

CRUEL BETRAYAL OF ROMANIA IS EFFECTED BY HUN

Germany, Through Russian Bolshevik Tools, Suppresses and Murders Loyal Roumanians, Russians and Poles—Boche Prisoners Released by Plotters to Help Fight on West Front.

By Associated Press.

Washington, Sept. 18.—The betrayal of Roumania and elaborate advance plans of Germany and her Russian bolshevik tools for suppressing and murdering loyal Roumanians, Russians and Poles, are exposed in detail by today's chapters of the astounding secret Russian documents which the American government is giving to the public.

Other in stallments of the series have described how the bolshevik leaders, Lenin and Trotsky and their associates, were bought by the Germans for millions in gold and engineering for the benefit of their masters. Now the story is told of how, while the Brest-Litovsk peace conference farce still was in progress, the bolsheviks were sending hired agents into Roumania to disorganize the army of Russia's ally, dethrone the Roumanian king, and turn loose the German armies occupied there for service in a great offensive on the western front.

The second phase of the latest disclosure shows the bolsheviks at German direction undertaking not only to kill Russian troops but also to shoot individually and wholesale Polish soldiers who were refusing to be sold to the Germans and patriotically keeping the field against their enemies. One of the documents transmits orders from the German intelligence service to "take most decisive measures up to shooting en masse against Polish troops" and to institute surveillance of institutions and persons, including the Roman Catholic Polish clergy.

Explanatory notes by Edgar Sisson, who obtained the documents, and many details lacking in the papers themselves, including a story of how the Roumanian minister barely escaped assassination after being arrested by the bolsheviks and released through the efforts of Ambassador Francis and other diplomats are given:

The machinations of Trotsky, inspired by the German general, Hoffman, for the disruption of Roumania, are disclosed in the following:

Document No. 37.
(Counter-Espionage at the Stavka.)
To the Commission on Combating the Counter-Revolution: Commander-in-Chief Krikenko has requested the counterespionage staff to inform you that it is necessary to order the following persons to the Roumanian front immediately: From Petrograd, Commissar Kuhl, Socialist Rakovsky, Sailor Guishin; and from the front the chief of the Red Guard Durasov. These persons should be supplied with sources for agitation. To them is committed the task of taking all measures for the deposing of the Roumanian king and the removal of counter-revolutionary Roumanian officers.—Director of Counterespionage, Feiderband; Secretary N. Drachev.

Note.—This marks the beginning of large-scale work to disorganize the Roumanian army. That in its early winter phase it advances disappointingly to Germany is evidenced by the steps taken later by General Hoffman and Trotsky from Brest-Litovsk, when in the middle of January, Trotsky, at the request of General Hoffman, ordered the arrest in Petrograd of the Roumanian minister Diamandi. The contents of this letter, written by Joffe, were telegraphed to Washington in February and photographed copy of letter forwarded to the Roumanian government. Diamandi was released from arrest at the demand of the United States diplomatic delegation at Petrograd, but his humiliations continued and on January 28 he was ordered from Petrograd, being given less than 10 hours to prepare for the departure of a party that contained many women and children. Ambassador Francis sought in vain of Zalkind, who was acting as foreign minister in the absence of Trotsky, again at Brest, for an extension of the time of departure. The Roumanian party was thrown pell-mell on a train at midnight. It was delayed in Finland on one excuse and another, but immediately afterward, but in three weeks the minister, leaving behind a large part of his people, was allowed to proceed to Torneo. By good luck he reached there a day after the Red guard lost Torneo to the White Guard. That day saved his life, for on the person of Diamandi, a Russian commissar who joined him in mid-Finland and accompanied him to Torneo, was found an order to shoot him. Sveltitsky was shot instead. When I passed through Torneo the control officer talked frankly about the details, expressing the opinion that the shooting might have been a mistake, as it was not shown that Sveltitsky was aware of the contents of the letter. Sveltitsky, however, was an important person in Petrograd, close to Trotsky. Our American party brought Guranenco, the secretary of the Roumanian delegation, out of Finland through the lines with us. He had been in Red Finland seven weeks. Behind us at Bjornesburg we left several families of Roumanians who had departed from Finland with the minister. We would have liked to have brought them through the lines of the two armies, but our venture was too desperate to permit unauthorized additions to the party.

