

History and Khrushchev Text

By HARRISON E. SALISBURY

What does "Khrushchev Remembers" add to historical knowledge of the Stalin era?

The answer—and a highly qualified one—is not much, at least on the basis of the first excerpts published in Life magazine. And Svetlana Alliyeva, Stalin's daughter, says she found most references to incidents of which knowledge to be she had personal confused or false.

An Appraisal

Because she is the only witness in the West of events touched upon in "Khrushchev Remembers" the testimony of Stalin's daughter, now Mrs. Wesley Porter, must be given weight.

Running through the document are basic historic and chronological errors, more it would seem than are plausible to attribute to an old man's fading memory, careless translators and editors.

Nothing is known positively as to the origin of "Khrushchev Remembers." Time Inc. has declared that the material represents the views of Nikita S. Khrushchev. Speculation has centered on their origin in a collection of tape recordings made over a period of time in which Mr. Khrushchev recalled ramblingly important events and impressions. The exercise, in the words of "Khrushchev Remembers," was intended to "contribute to the self-purification" of the Communist party.

Possibility of Forgery

Some specialists suggest, however, that the material may have originated in a Western European center for the production of Soviet forgeries. These have a long history. Two notable false documents of this type, thus produced, were a "Memoir" by the late Maxim Litvinov, Stalin's Foreign Min-

Initial Installment Is Said to Add Little New Knowledge

ister, and a book by Stalin's supposed (but nonexistent) nephew Budo Svanidze.

If the materials actually originated in Moscow what motive, outside of commercial, might be involved?

The thrust of the first excerpts is strongly anti-Stalinist and contains a call for justice to "all of Stalin's victims," presumably including Leon Trotsky and those obliterated in the purges—Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin and the rest.

It is difficult to see how such a document could serve a political purpose in the Soviet Union other than, possibly, discrediting Mr. Khrushchev and anyone sympathetic to him. The document might thus be turned against liberal elements already hard pressed by the present neo-Stalinist regime.

Factional Feud Seen

If, as some evidence suggests, the materials were passed to the West by Victor Louis, a middleman of the Soviet security police, the motive might also be to settle scores between one police faction and another. Such speculation cannot be verified.

All that may be said is that there is at least one link between the police and the inner circle around Mr. Khrushchev. Aleksei I. Adzhubei, Mr. Khrushchev's son-in-law, and one-time editor of Izvestia, the Government newspaper, was part of the tight-knit Komsomol (Communist Youth) organization, headed by Aleksandr I. Shelepin, which played a major role in the rehabilitation of the secret police after Stalin's

death. Mr. Shelepin is a member of the Soviet Politburo.

What can be said certainly is that where incident and reference in "Khrushchev Remembers" can be checked with a living witness, the remembrance is cloudy or false, as in the following examples:

¶The document describes a dramatic drunken party on New Year's Eve, 1952, at Stalin's country home. His daughter, Svetlana, though tired, dances. She wants to rest. Stalin commands her to dance. She refuses. He grabs her by the hair and drags her to the dance floor.

Mrs. Porter said yesterday by telephone:

"I spent New Year's 1952 with my friends in Dom Kino, the Cinema Club." The last time she saw her father, before he died, March 5, 1953, was on his 73d birthday the previous Dec. 21, she said.

¶The document attributes Mr. Khrushchev's rise in Stalin's favor to Nadezhda Alliyeva, Stalin's wife and Svetlana's mother. Nadezhda, the document says, brought Mr. Khrushchev to Stalin's notice. After Mr. Khrushchev in January, 1934, became Moscow City Party Secretary he "used to be invited regularly to family dinners at Stalin's apartment," the text says, adding that "Stalin and Nadezhda Sergeyevna were always host and hostess." At this time Nadezhda had been dead for more than a year. She committed suicide the night of Nov. 7-8, 1932.

Mrs. Porter remembers that Mr. Khrushchev once said that he met her mother at the Industrial Academy and he thought Nadezhda had spoken of him to Stalin. She said she remembers no family dinners with Mr. Khrushchev and, of course, they were impossible since her mother was already dead.

Error on Vacation Spot

¶The document describes an extended vacation spent by Stalin in Georgia, his home state, at a villa on the Black Sea at Novy Afon near Sukhumi in the summer of 1951. It was in this time, the document says, that Stalin's paranoid suspicions, particularly of Vyacheslav M. Molotov and Anastas I. Mikoyan, deepened.

But Mrs. Porter describes in detail Stalin's 1951 vacation, which she said she spent with him in Georgia not at Novy Afon, but at the Likani Palace on the Kura River at Borzhomi. Stalin did not return to Moscow until late autumn.

¶The document quotes Stalin as calling his daughter "Svetlanka," a Russian diminutive. Actually, according to Mrs. Porter, her father almost always called her "Svetochka," a warmer, more endearing form.

¶The document describes Stalin as being a fan of American cowboy movies, which he saw at private showings.

Mrs. Porter said that for years she went night after night with her father to the little Kremlin screening room. She cannot recall ever seeing a cowboy picture. Her father was, she said, fond of Chaplin comedies and some American musicals. If he developed a cowboy taste, it must have been in his last two or three years when she saw him seldom.

* MRS WILLIAM WESLEY PETERS

U.S. Physician Is Silent On Khrushchev Lunch

Dr. A. McGehee Harvey, an American physician who is shown with the former Soviet Premier in a photograph accompanying the first installment of "Khrushchev Remembers," declined yesterday to talk about the incident. "I'm not at liberty to tell you at this time," he said from his home in Baltimore "will be telling the story later, probably in a later issue of Life."

The 59-year-old physician and his wife, Elizabeth, were photographed sitting across a long table from Mr. Khrushchev and his wife, apparently toward the end of lunch at their home outside Moscow last year.

Dr. Harvey is a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University Medical School and physician in chief at Johns Hopkins Hospital, posts he has held since 1946. He is a co-author of "Differential Diagnosis," published in 1969, and an editor of "The Principals and Practice of Medicine, 1968."



N.B.C. News

AT COUNTRY HOME: Photo, one of the most recent of Mr. Khrushchev, was made in 1967

рвалов я в советском издательстве. Поэтому я считаю, что
все это является фальшивкой. В такой же уже неоднократно
улучалась правдивая буржуазная печать.

Н. Хрущев

10/11-19202

Tass via United Press International

KHRUSHCHEV'S DENIAL OF ROLE: Facsimile of signed statement dated Nov. 10 and released last Monday by Tass. In it he says he has "never passed memoirs or materials of this nature to Time or other foreign" publishers. "This," he says, "is a fabrication."