

COPY of a letter from Jerry ,dated Lugansk 18/4/33 received
at Tzaneen 18/5/33

My Dear ,

I just finished reading a whole series of our papers dealing with the case of espionage, involving several English Engineers working in Russia to-day.

This is a huge case; a case to which our "Pravda" gives daily 2½ pages out of a total of only four. I am fortunate of being able ~~to~~ of getting these, for here papers in general come rarely and especially to-day with the great demand on these papers.

I do not know to what extent you are told about the case. It is highly interesting. To me it has a special bearing, as it may, ~~as it may~~ cause certain repercussions. I know that the Lower House has passed us anti-Soviet bill and the debate in the House. Of that you know better.

However, Russia knows only ~~that~~ of that case, or of the sowing campaign, or lastly, the great anti-religious campaign.

The latter is of great psychological interest. I am speaking of my own experiences here. On Easter eve there was a great anti-religious evening. A special regiment of Red Army men arrived with panel lights, banners and songs. They paraded up and down the village in front of the "Cherkov" (church) doors. Their orchestra played loudly and well. The doors of the local club hall opened and then a series of speeches started (- I joined, too). Religion was attacked from a hundred angles. That lasted till 11. The house was full. Youth, mainly youth. An anti-religious comedy followed, staged by local artists. And at 12 o'clock, when the Believers in the Church Hall went mad at their resurrected Jesus, great singing followed by orchestra numbers. Later two films were shown and the house dispersed at 2.30. in the morning, people tired and sleepy. Old men and women still kneeled down and prayed to the Lord.....---

Prior to this all, organisations led a series of meetings, so did Mostrotrest. All these meetings brought forward (under Party guidance) anti-religious resolutions. Resolutions to work on Easter two more hours, and thus better and more intense; to pay off and discharge all these who did not turn up to work and went instead to church.

Anyhow, this year, the anti-religious campaign was bitter and intense.... "Obschestvenist" (?) i.e. society looked upon everyone who went to church as anti-social, anti-socialist, as an enemy of the Soviet Union.

There were several resolutions carried to ask the village Soviet to close the last church left here in the Stanitza.

Let me assure you that in 5 or 10 more years every concept of Christianity Religion will be gone for ever in ~~the~~ Soviet Russia.----- I think for ~~the~~ good.-----

I am taking leave on full pay for about 10 days at the end of this month. I am making for Moscow for the May Celebrations.

There is very little work at the moment. It is flood time here and everything is covered. Instead of practical work, we are busy at "Social Work". Everyday sees numerous meetings. At 5 p.m. and 7 and then later at 9 p.m. A hundred clubs are formed, lectures, political meetings; everyone is drawn in. Engineers, workmen, men and women. Russian love talking!-- They excel at it!--

I received your letters.

JERRY B.

P.S./ I read all your letters. I shall be in Moscow and see. As yet ~~I~~ I have heard nothing about the transfer. I am getting uneasy. Materially I am better off for several reasons. Shall tell you one day.

JERRY.