

MAIL SPYING

L.T. - P. & S. Friday, August 20, 1948

Here's a startling story: -

At Rockford, Illinois, today, the Chamber of Commerce made public an item of news which might have seemed to be utterly unimportant. ^{*It was*} a letter from a business firm requesting information about Rockford and vicinity, with a view to salesmanship, the business concern desiring facts and figures to aid in the marketing of a line of merchandise, electrical appliances.

This business letter came from Germany, Leipzig, and asked the kind of service that an American Chamber of Commerce ordinarily gives. But there was one thing peculiar - the amount and kind of data requested. The letter asked for information about local electrical industries, a map of highways and roads, the reports the Chamber of Commerce has been putting out, and the latest technical journals in the fields of electricity. That seemed a lot for an ordinary job of selling. And, moreover, it was only one of several similar requests - always from Germany. More interesting still, they were always from the Soviet Zone of occupation in Germany.

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To this you can add the fact that the Rockford section, in Illinois, is a military and industrial area of number one importance - army ^{and} ~~ammunitions~~ _^.

All of which led the Chamber of Commerce to suspect ^{something} ~~that their section of Illinois might not be the only place getting similar letters. There might be a pattern of such requests written on German letterheads from the Soviet zone.~~ So, instead of replying and forwarding the information, they turned the matter over to Government Intelligence in Washington.

Whereupon, the disclosure came in a story put out by the United Press today. The suspicions of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce were only too well founded. Similar cases were quickly discovered -- at Wichita, Kansas, and San Antonio, Texas. ~~These~~ likewise ~~are~~ key centers of military and industrial activity. But that is just a beginning. It is now revealed that requests emanating from behind the Iron Curtain have been received by eighty

Chambers of Commerce all over the country - not to mention scores of factories that have been queried in similar style.

TR The letters are tagged with the names of all sorts of business firms and allege many kinds of industry - all adapted to procure a wide variety of information about military installations and way industries, transportation centers, the lay out, the topography, the landmarks. It's all of a pattern, and the way the Chambers of Commerce are picked on is highly ~~at~~ illuminating. What better source of local information than a Chamber of Commerce ^{with} ~~for~~ its habits ~~and characteristics~~ of business building and town boosting.

Today, Army Intelligence officers in Washington call it - "mail order espionage." They say it's a systematic collection of what they call - "basic intelligence information of strategic importance to all potential enemies of the United States." The brutal fact is that the mail order espionage has been out to procure data that would be vital for air bombing, sabotage, or military invasion. Army Intelligence

declares that the campaign has been intensified ever since the Cold War became hotter, as a result of the Berlin crisis. ^{TR} So now all American Chambers of Commerce and business concerns are warned - don't send what would seem to be normal commercial information to countries abroad. Be on the lookout, no matter how innocent the data may seem.

For example, one Chamber of Commerce tells of sending two sets of booklets to Germany, Soviet Zone. These booklets gave the geographical location of important points, altitude, temperature figures, wind velocity. Which is exactly the kind of information that would be needed for an air bombing chart.

In another case, ~~the~~^{she} letter purported to come from a journalist, who asked for photographs of what he called - "interesting scenes of the San Antonio area." Material for some articles, said the alleged journalist. San Antonio is, of course, one of our biggest air centers. But, you may ask, what's the harm in a few snapshots or picture postal cards?

For an answer, let's go back to a scene aboard an

American aircraft carrier in the Spring of Nineteen
Forty-Two. That carrier, the Hornet, had aboard Jimmy
Doolittle's bombing squadron on its way to the Tokyo raid -
the first bombing of Japan. I have this from General ~~James~~
~~≠~~ Doolittle, ^{himself,} who told me how, as the carrier steamed across
the Pacific, he spent the first couple of days in the captain's
cabin - doing a huge job with masses of papers. ^PHe and his
pilots were to fly from out at sea to the coast, and then to
Tokyo - to bomb industrial areas there. They had only the
≠ vaguest notions of the land over which they were to fly,
the topography, what things looked like - and now the job was
to prepare flying charts and brief the pilots. So what material
did they ~~have~~ have for that? The answer is a story all by
itself.

