The Birmingham Age-Herald
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
DATE 2-12-41

Mr. Tolson
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Stevens
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

HARRY C. FRYE - Editor

## *Death Of An Informer*

The grim-faced little man who wrote a series of articles "exposing" Stalinist Russia under the name of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, and who lived part of his life as one Samuel Ginsberg, died a violent death this week under a third name, that of "Walter Poref." And there are dark hints that the former Communist was done to death at Washington by agents of the dread OGPU at the instigation of Josef Stalin.

Students of international intrigue, undercover politics and murder mysteries may never know whether Krivitsky was murdered or whether he took his own life. Already there seem to be differences among the investigators. The police report lists his death as suicide. A Dies committee investigator believes the man was assassinated in the Moscow style.

Krivitsky, they say, lived in constand dread of being murdered by Stalin's OGPU. He scurried under cover, a hunted man, attempting to bury his dead past, but never succeeding. He said he had been a high official in the Soviet intelligence service until 1937 when he broke with Stalin because of the blood purge of that year. In America he told his story through a series of magazine articles in *The Saturday Evening Post* and to the Dies committee.

A man, who had as much to fear as did this Krivitsky, who spent the early part of his life gathering secret information for the Soviet Union and the latter part of it telling off on his former comrades, would be a fit candidate for suicide. He brooded. He lived a life of terror.

"When I am dead," he told a Dies committee investigator, "don't ever believe that I committed suicide." He feared that he and Trotsky would both be murdered. Trotsky was slain. Now Krivitsky is dead. Perhaps we shall never know whether he was killed by the system he betrayed, because it had betrayed him, or whether he took his own life in despair.

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## Strange Career Ends In Mystery Death

Suicide or Stalin purge victim? A man of mystery while he lived, Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky even in death remains an interrogation point.

The average person leading a humdrum life may wonder just what pleasure his closing years held for the self-styled former chief of the Soviet Military Intelligence in Western Europe. If, as he asserted, he knew he was being trailed by agents of the OGPU who were plotting his death, the suspense might finally have caused a crackup of nerves leading to self-destruction. But he had told a Dies Committee investigator, "Don't ever believe that I committed suicide." His widow says he never carried a gun.

If plotters sought his life, they had not hurried. It was two years ago that he appeared before the Dies Committee and also branded the Communist party in the United States in magazine articles as a puppet of Moscow. Two years had passed since his book, "In Stalin's Secret Service" appeared. In all his writings he had emphasized that the OGPU always gets its man, no matter how long is required to find him.

Krivitsky told the Dies Committee that 35,000 members of the Russian Army were executed by Stalin's orders in 1937, that 300,000 or 400,000 other persons were exiled and imprisoned and that "millions" were thrown into concentration camps. He could scarcely have expected this to endear him to Moscow authorities but his magazine articles did fill his purse to overflowing.

If Krivitsky was murdered, it was very near to a "perfect crime," since all indications pointed to suicide. By comparison the killing of Leon Trotsky was crudity itself, although prolonged planning and deception were necessary before the assailant could gain entrance to Trotsky's presence.

It is much to be hoped that this death will not remain long on the list of unsolved mysteries.

100-11146-A

MANAGING EDITOR - FRANK W. CLARK
AUTHOR - VICTOR L. STEVENSON

EDITORIAL

CLIPPING FROM THE HERALD-JOURNAL
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
DATE 2/12/41

FORWARDED BY THE ALBANY OFFICE

# Krivitsky's Friends Last Clue

By United Press

Police today turned to the last two friends believed to have seen Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, to supply missing pieces in the puzzle created by his death.

They are Wolf Dobert, said to be a former German army officer, and Marguerite, his Grecian wife. Krivitsky, former western European head of the Russian secret police, visited them for several days at Charlottesville, Va., before his body was found Monday morning in the Bellevue Hotel. Washington police will question them today.

**ATTORNEY IS ADAMANT**

Even the Doberts disagree over how Krivitsky died. Mrs. Dobert is convinced he did not take his own life; her husband said he was a man who worried a lot about assassination but "probably" killed himself.

A vast accumulation of circumstantial and physical evidence supports the police theory of suicide, but the inquiry was continued at the insistence of Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney, who believes his client either was murdered by the OGPU or "hounded to self-destruction" by constant fear of death.

Mr. Waldman revealed that on Jan. 7 Suzanne La Follette, second cousin of the Wisconsin Senator and a friend of Krivitsky, received a letter from Paul Wohl of New York which said:

"Please inform your honorable friend K., that an ominous person is in New York: Hans."

**'HANS NEVER MISSES'**

The attorney said Krivitsky came to him with the letter and cried: "I am a dead man. Hans never misses." Mr. Waldman said he advised Krivitsky to ask the protection of the FBI and expressed belief that he had come to Washington for that purpose but was killed before he could reach the FBI.

Mr. Dobert, now a refugee from Germany because of pro-democratic writings, and his wife combine their intellectual activities of lecturing and writing with farming near Charlottesville, Va.

Mrs. Dobert drove Krivitsky from Charlottesville to Washington late Sunday after he had looked for a farm in the neighborhood, to which to move his family from New York.

**WROTE NOTES SUNDAY**

No one is known to have talked to Krivitsky after Mrs. Dobert left him at Union Station here at dusk Sunday, except a hotel room clerk who thought he seemed "a little nervous" and a bellhop who carried a bottle of soda to his room.

Mrs. Dobert spent Sunday night at the Capitol Park Hotel—near the one in which Krivitsky died—and Monday night with a friend here.

Police believe the three notes found near Krivitsky's body were written at the Dobert farm before Krivitsky came to Washington. In one he said they were written at the "Dobertov" farm. Mr. Dobert said Krivitsky sat up until 3 a. m. Sunday writing "letters."

Mr. Dobert and his wife, interviewed last night by reporters, said Krivitsky purchased an automatic pistol and a supply of "dum-dum" bullets while in Charlottesville because both agreed they needed "protection" on the farm. He was killed by a hollow-nosed bullet from an automatic found on the blood-soaked hotel bed beside him.

**INTERESTED IN FARMS**

Mrs. Dobert's belief that Krivitsky did not take his own life was based on the fact that she stopped several times en route to Washington at his request so he could inspect farm sites.

"He wanted to come back to Charlottesville and start life fresh," she said.

Chairman Martin Dies (D., Tex.) of the House Committee on un-American activities, said Krivitsky had told him he believed his "importance" would [illegible] the commission on Soviet [illegible]. He added that "great happiness" to Krivitsky may happen to a lot of others.

Krivitsky told the Dies committee last [illegible] that his death [illegible] would be a [illegible]

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WASHINGTON NEWS

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# Store Is Found Where Krivitsky Bought Gun

## Mrs. Dobert With Him When He Got Weapon In Charlottesville

Newspapermen today found the Charlottesville, Va., hardware store where Walter G. Krivitsky, former Soviet secret agent, bought a heavy 38-caliber automatic similar to the one found beside his body in a hotel room here Monday morning.

The Russian, when he bought the gun, was accompanied by Mrs. Margaret Dobert, 30, wife of Eitel Wolf Dobert, former German officer and refugee from the Nazis, who lives in a small cabin in the mountains near Barbersville, about 15 miles north of Charlottesville.

The proprietor of the hardware store told reporters he recognized Mrs. Dobert when she came into the store with the man who purchased the gun.

Krivitsky then gave his name as "Walter Poret," the one he used when he registered at the local hotel Sunday night. Krivitsky and Mrs. Dobert came into the store on Thursday. The Russian was asked to give his home address. He replied, laughingly:

"I might as well give my address as Barbersville, as I am going to live there soon."

**Returned to Get Bullets.**

On Saturday afternoon Krivitsky returned to the same store and purchased 150 "dum dum" cartridges for the gun, of the type fired through his head early Sunday. He explained that he was going to practice shooting at a target with Mr. and Mrs. Dobert.

