

Anatoly K. Chebotaryev

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An Agent Who Defected to U.S. Goes Back to Soviet

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 27—A Soviet intelligence agent who defected to the United States in October returned to the Soviet Union last night after ending his American escorting officer, the State Department announced today.

Charles W. Bray 3d, the department spokesman, said that the agent was Anatoly K. Chebotaryev, a former major in the Soviet military intelligence, known as GRU. Mr. Bray said Mr. Chebotarev had left his secret Washington area hiding place on Dec. 23 and the next day was reported in the Soviet Embassy by Yulii M. Vorontsev, the Soviet chargé d'affaires. Mr. Vorontsev said that Mr. Chebotarev wanted to return known as G.R.U. Mr. Bray said an Immigration and Naturalization Service officer interrogated him at Kennedy International Airport in New York last night in the presence of State Department officers, and a doctor. The interrogator said that he was convinced that the man wanted to go back to the Soviet Union of his own volition, and allowed him to de-

part aboard an Aeroflot plane to Moscow.

"We are convinced he returned on his own free will," Mr. Bray said. "We think he is a genuine defector who changed his mind."

May Face Death Sentence

If Mr. Chebotaryev were a genuine defector he would face treason charges and a possible death sentence on his return to Moscow.

It was disclosed here that Mr. Chebotaryev had "cooperated" with Central Intelligence Agency interrogators after he was flown to the United States on Oct. 10.

That was four days after he walked into the United States Embassy in Brussels and asked for help in getting to the United States.

His defection came several weeks after Oleg Lyalin, an agent for the K.G.B., the Soviet civilian security agency, defected in London and provided information leading to the expulsion of 10 Soviet representatives in Britain.

Mr. Bray said that Mr. Chebotaryev was officially attached

to the Soviet trade mission in Brussels as an engineer, but "is in reality a Soviet major in military intelligence."

After being flown to the United States, Mr. Chebotarev cooperated fully with his interrogators "at his own request," Mr. Bray said.

He was seen in a Washington apartment, Mr. Bray said, by an intelligence officer on Dec. 21, at the request of the Soviet Embassy here, and Mr. Chebotarev's agreement to meet was arranged at the State Department by Mr. Campbell and Mr. Vorontsev, Mr. Bray said.

Mr. Chebotarev's family in the United States was not contacted by two State Department officers, Mr. Vorontsev said. Mr. Chebotarev furnished a number of copies of correspondence from his family, Mr. Bray said. Mr. Chebotarev, who is 38 years old, is married and has children.

At that time, Mr. Chebotarev told Vorontsev that he had come to the United States on his own free will and had no desire to return to the Soviet Union, Mr. Bray said.

Then at 7:30 P.M. last Thurs-

day, Mr. Chebotarev left his apartment, telling his escort officer that he was planning to walk around the apartment house, as he had previously done, Mr. Bray said.

He did not return to the apartment that night.

Friday afternoon Mr. Bray said, Mr. Vorontsev telephoned Richard T. Davies, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, and informed him that the Soviet Government wanted the cooperation of the American Government in the return of Mr. Chebotarev to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Bray said that Mr. Vorontsev had told Mr. Davies that the defector was in the Soviet Embassy and had told embassy officials of his desire to return to his family and home.

Following "careful consideration" within the United States Government, Mr. Bray said, Mr. Vorontsev was informed that because Mr. Chebotarev was a "parolee," whose status had to be determined by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, that agency had to decide his final status and whether he could return to the Soviet Union.