

Visitor's Visa Issued but Length of U.S. Stay Is Not

By JOHN W. FINNEY
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WASHINGTON, April 21—The State Department said today that Svetlana Alliluyeva, the daughter of Stalin, had "decided to visit the United States" and would be "free to remain here as long as she wishes."

Technically, she has not been granted political asylum in the United States, but that is the practical effect of the terms under which she was permitted to enter this country.

Mrs. Alliluyeva entered the United States under a visitor's visa permitting her to remain from three to six months. But the State Department emphasized that no legal obstacle would be raised if she decided to extend her stay.

"She is free to remain here as long as she wishes," said the State Department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey. "She is free to leave whenever she wishes."

Impact Softened

In a move to soften the impact of the incident on United States-Soviet relations, the State Department informed the Soviet Embassy this morning about the admission of Mrs. Alliluyeva to this country. Embassy officials were called to the office of Walter J. Stoessel Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, to be told that she would be arriving in New York by air in the afternoon.

From the time that Mrs. Alliluyeva startled United States officials by appearing at the American Embassy in New Del-

hi to ask for safe haven in the United States, the State Department has taken considerable pains to prevent her departure from the Soviet Union from complicating United States-Soviet relations.

It was partly for this diplomatic reason that the State Department decided she should not come directly to the United States and arranged for her to take up temporary residence in Switzerland. The concern was that if she came directly to the United States, this would be interpreted as evidence of United States complicity in her decision not to return to the Soviet Union.

Annoyed, Not Indignant

Shortly after she appealed to the New Delhi Embassy and again today, the State Department was in touch with the Soviet Union about the case. Apparently it reassured the Russians that the United States had no hand in her departure from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet reaction was described by officials as one of annoyance but not indignation. Soviet officials were described as unhappy about the incident but at the same time feeling helpless to do anything about it.

At this point, according to State Department officials, there is no indication that the Soviet Union will raise any official protest about Stalin's daughter being permitted to enter the United States or permit the case to complicate East-West relations.

Behind the scenes, the Administration also has been moving within Congress to keep

the incident on a political low key, particularly by fending off any move to capitalize on her action by calling her before Congressional committees.

"We hope every possible effort will be made to respect her personal privacy," the State Department said in announcing her impending arrival.

In line with this Administration hope, the State Department began informing Congress late yesterday that Mrs. Alliluyeva would come to the United States and obtaining assurances from congressional leaders that steps would be taken to forestall congressional committees, such as the House Un-American Activities Committee, from calling her as a witness.

So long as she is here as a Soviet citizen on a visitor's visa, there is some legal question whether congressional committees could subpoena her as a witness. But this legal situation would obviously change if she decided to apply for an immigrant's visa and take up permanent residence in the United States.

Mrs. Alliluyeva entered the United States on a visitor's visa given her on March 6, when she appeared at the American Embassy in New Delhi to "facilitate" her departure from India.

As subsequently explained by the State Department, the visa was not required for her departure from New Delhi, but an American visa on her Soviet passport facilitated her entry into Italy, where she remained for a few days before proceeding to a hideaway in Switzerland.

The Swiss authorities, State Department officials disclosed, had agreed to permit Mrs. Alliluyeva to remain in Switzerland for 90 days after her arrival on March 12. The visitor's visa, in turn, permitted her to enter the United States any time before June 6.

The visitor's visa was described by the State Department as of "limited duration." Normally, visitor's visas permit a three-to-six-month stay in the United States, with the exact duration determined by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

But a State Department spokesman, in emphasizing that Mrs. Alliluyeva was "welcome in this country," made clear that she would have no difficulty in either extending the visitor's visa or in obtaining an immigrant's visa if she decided to reside permanently in this country.

Position Changed

In granting the original visa, the State Department explained on March 22 that Mrs. Alliluyeva had "expressed a request for safe haven in the United States as well as other countries." The visa was granted, it said, to "facilitate" her departure from India "without deciding one way or the other on her request for asylum" in the United States.

Today, however, the State Department was taking the position that she had never requested asylum in the United States. Apparently this change in position was dictated by the legal complexities of her case.

Asylum, it was explained by

Restricted

State Department lawyers, can be granted only in cases where a person has proclaimed that he has defected from a country and is seeking refuge. Since Mrs. Alliluyeva has not claimed that she has defected from the Soviet Union, it was explained, the question of asylum technically has not arisen.

No Decision on Stay

But aside from these legal technicalities, officials acknowledged that, in effect, the United States was offering political asylum to Stalin's daughter. The State Department was taking the position that "she alone must decide where she wishes to reside permanently," and thus far, officials maintained, she has not made that decision.

The arrangements for her to come to the United States, according to a State Department spokesman, were made in "the latter part of March." The arrangements, according to officials, were made through George F. Kennan, the former Ambassador to the Soviet Union, acting in a personal capacity.

While Mrs. Alliluyeva was in Switzerland, a State Department spokesman said, "there were no contacts by officials of the American Government with her." The only American who had any contact with her, he said, aside from Mr. Kennan, were representatives of the New York law firm of Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst, which was retained through Mr. Kennan to represent her interests, and of her publishers, Harper & Row.



BIG AUDIENCE FOR STALIN'S DAUGHTER: Newsmen and security officers listening to Svetlana Alliluyeva at Kennedy Airport yesterday

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