Marines between 1944 and 1946, and was slightly wounded in the battle for Okinawa, he said. When he returned home he joined the Communist Party but had a difficult time finding work.

In 1950, Hoxsey said he joined the Navy serving four years. Later he worked as an X-ray technician.

He decided to defect while attending a Communist-sponsored youth festival in Moscow in 1957.

"I thought Communists should be with Communists—I thought it would be better for me," Hoxsey said.

"I heard they had free education and I wanted to be a doctor. I was grateful for that. Frequently in America I had been unemployed a lot."

He had also fallen in love with a Russian woman attending Moscow State University.

After telling his Soviet hosts about his interest in defecting, Hoxsey was interviewed at the Foreign Minis-

try. He was told to accompany a youth group going on to Peking and to report there to the Soviet Embassy.

He was told in Peking that his request was granted and when he returned to Moscow he lived for three months in the Peking Hotel, not far from the American Embassy, on money supplied by the Soviet Red Cross.

"One day a man arrived and handed me a Soviet passport. He said my application was approved and that was now a Soviet citizen. He asked me for my American passport and I gave it to him. I don't recall taking an oath and I am sure I did not."

For two years Hoxsey studied at a medical institute in Stavropol, in the northern Caucasus mountains, with the help of a translator. He asked to move to a warmer climate and was transferred to Tbilisi, capital of the Georgian Republic.

Hoxsey finished four more years of training there and went to work in a city hospital as a diagnostician. In 1962, he married a Russian woman who had been a translator and they adopted a four-year-old girl.

In 1968, Hoxsey and his family moved to Volgograd where he took a job as a laboratory doctor in a clinic.

A feeling of discomfort which had been developing for some time grew so strong in Volgograd, Hoxsey said, that a year ago he decided he would try to leave the country.

"I had thought those feelings would pass, but instead they got worse," he said.

One of his first shocks came when he discovered that all his fellow medical graduates had been given reserve army commissions while he was classified simply as a reserve foot soldier.

Hoxsey inquired about joining the Soviet Communist Party but was not encouraged and failed to receive the recommendations from active members that a new applicant requires. Asked about his current beliefs, Hoxsey said he considers himself now to be a "neutral."

"I wanted to be friends, but found it was impossible," he said. "As time went on I found they didn't trust me. I had no place to turn. I ran away."

Hoxsey did not tell his wife, who opposed his decision, or his superiors that he was coming to Moscow this week. When he arrived at the embassy, a guard stood in front of him and demanded to see his passport.

"I lost it," Hoxsey said first in English and then Russian. The guard directed him away and when he tried to dash past he was grabbed and dragged down the sidewalk.

When the embassy complained about the rough treatment given Hoxsey, which was witnessed by two Americans, a guard officer said Hoxsey had struck one of his men.

If the State Department recognizes Hoxsey's claim for citizenship, his name will be added to 11 others on the embassy "hardship list" of Americans seeking repatriation. The oldest case on the list has been waiting 30 years for the Soviets to grant her a visa.

"When you are young, the idea of your country does not mean very much," Hoxsey said. "But when you get older, the pull of home gets very strong."

Algerian Plan

Agence France-Presse

ALGIERS, May 15—Agriculture, exports and small and medium industries will be three priority features of the second Algerian four-year plan (1974-1977), which was unveiled yesterday.

One purpose of the plan is to "consolidate and widen the bases of economic, social and cultural development." Increased priority will be accorded to agricultural development.