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Svetlana Stalin Says India Refused Asylum

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 NEW DELHI, April 4—Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, has disclosed that she defected to the West only after having been told that the Indian Government would not grant her asylum.

Her first explanation of her defection is in a letter sent from her refuge in Switzerland on March 23 to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a Socialist member of Parliament who befriended her during her stay in India.

In awkward but unambiguous English, she says that she tried without success to talk to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi about her desire to remain here, that it was explained to her that the Government could be of no help and that she finally decided to turn to the United States Embassy.

Later, she says, when she arrived at the Rome airport accompanied by an American official, she was told that the Indian Government had reversed itself and was inviting her to return.

Calls It Request of Moscow

"I refused," Stalin's daughter writes, "because I knew that this was a request of Moscow." She underlined that sentence.

Many other sentences and phrases in the handwritten two-page letter were underlined by Mrs. Alliluyeva, who is 42 years old.

The key figure in the letter is Dinesh Singh, the Commerce Minister, who is widely held to be one of Mrs. Gandhi's most influential advisers. Mr. Singh was Mrs. Alliluyeva's host in Kalakankar, a village on the banks of the Ganges in Uttar Pradesh where she stayed for 67 days.

He is a nephew of the late Brijesh Singh, the Indian Communist with whom Stalin's daughter, who uses her mother's maiden name, lived as a wife until he died in Moscow last fall. She went to India

Letter to Friend Asserts She Turned to U.S. Only After Rebuff by Minister

to return his ashes for immersion in the Ganges.

"Yes," Mrs. Alliluyeva writes, "there was a private talk between me and Dinesh Singh in January, in Kalakankar, about the possibility for me to stay in India the rest of my life. I've asked him whether it will be possible for me to approach the Prime Minister with such a request."

Mr. Singh told her, she says, that it would be impossible to help her because of the opposition that would come inevitably from the Soviet authorities.

Then Mrs. Gandhi went to Kalakankar on Jan. 16 during a campaign tour. "It was impossible to talk with her privately, too many people were around," Mrs. Alliluyeva writes, "but she also understood and knew my feelings and my wish."

At the end of the month, she says, Mr. Singh talked with her again "to make quite clear to me that Indian Government, the Prime Minister, and he himself would not be able anyhow to help me, if I decide not to return to Moscow and stay in India."

The Minister said, she writes, that the only hope was for her to try to get the Soviet Government's approval for her plan.

Bid Denied in Parliament

Mrs. Alliluyeva's letter was written with the apparent intention of refuting a statement made in the Indian Parliament on March 21 by Foreign Minister M. C. Chagla. "There was no question of asylum being refused," he said. "She never suggested she wanted to stay in India to anyone during her stay in India."

In the debate that followed, Dr. Lohia charged that the For-

eign Minister was withholding information.

"I've learned here from the newspapers that you really did fight for me in Parliament," Mrs. Alliluyeva begins her letter. "Thank you for your kind heart."

"Sometimes," she laments, "people simply talk lie."

There was no comment from either Mr. Singh or Mr. Chagla on the letter, which Dr. Lohia laid before Parliament. The Government now concedes that Mrs. Alliluyeva had talked with her host about remaining in India, but only, it is maintained, in a vague, hypothetical manner. Such private conversations, it is said, had no official status.

Mrs. Alliluyeva has little patience for this. "For Dinesh Singh that was a private talk with me," she writes. "But for me it was the opinion of the Government, expressed unofficially. Was not it so?" These lines are underlined.

Reports On Visit

Finally Mrs. Alliluyeva tells Dr. Lohia about the visit she received last month in Switzerland from Rikhi Jaipal, a high official in the Indian Foreign Ministry. She says she insisted on seeing him in the presence of a Swiss official "because I was afraid, that again my words would be somehow distorted."

The Indian official then drafted a letter from Mrs. Alliluyeva to Dinesh Singh, in which she declared that "nobody in India knew about my plan to defect and nobody helped me."

Then, in what could be a reference to either her defection or the necessity of signing the letter Mr. Jaipal drafted, she writes, "I feel very much disgusted with all that."

But her letter ends on a note of hope: "Wherever I'll go and stay, my heart for ever belongs to Kalakankar, to India, and I'll do my best to return back one day, and to stay there for ever."

The last six words are underlined.