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FRAUDULENT RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA EXPOSED

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Fraudulent Russian Propaganda Exposed

The Picture No. 1 overleaf purports to be propaganda, the work of Underground Resistance *in Russia*, and circulated among the masses in Russia. Along with other realistic pictures and other printed propaganda literature, it is said to have recently been smuggled out of Russia to the West through Prague (of all places in the world !) to show how the Russian masses are resisting. The picture has obtained publicity, along with a descriptive note, in reputable Western journals. Here is the description of the picture.

" Several pamphlets have vivid woodcuts. One shows a column of soldiers, sailors, Cossacks, peasants and workers advancing beneath a tricolour bearing the double eagle. The column has set fire to a prison, and is trampling under foot the red flag with hammer and sickle."

The description is right up to a point ; the mob is there right enough, and is demolishing a prison. But the mob is not in the least degree Russian any more than the picture is ; it consists of Ukrainians and Slovaks, Cossacks, Lithuanians, Georgians and the other non-Russian peoples of the U.S.S.R., and, so far from being Russian is anti-Russian.

The picture has been distorted from the original, which is No. 2. So far from being recent, it was done two or three years ago as part of the non-Russian propaganda and published then in Western Europe and America ; I have a copy myself in a fine album of beautifully-produced woodcuts and drawings by the same artist and his disciples. These show the consistent struggle of the non-Russian peoples for freedom while the West is terrified to face the fact of Russia.

Actually, these pictures were done in 1947 to 1950, in Ukraine, by a Ukrainian artist of international reputation, Nil Khasevych, then and still a member of the Ukrainian Revolutionary Movement *in* Ukraine.

Among its other activities, this Movement maintains, for the benefit of all its non-Russian collaborators, an extremely well organised Press. It publishes several journals and at least one excellent magazine, prints them underground in Ukraine and distributes them secretly, not merely broadcast, but where it knows they will do good to the cause. Through this, it also spreads

No. 1

No. 2

knowledge of what is going on among themselves and the outer world ; especially it maintains high morale, hope, and the certainty of ultimate victory. The picture shown as No. 2 is the work of that Press, and is part of the non-Russian propaganda.

The prison shown in the picture is not merely a prison, but, as the name shows on the building, a symbolic prison—" U.S.S.R. : The Prison of Nations." In the forgery this has been blotted out. Carried aloft—in the genuine picture—is a flag with the words in Ukrainian, " FREEDOM FOR NATIONS : FREEDOM FOR INDIVIDUALS :" in the forgery this has been altered, after blotting out the foregoing, to the letters in Russian meaning " Russian Revolutionary Forces." In the genuine picture, on the flag is the Trident, the national emblem of Ukraine, and this has been altered to the Russian Imperial Eagle. In the symbolic Prison of Nations, each window has on it the name of the nation enslaved within ; in the forgery this has simply been blotted out. The distortionists, however, have forgotten to change the very characteristic Ukrainian Mazeppa caps worn by the soldiers, marking them as definitely Ukrainian !

Who falsified the picture and why, and concocted this story of its emanating from Russia, and being recently smuggled out through Prague to *pretend* there is a spontaneous revolutionary movement in Russia can only be conjectured, but there is material for a very good guess.

In Western Europe, Britain and America there are various organisations, claiming as their object, " Freedom for the Russian Peoples." (Incidentally, there are no Russian *peoples* in the Soviet Union ; there are the 70 odd million ethnic Russians, and about twice as many who are anything but Russian). Some of these organisations are no doubt honest in the beliefs of their members ; some, no doubt, seek self-aggrandisement and are devoted to the age-long device of wheedling into their pockets money out of the pockets of kind but unthinking British and Americans.

The idea, however, unquestionably emanated from the hordes of Russian emigres of the upper classes who escaped from the Bolsheviks to Europe and America, and who are intimately associated with the policy and direction of these organisations ; these obviously merely wish to oust the Bolsheviks and occupy their places as rulers of " Holy Mother Russia : One and Indivisible," in which the masses have never been other than oppressed, and in which oppression would persist—Tsarist, Bolshevik, Socialist, Kerenskyist, it would be all the same, that is, Russian, traditionally, consistently Russian. One would think that these emigres, aristocrats, bureaucrats, officers, officials, landowners and so on had a lesson at the time of the Revolution, when it was the Russian masses who murdered hundreds of thousands of their classes merely for belonging to those classes.

One of the organisations for the " Freedom of the Russian Peoples," is, however, worthy of further consideration.

It is, of course, built up on collaboration with the Russian emigres in America and guided largely by them—so far. It seems to have quite unlimited funds ; we are told it is financially supported by " two or three wealthy Americans " ; it would appear to have the backing or connivance of the State Department. It is difficult to believe that these " wealthy Americans " are altruists.