Dobert expressed the conviction that Krivitsky killed himself in his hotel room here, and Mrs. Dobert, who drove the Russian to Washington Sunday night, said his last words to her were "look after my wife and child."

Mr. Dobert, now a writer and lecturer, said he saw Krivitsky in New York City last week and the former Soviet agent told him he was retiring from politics and wanted to bring his wife and child to Virginia to live on a farm. Dobert invited Krivitsky down to look over the country.

**Certificate Not Yet Issued.**

Lt. George Darnell of the homicide squad left Washington this morning to interview Mr. and Mrs. Dobert. He was accompanied by Precinct Detective Horace Carnafa, who was to take written statements, and a chauffeur.

Despite the protests from many of Krivitsky's friends and associates that he was either "assasinated or hounded to death" by Stalin's secret agents for his expose of alleged Soviet espionage, Washington authorities are convinced he killed himself with the gun purchased in Charlottesville.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald, however, continued to withhold a suicide certificate today pending completion of a full investigation.

Krivitsky was found shot through the head about 9:30 a.m. Monday in a fifth-floor bedroom at the Bellevue Hotel, 15 E street N.W. He was not identified until late in the afternoon because of the name he had used in registering.

**Sat Up Writing Letters.**

Dobert told reporters Krivitsky sat up until 3 a.m. Sunday writing some "important" letters. He believes they were the "suicide" notes found in the hotel room—one in English, another in Russian and a third in German. They were written on the same type of stationery supplied by his host.

On Sunday afternoon Mrs. Dobert drove Krivitsky to Washington. She let him out of her car near Union Station and he said he expected to catch a train for New York. Mrs. Dobert checked into the nearby Capitol Park Hotel, North Capitol and E streets N.W., about 6 p.m. Sunday and checked out about 11 a.m. Monday.

**Waldman Indignant at F. B. I.**

While authorities held up the issuance of a suicide certificate, Krivitsky's attorney, Louis Waldman, went to the F. B. I. with the "name of a notorious killer" of the Ogpu and expressed indignation when they declined to enter the case.

Albert Goldman, attorney for Leon Trotsky, exiled Bolshevist leader who was bludgeoned to death in Mexico City last year, disclosed in Chicago that he and associates had been negotiating with Krivitsky for a Mexico investigation and expressed the view that "that might have been a factor in what, according to my opinion, was the assassination of Krivitsky."

Dale Don Levine, who collaborated in a series of Saturday Evening Post articles for which Krivitsky is reported to have received $25,000, said at West Palm Beach that he knew no reason why Krivitsky should have taken his life, but that he knew "from Krivitsky's last message to me, transmitted from Canada some three months ago, that he was terribly upset by the assassination of Trotsky."

**Dies Issues Statement.**

And Chairman Dies of the House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, which heard Krivitsky's account of international Communist activities in 1939, issued a statement that "the question of murder or suicide in the case of Gen. Krivitsky" was "for the District authorities to determine after a thorough investigation of all the facts."

"But I am prepared to state," he added, "that our committee is in possession of the fullest information on the methods of assassination employed by Stalin's agents, and that these methods were described to us by none other than Gen. Krivitsky himself.

"Both Trotsky and Krivitsky were convinced that they would meet violent deaths at the instigation of Stalin himself. Krivitsky in particular cautioned us against believing that his death when it came would be a suicide."

Mr. Waldman termed Krivitsky's death "a challenge to the Federal Government and the Federal Bureau of Investigation" which, he said, "owed" him protection for his appearance before the Dies committee.

**No New Evidence.**

Police said, however, that they had uncovered no evidence to warrant altering their verdict of suicide.

The notes found in Krivitsky's room were addressed to Mr. Waldman, Miss Suzanne La Follette, a writer, and to "Tanya and Alek," Krivitsky's wife and son in New York. The latter note, as translated from the Russian by police, said "it is very difficult and I want to live very badly, but it is impossible."

Krivitsky had registered under the name of "Poret," although his original name was Samuel Ginsberg. Police experts asserted that the handwriting on the registration card checked with that on the suicide notes, but Mr. Waldman said that it was common in Soviet "liquidations" to compel the victim to write such notes. Furthermore, he added, the Ogpu easily could counterfeit the handwriting of Krivitsky, who said he formerly headed the Russian military police in Western Europe.

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WASHINGTON STAR

SAYS KRIVITSKY "CASE IS CLOSED"—Lieut. George Darnall of the Homicide Squad is shown questioning members of the Dobert family today near Barboursville, Va., where Walter Krivitsky visited before his death. Lieut. Darnall said after this interview that the "case is closed." Pictured (left to right), are: Mrs. Marguerite Dobert, Stephen, her son; Ethel Wolf Dobert, Lieut. Darnall and Horace Caranfa of the D.C. police. —Star Staff Photo.

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR
February 12, 1941

KRIVITSKY'S VIRGINIA FRIENDS—Mr. and Mrs. Eitel Wolf Dobert, at whose modest farm home near Charlottesville, Va., Walter G. Krivitsky stayed for three days before he made his last visit to Washington. —Ritchie Studio.

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR
February 12, 1941

# Police Check Gun Purchase By Krivitsky

## Charlottesville Clerks Tell of Making Sale To Ex-Soviet Agent

*BACKGROUND—*

*Walter G. Krivitsky came into the American spotlight as author of a series of magazine articles on his activities as member of Soviet Russia's secret police, and later, in 1939, testified before the Dies Committee on movements of Russian undercover men in America. He said he was chief of Soviet intelligence for Western Europe, one time charged with organizing "Red Army" in Germany.*

How Walter G. Krivitsky purchased a heavy automatic and "dum dum" ammunition at a Charlottesville hardware store was told to newspapermen today as homicide detectives went to Virginia to check on events preceeding the shooting of the former Soviet secret agent in a hotel room here early Monday.

Clerks in the Charlottesville store said a small, nervous man they are convinced was Krivitsky came in Thursday with a woman they recognized as Mrs Marguerite Dobert, 30, a native of Greece and the wife of Eitel Wolf Dobert, former German Army officer and refugee from the Nazis.

Krivitsky, it was explained, was a guest at the cabin of the Doberts near Barboursville, about 15 miles north of Charlottesville. The Russian, who was found shot to death with a .38 caliber automatic beside him in his fifth-floor bedroom at the Bellevue Hotel Monday morning, bought a second-hand automatic, the clerks said.

**Gave Name as Poret**

In buying the gun, Krivitsky gave his name as "Walter Poret," the one he signed on the hotel register when he checked in here Sunday night. Asked for his address, he laughingly replied, "Barbersville," with the explanation he expected soon to become a resident of the vicinity.

On Saturday, the clerks said, Krivitsky returned with Mr. and Mrs. Dobert and bought a box of 150 cartridges fitted with hollow-nose bullets. The Doberts said they used some of the ammunition at target practice that afternoon.

Dobert said his guest sat up until 3 o'clock Sunday morning writing some "important" letters. He wrote on Dobert's stationery, which had a "Charlottesville, Va," heading, the same as that found on three suicide notes in the Russian's room here.

The Doberts, it was said, are convinced Krivitsky killed himself, despite the contention of other friends and of his New York attorney, Louis Waldman, that he was either assassinated or driven to assassination by Soviet secret agents.

Mr. Dobert, now a writer and lecturer, believes Krivitsky penned the notes found in his hotel room while a guest at his cottage, and Mrs. Dobert said his last words to her were a request to "look after my wife and child."

**Suggested Trading in Car.**

Mrs. Dobert later told reporters she did most of the talking when the automatic was purchased at the Charlottsville Hardware Co. because her English was better. Krivitsky, she said, expressed fear that the cartridges first purchased would not fit the gun and persuaded her to return to buy a second supply.

