

Indian Minister Disputes Svetlana Stalin's Letter

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NEW DELHI, April 5 —

Foreign Minister M. C. Chagla denied today that he had misled Parliament by telling it that Stalin's daughter, Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva, had never sought asylum in India.

Opposition members charged that the Minister's account of Mrs. Alliluyeva's departure from India had been contradicted by a letter from her that was laid before Parliament yesterday. They demanded that his conduct be investigated.

In the letter Mrs. Alliluyeva, who uses her mother's maiden name, stated that she had told Commerce Minister Dinesh

Singh of her wish to settle here permanently and that he had made it clear to her that neither he nor Prime Minister Indira Gandhi could offer her assistance.

'I Will Not Stand It'

On March 21 Mr. Chagla said in Parliament that Stalin's daughter "never even suggested she wanted to stay in India to anyone during her stay."

Today the Minister did not seek to reconcile that and similar statements with Mrs. Alliluyeva's letter. He simply insisted that what he had said was true.

"If anybody tells me that I have told an untruth or I had tried to mislead the house, I

will not stand it," Mr. Chagla said, appearing overwrought.

Mr. Singh, who was Mrs. Alliluyeva's host in the village of Kalakankar for seven days, was less categorical. He acknowledged that he had talked over many personal matters with his guest, but said it would be improper for him to repeat in public what had been said in private.

Socialist Offers Motion

"Mme. Svetlana at no time asked me to take any steps or any initiative to help her stay in the country," Mr. Singh declared.

The proposal to have Mr. Chagla's statements scrutinized

by a select committee was made by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, the Socialist leader, to whom Mrs. Alliluyeva's letter was addressed. He named Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Singh as participants in an attempt to mislead Parliament.

Dr. Lohia said they should resign, but the Congress party majority easily defeated his motion, by a vote of 236 to 150.

Dr. Lohia said that he had urged Mrs. Alliluyeva to remain in India and fight for asylum, "but she was frightened away."

"Anyone would help a grief-stricken woman," he declared, "Only our Government and its ministers would not."