The purpose of the picture being issued at this time is because support for the societies by individual, ordinary Americans is dwindling, while support for the non-Russian peoples in their struggle for independence is increasing. The idea is to *pretend* there is a revolutionary movement among the masses in Russia, and, even if not, to try to create one. For whose ultimate benefit ?

The Russian emigres think they are making tools of their British and American collaborators ; too arrogant to see it, it is much more likely that at least some of their associates are making tools of them and will discard them as soon as they are no longer necessary or useful.

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 was financed by a well known and powerful Jewish New York banking firm, obviously not from altruism, but with the idea of getting complete control of the vast resources of the Tsarist Empire, now Bolshevik. But Stalin stepped in, ousted the bankers and kept Russia for the Russians, and the American money went down the drain.

Defeated in this attempt, it is now credibly reported that the bankers financed Bolshevik's arch-enemy, Adolf Hitler ! No doubt with the original idea of complete control of Soviet natural resources. Germany fell, and, again balked, it is my guess that the " two or three wealthy Americans," who so humanely support the struggle to liberate the oppressed Russian masses, and the banking firm, are one and the same, and that their purpose is the same.

I would only like to add for myself, that, having some knowledge of actual conditions in Russia, I am convinced that there is no reliable evidence whatever that there is any revolutionary movement in ethnic Russia. What evidence there is points the other way.

The Russians have always had the serf mentality, they have never known what the West calls freedom, and have had no experience in fitting themselves for self-government, they have always been under autocratic rule. They have always known the knout, imprisonment for nothing, deportation and execution for very little. At present, however harsh their treatment, they know they are better off than the subjugated nations in the U.S.S.R. They are publicly praised by Stalin, as his own Great Russians, the men who won the war and on whose loyalty he can utterly depend. Is it to be thought that all this flattery, and the knowledge that

Stalin, the Father of his People, has made their country the greatest and most powerful nation in the world has had no effect among the younger generation? The fine old Russian peasants have died out since the Revolution, while the present generation (the second since then) has been thoroughly indoctrinated by Stalin. Why should they revolt? They might be worse off.

In any effort to give the ethnic Russians what we call freedom, it would have to be imposed by force from outside. Unquestionably this would at once rouse the fanatical patriotism of the Russian for which he has always been noted when his country has been attacked or threatened, and he would fight to the death against it. It is very different with the non-Russian peoples; they have known freedom and self-government, and have traditions of culture and civilisation existing centuries before the Russians appeared in history. It is they who demand and it is they who should be helped to independence, but, whatever they may promise beforehand, no Russians will ever agree to it. And none of these would trust the word of *any* Russian. And, personally knowing their leaders, I know that none will change Russian for American, British or any other domination; they demand control of their own resources first of all for the benefit of their own peoples, and they will not accept any kind of aid with strings to it. They are, however, ready to become allies in any struggle of the West against a Russian attack. But their independence must be unconditionally guaranteed beforehand.

What allies they would be to Britain! 120 millions of tough fighting people, unaggressive, with no imperialist ideas, mostly peasant with the peasant's intense love of his own little bit of land, and having no desire to interfere in the internal affairs of Russia or any other. With incalculably valuable natural resources and non-industrial, an unlimited supplier to us of raw materials and an inexhaustible market for our manufactured goods. And, with us, a Third World Power not inferior to the East and West Giants, and one which could impose peace and security on the world.

Had we a British statesman of the calibre of Stalin, British prestige and influence, so shattered by our expulsion from India, Burma, Ceylon, Persia, Egypt and elsewhere might be regained.

Personally I hope we shall detach ourselves from any part of American policy towards Russia which embodies the aims of the "two or three wealthy Americans." In European and foreign affairs generally the Americans are merely adolescent, and, whether it has any foundation or not, they provide Stalin with material to show his people that America intends to attack Russia. Not that I would for a moment suggest appeasement of Stalin—quite the reverse. But the policy of America is more calculated to unite the Russian masses behind Stalin than anything else, and we need not unite in strengthening his hand. Further, American policy is

unpredictable; one day they threaten and next water down or contradict their threats altogether.

British policy and interest demand co-operation with the non-Russian peoples of the U.S.S.R., and should be directed to securing their help by an unconditional promise that they will have complete sovereign independence once Moscow's power is ended. In any war with Russia which does not promise them freedom, they are apt to imitate Tito and be neutral, and so, like Tito, become Stalin's greatest ally; their neutrality, like Tito's, would immobilise the right wing of the West and completely protect the left wing of the Russians, for we could not infringe neutrality. Tito knows all this although Mr. Eden apparently does not. If the old excuse is made, that such a course would precipitate war, that is mere hypocrisy. We are at war with Russia, who, unless we are blind and deaf, makes it plain she intends to destroy us, either by cold war as now or by hot war when it suits her to begin—not when it suits us.

Had we any statesman or prominent politician or leader such as our great foreign ministers of the time of Lord Salisbury and before, they might even be able to influence American policy in the interests of both of us—I do not, of course, suggest any break with America. But the Americans are on the wrong lines.

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