

Refugee Communist Police Official Reveals Fate Of Three Vanished Americans

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
 WASHINGTON (AP) — Hermann, Noel and Herta Field, central figures in a sensational Iron Curtain mystery, may be nearer freedom than at any time in the last five years—if they are still alive.

Officials said today chances of winning their release from Communist Poland and Red Hungary have been greatly increased by facts about their disappearance supplied by a refugee Polish secret police officer.

Jozef Swiatlo, who fled through the Iron Curtain 10 months ago, was "surfaced" by the government yesterday after having worked undercover, with U.S. intelligence agencies since he fled to the West at Berlin. Officials said he had provided much useful information about the European satellites of Russia.

Most public attention, however, focused on the Field case when it became known that the stocky, black haired, 39-year-old Swiatlo had arrested Hermann Field when the Red trap was sprung on him at Warsaw airport in August 1949.

Swiatlo, who was deputy chief of Poland's supersecret Communist party security agency, also interviewed Noel and Herta Field in 1949 at Budapest, Hungary, for possible evidence on espionage or conspiratorial work on which the Communists alleged they had been engaged for the United States.

Armed with this first hand information since the two brothers and Noel's wife Herta disappeared, the State Department fired notes to Poland and Hungary demanding the "earliest possible" release of all three. Hermann was held in a Polish prison, Swiatlo reported, Noel and Herta are assumed to be in Hungary.

Mrs. Kate Field, a Briton, said in London she is "terribly happy" to get word that her husband, Cleveland architect Hermann Field is presumably alive. She said the information from Swiatlo "makes me feel that awful, long period of waiting may soon be over."

The essence of Swiatlo's story was that the three Fields had been arrested by Red police in connection with a big purge trial being prepared against former Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Rak, Rak, since executed, was accused of treason in conspiring with Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito against the Hungarian government—in effect, against Soviet domination of Hungary.

U.S. officials said that in the past when Communist governments have been presented with factual information in cases of this kind, they have often dropped deception and dealt with the problem realistically.

This has encouraged some hope here that the Fields will be released. Adding support to this hope is that since Stalin's death, Russia's new rulers have taken a number of steps to ease minor tensions with the West. Freedom for imprisoned Americans has not been so hard to obtain as formerly—if the facts for making a case could be determined.

Swiatlo's defection to the United States was announced yesterday by Atty. Gen. Brownell. The State Department followed with notes demanding freedom for the Fields.

Later Swiatlo talked through an interpreter to a news conference, making these points:

1. He considers that both Noel and Hermann Field were "Communist sympathizers" and that Noel "may have been" a party member.
2. Swiatlo himself fled to the West because he became convinced that the Polish Communist party was "devoted to the Soviet government and not to Poland." He said the great purge trials a few years ago in Eastern Europe were organized under Moscow supervision "and for the interests of

Soviet imperialism."

3. There is "a great resistance movement" against Communist rule in Poland, and "there must be some central headquarters directing this movement."
4. The greatest resistance was shown by the peasants against collectivization of land. In one province peasants holding religious symbols, pictures and crosses, threw themselves under the wheels of tractors sent to tear down the fences marking individual farms.
5. Many people both in the Communist party and the Polish government itself do not support Communist rule of the land. "Everything possible should be done to encourage those people and give them opportunity to come over to the west," Swiatlo said.
6. The chances of an open revolt are small because "in Poland today the Red army is everywhere and Polish life is penetrated by security agencies."

The names of one or another of the Fields came out in the great Communist purge trials, but aside from that there was no word of them until Swiatlo defected.

Noel Field, a U.S. diplomat in 1926-36 and after that a League of Nations employe, went to Czechoslovakia and disappeared in May 1949. In August that year his wife went to Czechoslovakia and also vanished. The Czech government replied to American inquiries by saying that both had left for Hungary. The Hungarian and Russian governments told the United States they knew nothing about the two.

Hermann Field, seeking word of his brother, flew from Prague to Warsaw in August 1949 and vanished.

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Tension Over Segregation Continues

MILFORD, Del. (AP)—Feeling continued high over integration of white and Negro pupils in this southern Delaware area today as one more school district announced plans to join in a school boycott in protest over desegregation in the Milford District.

Meanwhile, antisegregation forces scheduled a meeting tonight in Laurel, 12 miles to the southwest. Announced purpose of the meeting is "to formulate plans for residents . . . to vote on desegregation" in the Laurel School District. Laurel is a community of 2,700. The school district has not attempted integration.

There was no violence as state and local police continued the patrol established Monday when the school was reopened after a week's shutdown while school officials thrashed out the dispute over integration.

Cancer Club Plans Meeting

The Cured Cancer Club, an organization dedicated to giving aid and hope to those afflicted with the disease, will hold an organizational meeting next Monday night at 7:30 in the Klamath County Health Office, 1949 Main.

The club, formed by those who have been stricken with cancer and cured through medical aid, has been formed in many states already, California being the nearest.

All who are interested are urged to attend. For further information all Mrs. Waldron at 893 after 6 p.m.

Preston Nibley, chairman of the Gumboro Special School District, 35 miles south of Milford, announced that he and other members of the district board were "100 per cent" behind the National Assn. for the advancement of White People and would close down its school in sympathy with anti-integration efforts in the Milford District. There are 113 students in the Gumboro school.

Yesterday, the lone school in Lincoln, near Milford, operated with 36 of the 140 pupils enrolled attending classes.

At Milford, center of the dispute and one of three districts in the state attempting integration, a third of the 1,562 pupils attended classes yesterday at the combination elementary-high school.

Dr. George R. Miller, state superintendent of public instruction, announced that 509 pupils attended schools, 83 more than on Monday. Among the students were 10 of the 11 Negroes enrolled in the school.

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Christmas For Girl Held

BETTENDORF, Iowa (AP)—It is Christmas today for young Linda Cargill.

The laughter and joy around the excited 7-year-old girl's home belies the fact that doctors say she is incurably ill of leukemia.

The fresh autumn air likewise gives no hint of the Christmas season. But a letter from Santa, postmarked "North Pole," advised the winsome blonde to get ready for "a wonderful Christmas" today.

A party is planned this evening around the family's gaily decorated Christmas tree.

Neighbors have been hiding gifts for Linda at a nearby food store. Perry Anderson, a neighbor, will serve as Santa's stand-in and carry the pack.

The story of Linda's illness has spread afar. Toys and cards from all parts of the nation are arriving at her home. School children from this immediate area also are doing their bit. Children from the Monroe school in nearby Davenport plan to visit Linda today. A Brownie troop presented her with a doll and several sets of doll clothes.

Linda is taking it all "just wonderfully well," say her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cargill. "she turns on a smile, says she's fine and gives thanks to all."

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