

# Mrs. Alliluyeva Depicts Pain of Exile

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WASHINGTON, May 21 — Svetlana Alliluyeva, the daughter of Stalin, has written a remarkable document on her deepest feelings about leaving the Soviet Union.

This is separate from the book she wrote in Moscow and sent out to India many months before her departure. The new document contains her reflections on the spirit of the Russian people and particularly the yearnings of Russian writers under the restrictions of the present Soviet regime. It will be published in the June issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*.

This is the story of this remarkable document. When Mrs. Alliluyeva, who uses her

mother's maiden name, arrived in Rome from India early in March, she was given a copy of Boris Pasternak's "Dr. Zhivago," which was not published in the Soviet Union. In Rome and on her way to Switzerland she read this story about the conflict between the individual and totalitarian society in the Soviet Union. Then, at a convent in the vicinity of Lake Thun, near Berne, Switzerland, she composed her thoughts.

Under the agony of leaving her own country and Iosif Alliluyev, her 22-year-old son, and Yekaterina Zhadanova, her 16-year-old daughter, and still grieving over the death of her Indian husband, Brijesh Singh, she was greatly

moved by "Dr. Zhivago."

She wrote on a lined pad, in Russian, her thoughts about her own people, her children, her friends in the Moscow writers' colony and her feelings about the struggle between the free spirit—particularly the free spirit of her dead husband—and the physical and intellectual climate of the Soviet Union.

The document is an expression of the old pre-Communist Russian spirit of belief in God, love of nature and compassion for the human condition everywhere.

It is dramatically sympathetic to the Russian people, and therefore, almost by accident, powerfully anti-Communist. What makes it so

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## Mrs. Alliluyeva, in New Essay, Depicts Feelings on Her Exile

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compelling is not alone that it was written by Stalin's daughter—though this is obviously a startling fact—but that the tragedy of the conflict between the individual and the authoritarian state is described with such talent.

### Writing Is Exceptional

Anything written by the daughter of Stalin, or even by a talented ghost in her name, would have arrested the attention of a vast audience, but this personal memento is something special. Her gift of analogy and the power of her lyrical prose are exceptional. She has composed not only a political but a literary document.

Mrs. Alliluyeva apparently had two reasons for publishing this document now. She wanted to get a message to her son and daughter in Moscow and she wanted her friends in the Soviet Union to know why she had left her homeland.

Both of her children have birthdays this month, and she thought of various ways of get-

ting through to them but was not successful. Therefore, she decided after she got to New York and went into seclusion on Long Island to publish, in effect, a letter to her children and her friends and a tribute to Boris Pasternak, who had become a symbol of her self-imposed exile.

Publication, however, created a problem. She was concerned about the possibility that she might seem to be commercializing her feelings. The manuscript of her book brought such spectacular financial offers from publishers here and abroad that she was embarrassed. Therefore she insisted that this separate message to people at home should not be published by a big commercial magazine or commercial chain, but should be directed to one of the more modest magazines. This is why *The Atlantic Monthly* was approached. The issue containing Mrs. Alliluyeva's essay will be on the newsstands Sunday.

The essay was translated by Max Hayward, who helped translate "Dr. Zhivago."