The Japanese, on their part, had procured most
elaborate ~~sort of~~ information about America - and especially
about Hawaii, as was shown by the accurate and precise way
they hit Pearl Harbor. By the same token, they had taken care of

to keep us from having similar information about Japan. They had been ridiculed because of the apparently silly way they kept foreigners from taking photographs in Japan, arresting them when they snapped pictures. But that, Jimmy Doolittle told me, ^{turned out to be} ~~was~~ plain military good sense - as ~~was~~ indicated by the fact that, when the Doolittle bombing raid was planned, it was found that our Air Forces had on file only the skimpiest kind of information that could be used to guide flyers to Tokyo.

The deficiency had to be remedied, and a big job was done. ~~The maps we had of Japan were feeble, and sometimes incorrect - the Japanese had seen to that.~~ Americans who had been to Japan were summoned, especially business men and missionaries, ~~and were queried about topographical facts to check, amplify and correct the maps.~~

They were asked for descriptions of the country, ~~the~~ contour of the coast, ~~the~~ landmarks. There was a quest for pictures - the occasional snapshot that somebody might have got out of Japan. All possible material was assembled,

such as might pertain to the part of ^{Nippon} ~~Japan~~ over which the Doolittle pilots would fly - descriptions and pictures, significant, insignificant, everything.

These were turned over to Jimmy Doolittle in a heap - and provided the big job for him and his officers during the first couple of days aboard the carrier Hornet. They sorted and sifted, picked out all that could mean anything. This they put together, in getting up flying charts and briefing instructions. A description of ^a ~~the~~ bay ~~on~~ the coast, with some trees and houses, might mean everything for a flyer trying to find his way. The curve made by a river, the picture of a building that stood out as a landmark, views of Tokyo, what the various parts of the city looked like - all these played a dominant part in the Tokyo raid, and enabled the pilots to pick their way to their targets in the first bombing of Japan.

You can imagine how much easier it would have been, if Air Force Intelligence, during previous years, had been able to write the Chambers of Commerce in Japan, and get all

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information, booklets, road maps, factory advertisements,
with beautiful photographs - all that sort of material that
Chambers of Commerce like to ~~show out~~ ^{hand out for} in business building
and town boosting.

That's the meaning of today's disclosure of mail order
espionage, spy work by ~~the~~ business letters flooding this
country from ~~the~~ behind the Iron Curtain.

DRAFT

In the draft -- all husbands and fathers will be deferred. Married men, men with families, will be exempt from service under the new Selective Service law. But, they'll have to register -- just as every other young man will have to register from the age of nineteen through the age of twenty-five.

This ~~deferrment~~ was announced by President Truman today, who also made public other kinds of deferrment, -- ~~single men who, in good faith, support a dependent, workers on vital jobs, and veterans who served more than ninety days in the Army, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard during the period of the Second World War. They all are deferred.~~

WALLACE

Late word tonight indicates that all is not harmonious in the Henry Wallace Third Party. This emanates from the C I O which powerful labor organization stands opposed to the so-called Progressives - though some C I O officials have joined up with Wallace.

One of these, President Fitzgerald of the United Electrical Workers is reported to have given strong indications that he and others might - "take a walk." They're angry because the Third Party is putting up candidates against liberal Democratic members of Congress who are regarded as friends of labor. They say the Communists in the Henry Wallace movement are playing their own pro-soviet game and don't care about liberal friends of labor. All of which is said to be meeting with hot opposition -- a battle behind the scenes ^{in the} ~~at the~~ ~~third~~ ~~party~~ third party.

LOMAKIN

This afternoon in Washington, a sardonic question was asked. Newsmen were interviewing a press officer for the State Department, Michael J. McDermott. They asked him - was it possible that Soviet Consul Lomakin might be given sanctuary in the United States? That is, would the Red Consul be allowed to stay in this country, if he should be reluctant to return to Russia?

