

British Experts Doubt Authenticity of

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Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Jan. 24—British experts on the Soviet Union, reviewing "Khrushchev Remembers," have been much more skeptical than some American reviewers about the authenticity of the purported memoirs of the former Soviet leader.

"Totally worthless for the serious student of contemporary history"—that was the judgment of Leonard Schapiro, professor at the London School of Economics, in The Sunday Times of London today.

Professor Schapiro suggested that the Soviet secret police had concocted the book of purported memoirs and had got it out to the West to cause confusion and to advance the Communist cause.

David Floyd, Communist Affairs expert for The Daily Telegraph, concluded that the book was "not genuine." He believes that somebody in the West prepared the book.

Victor Zorza, in The Guardian, devoted a series of five long articles to arguing that the United States Central Intelligence Agency was the source.

Book Termed Hoax

He termed the book a hoax and a scissors and paste job of the C.I.A., which, he said, hoped to repeat its "most successful operation of all time"—the publication of Mr. Khrushchev's anti-Stalinist secret speech to the Soviet party congress in 1956.

A group of 30 experts on the Soviet Union, meeting in Washington earlier this month, concluded that the memoirs were authentic and had been released to the West with the approval of the present Soviet leadership. The panel believed that most, if not all the published

material, was in Mr. Khrushchev's words.

Sir William Hayter, who was British Ambassador in Moscow from 1953 to 1957, believes that the book is "basically genuine" despite "odd and sometimes inexplicable mistakes."

In a review in The Observer today, Sir William says: "I knew Khrushchev fairly well. I emerged from obscurity and I was in Moscow when he came to supreme power. I met him frequently on social occasions. . . . Having just emerged from reading the book I have the strong impression of having resumed my personal intercourse with him."

Sir William found that a disturbing feature of the book was "Khrushchev's extraordinary incomprehension of the realities of other countries."

The Sunday Times, in addition to Professor Schapiro's review, ran in full the review in The New York Times on Jan. 3 by Harrison E. Salisbury saying that the book was authentic. The book was published in the United States on Dec. 21 by Little, Brown & Co.

Professor Schapiro, who is Professor of Economics With Special Reference to Russian Studies, specifically rejected one theory that had been discussed in the United States about the possibility of preparation by the K.G.B., the Soviet Secret Police. This was that elements in the Soviet police agency had slipped the book out to the West as part of a campaign in the Soviet to stop a return to Stalinism.

"Moonshine" was Professor Schapiro's word for that idea. The K.G.B., he said, would be the first to promote a return to Stalin's methods.

For Professor Schapiro the book also fails on the test of novelty. He argues that to his own knowledge it contains "only a very few facts or statements which are new."

'Khrushchev Remembers'

Mr. Floyd, in The Daily Telegraph, concluded:

"My impression is that compilation of the 'memoirs' could well have been done in the West where all the material for such an operation was available. I

would not care to guess who or what institution was responsible.

I will only venture the opinion that, with a little more knowledge and more trouble, they could have done a much better job."