The marginal notation on this letter is "Execute." Initialed "ch." the sign manual of Chicherin, the returned ex-minister of foreign affairs, now minister of foreign affairs. Have photograph of letter.

*Letter from Joffe at Brest-Litovsk carrying General Hoffman's order through Trotsky to institute agitation against the Roumanian army, and to arrest Diamandi, the Roumanian minister.

CONFIDENTIAL.
(No. 771, Affair of Peace Delegation, To Report 4, Urgent (Initials).)
Brest-Litovsk.

Dec. 31, 1917. No. 365/N. K. Comr. Shitkevich: Take copies and send to the Commiss. for Foreign Affairs, personally to Comr. Zalkind.

To the Council of National Commissaries: Comrade L. D. Trotsky has charged me to bring to the knowledge of the Council of National Commissaries the motives for his telegraphic proposal to arrest the Roumanian diplomatic representatives in Petersburg.

General Hoffman, referring to the conference which had taken place in Brest-Litovsk between the members of the German and Austro-Hungarian delegations on December 29, presented to the Russian delegation in the name of the German and Austrian chief command a deciphered radiotelegram

repressive measures against the Roumanian king and the Roumanian commanding forces.

After this interview Comrade L. D. Trotsky by cable proposed to arrest the Roumanian mission in Petersburg with all its members. This report is being sent by special courier—Comrade L. C. Brossoff, who has personally transmitted to Comr. Shitkevich, Podvolinsky some information of a secret character regarding the sending to the Roumanian army of those persons whose names Comrade Brossoff will give. (Note—Underscore marked "To Sander.")

All these persons will be paid out of the cash of the German National Industrial bank, which has bought near Borslav the business of the joint-stock company of Fanto & Co. The chief direction of those agents has been entrusted, according to General Hoffman's indication, to a certain Wolf Vonigel (Note—von Igel), who is keeping a watch over the military agents of the countries allied with us. As regards the English and American diplomatic representatives, General Hoffman has expressed the agreement of the German staff to the measures adopted by Comrade Trotsky and Comrade Lazimiroff with regard to watching over their activity.—Member of the delegation, A. Yoffe.

Reported January 4, regarding the arrest of Diamandi and others.—M. Shitkevich. January 5, 1918.

To the chancery: Send an urgent telegram to Trotsky about the arrest of the Roumanian minister.—Saveliev.

Note (as called February 8).—The date is January 12, 1918. The date of the Russian New Year. The Roumanian minister was arrested that night in Petrograd, and only released on the united demand of all embassies and legations in Petrograd. Since then he has been under the watch of the Russian police. That Trotsky took General Hoffman's personal demand as an order for action. Most important of all, however, it strips the mask from the Lenin and Trotsky public protestations that they sought to prevent the peace negotiations from being disturbed by the military advantages of Germany against the United States, England and France. The aim here disclosed is instead to aid Germany in stimulating feeling against England, France and the United States in enabling Germany to prepare for an offensive on the western front. A German bank is named as a paymaster for bolshevik action among the Roumanian soldiers.

Wolf Vonigel the field director, the Wolf von Igel of American notoriety? This similarity in name is striking. Finally, General Hoffman and the German staff is satisfied with Trotsky's watch over the American and English diplomats. Yoffe, who signs the letter, is a member of the Russian Peace commission. Since this letter was written Zalkind has gone to Switzerland on a special mission.

Note—He did not reach there, being unable to pass through England and in April was in Christiania.