The former secret agent, she said, kept repeating he needed an effective gun for his own protection, without saying who or what he feared.

On the drive to Washington, Mrs. Dobert said, Krivitsky expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of bringing his family to live in the Virginia hills. He had found a site for a cabin near that of the Doberts.

Krivitsky told her, she said, he had a better car than theirs, and suggested they trade their machine in for a "pickup truck," as he soon could bring down his own machine, which would serve both families.

En route to Washington they slid in the ditch once and had a flat tire, Mrs. Dobert said, which delayed their arrival.

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Once Mrs. Dobert stopped to post some letters, she said, and asked if Krivitsky would like to mail the ones he had written the previous night. He replied, she said, that he would mail the letters when he reached Washington.

Mrs. Dobert said after she left

(See KRIVITSKY, Page A-5.)

Krivitsky she went to a hotel because she was tired and did not wish to visit friends she might have stopped with here. She bathed, she said, and went to the moving picture, "Philadelphia Story," returning to the hotel afterward.

The next morning she visited automobile agencies to learn if she could find a suitable "pick up" truck, did some shopping and that night went to the International House, where she had friends.

She said Krivitsky's evident enthusiasm about his future life in Virginia had a curious contradiction when he said as they parted, "Please, look after my wife and child if anything happens to me."

Mr. Dobert said he saw Krivitsky in New York City last week and the former spy expressed a desire to retire from "politics" and to take his wife and child to a Virginia farm. The Krivitskys, he said, were considering an invitation to live on the farm with the Doberts and their 2½-year-old son.

While in New York, Mr. Dobert said, Gen. Krivitsky asked him if he was not afraid to leave his wife and young son alone in the Virginia mountains.

He replied that he was not, he said, since his wife had a gun for protection.

**Told Law Was Less Strict.**

"Don't you need a special police permit to get a gun in Virginia?" Krivitsky was quoted as asking. He was told the law was not as strict in Virginia as New York, it was said.

One of the points made by Mr. Waldman was that Krivitsky would scarcely have gone all the way to Virginia to obtain a gun with which to destroy himself. Washington authorities are convinced Krivitsky killed himself with the gun purchased in Charlottesville.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald, however, continued to withhold a suicide certificate today pending completion of a full investigation.

Albert Goldman, attorney for Leon Trotsky, exiled Bolshevist leader who was bludgeoned to death in Mexico City last year, disclosed in Chicago that he and associates had been negotiating with Krivitsky for a Mexico investigation and expressed the view that "that might have been a factor in what, according to my opinion, was the assassination of Krivitsky."

Isaac Don Levine, who collaborated in a series of Saturday Evening Post articles for which Krivitsky is reported to have received $25,000, said at West Palm Beach that he knew no reason why Krivitsky should have taken his life, but that he knew "from Krivitsky's last message to me, transmitted from Canada some three months ago, that he was terribly upset by the assassination of Trotsky."

**Dies Issues Statement.**

And Chairman Dies of the House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, which heard Krivitsky's account of international Communist activities in 1939, issued a statement that "the question of murder or suicide in the case of Gen. Krivitsky" was "for the District authorities to determine after a thorough investigation of all the facts."

"But I am prepared to state," he added, "that our committee is in possession of the fullest information on the methods of assassination employed by Stalin's agents, and that these methods were described to us by none other than Gen. Krivitsky himself.

"Both Trotsky and Krivitsky were convinced that they would meet violent deaths at the instigation of Stalin himself. Krivitsky in particular cautioned us against believing that his death when it came would be a suicide."

**No New Evidence.**

Police said, however, that they had uncovered no evidence to warrant altering their view that his death was a case of suicide.

The notes found in Krivitsky's room were addressed to Mr. Waldman, Miss Suzanne La Follette, writer, and to Tanya and Alek, Krivitsky's wife and son in New York. The latter note, as translated from the Russian by police, said "It is very difficult and I want to live very badly, but it is impossible."

Representative Rankin of Mississippi yesterday referred to the death of Krivitsky in a speech to the House and declared if members investigate the "homicide" they will find "that the gun was in the wrong place for it to have been a suicide."

He declared the circumstances seemed to indicate "an old scheme of the Communists to kill off those who would expose their dastardly activities. They say those notes he is supposed to have left bear the earmarks of forgery."

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR
February 12, 1941

# Clerk Identifies Gun Sold to Ex-Soviet Agent

## Kerensky Is Quoted As Saying General Was OGPU Victim

(Earlier Story on Page 1.)

Lt. George Darnall, chief of the homicide squad, told reporters this afternoon that his investigation of the death of Walter G. Krivitsky had convinced him that the former Russian secret agent had committed suicide and said that "so far as police are concerned the case is closed."

Lt. Darnall talked to reporters after spending two hours questioning Mrs. Marguerite Dobert, 30, and her husband, Ethel Wolf Dobert, Nazi refugee, at their cabin home near Barboursville, Va.

The homicide squad chief said he would make a full report to Chief A. Magruder MacDonald upon his return to Washington and that he would state that in his opinion Krivitsky killed himself.

**Clerk Identifies Gun**

Lt. Darnall had visited the hardware store in Charlottesville, Va., where Krivitsky had purchased the automatic pistol which was found beside his body in the Bellevue Hotel here Monday.

A clerk in the store identified the gun as the one he had sold Krivitsky last week when he visited the store in the company of Mrs. Dobert. Later, the Doberts identified the weapon.

From Mr. Dobert, a former German Army officer, and from Mrs. Dobert, Lt. Darnall obtained written statements concerning Krivitsky's activities during the days before he was found shot to death.

Krivitsky was a house guest at the cabin of the Doberts when he was driven to Charlottesville by Mrs. Dobert to make the purchase of gun and cartridges. Mrs. Dobert told reporters she helped the Russian buy the gun because he feared for his life and needed the weapon for self-defense.

**Assassination Claimed.**

The New York Daily Mirror today quoted Alexander F. Kerensky, once premier of Russia, as saying that Krivitsky had been assassinated by an agent of the Soviet's Government's secret police.

The newspaper, in a copyrighted article, also stated that Kerensky had said that Krivitsky knew before Christmas that "the most vicious murderer in all the Soviet, whose favorite tactic is to drive a man to suicide by threatening to capture and torture his family," was here to kill him.

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# Police to Quiz Mrs. Dobert On Krivitsky

## Woman to Be Asked to Account For Time After She Drove Exile to D. C.

Investigation of the Krivitsky case hinged last night on the whereabouts of an attractive 30-year-old Grecian woman at the time that Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky was shot to death in a Washington Hotel early Monday.

The woman, Mrs. Marguerita Dobert, told The Washington Post that she drove Krivitsky to Washington Sunday and dropped him near Union Station about 5:30 p. m. so he could catch a train to New York.

But she would not say where she had spent that night, although she acknowledged registering at 10 a. m. Monday at the International House, 1708 New Hampshire Avenue Northwest, and sleeping there Monday night before leaving the city yesterday. Krivitsky's body was found about 9:30 a. m. Monday.

Washington police plan to question her today at her home near Charlottesville, Va., where she was found by newspapermen.

From Mrs. Dobert and her husband, Eitel Wolf Dobert, 33, author, lecturer and former Nazi Army officer, came these disclosures:

1. Krivitsky stayed with them and their 2½-year-old son, Stephen, in their two-room log cabin from Thursday to Sunday.

2. Krivitsky bought an automatic pistol—similar to the one found beside his body Monday morning in Washington's Pelham Hotel—at Charlottesville Friday.

**Believe Him a Suicide**

He apparently wrote the three death notes, found in the hotel room, on Saturday night at the farm, so he stayed up until 3 a. m., using the Dobert stationery, notepaper which is identical to that of the death notes.

