

USSR

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eign Ministers were still in session in London at that time, the speakers at the conference seemed to regard the failure of that session as an accomplished fact!

All this separatist to-do is a very significant symptom. American imperialism wants to re-carve the map of Europe to its own liking, to set up new and reliable reactionary bastions for its dominion. But the soil of Europe will not hold such bastions.

In every country of Europe, not excepting those from which Vatican agents and American bankers aim to cut off slices, such schemes

will find an impassable stumbling block in the growing democratic movement.

A large conference was held in Munich, early in January, attended by representatives from every walk of life—political, economic, cultural. This conference decided to convoke in Munich, the capital of Bavaria, a congress for German unity and a just peace. This is a very significant fact. The unity movement is spreading to Bavaria, which the Americans regard as the chief stronghold of the separatist movement.

**Berlin**  
January, 1948

#### SPOTLIGHT ON SLANDER

## The Wallenberg Legend

A new campaign of slander against the Soviet Union has been unleashed in Sweden. Delving into the rubbish heap of anti-Soviet fabrications, the servitors of Swedish and foreign reaction have dragged out and revived the so-called Wallenberg affair.

The substance of the "affair" can be summed up in a few words. During the height of the battle for the Hungarian capital, early in 1945, a member of the Swedish mission staff in Budapest named Raul Wallenberg was reported missing. Whether this representative of a neutral state was killed by the frenzied Nazis or the bandits of Szalasy remained unknown. During the furious street fighting that was going on at the time all residents of Budapest, even those who were Swedish citizens, were obviously in a precarious position. The thorough investigation of Wallenberg's fate which the Soviet authorities made on the request of the Swedish government yielded no results. The initial information that he had been found by Soviet military authorities was not corroborated. The most thorough search did not

disclose him among the interned and prisoners of war either where he might have got by accident.

The Swedish newspaper *Morgon-Tidningen* wrote at the time:

"Wallenberg evidently fell victim to the Hungarian fascists during the final battles for Budapest. . . . At the time of Wallenberg's disappearance the situation was very uncertain. It was war, and the situation was constantly changing."

Two years later, that is early last year, Swedish Right-wing newspapers suddenly gave this regrettable but by no means exceptional occurrence in wartime conditions a sensational, even provocative character. Fables about the "Soviet secret police" which is allegedly holding Wallenberg in its fearsome clutches were persistently disseminated by the press.

It is of interest to note that the circulation of these absurd inventions in print coincided with a visit to the United States of Wallenberg's step-brother, an engineer named von Dardel. On February 15, 1947, *Stockholms-Tidningen*

published an interview with this step-brother, who said he would try to

"appeal to influential American circles in order to discover the truth about the 'mysterious disappearance' of Raul Wallenberg by means of international intercession."

Events showed soon enough that what was in question was less a mystery than a matter of the vilest of provocations. Dardel wrote to Truman asking him "to make inquiries with the Russian authorities about the fate of Wallenberg."

The outcome of the appeal evidently turned out to be somewhat discouraging for both Dardel and his backers. Judging by everything, he was asked to substantiate his provocative claim with facts of some kind which would have given some reason to believe that the Soviet authorities were implicated in Wallenberg's disappearance. But Dardel could not produce anything of the kind.

In June 1947 the Stockholm press again revived the Wallenberg affair. The Rome correspondent of the pro-American *Dagens Nyheter* released a canard to the effect that some Swedes had found an "eyewitness" in Trento, Northern Italy, the Austrian Baron von Maasburg who, it was claimed, had said that he had seen Wallenberg and spoken with him in May 1945 in the "Russian prison of Čekliš" in the Bratislava area.

This was followed by numerous anti-Soviet outbursts in the reactionary papers and even an interpellation by the Right-wing deputy Håstad in the Riksdag. In his reply to Håstad, Foreign Minister Undén politely made it clear that *Dagens Nyheter* had simply lied. The Swedish chargé d'affaires in Vienna had personally contacted Maasburg and the latter had flatly denied the press fabrication: he had never spoken to either Wallenberg or his ghost.

