Australia Filing In Pieces of Soviet Spy Picture

By Charles Meeking

A veteran Australian journalist, Mr. Meeking has contributed several articles to this newspaper.

CANNBERA—Slowly but relentlessly, the evidence given to the Royal Commission on Espionage in Australia is building up, in jigsaw fashion, the picture of Russian spying here since World War II and of MVD methods in general use in non-Communist countries. It is still incomplete, but evidence has been given to the Royal Commission that Russia has a cadre of trained agents working in that country. There have been two GRU men in the Russian Embassy in Canberra while Petrov was there, but they had their own private code, to which he hadn’t the key. Under close questioning, Petrov said the men had an easy time. He did not know if they were experts or not or if they had even visited South Australia (where the Woomera rocket range is situated).

Petrov said that, under his own guidance, the Secretery of the embassy, F. V. Kislitsin, had planned an “illegal apparatus to operate in time of war.” Continual instructions were received from Moscow by letter and cable. A Moscow letter in 1952 referred to “an inevitable war in the near future.” The full instructions outlined general principles and procedures in recruiting and handling agents. It said in part:

“...In the event of extraordinary circumstances, each agent should have concrete tasks allotted in advance. However, the cadre workers of the MVD section should carry out this work gradually, and in such a manner that, when these or other questions are discussed with agents, no panic should spread among them, and so that they do not interpret our preparations as a sign of inevitable war in the near future.”

Evatt’s Future at Stake

Members of Parliament are in an awkward position up to the last. After Petrov had sought asylum, and while his wife was still in the Russian Embassy, there was a lot of political correspondence, and her brother was told how to reply to a letter from him. The Ambassador told her she was to reply: “I cannot meet you because I am afraid of falling into a trap.”

Evatt’s personal intervention in the inquiry has made the whole matter inevitable war in the near future.”

Evatt accordingly.

Evatt himself is not a Communist, but his association with Communist causes has been extensive and frequent. The Labor Party may not be able to afford another attack on this ex-political task, and it is more likely to strengthen Liberal Party claims that, although Dr. Evatt is not a Communist, his association with Communist causes has been extensive and frequent. The Labor Party may not be able to afford another attack on this ex-political task, and it is more likely to strengthen Liberal Party claims that, although Dr. Evatt is not a Communist, his association with Communist causes has been extensive and frequent.