The Doberts—he is [illegible] the "Dobertov" mentioned in [illegible] the death notes—are the only [illegible] of Krivitsky to [illegible] who are not convinced that [illegible] Soviet general was [illegible] the dread Russian OGPU (secret police) and not a suicide.

Washington authorities still maintain Krivitsky killed himself, although they were continuing their investigation last night and Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald had not yet sent his certificate of suicide to the Health Department.

It was established definitely, however, that one of the windows of Krivitsky's fifth-floor room was not locked. It was open six inches, detectives said, but added there still was no way a killer could have reached the window from the outside.

**Detective Chief Convinced**

Detective Chief Bernard W. Thompson said he was "more convinced than ever" that Krivitsky was a suicide.

Ballistics tests, he said, proved the empty cartridge found beside the body came from the gun that lay on the floor. The bullet itself went through Krivitsky's head and entered the wall, where it was lost.

[illegible] stories in [illegible] of suicide [illegible]

**Murder Kerensky Says**

Alexander Kerensky, pre-Soviet premier of Russia, told The Washington Post by telephone from New York:

"I am sure it was a murder . . . If it was not a murder, then it was a suicide provoked by a direct menace. I understand that they had been menacing his son, whom he loved dearly."

Krivitsky's wife Tanya, and 7-year-old son, Alek, have been hiding in a New York apartment. One of the death notes, addressed to them, said "I want to live very badly but it is impossible."

Kerensky, who headed the short-lived Menshevist regime between the downfall of czarism and before the rise of bolshevism, once was Krivitsky's mortal enemy. That was when Krivitsky was a high official in Russia's international spy organization, and Kerensky was a refugee from the Lenin regime. They became friends after Krivitsky broke with Stalin in 1937—the year of the "blood purge"—fled to France and then to the United States.

Miss Suzanne LaFollette, New York writer and second cousin of the LaFollettes of Wisconsin, told the Associated Press in New York:

"If it is a suicide, then it is a murder—he was hounded and hounded."

It was Miss LaFollette to whom one of the three death notes was written, and she said Krivitsky had "told at least two persons he would be murdered and it would be made to look like suicide."

**Says He Was Warned**

At one time, she said, Krivitsky "was approached by three agents of the OGPU." She added: "One of them told Krivitsky to stay out of the midtown area of New York if he didn't want to get into trouble. The man said, 'we work in threes—we've been on the lookout for you constantly.'"

Isaac Don Levine, who collaborated with Krivitsky on a series of Saturday Evening Post articles purporting to divulge secrets of Bolshevist international intrigue, told the Associated Press in West Palm Beach, Fla., that he knew of no reason why Krivitsky would take his own life.

Krivitsky was "terribly disturbed," Levine reported, by the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico last summer and believed the plot was organized in the United States.

Albert Goldman, attorney for Trotsky, said in Chicago that he and his associates had been negotiating with Krivitsky for an investigation of the exiled Bolshevist leader's death and declared "that might have been a factor in what, according to my opinion, was the assassination of Krivitsky."

[illegible]

[illegible] Dobert after leaving Krivitsky in Washington [illegible] explanation that "she spent Sunday night with friends" [illegible] Washington police known [illegible] Mrs. Marion, a friend, of the Dobert apartment. Mrs. [illegible] who met the Doberts in [illegible] years ago, said Mrs. Dobert had returned to her home about 7 p. m. Sunday and the two of them spent a quiet Sunday night.

[illegible] quarters.

She said a Post reporter told her she was so shocked on learning of Krivitsky's death through newspapers that she left immediately to see her husband and confer on what they should do regarding the police investigation.

She said she felt worried because she did not communicate with police before leaving Washington, but she thought it her duty to return home.

While police planned to investigate the Dobert angle, Attorney Waldman announced the Federal Bureau of Investigation had declined to enter the case.

"But," he added, "I will go to President Roosevelt, if necessary," to obtain a Federal investigation.

Waldman said he still believed that his client may have been murdered by Russian agents.

Lieut. George Darnall, chief of the Washington police homicide bureau, left for Charlottesville shortly before 1 a. m. today. It was understood he would spend the rest of the night in a Charlottesville hotel and go to the Dobert farm this morning.

Krivitsky's body, meanwhile, remains in the city morgue as pathological tests are made.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

100-11146-A

# For Time After She Drove Exile to D. C.

Investigation of the Krivitsky case hinged last night on the whereabouts of an attractive 30-year-old Greek woman at the time that Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky was shot to death in a Washington Hotel early Monday.

The woman, Mrs. Marguerite Dobert, told The Washington Post that she drove Krivitsky to Washington Sunday and dropped him near Union Station about 8:30 p. m. so he could catch a train to New York.

But she would not say where she had spent that night, although she acknowledged registering at 10 a. m. Monday at the International House, 1708 New Hampshire Avenue Northwest, and sleeping there Monday night before leaving the city yesterday. Krivitsky's body was found about 9:30 a. m. Monday.

Washington police plan to question her today at her home near Charlottesville, Va., where she was found by newspapermen.

From Mrs. Dobert and her husband, Eitel Wolf Dobert, 38, author, lecturer and former Nazi Army officer, came these disclosures:

1. Krivitsky stayed with them and their 2½-year-old son, Stephen, in their two-room log cabin from Thursday to Sunday.

2. Krivitsky bought an automatic pistol—similar to the one found beside his body Monday morning in Washington's Pelle ue Hotel—at Charlottesville Friday.

**Believe Him a Suicide**

He apparently wrote the three death notes, found in the hotel room, on Saturday night at the farm, as he stayed up until 3 a. m., using the Dobert stationery, notepaper which is identical to that of the death notes.

The Doberts—he is [illegible] the "Dobertov" mentioned in one of the death notes—are the only close friends of Krivitsky he [illegible] who are not convinced that the former Soviet general was a victim of the dread Russian OGPU (secret police) and not a suicide.

Washington authorities still maintain Krivitsky killed himself, although they were continuing their investigation last night and Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald had not yet sent his certificate of suicide to the Health Department.

It was established definitely, however, that one of the windows of Krivitsky's fifth-floor room was not locked. It was open six inches, detectives said, but added there still was no way a killer could have reached the window from the outside.

**Detective Chief Convinced**

Detective Chief Bernard W. Thompson said he was "more convinced than ever" that Krivitsky was a suicide.

Ballistics tests, he said, proved the empty cartridge found beside the body came from the gun that lay on the floor. The bullet itself went through Krivitsky's head and entered the wall, where it was lost, he reported. Police do not plan to tear down the walls in an effort to find it, he added.

Pathological examination of Krivitsky's body was begun for a routine procedure to determine [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Attorney [illegible] Federal investigation had [illegible] said. "I will go [illegible] Federal investigation. [illegible] said he still believed [illegible] have been [illegible] suicide.

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[illegible] body, meanwhile, remained [illegible] city morgue as pathologists [illegible]

[illegible] Nichols
[illegible] Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Miss Gandy

[illegible]

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Adler he announced "the question of murder or suicide" was "for the District authorities to determine after a thorough investigation of all facts."

Investigation of the movements of Mrs. Dobert after leaving Krivitsky in Washington revolved on her explanation that she spent Sunday night with "friends" she did not want to involve.

First Washington person known to have seen her was Mrs. Raymond R. Morgan, a friend, of 1749 Corcoran Street Northwest. Mrs. Morgan, who met the Doberts in Switzerland several years ago, said Mrs. Dobert first appeared at her home about 9 a. m. Monday and the two of them attended a movie Monday night.

After spending that night at the International House, Mrs. Dobert went to the Morgan home, according to Mrs. Morgan, to pick up a rug she owned, and left for Charlottesville about noon.