A strange query - considering the fact that the United States Government has demanded the recall of Lomakin, has ordered him to leave this country. ~~But then, after all, the Soviet school teachers, who are the central figures of an international dispute, are being finding sanctuary in this, land of the free, the whole uproar being founded on the fact that they refuse to return to the Communist Utopia. So why should not the Soviet Consul General in New York be granted the same favor, as a political refuge - if he should decide he doesn't want to go home?~~

So what reply was given by the press officer of the

State Department, when the sardonic point was raised? He grinned, and said: "That is a hypothetical question. I wouldn't hazard a guess."

This paradoxical twister arises from the major headline today - the disclosure of the American answer to the Moscow protest in the case of the Soviet school teachers. The reply is decisive and blunt. The State Department rejects the Red contention that the school teachers were kidnapped - with the connivance of the F.B.I. and the United States Government. ^T The American reply points out that an official investigation establishes what we all know - that the woman teacher, Mrs. Kosenkina, jumped from a three-story window to escape from the Soviet Consulate in New York, where she was ~~is~~ being held a prisoner. And - that Mathematics Instructor ~~Samarin~~ has testified before a Congressional Committee that ~~he would rather die than go back to Russia.~~ ^T The news has been telling us that Mrs. Kosenkina was taken away from a place of refuge near Nyack, New York, taken away by Soviet Consul

^{and}
Lomakin, - that was the kidnapping, if any. Mrs. Kosenkina has stated that she was held a prisoner in the Soviet Consulate for six days ^{while} Red Consul Lomakin has been issuing wild stories about the alleged kidnapping perpetrated by the Americans. All of which is expressed by the American diplomatic note in strong words, as follows: "The United States Government considers that Consul General Lomakin's conduct constitutes an abuse of the prerogatives of his position, and a gross violation of the internationally accepted standards governing the conduct of foreign officials."

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Hence, his recall is demanded. The American statement, by implication, also rebukes the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Panyushkin, who ^{has} also ~~has~~ been shouting "kidnap." To which we can add the name of Molotov, who made the kidnap yarn an international incident. All of which traces back to Lomakin, whose handling of the affair of the Soviet school teachers put the Moscow Foreign Minister and the whole Soviet Government in the position of turning a phoney

yarn into a world sensation.

Hence the hypothetical question in Washington, based on the assumption that Lomakin might not want to go back - though his recall is demanded. Today the newsmen tried to put some questions to ^{the Consul-General} ~~Lomakin~~ himself. They caught ^{him} ~~the Soviet Consul~~ as he was dashing out to an automobile. But he wasn't giving any answers. He shouted to the newsmen: "You're wasting your time."

Lomakin was supposed to send a physician, of his own selection, to see Mrs. Kosenkina at the Roosevelt Hospital - all along the line of his contention that the injured school teacher is being held in captivity by the Americans. Today, at the hospital, they said that, while permission had been given - Lomakin's doctor had not yet shown up. The word on Mrs. Kosenkina is that she is a little better, but still in a critical condition - from the multiple fractures she suffered when she jumped from the Consulate window.

Today, at her request, she was visited by Countess

Tolstoy, daughter of the great Tolstoy - who sheltered the woman school teacher in her attempt to evade going back to Russia. Countess Tolstoy says that, in her hospital sick-bed, Mrs. Kosenkina asked to see a Russian Orthodox priest.

R Which affords an interesting sidelight. The woman school teacher, like the mathematics instructor Samarin, were over here to conduct classes for children of Soviet officials. American schools, of course, wouldn't do - the children must be taught pure doctrines of Communism, Marx-Leninism. So you'd think that the teachers that were sent for the job would be the most devout of Communists, complete fanatics of Marx-Leninism. Yet we find the^{re} ~~re~~ escaping and jumping out of windows - rather than go back to the Red Utopia. Communism means Atheism, and today ~~we~~ the injured woman school teacher ^{was} summoning the religion of Old Russia - calling for a Russian Orthodox priest. *What goes on in Russia?
Nelson would you know?*