

Australian Judges Conduct Probe Of Red Spy Ring

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The pincer of Soviet spying in Australia is being slowly put together before the royal commission of three judges sitting here in Melbourne.

The pace of this royal commission on espionage has proved painfully slow to Australians, who had expected sensation packed on sensation once Vladimir Petrov went into the witness box.

Petrov, who fled his post as third secretary at the Russian Embassy in Canberra, says he also was the chief Red spy in Australia. His request for political asylum started a chain of events that led to Russia breaking diplomatic relations with Australia.

Petrov, 47, short and plump, and his small, honey-blond wife Evokina, 40, both have spent many hours in the witness box. But they have given only a small part of their evidence because the inquiry has been split into what William J. V. Winder, senior counsel assisting the commission, called compartments.

The idea is to fit cleanly into one piece the pattern of Soviet espionage and to give any person named as a Soviet helper an opportunity to get quickly into the witness box and tell his side of the story. Only two Australians have been named as helpers so far.

Petrov disclosed Russia had a special directorate in Moscow for technical and atomic espionage and described the system by which Russians serving in official positions outside Russia are watched by secret police who report back to Moscow.

Petrov said both he and his wife had come to Australia with orders to recruit agents. He said money was paid to some Australians who supplied information to the Soviet intelligence system. Some Australians, he said, were given code names by Moscow.

On Petrov's fifth day in the box, the evidence turned to money and Australians picked up their ears. Petrov told the commission he received 5,000 pounds (\$11,250) from Deputy Director of Australian Security Richards on April 3, the day he left the Russian service. Newspaper headlines reflected Australian surprise.

The same day Petrov and his wife gave evidence about their pay checks. The size of these was an even bigger surprise to Australians.

Petrov said as an officer of the Soviet Internal Affairs Ministry's secret police, his salary at the beginning of 1954 was more than 4,000 rubles—\$1,000—per month. This was four or five times the earnings of a skilled Australian tradesman.

Petrov said he was paid 101 pounds (\$227.25) in Australian money and the rest was deposited for him in Moscow.

Following her husband into the box, Mrs. Petrov said her salary was the equivalent of 3,240 pounds (\$7,290) a year. Australians quickly added the husband's and wife's salaries to total over 8,000 pounds (\$17,000) a year. Only a handful of Australians earn that much money.

The end of the commission is not yet in sight and the sittings possibly will continue into next year.



STATE EXECUTIVES attending the 46th annual Governors' Conference at Lake George, N. Y., took cognizance of a problem that is plaguing them all — that of litter on the nation's highways, beaches and parks — with a resolution endorsing anti-litter educational activities and urging stricter enforcement of laws against trash-tossing. Here Governor Theodore McKelvin, of Maryland, (seated) who introduced the resolution, shows to Governor Paul Patterson, of Oregon, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, a copy of the anti-litter poster displayed at the conference by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., non-profit anti-litter organization formed recently to combat the problem on a nation-wide basis.

School Girl Murdered

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — A 19-year-old Joliet high school girl was found strangled and shot to death Tuesday in an automobile abandoned on a lovers' lane just outside the city limits.

Authorities said the car's owner was missing.

Sheriff Roy Doerfler said Doris Bogart, an attractive brunette, apparently was slain while resisting sexual advances.

Coroner Willard Blood reported that the girl had been dead at least 18 hours before her partly decomposed body was spotted by a farmer passing along the lonely country road.

Noting marks on her throat, the coroner first expressed the opinion that Miss Bogart had died of strangulation. Later he said a post mortem showed she also had been shot.

Numerous scratches on the body and the disarranged condition of Miss Bogart's blue jeans and underclothing led authorities to believe she died while fighting off a rapist.

Doerfler said the car's ownership had been traced to Donald Stefanich, a 39-year-old bachelor, of Joliet, but that officers had been unable to find him.

Authorities theorized that Miss Bogart was slain at some other spot and her body then driven to the lovers' lane.

The dead girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bogart of Joliet, are on vacation and have not been notified, the sheriff said, the mother and father were to have left Port Orchard, Wash., Tuesday.

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American Prestige Lowers Among Dejected Vietnamese

SAIGON, Indochina (AP) — American prestige in Viet Nam, largest of the states of Indochina, appears to have hit its lowest ebb since World War II.

Until a few days ago, the United States could still count on the friendship of some element of the population—anti-Communist Vietnamese in the North and the Nationalist government of Catholic leader Ngo Dinh Diem.

But reports from Washington that President Eisenhower's administration now accepts the principle of partition of the country seem to have wiped away much of this good will.

In the closing days of the Geneva conference and on the verge of a possible cease-fire in the long and exhausting war, the United States stands discredited in the eyes of many elements of the population. It was to save this population from communism that the United States contributed billions to the Indochina war effort against the Vietminh and substantial civilian aid now being directed to help the hapless refugees of evacuated areas in the North. The general feeling in Viet Nam now appears to be that the United States didn't do enough, and much of what it did wasn't done right.

The aid program, for example, is a major cause of dissatisfaction among Vietnamese nationalists.

"Instead of giving us aid money and materiel through the French, why doesn't the United States turn it over directly to us?" one prominent Vietnamese asked recently.

"In this way Viet Nam would be able to stand on her own feet, feel herself really independent, and the impression that the United States is siding with France in an attempt to keep us under her control would be eliminated."

Yet, there is nothing like open hostility toward Americans here, except in a few isolated cases. Many Vietnamese nationalists still look upon Americans as possible friends and hope for direct aid when the French are gone.

Much resentment, among both French and Vietnamese, stems from widely published reports of American concern that the aid side has given might fall into the hands of the Communist-led Vietminh.

"Of course we sympathize with this attitude," a Vietnamese official explained. "But to stress it at this time hardly is in good taste. Many of my people, unjustly or not, feel the United States is acting like a man whose house is afire and is more concerned with the furniture than his family inside."

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