Mrs. Dobert told International

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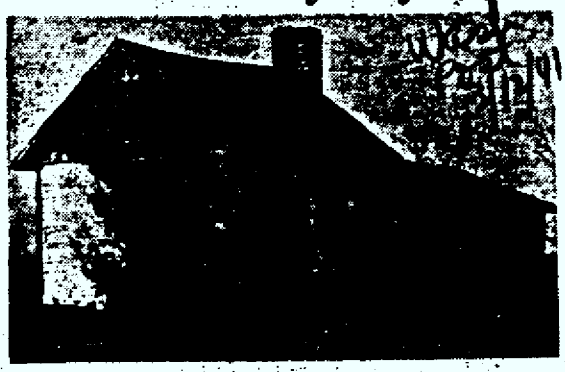
# Cabin Krivitsky Stayed In



Post Staff Photos

RUSSIAN VISITED FORMER NAZI OFFICER—Eitel Wolf Dobert—the "Dobertov" mentioned in Gen. Walter Krivitsky's death note—is shown with his son, Stephen, 2½, in the cabin (top) 12 miles outside Charlottesville, Va., where the former Russian OGPU agent stayed for three days before he was shot to death in a Washington hotel. Dobert, a former Nazi army officer, broke with the Hitler regime in 1933. His wife drove Krivitsky to Washington Sunday

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. [illegible]
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
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Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

100-11146-A

# Police to Quiz Mrs. Dobert On Krivitsky

## Woman to Be Asked to Account For Time After She Drove Exile to D. C.

Investigation of the Krivitsky case hinged last night on the whereabouts of an attractive 30-year-old Grecian woman at the time that Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky was shot to death in a Washington Hotel early Monday.

The woman, Mrs. Marguerita Dobert, told The Washington Post that she drove Krivitsky to Washington Sunday and dropped him near Union Station about 5:30 p. m. so he could catch a train to New York.

But she would not say where she had spent that night, although she acknowledged registering at 10 a. m. Monday at the International House, 1708 New Hampshire Avenue Northwest, and sleeping there Monday night before leaving the city yesterday. Krivitsky's body was found about 9:30 a. m. Monday.

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**Believe Him a Suicide**

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The Doberts—he is undoubtedly the "Dobertov" mentioned in one of the death notes—are the only close friends of Krivitsky so far reached who are not convinced that the former Soviet general was a victim of the dread Russian OGPU (secret police) and not a suicide.

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Ballistics tests, he said, proved the empty cartridge found beside the body came from the gun that lay on the floor. The bullet itself went through Krivitsky's head and entered the wall, where it was lost, he reported. Police do not plan to tear down the walls in an effort to find it, he added.

Pathological examination of Krivitsky's body was begun as a routine procedure to determine if he had been drugged. The tests will take about ten days.

Police also were checking on the origin of the death weapon.

Another angle being checked by local authorities was the origin of

See KRIVITSKY, Page 8, Col. 1

See under Cdr

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INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

# Police to Quiz Mrs. Dobert On Krivitsky

KRIVITSKY, from Page 1.

a set of new automobile keys found among the dead man's belongings. Some friends said Krivitsky had bought an automobile recently, others said he hadn't.

From Krivitsky's acquaintances over the country came more stories to refute the police theory of suicide.

**Murder Kerensky Says**

Alexander Kerensky, pre-Soviet premier of Russia, told The Washington Post by telephone from New York:

"I am sure it was a murder . . . if it was not a murder, then it was a suicide provoked by a direct menace. I understand that they had been menacing his son, whom he loved dearly."

Krivitsky's wife Tanya, and 7-year-old son, Alek, have been hiding in a New York apartment. One of the death notes, addressed to them, said "I want to live very badly but it is impossible.)

Kerensky, who headed the short-lived Menshevist regime between the downfall of czarism and before the rise of bolshevism, once was Krivitsky's mortal enemy. That was when Krivitsky was a high official in Russia's international spy organization, and Kerensky was a refugee from the Lenin regime. They became friends after Krivitsky broke with Stalin in 1937—the year of the "blood purge"—fled to France and then to the United States.

Miss Suzanne LaFollette, New York writer and second cousin of the LaFollettes of Wisconsin, told the Associated Press in New York:

"If it is a suicide, then it is a murder—he was hounded and hounded."

It was Miss LaFollette to whom one of the three death notes was written, and she said Krivitsky had "told at least two persons he would be murdered and it would be made to look like suicide."

**Says He Was Warned**

At one time, she said, Krivitsky "was approached by three agents of the OGPU." She added: "One of them told Krivitsky to stay out of the midtown area of New York if he didn't want to get into trouble. The man said, 'we work in threes—we've been on the lookout for you constantly.'"

Isaac Don Levine, who collaborated with Krivitsky on a series of Saturday Evening Post articles purporting to divulge secrets of Bolshevist international intrigue, told the Associated Press in West Palm Beach, Fla., that he know of no reason why Krivitsky would take his own like.

Krivitsky was "terribly disturbed," Levine reported, by the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico last summer and believed the plot was organized in the United States.

Albert Goldman, attorney for Trotsky, said in Chicago that he and his associates had been negotiating with Krivitsky for an investigation of the exiled Bolshevist leader's death and declared "that might have been a factor in what, according to my opinion, was the assassination of Krivitsky."

**Dies Fears Other Killings**

To the testimony of Krivitsky's acquaintance, Chairman Martin Dies of the House Committee on Un-American Activities added a declaration that "what happened to Krivitsky may happen to a lot of others."

Dies, whose committee in 1939 heard Krivitsky's account of Soviet espionage in the United States and elsewhere, then closeted himself with aides.

Later he announced "the question of murder or suicide" was "for the district authorities to determine after a thorough investigation of all facts."

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First Washington person known to have seen her was Mrs. Raymond [illegible] Morgan, a friend, of 1749 [illegible] Street Northwest. Mrs. [illegible], who met the Doberts in [illegible] several years ago, said Mrs. Dobert first appeared at her [illegible] about 2 a. m. Monday and [illegible] two of them attended a movie [illegible]

[illegible]

THE WASHINGTON POST

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House employes and Mrs. Morgan that she had received a telegram from her husband calling her home because he was leaving unexpectedly on a lecture tour.

On reaching the farm, 12 miles northeast of Charlottesville, last night, Mrs. Dobert explained she had invented the telegram as an excuse to return to avoid further questioning.

She told a Post reporter that she was so shocked on learning of Krivitsky's death through newspapers that she left immediately to see her husband and confer on what they should do regarding the police investigation.

She said she felt worried because she did not communicate with police before leaving Washington, but she thought it her duty to return home.

While police planned to investigate the Dobert angle, Attorney Waldman announced the Federal Bureau of Investigation had declined to enter the case.

"But," he added, "I will go to President Roosevelt, if necessary," to obtain a Federal investigation.

Waldman said he still believed that his client may have been murdered by Russian agents.

Lieut. George Darnall, chief of the Washington police homicide bureau, left for Charlottesville shortly before 1 a. m. today. It was understood he would spend the rest of the night in a Charlottesville hotel and go to the Dobert farm this morning.

Krivitsky's body, meanwhile, remains at the city morgue as pathological tests are made.

# Cabin Krivitsky Stayed In

Post Staff Photos

**RUSSIAN VISITED FORMER NAZI OFFICER**—Eitel Wolf Dobert—the "Dobertov" mentioned in Gen. Walter Krivitsky's death note—is shown with his son, Stephen, 2½, in the cabin (top) 12 miles outside Charlottesville, Va., where the former Russian OGPU agent stayed for three days before he was shot to death in a Washington hotel. Dobert, a former Nazi army officer, broke with the Hitler regime in [illegible]. His wife drove Krivitsky to Washington Sunday [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ellis
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Krivitsky Died By Own Hand, G-Man Holds

By SLOAN TAYLOR.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 11.—The death of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, once a spy for Stalin, was explained today as

Attorney Louis Waldman, who hotly protested theory that Gen. Krivitsky took his own life, talks to reporters in Washington.

