

THE REASON WHY

Why don't the people of Russia and of the satellite countries rebel against their regime? This seems to be a question often asked by men and women of the free western world. To answer it, and give at least one good reason, I shall give you a picture of the well-organized and never ceasing, internal espionage inside the Soviet Union and other countries behind the "Iron Curtain".

Today's Russian M.V.D. or Ministry of Internal Security had its forerunners in the "Czeka" and G.P.N. The former was formed to counter any antibolshevik movements during the dawn of the revolution and the latter is famous for its atrocities committed against the Russian people during the 1930's. No matter what the shingle, the shrewdness and terror of this ministry hold an iron-grip on the people of the U.S.S.R., breaking their will to resist.

In every land taken over by the Communists there exists a widely branched network of espionage reaching all levels of society. Methods of spying differ and therefore the agents can be classified to some extent.

The "confidants" belong to the chief category of informers. Their duty is to report all happenings, or actions of individuals according to directives. However, they are not allowed to provoke anticommunist incidents or conversations. They are instructed to remain inconspicuous in order to avoid discovery through too eager questioning, too frequent visits with acquaintances or criticism of the authorities. This group recruits members from all walks of life so that the whole nation is represented.

To the second group belongs the "special confident" who performs more complicated tasks which require more knowledge of the trade, time, effort and the agents over funds. This work remains uncompensated which is the reason why this group includes men who had been disgraced from the Soviet point of view; people who can be frightened and black-mailed. These would comprise persons who lived in areas occupied by the Nazis or have collaborated with them, Communists who have party sins on their conscience, persons who were expelled from the party or the Communist youth movement, former members of the

"white guard", former government officials of countries subjected to Stalin, former property owners, merchants and also the wives, daughters and sons of all these men. The "special confidants" are often authorized to provoke anti-Communist activities such as the forming of underground organizations. In this way they trap uncertain elements which make them very dangerous to their social circles. Quite frequently they misuse the confidence of their close friends, even relatives, to achieve their "sacred goal."

Another group is composed of "residents". These men and women are secret mediators between the regular M.V.D. agents and the "confidants". In their hands lies the training, terrorizing and blackmailing of "confidants". They supply instructions to them and receive their reports on activities which they turn over to the security police. The "residents" are entrusted with more important secrets, and for this reason only thoroughly reliable party members or followers are represented within this group. Another condition required is the facility of meeting the "confidants" without notice. From this point of view, the most suitable people for "residents" are doctors, dentists, mailmen, supervisors of department houses, managers of collective farms, etc. If possible "residents" meet "confidants" at their places of work or at their homes.

The fourth and smallest group, the "liaison agents" are assigned to engage new "confidants", search for lost ones, and resume new contacts with them. This develops sometimes when a "confident" is forced into a state of temporary dormancy. The "liaison agents" also select suitable individuals for espionage work.

All these four groups have one characteristic trait in common. They must devote their spare time from work for their secret activities "free of charge" for the good of the cause.

There are two other groups which, however, receive payment and work full time. The first includes intelligence agents or detectives. They spy on persons who are important on the party ladder and keep watch during special events such as demonstrations, parades, or visits of important officials. They are quiet and shrewd young men and women from the ranks of the party or "confidants" who had rendered good services as such.

The most highly qualified members of this system are the secret "plenipotentiaries". Their work is to set up "black" departments at post offices with the aim of secret censorship of correspondence. Other specializations include: installation and operation of sound and recording apparatus in rooms occupied by diplomats, etc., listening to telephone conversations, forming of fictional offices and institutions for trapping the naive. As an example of this last specialty I mention the appearance of a fictional Brazilian Consulate in Charkow. Rumors were spread around that this diplomatic post helped anti-Communists to leave the Soviet Union. Many credulous people fell for this rumor and the consequences they suffered are easy to imagine. Secret "plenipotentiaries" and intelligence agents work in disguise as travelling officials of trust companies, department houses, etc.

The fourteen million Russians confined in labor camps and the many thousands in prisons represent the most vivid evidence of the achievement of this system of brother-watch-brother. And yet, in spite of all this, people still ask: "Why don't they rebel?"

—KRISTINA MOYSIAKHA '53.

SPRING

Soft, balmy winds from out the south do blow
 Scattering clouds so dark, threat'ning and low,
 Leaving white bellowing clouds in their wake,
 Like distant islands on a clear, blue lake.
 From out the sky, the sun sends forth his rays
 To warm the earth and light the coming days,
 To aid the rain in rousing dormant things
 From Winter's sleep to budding life of Spring.

—B. F., '52