Further disclosures of espionage operations and of assassination orders for the ruthless extermination of Russian patriots follow:

Document No. 38.
(Commission for combating the counter-revolution and pogroms, December 14, 1918, Petrograd.)

Major von Boehlke, Esteemed Comrade: I bring to your notice that our Finnish comrades, Hakha, Pukko, and Enrot have advised the commissar for combating the counter-revolution of the following facts:

1. Between the English officers and the Finnish bourgeois organizations there are connections which cause us serious apprehension.

2. In Finland have been installed two wireless stations which are used by unknown persons who communicate in cipher.

3. Between General Kaledin and the American mission in Moscow is an undoubted communication, of which we have received exact information from your source, and, therefore, a

most careful supervision of the American embassy is necessary.

These reports must be established exactly. Our agents are helpless. Please excuse that I write on the official letter heads, but I hasten to do this, sitting here at the com-

Method of Getting Information Is Not Given to the Public

Edgar Sisson of the Bureau of Public Information, who obtained the evidence of the treason of Trotsky and Lenin and brought it to this country at the risk of his life, has given to the public no intimation of the manner in which he secured the priceless information.

It is the assumption that there was someone in the bolshevik government who was so appalled and indignant over the perfidy of the paid agents of Germany that he disclosed the secrets. That he was a person of importance is indicated by the fact that he evidently had access to the most important files of the soviet government.

He knew exactly what to give out in order to prove the treachery of the two traitors and must have had some experience with statecraft.

But the details of the preservation of this record of infamy are shrouded and will continue to be shrouded while the war lasts and possibly for a generation after that. The force of events in relation to the disclosures after they reached this side of the water is likewise mysterious.

Many months ago Mr. Sisson made this report, which reached the president of the United States. During all these months President Wilson has allowed those who wished him to cut away at once from any relation with the bolsheviks to assume that he hoped for some regard for Russia to influence Trotsky and Lenin.

Never in all this time, while he discussed Russia with a thousand persons of all shades of opinion, has he divulged that he had in his possession the complete evidence that Trotsky and Lenin were the paid agents of Germany, taking orders for everything, from forging passports to assassination, from the beginning when they were sent into Russia to turn the revolution to Germany's purpose.

Sisson, who gathered the information, is a Minnesotan by birth, a Northwestern University graduate and a newspaper and magazine editor. He began his newspaper work on the Chicago Chronicle, passed from that to the Chicago Tribune, of which he became city editor, and then was graduated to New York. He was managing editor of Collier's, then managing editor of the Cosmopolitan, which place he left to become an attaché of the Bureau of Public Information at considerably less than half the salary.

He went to Russia to assist in spreading propaganda to counteract the effect of the German campaign. He found he was up against worse than propaganda and devoted himself to uncovering the conspiracy he recognized, and he brought back the proofs at the risk of his life.

mission at an extraordinary meeting. Ready to service.—F. Zalkind. Note.—The written comment at the top of the letter is "Commissar for foreign affairs. I request exact instructions. Schott." It is von Boehlke's question, signed with his cipher name. (See document 5.) The letter may imply that von Boehlke had, in the opinion of his good friend Zalkind, a means of internal observation at the American embassy. Have photograph of letter.

Document No. 39.
(Counter-Espionage at the Stavka, No. 255, January 26, 1918.)

To the Commission on Combating the Counter-Revolution: The 23d of January at the Stavka there took place a conference at which there participated Major von Boehlke, assigned from Petrograd. It was decided, upon the insistence of the German consultants, to send to the internal fronts the following persons, with the broadening of its frontiers for dealing with individual counter-revolutionaries.

To the Don: Zhikhorev, Rudnev, Krogulitz, and Ernest Delgan.

To the Caucasus Front: Vaccili Dumbadze, Prince Michabelli, Sevastinov, and Ter-Baburin.

To the 1st Polish Corps of General Dvobor-Menitsky are assigned Dembitsky, Stetkus, Zhimitski, and Gisman.