In the meantime those Swedish circles who are so zealously trying to misinform the Swedish public and slander the Soviet Union began to circulate another story about the fate of the unfortunate Wallenberg, claiming that he had been in Strasshof, Austria, and not Czechoslovakia, in the spring of 1945. Undén refuted this legend too. According to *Morgon-Tidningen*, he told the Riksdag:

"The mission in Vienna has latterly contacted several persons who were in Strasshof at the time when Wallenberg was supposed to have been there

according to information obtained from Hungary. Not one of these persons had heard of any Swede being in Austria."

*Morgon-Tidningen* adds:

"Undén observed that he had no reason to doubt that thorough measures had been taken by the Russians to investigate this affair... In view of the insistent representations made by Sweden, the Swedish authorities had promised to continue the search with undiminishing vigour."

Soon after this official rebuff to the calumniators, the same newspaper published a statement by the Hungarian journalist Eugén Levai who was in Stockholm on behalf of the so-called Hungarian Wallenberg Committee. Levai flatly denied there was any truth to the rumours about Wallenberg and exposed the slanderous substance.

*Stockholms-Tidningen*, *Svenska Dagbladet* and *Expressen* as well as the indefatigable step-brother nevertheless stubbornly ignore all the explanations and facts and are continuing the filthy campaign. A committee of representatives of "organizations working for the return of R. Wallenberg" appeared in July 1947. This committee announced with much pomp that it would investigate "data unavailable to the public at large" dealing with the Wallenberg case, and then published a standard collection of time-worn inventions. In order to boost its report, *Svenska Dagbladet* claimed that its compilers had drawn on some "secret files" of the Foreign Ministry. This, however, was promptly denied by the Ministry.

The people who have fabricated the "Wallenberg affair" stop at nothing in their choice of means. They wait for a few weeks after the failure of each successive invention and then try again. Thus early this month three Riksdag deputies—Friesen, Ture Nerman and V. Lundstedt—turned to the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Storting with the suggestion that the Nobel Peace Prize for 1948 be awarded to Wallenberg.

The newspaper *Arbetaren* blurted out the hidden purpose of this move:

"If Wallenberg is made a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, his activity and disappearance behind the Russian iron curtain will draw international attention."

In this way the Swedish reaction is trying to drag her neighbour Norway too into its anti-Soviet machinations.

It is obvious that the people who circulate vicious fabrications about Wallenberg are least of all interested in his fate. The whole affair is utilized as a pretext for anti-Soviet provocation by those Swedish circles that cannot reconcile themselves to the development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union

and Sweden and are doing their utmost to damage these relations. The Soviet public views such provocative endeavours with profound indignation and hopes that Swedish democratic circles will draw the correct conclusions, giving a merited rebuff to the despicable activities of the Swedish "step-brothers" of the American warmongers.

## BOOK REVIEWS

# Dangerous Clio

I. ZYAVICH

ONE of the functions of *History*, a magazine published by the British Historical Association, is to deal with questions pertaining to the teaching of history in British schools. Professors and teachers of history are among its contributors and a perusal of its files affords an insight into the status of historical education in Britain today.

Although in 1913, in his book *Clio: A Muse*, M. Trevelyan, the leader of the official British school of history, claimed that history cannot be considered a science since "it lacks direct practical utility" he did admit then, forty five years ago, that history "can educate the minds of men by causing them to reflect on the past."

Today in the 40's of the twentieth century Britain's reactionaries have declared *Clio*, the goddess of History, to be dangerous and are doing their best to banish her from the schoolrooms.

In 1943, when the war was still in progress, the British government, under pressure of public opinion, introduced into parliament a bill raising the compulsory school age to 15. This was done reluctantly: the Conservative Party, with Churchill at its head, strongly opposed the school reform wishing to confine

compulsory education to reading, writing and arithmetic.

The same year saw the publication of the "Norwood Report," a government report on the principles underlying the changes in school curricula connected with the extension of the term of study. On the other hand, a commission set up by the British Historical Association also proposed deleting from the school syllabus any general outline of history and even of the history of England beginning with the second half of the 19th century.

This matter is discussed on the pages of *History* by Professor S. M. Toyne who gives some interesting details about the government reform. It has been decided to teach the masses history up to approximately the year 1848. In other words, that part of history which is particularly closely associated with the present is to be expunged from the school program, evidently on the grounds that it is needless and even harmful for the masses. European history as a separate subject is altogether excluded from the curricula of elementary and secondary schools.

The progressive section of British teaching personnel, aware of the vast educational importance of history, is unwilling to be recon-