

SVETLANA BOOK PIRATED ABROAD

Copyright Laws Don't Apply,
London Paper Says

29 July 1967

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, July 27—The London Evening News reported today that copies "of what appear to be the original autobiography of Stalin's daughter Svetlana have arrived surreptitiously in London and on the Continent."

The newspaper, in a front-page story, suggested a pirated edition of Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva's book would be brought out before publication of the authorized version. This could not be confirmed in London publishing circles, and both the British publishers of the book and the author's literary agents here expressed confidence tonight that the work was covered by copyright.

(Mrs. Alliluyeva's book will be published Oct. 16 by Harper & Row. The New York Times will print a 30,000-word excerpt in six daily installments starting Oct. 8 and Life magazine will publish a similar excerpt Oct. 10.)

"According to a high legal authority in London," the newspaper said, "neither Svetlana nor her publishers are protected by international copyright. This had apparently not been realized by the legal departments of the publishers concerned."

"When first told of the existence of the unofficial manuscripts, Mr. Harold Harris, contract director of Hutchinsons [the British Commonwealth publishers of the memoirs] announced immediately: 'The copyright is vested in the author. We will sue anyone who tries to publish it.'"

"A similar line was taken by Mr. Hilary Rubinstein of A. P. Watts & Son, the literary agents [of Mrs. Alliluyeva in Britain]."

"But Svetlana, despite her defection to the United States, is still a Soviet citizen. And she wrote her book in Russia, a country that is not a party to either of the international copyright conventions."

Report Called Accurate

A source in New York close to Mrs. Alliluyeva said the London report was "substantially correct." The source, who asked not to be identified, said legal action would be taken to prevent any unauthorized publication of the memoirs.

Mrs. Alliluyeva left the Soviet Union in December bearing the ashes of her husband, Brijesh Singh, an Indian Communist, back to his native village. He died in Moscow last Oct. 31.

Last March 6 she appeared at the United States Embassy in New Delhi and requested a visa to enter the United States. After stopping in Rome and Switzerland, she reached New York on April 21.