

The Slavic Soul



PILOT. Truman steered a course through hunger abroad and inflation at home . . .

Americans looked on in puzzled amazement. Those who a few short years ago were working long hours and sacrificing freely to feed the immortal defenders of Stalingrad now heard themselves reviled and villified, individually and collectively, by the Russian propaganda machine.

The new era of steady, planned and determined wrecking of Russo-American friendship—such as it was—began with the startling personal indictment by Andrei Vishinsky, Deputy Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, of nine prominent Americans as “warmongers.” When challenged, Vishinsky renewed his charges and added ex-Ambassador (to U.S.S.R.) William C. Bullitt, publisher Frank Gannett, and columnist Walter Winchell to his list.

Cpl. Truman. Then suddenly, in the stream of anti-U.S. vituperation pouring out of Russian radios and newspapers, there appeared a 3,000-word article in the *Moscow Literary Gazette*, signed by one Boris Gorbatov. A direct, personal attack on President Truman, it said he “vies for the laurels of the little corporal from Munich.”

A sharp protest to Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov was brushed off with a general defense of the Soviet press.

No grist was too old or too small for the Russian mill. The award of the 1946 Sullivan medal as the year’s outstanding amateur athlete to Felix Blanchard of the West Point football team was a “gesture toward militarism.”

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U.S. Is the Enemy. Col. Sergei Tulpanov, head of the Soviet propaganda department, told a Berlin meeting of German Communist and Socialist leaders that American monopoly capitalists were seeking to gain control of Germany and that the U.S. should now be considered "the enemy."

The Russian Foreign Ministry curtly refused permission for assistant Secretary of State John E. Peurifoy and several members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to visit Moscow to inspect the American Embassy.

Kremlin marionette Marshal Tito in an "I've got nothing to hide" gesture, invited six hand-picked Americans to visit Yugoslavia and "see for themselves" whether Yugoslavia was an "aggressor."

They Don't Understand. Four of the six, former Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, former Treasury Secretary Henry J. Morgenthau Jr., GOP presidential hopeful Harold Stassen and Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor emeritus of Riverside Church, New York, immediately declined. Still to be heard from: writer John Gunther, and *New York Times* military expert Hanson Baldwin.

Spanish author Blasco Ibanez, a *New York Times* editorial writer recalled, had summed up the Russian technique many years ago.

"It's this way," he said. "A Russian says to you: 'Two and two make four.' You say: 'Yes.' He says: 'Four and four make eight.' You say: 'Certainly.' He says: 'Eight and eight make sixteen.' You say: 'Of course.' He says: 'Sixteen and sixteen make one thousand, eight hundred and seventy six.' 'Wait a minute!' you protest. 'They do nothing of the sort! They . . .'

"He looks at you in despair.

"'Ah!' he wails. 'You don't understand the Slavic soul!'"

Pathfinder

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