"the suicide of a man who feared that the OGPU was closing in on him," but this theory was protested by Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney.

It was advanced by an FBI agent who declined to let his name be used. Concurring with police and the coroner, the FBI man said that the death was definitely suicide.

But Waldman insisted that it was murder; that three suicide notes in three languages were forgeries. And Representative Martin Dies, chairman of the committee investigating un-American activities, called it "the biggest story of the year," and later issued a statement.

### Dies Quotes Victim.

"The General explained to me what he considered inevitable, the end of himself and Leon Trotsky at the hands of Stalin's killers," Dies said.

"Shortly after he gave this information, I sent one of our committee's agents to Mexico City in an attempt to obtain whatever information Trotsky possessed of the methods and identity of Stalin's killers in this country.

"Both Trotsky and Krivitsky were convinced that they would meet violent deaths at the instigation of Stalin himself. Krivitsky in particular cautioned us against believing that his death, when it came, would be a suicide.

"For almost two years our committee has known that the long arm of the Russian terrorists had [illegible] stretched across the Atlantic in an effort to reach and destroy Krivitsky.

"When the former head of the Western European division of the Soviet military intelligence was a witness before our committee, he explained to me in great detail the danger of his assassination at the hands of Stalin's agents. He was reluctant to appear before our committee, lest he be more easily spotted by Stalin's killers.

### 'Matter for Police.'

Krivitsky, whose name was really Samuel (Schmelka) Ginsberg, and who had sought to change his name officially to Walter Poref, was a witness before the Dies committee in 1939. He had fled Europe in 1937 after serving Stalin as chief of military intelligence in Western Europe.

The FBI said it was not interested in the death; that [illegible] if the coroner calls it suicide, [illegible]

FROM THE
DAILY NEWS
N.Y. FEB 12 1941
DED BY N.Y. DIVISION

# Friend Tells How Krivitsky Tried to Break With Past

By Robert De Vore
*Post Staff Writer*

Charlottesville, Va., Feb. 11.—In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, 12 miles from here, Walter Krivitsky, once one of the dominating figures of the Communist revolution in Russia, prepared himself for death in a log cabin where Gen. Thomas Sumpter, an American revolutionary hero, lived as a boy.

The story was told today by the man through whom Gen. Krivitsky, Western European chief of the Soviet military intelligence, hoped to make a break with his Stalinist past.

His name is Eitel Wolf Dobert, a German trained in a Prussian military academy who became a Nazi and then dropped the tenets of Adolf Hitler for those of democracy.

Dobert today said he fled Germany on the night the German Reichstag was burned in 1933 and "seeking only peace and freedom" came to his remote cabin in the Virginia woods via Switzerland and France.

Dobert, lecturer at the University of Virginia and author of "Convert to Freedom," related today how he had met Krivitsky at the New York home of a writer friend two years ago, how the Russian had become imbued with his preference for the rural life and how, when he had decided to move to Virginia, Krivitsky had proposed that they undertake the back-to-the-farm movement together.

He revealed also that the gun that killed Krivitsky was purchased in Charlottesville after both of them had agreed that they needed "protection" in a place so remote.

Dobert and his attractive brunette Greek wife, Marguerita, 30, whom he maried at Geneva during his flight from Germany, agreed that Krivitsky was a suicide, though judging from his actions during the last four days of his life his self-extermination was "unthinkable." They told this story:

Krivitsky came to their cabin last Thursday for the purpose of making final arrangements for moving from New York his family—Tonia, his wife, and Alex, his son, aged 7.

Soon after his arrival Krivitsky, who had mentioned to Dobert the need for firearms during Dobert's visit to New York last January, observed a pistol in the log cabin and was informed a similar weapon could be purchased in Virginia without the formality of a license.

**Practiced Shooting**

Dobert and Krivitsky went to Charlottesville and bought the automatic pistol found with Krivitsky's body in the Bellevue Hotel in Washington. Back at the cabin Dobert and Krivitsky engaged in target practice. Dobert said he then noticed that the ammunition Krivitsky had bought for his gun was "dum-dum" with the lead split so as to make a gaping wound.

Dobert recalled observing to Krivitsky after the target practice:

"What a terrible wound a bullet like that would make if a man should put that gun against his head and pull the trigger."

Krivitsky, Dobert said, sat up until after 3 a.m. Sunday writing on Dobert's stationery. The "l[illegible] —it developed later—were the [illegible] found in Krivitsky's room [illegible] Bellevue.

Dobert said he was con[illegible] Krivitsky was a suicide beca[illegible] the "letters." He recalled, als[illegible] his friend on that fateful [illegible] morning had walked alone for nearly an hour about the farm in the moonlight.

Mrs. Dobert, mother of Dobert's son, Stephen, 2½, said she would believe Krivitsky's death as assassination save that she considered it impossible for an assassin to have followed Krivitsky on the journey from the remote Virginia farm to Washington.

Mrs. Dobert revealed that while driving from the farm to see friends in Washington Sunday afternoon she had taken the wrong road and had come by a circuitous route.

Dobert said that his only contact with Krivitsky had been "human contacts." He explained that there was no political alliance between them. Both, he said, had taken out their first papers for American citizenship and wished only for a new life together, a democratic and peaceful life on a Virginia farm.

Dobert said he had become converted to democracy while lecturing on National Socialism in France and other countries before 1933.

Dobert and his wife both related that Krivitsky during his stay at their farm cabin and during the ride to Washington had appeared in the best of spirits, told many anecdotes and seemed cheered by the prospect of a "new life." Only once or twice, they said, he turned gloomy and asked them both to take good care of his wife and son "after I'm gone."

**Fears Neighbors' Opinions**

Dobert was fearful that revelation of his existence through Krivitsky's death should lead his neighbors to consider him a Fifth Columnist.

He explained his "Convert to Freedom"—one of several books he has written both in German and English—as the story of a Nazi's learning that "not all of national socialism is gangsterism and that at one phase of its development the German revolution contemplated democracy." He said he was trying to call "Americanism to Americans."

When Mrs. Dobert dropped Krivitsky near Union Station in Washington Sunday night she [illegible] says, referring to his [illegible]: "Do you have your [illegible]?" He said he [illegible] only:

"Yes, I have [illegible]

Marguerita Dobert

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Fenwerth
Mr. Mathes
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Nowden
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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# Krivitsky

Whether Samuel Ginsberg, alias Walter Krivitsky, killed himself or whether, as his friends insist, he was slain by a macabre and mysterious hand, is something of which we shall never be absolutely certain. On the evidence thus far made public all the probabilities point to suicide. Still the evidence is altogether circumstantial and the gap in it is just wide enough to admit a doubt.

No writer of mystery stories would have much difficulty in imagining how a supposed international spy could have been murdered under all the circumstances described in the police report. The police, however, know that the murders that happen in books are rarely the kind that happen in reality. At the same time it has been well established that agents of the OGPU are actively at work in many countries besides Russia. There was the kidnaping some years ago under the very eyes of the Paris Surete of the White Russian Gen. Eugene Miller, whose relation to the Red Army purges Krivitsky himself undertook to explain in one of the sensational articles that first brought his name to the attention of American readers. Krivitsky has also described the efforts made, after his own break with Stalin, to kill or kidnap him in his refuge in France. It all sounds fantastic, but there is no particular reason to believe that the OGPU always draws the line at melodrama.

The Stalinist faction in America has always insisted that Krivitsky was an impostor, but, if so, he was a singularly well-informed one. There is no special reason why the OGPU, who have important fish to fry, should have thought it worth while to hound a mere impostor to death. On the other hand an impostor would have no good reason for believing himself hounded.

