



Donald Stanley

Another Thorn For the CIA

New York newsman Guy Richards has written a book called "Imperial Agent" about Colonel Michal Goleniewski.

And who is Goleniewski? Well, he says he is Alexei Romanov, son of Czar Nicholas II. Oh, no! Not another one, is the standard response. This was Richards' reaction initially as well. Now he is very nearly a believer.

Aside from its lost prince aspects, however, the Goleniewski case has other ramifications. The man is apparently a former Polish intelligence officer who sent information to the West for 33 months before defecting in West Berlin in 1960.

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HE HAS BEEN of assistance to the CIA and he has been a thorn in the side of that agency. For among Goleniewski's "disclosures" is that the CIA is effectively penetrated by Soviet agents who have managed to siphon off more than a million dollars in CIA funds for the use of Soviet bloc intelligence networks.

Goleniewski also says there are 18 or 19 other known agents holding down Washington assignments or jobs in American embassies overseas. The only government agency impervious to subversion, says Goleniewski, is the FBI.

There is, however, a vast paper curtain that has descended between Goleniewski and public recognition of his services and charges. J. Edgar Hoover's response to Goleniewski's attempt to talk with him about all this conspiracy was to send the Pole an autographed copy of his book.

Other possible sources of official comment on the case have been even less co-operative. Six years after Goleniewski's appearance in the West nobody has been willing to go on record discounting or confirming his story except for a number of fringe groups — like something that calls itself the Anti-Communist Action Society — and isolated individuals who believe a full congressional investigation is called for.

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IT IS a dubious story, of course, although not a dull one. One would tend to write it off if Washington didn't have that nagging habit of clamping a security lid on everything. Its refusal to give Fred Goerner information on the Amelia Earhart search in 1937 — for security reasons — has kept alive questions that quite possibly have no relationship to reality.

Thus the continual postponements of congressional hearings into the Goleniewski case, the obvious subterfuge indulged in by various bureaus whenever Richards asked questions, the refusal of anyone in authority to take an official position — all these might mean cover-up, or they might mean busy men don't have time for fairy stories.

Espionage is now such a sophisticated universal that to get the "truth" about one of its aspects is a virtual impossibility. Richards has discovered this for himself. His probing of the Goleniewski-Romanov affair is a case history of the frustrations facing a reporter in modern Washington.

IMPERIAL AGENT. By Guy Richards. Devin-Adair; 284 pages; \$5.95.