Be so good as to take all measures for the quick assignment and the adequate furnishings of the assigned persons with money, reserve passports, and other documents.—Senior officer, Peter Mironov.

Note.—This is an assassination order against individuals. It was not successful against the Polish general Dembadze and Prince Michabelli. Both German spies implicated in the Sukhomlinov affair and sentenced to prison, but afterwards liberated by bolshevik agents. Col. Dembitsky was a bolshevik Polish officer. Baburin was an assistant chief of staff under Krikenko. This letter is indorsed "Comrade Lunacharsky. Leave with report for Comrade Zinoviev." signature illegible. Have photograph of letter.

Document No. 40.
(Counter-Espionage at the Stavka, No. 255, January 26, 1918.)

To the Commission for Combating the Counter-Revolution: There have been received two notes addressed to the supreme commander

from the staffs of the Austrian and German high commands. These notes inform the Stavka that the organizer of the volunteer army in the Don region, General Alexieff, is in written communication with the officer personnel of the Polish legions at the front, with the view of getting the help of Polish officers in the counter-revolution. This information has been received by the Austrian agents from the Polish Bolshevik Comrade Zhiuk, who played a large part at Rostov during the November and December battles. On the other side, the representative of the German government, Count Lerchenfeldt, reports of the rapidly growing movement to defend with arms the greatest possible independence of Poland, with the broadening of its frontiers at the expense of Lithuania, White Russia and Galicia.

This movement is actively supported by popular democratic party in Warsaw, as well as Petrograd, by military organizations guided by the counter-revolutionary estate owners and the bourgeoisie Polish clergy.

The situation which has arisen was discussed on the 16th of January at the Stavka in the presence of Major von Boehlke, sent the Petrograd branch of the German intelligence bureau, and it was there decided:

1. To take the most decisive measures, up to shooting en masse, against the Polish troops which have submitted to the counter-revolutionary and imperialistic propaganda.

2. To arrest General Dvobor-Menitsky.

3. To arrange a surveillance of the commanding personnel.

4. Send agitators to the Polish legions to consult regarding the Polish revolutionary organizations known to the committee.

5. On learning of the counter-revolutionary activity of Polish officers to immediately arrest them and send them to the Stavka to the

disposal of the counter-espionage. 6. To arrest the emissaries of General Alexieff, Staff Captain Shuravsky, and Captain Rushtsky. 7. To request the Commission for Combating the Counter-Revolution with agreement with the German intelligence bureau at Petrograd to arrange a surveillance and observation of the following institutions and persons:

(a) The High Polish committee. (b) The Society of Friends of the Polish soldier. (c) Inter-Party Union. (d) The Union of Polish Invalids. (e) Members of the Polish Kolo of the former state Duma and council. (f) The chairman, Lednitsky, and the members of the former committee for the liquidation of affairs of the Polish kingdom. (g) Boleslav Jalovsky. (h) Vladislav Grabsky. (i) Stanislaw Shuritsky. (j) Roman Catholic Polish clergy. (k) The Polish treasury, through which, according to agency reports, the governments of countries allied with Russia intend, with the assistance of the New York National City bank, to supply with monetary resources the counter-revolutionary camp.

It is necessary to verify the private reports of several Lithuanian revolutionaries that among the church benevolent funds, which are at the disposal of Polish clergy, are the capitals of private persons who hid their money from requisition for the benefit of the state.

In case of establishment of any connection with the counter-revolution the guilty Polish institutions are to be liquidated, their leaders and also persons connected with the counter-revolutionary activity are to be arrested and sent to the disposal of the Stavka.—For Chief of the Counter-Espionage, Commissar Kalmanovich.

Note.—Again Germany, through Count Lerchenfeldt, was intriguing on both sides. However, the significance of this letter is in the thoroughness of the outlined German plan to crush the threat of armed opposition from the Polish legions of the Russian army.

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