All in all, it would seem that the Washington police and coroner disposed of this case in rather summary fashion. Evidently several hours elapsed between the closing of the case and the writing of the suicide certificate, and the moment when it was realized that they might be dealing with something more than an ordinary hotel room suicide. And yet the name "Krivitsky" was signed to one of the three notes found [illegible]. By virtue of the publicity [illegible] magazine articles and to [illegible] before the Dies Committee, [illegible] or should have been, well known to them. The whole thing looks like a pretty careless piece of work.

NOT [illegible]

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# Gen. Krivitsky, Former OGPU Leader Who Feared Assassins, Shot to Death in Hotel Here

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hoover
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

WALTER KRIVITSKY.

## Suicide Ruling Held Up After Friends Insist He Was Slain

(Pictures On Page 3.)

Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, mysterious Stalin-hating refugee from Russia and former western European head of the Soviet Military Intelligence, was found shot to death yesterday morning in his room at the Bellevue Hotel, 15 E Street Northwest.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald first issued a certificate of suicide, then recalled it after acquaintances of Krivitsky expressed the belief that the former Kremlin agent was assassinated by the OGPU (Russian Secret Police).

Krivitsky was known to have lived in fear of the OGPU since his disclosure in 1939 before the Dies Committee and in Saturday Evening Post articles of Russian espionage in the

publishing an article by Krivitsky in April, 1939, said:

"Gen. Krivitsky, the one leading survivor of the great purge in the Red Army, served in the Soviet military intelligence department for nearly 14 years, until May, 1938. He was often sent abroad on highly confidential missions. He was then appointed director of the Soviet war industries institute, a post he held in 1933-34. The following year

While investigators [illegible] the possibility of international intrigue, Curran said he would have all the [illegible] facts in his hands by [illegible] and would decide [illegible] action was to be taken.

The district attorney reported that three letters had been found on a table in Krivitsky's room, one in English, one in Russian and a third in German. None of them made a definite statement of suicide intent, but all hinted at it.

### Visit to Trotsky Revealed

One note, in English, was addressed to Louis Waldman, his New York Lawyer, and asked him to provide for Krivitsky's wife and son. Another, a long letter in Russian, was addressed to the dead man's wife. The third, written in German, was to "Suzanne Lafo," of New York City.

Waldman identified Miss "Lafo" as Suzanne La Follette, who, he said, is a cousin of Sen-

WALTER KRIVITSKY,

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"Gen. Krivitsky, the one leading survivor of the great purge in the Red Army, served in the Soviet military intelligence department for nearly 14 years, until May, 1938. He was often sent abroad on highly confidential missions. He was then appointed director of the Soviet war industries institute, a post he held in 1933-34. The following year he was entrusted with the office of chief of the military intelligence in Western Europe, in charge of the major secret operations of the Soviet abroad during 1935-37.

"Krivitsky broke with Stalin at the end of November, 1937, after the wholesale executions of the top-ranking generals of the Red army, with whom he had been associated for 18 years. Two attempts were made upon his life by Stalin's OGPU agents in France. Escaping from Stalin's vengeance, Krivitsky recently came to the United States as a refugee, having determined to give up all political activity, though he is still a believer in the true communism of Lenin."

(Pictures On Page 2.)

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Krivitsky was known to have lived in fear of the OGPU since his disclosure in 1939 before the Dies Committee and in Saturday Evening Post articles of Russian espionage in the United States and throughout the world. He believed he was constantly pursued by Russian secret agents.

**Curran, Police Confer**

District Attorney Edward M. Curran emerged from a conference at police headquarters last night with Chief of Detectives Bernard Thompson and declared:

"The case is not closed."

and would decide then what action was to be taken.

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Waldman identified Miss "Lafo" as Suzanne La Follette, who, he said, is a cousin of Senator Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, and a magazine writer.

Waldman, after examining the three notes, said the notes made the case look like suicide, but there were still many things that made him believe, he added, that Krivitsky did not kill himself.

He revealed that Krivitsky had recently completed plans to

See SUICIDE, Page 2, Column 1.

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# Gen. Krivitsky Shot to Death In Hotel Here

SHOT, from Page 1.

change his name legally to "Prokef." He was also planning on buying a car, and to move his family to Virginia. All these activities led Waldman to the belief that Krivitsky was not contemplating death.

It was the note to Waldman, with whom Detective Chief Thompson communicated when it was found, that put an international aspect on the death of the man identified at first as merely Samuel Ginsberg, Krivitsky's real name.

Leaving New York for Washington to demand a "thorough investigation," Waldman declared, "there is no doubt in my mind that this is the work of the OGPU."

He said Krivitsky had come to Washington late last week to seek protection of the Bureau of Investigation, with which he had been cooperating in antiespionage work. The FBI denied any connection with the man.

**"Always Feared OGPU"**

Krivitsky's body was identified by Dr. James B. Matthews, Dies Committee research director, who declared:

"This is fantastic and unbelievable. Krivitsky always feared that the OGPU would get him. He once told me, "They'll get me, sure as hell. The OGPU is going to assassinate Trotsky and me. When I'm dead, don't ever believe that I committed suicide.'"

Conviction that Krivitsky was murdered was expressed also by Boris Shub, who was Krivitsky's interpreter before the Dies Committee.

He told the United Press in New York that Krivitsky was "too much of an egotist to kill himself," had no financial reason to commit suicide and "was almost fanatically devoted to his wife and particularly his 7-year-old son, an only child."

Krivitsky had been dead about six hours, Coroner MacDonald estimated, when his body was found at 8:30 a. m. by Thelma Jackson, 21, colored chambermaid, in the fifth-floor hotel room.

**Pistol on the Floor**

[illegible] had passed the door [illegible] during the morning and knocked each time without getting an answer. When she finally entered with a passkey—the door was locked—she saw the coatless and shoeless body on the bloodstained bed.

An automatic pistol, from which one shot had been fired lay on the floor beside his shoes. An envelope containing the three notes and a Canadian passport was on a nearby desk.

The bullet had entered his head through the right temple.

Carrying a light canvas bag, Krivitsky had registered at 5:40 o'clock the previous afternoon with what the desk clerk described as "a trembling hand." He had gone immediately to his room and ordered a bottle of soda, which was delivered. From that time hotel attaches heard nothing from him.

**No Shot Heard**

There were no outgoing telephone calls, no visitors and no occupants of the hotel heard a shot during the night, hotel employes said.

The possibility that an assassin might have entered a window, perhaps swinging down by a rope from another window, was discounted by detectives. Neither was there a ledge along which a killer could have crawled, nor a fire escape nearby.

Inspector Thompson said that the door and the window to Krivitsky's room were locked from the inside, precluding any possibility of a murderer's escape. There were no fingerprints on the pistol. They were washed out by blood stains.

Krivitsky had signed the hotel register under the name of Walter Prokef, of New York City, a name which his attorney said the Russian had decided to adopt legally.

Waldman's statement before leaving New York said:

"In my opinion, Gen. Krivitsky did not commit suicide. He was murdered by the OGPU. Only last week in this office he told me that he was aware that he was being shadowed and that his life was in great danger.

**"Particular Reason for Fears"**

"Having already given important information to the Federal authorities and being in possession of a great deal more, he asked me to take up with the Federal Bureau of Investigation the question of his protection.

"He had particular reason for his fears because of the sudden appearance in this city (New York) of one of the deadliest agents of the OGPU."

Waldman said Krivitsky once had been trailed from a restaurant in New York by two Russian agents whom he recognized. He ducked into the office of a nearby newspaper and called police, who escorted him to his quarters.

Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky, the dead man's wife, who is understood to be hiding away in New York with their son, Alexander, told the New York Times that her husband left [illegible] city Wednesday on several missions. Among other things he was [illegible]

night said Krivitsky intended to go to Charlottesville, Va., to look for a farm. He said the Russian was anxious to find an isolated spot where he and his wife and child could live in safety "from the Russian police."

