

SOVIET TIE DENIED ON STALIN MEMOIR

Louis Says He Got Alliluyeva
MS. From Dictator's Family

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By DAVID BINDER

Special to The New York Times

HAMBURG, Germany, Aug. 8 — Viktor Louis, the Russian journalist who has been carrying copies of Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva's memoirs around to Western publishers for two weeks, said today that he got them through connections with the Stalin family.

In an interview here Mr. Louis added that he had obtained more than 50 photographs out of the Stalin family album from the same sources.

He fended off questions about possible contacts with the Soviet Government with sharp replies:

"Why don't people believe me? Why should I be the scapegoat? Everyone expects that I should be a Soviet agent. Why can't they believe I am a professional journalist? Why couldn't I ask the [Stalin] family for the material. It is ridiculous to say I couldn't get it from friends."

Mr. Louis, who is 39 years old, said he first saw a copy of Stalin's daughter's manuscript in India earlier this year, and was later shown copies in Moscow and Leningrad.

He said he first offered the material he had gathered about the Stalin family to The London Evening News, for which he is a freelance correspondent in Moscow. "I started collecting material before Svetlana went away," he added.

Interview With Son

The Evening News proved reluctant to take everything he had to offer, Mr. Louis said, but last month it printed articles that he wrote about Stalin's son, Vasily, and an interview with Mrs. Alliluyeva's son, Iosif.

In London, Mr. Louis, whose French name is Traceo to his French great-grandfather, went to other potential buyers. One of these was The Daily Express, to which he sold a bundle of Stalin snapshots. He evidently gave a copy of the Alliluyeva memoirs to the Express along with the photographs.

By his own account, Mr. Louis went from London to

Hamburg, where he negotiated much the same sort of deal with Stern, a weekly magazine.

Asked what he had arranged with Stern and The Express, Mr. Louis said, "That is a technicality, ask them."

Stern's editor, Henri Nannen, said after he had paid 50,000 marks (\$12,500) for the pictures and was given a copy of the memoirs. Stern published the first set of photographs this week, accompanied by an "analysis" of the memoirs text.

Stern was taken to court today on an injunction order demanded by Der Spiegel magazine, which purchased from Mrs. Alliluyeva's representative the German and Austrian publishing rights for serializing the memoirs for \$120,000. The complaint was on the ground of unfair competition and breach of copyright by Stern.

East Berlin Visit Reported

From Hamburg Mr. Louis went to Berlin, as he said, "for a holiday." According to authoritative German sources, however, he went to Communist-controlled East Berlin to obtain new photographic material.

One item said to have been brought back by him was a photograph of Stalin's wife, Nadya, on her funeral bier in 1952.

Stern plans to publish it next week along with other material delivered by Mr. Louis, including former Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's appraisal of the Alliluyeva memoirs and her children's comments on it.

Mr. Louis, who speaks good, slightly accented idiomatic English, declined to answer several questions about his activities in Berlin.

Asked whether he had any connection with Aleksei Flegon, a Russian-born London publisher who has asserted he has a copy of the memoirs, Mr. Louis replied:

"I can put my hand on the Bible or Karl Marx, I swear I do not know him." He stated flatly that "Mr. Flegon does not have a copy of the manuscript."

He also denied being the person who made the interviews with Mr. Khrushchev that were the basis of a National Broadcasting Company documentary earlier this year. A reporter for Stern magazine said, however, that Mr. Louis had told him earlier he was the interviewer.

Tells About His Life

Mr. Louis paced up and down his hotel room barefoot and smoking Camel cigarettes as he spoke of his past and present. He wears gold-rimmed glasses and a wristwatch on a gold band. He showed a visitor pictures of his three-story house in Moscow, his two children, his backyard swimming tank and his English wife.

Mr. Louis said he was arrested as a Western agent and sentenced to 25 years in a labor camp shortly after World War II.

Asked about his motives in selling material about Stalin in the West, Mr. Louis said:

"Mine are purely professional reasons. I am not breaking Soviet laws, so there is no risk. I am challenging Svetlana's

version out of my own researches. I don't care about bloody copyright. I usually protect myself well. I am trying to be impartial. I will also sell my material to The New York Times if you commission me.

"I personally think the Svetlana memoirs is the greatest trick in the world. Madison Avenue is cheating the people not only in the West, but also in Russia. They compare it to Turgenev and cannot even pronounce Turgenev, much less read Turgenev. The daughter of a dictator cannot be a great writer."

"For Svetlana to write that her papa never killed people and only shot a hare and hawk is like writing that Hitler was only a vegetarian," he declared.

"But if you have the Stalin name you should behave appropriately. If she had escaped to China or Albania for a political reason I could have understood. Switzerland, even. But as Stalin's daughter to go to the United States and be utilized by Madison Avenue against her father's name? No."

"As a man who suffered, I have no sympathy for Svetlana, who got all privileges," he added.

Mr. Louis also spoke of the publication date of the memoirs on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. "It is also my holiday," he said. "I am not a party member, but a Soviet citizen and a human being. You would not want Russia to do something like this on the Fourth of July. What is the point?"

Mrs. Alliluyeva's book will be published in the United States in October. Earlier that month The New York Times will serialize it in 12 installments and Life magazine will print excerpts.

The 'Soviet Line,' Flegon Says

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Aug. 8—Aleksei Flegon, the London book publisher, dismissed Mr. Louis' remarks about him as "the Soviet line put out by a Soviet journalist."

Mr. Flegon, whose principal line in the book trade is to publish Russian-language editions of Soviet books and articles disapproved of by the Soviet authorities, remarked that he had often been "criticized and attacked" in the official Soviet press.

To Mr. Louis' allegation that he did not possess a copy of the Alliluyeva memoirs, Mr. Flegon replied: "If I don't then why has Hutchinsons obtained an injunction against me barring me from publishing them?"

Hutchinsons' is the British book publishing company that has contracted with Mrs. Alliluyeva to publish the authorized version of her memoirs in Britain. It is trying to block Mr. Flegon from publishing an unauthorized version. A hearing on the copyright dispute with Mr. Flegon, who heads The Flegon Press, is scheduled for the High Court on Aug. 18.