

New Book by Stalin's Daughter To Be Translated by Novelist

By HENRY RAYMONT

Paul Chavchavdze, an author of princes whose father was shot by Stalin's regime, will translate a new book by Svetlana Alliluyeva, the daughter of Stalin, about her dramatic flight to the West early in 1967.

The collaboration, which came about almost by accident, brings together two of Georgia's most famous families.

The Chvchavdzes played a leading role in aligning their Christian kingdom to Imperial Russia in the second half of the 18th century in a protective alliance against Persia and Turkey.

Some were rewarded with high positions at the court of Catherine the Great, while other members of the family figured prominently in the nationalist movement that opposed the Czarist policies of Russification a century later.

Earlier Publishing Link

Stalin was born Joseph Vissarionovich Djugashvili, the son of poor Georgian peasants in the small city of Gori in 1879. The first evidence of his revolutionary leanings was a poem he wrote while attending a seminary in Tiflis at the age of 16, signed "Soselo" (little Joe), which was published in a periodical edited by the liberal Georgian patriot, Ilya Chavchavadze.

"Ilya was only a distant relative," Mr. Chavchavadze said yesterday in an interview from his home in Wellfleet, Mass. "My family had stayed in St. Petersburg, where my father was a colonel in the Czarist army. He was arrested by the Bolsheviks after World War I and executed in 1930."

Mr. Chavchavadze, who fled

Russia in 1918 and came to the United States in 1927 with his wife, the former Princess Nina of Russia, has never met Miss Alliluyeva. But the two have held frequent telephone conversations since last summer when he translated into English a letter she had written to a Russian emigre newspaper in Paris about her decision never to return to her homeland.

Letter Printed Here

The letter, in which Miss Alliluyeva gave an affectionate account of her life in Princeton, N. J., was reprinted in the July 14 issue of *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, a Russian-language daily in New York.

Mr. Chavchavadze felt it should be made available to American readers as well. He translated it and made a copy available to *The New York Times*.

Miss Alliluyeva, who has adopted her mother's maiden name, told friends of her admiration for the "style and feeling" with which Mr. Chavchavadze had put her 1,500-word letter into English. She did not know at the time that she would soon be asking his help with her new book, tentatively titled "Only One Year."

Unhappy With First Book

Miss Alliluyeva had been unhappy with the English translation of her first book, "Twenty Letters to a Friend." Last fall, after she completed her new manuscript, she asked her publisher, Harper & Row, to find another translator.

After several efforts to find a professional translator had failed, Miss Alliluyeva mentioned Mr. Chavchavadze's name to Cass Canfield, the senior editor of Harper & Row.

A month ago Mr. Canfield submitted the 350-page manuscript to Mr. Chavchavadze with a personal plea from the author that he undertake the job. But he was busy with a novel of his own and only reluctantly agreed to read the manuscript.

"After I read the manuscript I was so impressed that I decided this was more important and interrupted my work on the novel," Mr. Chavchavadze said yesterday. "She has written a very moving and sincere book. It portrays Svetlana's disaffection with Communism, the big bosses who succeeded Stalin, and the struggle of Russian writers for greater freedom."

Fall Printing Scheduled

Mr. Chavchavadze, a trim, silver-haired man who looks much younger than his 79 years, said he hoped to complete the translation by mid-May. The book is scheduled to be published next fall.

A former volunteer worker for the American Red Cross in Europe, Korea and China, Mr. Chavchavadze is the author of a volume of family reminiscences, "Family Album," and of three novels, "The Mountains of Allah," "Father Vikenty," and "Because the Night was Dark."