

Son's Letter to Mrs. Alliluyeva Denounces Her Move to West

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Svetlana Alliluyeva has received a letter from her son, Yakov, denouncing her departure from the Soviet Union, sources close to her disclosed yesterday.

Friends said that she was visibly shaken by the letter.

The reactions of her son, a 22-year-old medical student, and her daughter, Yekaterina, both of whom are in Moscow, have been a constant cause of concern to Mrs. Alliluyeva, according to her friends.

In an article she wrote in Switzerland last March, about a month before the arrival of the letter, she appeared to anticipate the rejection she received from her son. The article will be published in the June issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Urging her children to ignore any Government-inspired disapproval of her flight to the West

in quest of free expression, Stalin's daughter said:

"Let them all condemn me—and you condemn me as well, if that will make things easier for you (say whatever you like: it will only be empty words, and they will not hurt me)—only do not reject me in your hearts, my children, because you are more precious to me than anything in the world, my dear ones, and I think of you constantly, and I pray for you, since nobody here prevents me from doing so."

Mrs. Alliluyeva, who has publicly expressed doubt that her children would be allowed to receive any letters from her, is known to be hopeful that a copy of her essay will somehow reach them.

The article is 3,200 words long and represents the 42-

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year-old woman's first literary work to be published in English. It was written during her seclusion in a convent in Switzerland before she left the United States on April 21.

The article also sharply denounced the continued repression and ideological restrictions placed on Soviet writers by the Communist authorities. As in the days of the Czars, she said, "it is given to gendarmes and policemen to be the first critics of a writer's work."

Robert Manning, editor in chief of *The Atlantic Monthly*, said yesterday that Mrs. Alliluyeva was inspired to write the essay after she had read the late Boris Pasternak's "Dr. Zhivago," a novel about the struggle of an intellectual in a totalitarian society. It won the Nobel Prize in 1958 but still has not been published in the Soviet Union.

Mrs. Alliluyeva, who uses her mother's maiden name, said in the article that she found the book to be "a revelation about my own life and about the life of the Russia I knew."

She said this sense of identification with the author of "Dr. Zhivago" moved her to write the article, which will appear in *The Atlantic Monthly* as a tribute to him. The article is entitled "To Boris Leonidovich Pasternak."

'The Russia I Have Lost'

As she wrote, however, the design of a tribute to Pasternak soon became enmeshed with feelings of her own life—the longing for her children, the loving memory of her dead Indian husband, Brijesh Singh, and her sadness for "the Russia I have lost, the Russia that has been taken from me by cruel fate."

A major influence on her mood, according to persons who know Mrs. Alliluyeva, was a telephone conversation she had with her son while she was in Switzerland. She urged him then not to misunderstand the motives of her flight to the West; when she called back three days later, she could not reach him.

Those who have spoken with her in recent weeks said Mrs. Alliluyeva seemed to have sensed she would receive a letter from her son criticizing her action.

Addressing Yakov in her article, she writes:

"My child, you must be strong, you must brace yourself—for the sake of Lenochka [her son's wife], for the sake of Katya [her daughter, Yekaterina]. You must not despair, we have not parted forever.

"You are a sensitive boy, and you will be hurt by the mean looks you will get from the petty-minded 'common citizens,' but you must be above all that! You will find you have more friends than you think, and even those who condemn me will come to help you, and all of you, my little ones."

Children Considered Safe

When she received her son's letter, the informants said, Mrs. Alliluyeva was deeply moved. Although her concern for the well-being of her children deepened, friends convinced her that as Stalin's grandchildren they were not likely to suffer at the hands of the Soviet authorities.

The story of *The Atlantic Monthly* article is outlined in a brief introduction by Mr. Manning, the editor in chief.

The first to receive the Russian manuscript from Switzerland was George F. Kennan, former United States Ambassador to Moscow and in recent years a scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N. J., who played a major role in bringing Mrs. Alliluyeva to the United States.

Mr. Kennan described the article as "a remarkable literary document with quite exceptional lyrical power" and felt it should be published as her first writing in the West.

The article was translated by Max Hayward, an Oxford University scholar who helped translate "Dr. Zhivago."

'A Moving Human Event'

Mr. Manning, a former Assistant Secretary of State who has known Mr. Kennan for many years, spent two weeks of arduous negotiations in his attempt to get the manuscript for his magazine.

"Mr. Alliluyeva chose *The Atlantic*," he said yesterday, "because it has been a serious magazine of literary distinction for over 100 years. *The Atlantic* is proud to publish this remarkable work. It is both a literary document and a moving human event, an impressive first display of Mrs. Alliluyeva's talent as a writer."