

# Grisly Tale of Russ Gas Tests

New York

A Russian emigree who said she had been terrorized by "Soviet agents" in this country since her arrival last year asserted Saturday that the Soviet Union is testing poison gases on unwitting Soviet citizens, many of whom have died as a result.

The emigree, Luba Markish, a 29-year-old Queens resident, said that she had been unknowingly drawn into the experiments as a chemistry student at Moscow State University in 1968 and had suffered severe damage to her lungs as well as facial and other burns.

Other human guinea pigs in the experiments, apparently designed to examine the ability of the body to withstand the gases, included soldiers, peasants and pregnant women in various parts of the Soviet Union, she said in an interview.

During three years in which she was treated and observed in Soviet hospitals, Mrs. Markish said, she met about 100 people who had been deliberately exposed to toxic gases.

Mrs. Markish said that "people who take their orders from Moscow" had tried since September, 1974, to dissuade her from writing a book about the experiments.

Last Wednesday, she said, her apartment was broken into and portions of the manuscript and related documents were stolen.

Mrs. Markish emigrated to the United States on July 25, 1974, with her second husband, Yuri Markish.

When she was a student at Moscow State University, Mrs. Markish was married to Sergei Ryabov, the son of Admiral P. E. Ryabov. Her father, Boris Halip, was first violinist at the Bolshoi Theater and her uncle, Alfred Plate, was a well-known chemist.

Several American experts on the Soviet Union said Saturday that they had never heard or read of any Russian experiments on humans with poison gases.

"It's hard to judge this kind of report—any facts would have been kept quiet by the government," one expert said.

A Soviet scientist who defected to the United States, and who has read the first part of Mrs. Markish's manuscript, said that many scientists and officials identified in the manuscript do hold the positions ascribed to them by Mrs. Markish.

Mr. and Mrs. Markish moved to Cleveland when they came to the United States. Last September, Mrs. Markish said she began receiving threatening telephone calls in Russian by persons who would not identify themselves. Last November, she went on, as she was walking, a man came from behind, grabbed her hair, bashed her head against a wall, and said, "It's your last warning."

Mr. and Mrs. Markish had moved here from Cleveland . . . last March because, Mrs. Markish said, "we thought that New York would be safer. But the calls started here just as soon as we arrived."

New York Times