The attorney inferred that Krivitsky sought particularly to hide from one of his enemies who had recently been released from jail.

Only last week, he said, Krivitsky and he, while walking together in New York, had seen "one of the OGPU's most prominent agents."

He said that about five weeks ago Krivitsky, who had moved from country to country since breaking with the Stalin regime, signified his intention of becoming an American citizen and had applied for his first naturalization papers. He also had applied to the New York Supreme Court to legalize Walter Prokef as his name, the attorney reported.

On his arrival from New York, Waldman was met by Matthews and his first words to the Dies Committee agent were: "Well, you see what they do to your witnesses, J. B."

**Identified Also Lawyer**

The attorney told reporters that his client was to have testified Friday before the Coudert committee, a New York State Senate body investigating subversive activities in New York schools, but had failed to show up.

Waldman was escorted to the City Morgue, where he confirmed Matthews' identification of Krivitsky.

Matthews and Waldman are the only persons who identified the body.

As investigation of Krivitsky's death continued through the night, authorities maintained that it was by all physical indications a suicide.

**Handwriting Corresponds**

District Attorney Curran said the handwriting in notes left by the dead man corresponded with that on the hotel register. He said there was no doubt in his mind that it was suicide, but that he intended to make a thorough investigation.

Curran also scouted the possibility that Krivitsky's was a typical "Kremlin suicide," in which members of the Stalin inner circle, fallen from the dictator's grace, allegedly kill themselves to spare their families' destruction by the OGPU.

The theory was advanced unofficially, however, that Krivitsky may have been driven to suicide by constant fear of assassination.

Krivitsky [illegible] Trotsky [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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Mr. Tolson
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Star... cently came ... as a refugee, having ... give up all political activity ... he is still a believer in the true communism of Lenin."

# Soviet-Nazi Pact No Surprise To the Late Gen. Krivitsky

Wash Post 2/11/47

Walter G. Krivitsky, former top-ranking Russian secret foreign agent, who was found dead here yesterday, was not surprised by the Russian-German mutual nonaggression and economic pact which preceded the outbreak of the war.

"The idea prevailing up to the recent Russian-German pact that Hitler and Stalin were mortal enemies was pure myth," Krivitsky wrote in "Stalin's Secret Service," published by Harper & Brothers in 1939. "It was a distorted picture, created by clever camouflage and the vapors of propaganda. The true picture of their relations was that of a persistent suitor who would not be discouraged by rebuffs. Stalin was the suitor. There was enmity on Hitler's side. On Stalin's there was fear."

One reason why Moscow might have wished to erase Krivitsky was his willingness to disclose Communist party methods in this country.

He had written in the same book: "For all its long years of activity up to 1935, the American Communist Party had almost nothing to show. Organized labor did not respond to its slogans, and the mass of American people were barely aware of its existence. Even in those years, however, the party was important to us, because it was more closely connected than any other Communist party with our OGPU and Intelligence Service. During the mechanization and motorization of the Red army, we had members of the American Communist Party as our agents in aircraft and automobile factories and in munitions plants.

"With the thousands of recruits enlisted under the banner of democracy, the Communist Party OGPU espionage ring in the United States grew much larger and penetrated previously untouched territory. By carefully concealing their identity, Communists found their way into hundreds of key positions. It became possible for Moscow to influence the conduct of officials who would not knowingly approach a Comintern or OGPU agent with a 10-foot pole.

"More challenging perhaps than this success in espionage and pressure politics, is the Comintern's penetration into labor unions, publishing houses, magazines and newspapers—a maneuver accomplished by simply erasing the Comintern's label and stamping anti-Hitlerism in its place."

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# Three Letters Of Krivitsky

*The texts of three letters identified as in Krivitsky's handwriting follow:*

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The first, in English:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:

"My wife and my boy will need your help. Please do for them what you can. Yours,

(Signed) WALTER KRIVITSKY.

"P. S.—I went to Virginia because I know that there I can get the gun. If my wife and my friends should have trouble, please, Mr. Waldman, help them. They are good people, and didn't know why I bought the gun."

The second, in Russian, and addressed to his wife, Tonia Ginsberg, and son, Alex, 7:

"This is very difficult and I want to live very badly, but it is impossible. I love you, my only one. It is difficult for me to write, but think about me and then you will understand that I must go. Don't tell Alex yet where his father is gone. I believe that in time you will tell him, because it will be best for him. Forgive, it is very hard to write. Take care of him and be a good mother to him, and be always quiet and never get angry at him.

"He is very good, and always very pale. Good people will help you, but not enemies. I think my friends are big. I see you, Tonia and Alex. I embrace you.

"VELA.

"P. S.—On the farm of Dobertov I wrote this yesterday, but I did not have any strength in New York. I did not have any business in Washington. I went to see Dobertov because that is the only place I could get the firearm."

The third note, written in German and addressed to a friend of Krivitsky, Suzanne LaFollette, of New York City, read:

"Dear Suzanne:

"I trust that you are well, and I am dying with the hope that you will help Tonia and my poor boy. You were a good friend.

"Yours,

WALTER.

"P. S.—I also think about your mother and Dorothy."

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Clavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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# Lawyer iews Krivitsky's Body

# A Heads

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in the country as well."

# D. A. Heads Investigators

Wash Post 2/11/41

Post Staff Photos

D. A. TAKES CHARGE—Left—Louis Waldman (hatless, center), Gen. Walter Krivitsky's lawyer, talks to newsmen at the District morgue, where he viewed the former OGPU leader's body last night. He reiterated his conviction that Krivitsky was murdered. Behind Waldman is Dr. James B. Matthews (also hatless), Dies Committee investigator, who first identified the refugee Bolshevist's body. Right—District Attorney Joseph M. Curran (left) confers with Chief of Detectives Bernard W. Thompson. Although possibility of international intrigue was at first scouted by investigators, Curran said he would have all available facts in hand by morning and then decide what action to take

## Krivitsky Revealed Tactics Of OGPU Before Dies Group

Gen. Walter Krivitsky, the Russian revolutionary figure whose career closed with a bullet in his head, told the Dies Committee in October, 1939, that the OGPU, Russian secret police, tracked down Stalin's foes in foreign lands and kidnaped and murdered them "if necessary."

Gen. Krivitsky appeared before the committee on October 11 and related in detail the machinations of the Communist Party and the party's political leaders dominated by Stalin.

He revealed that the rank and file of the party and many of its leaders during the years preceding 1936 hoped "that the party or through the party we would gradually enter into a period of greater democracy in the party and through the party in the country as well."

In 1936 and 1937, Stalin, he said, purged from his party all elements that would have been the basis for democratization. He then told how the party's international branches are under the complete domination of Moscow and how the secret police not only act as international spies but keep in constant touch with Russians and others living abroad who are known to oppose Stalin.

During his testimony Krivitsky revealed the terrible thoroughness of the OGPU and thereby suggested a reason for his death, whether it was murder or suicide. Every member of the Communist Party in the United States is "potentially" available to the OGPU for assistance in its activities, he disclosed.

In other words, Krivitsky, an obvious foe of Stalin because of his testimony before the committee and his many writings in the spring of 1939, was subject to shadowing not only by OGPU agents but by hundreds of Communists in this country.

**Charges Terrorism**

"I know that these people are recruited for the OGPU from the Communist Party and from organizations which are regarded as sympathetic with the Communist Party, and that often, for a particular job, it was more advantageous to use a person who was actually not a member of the party."

Previously, the general had been asked by Rhea Whitley, committee counsel, if the OGPU ever takes "positive action" in event an individual outside Russia "becomes sufficiently dangerous to the Soviet government and its interests?"

"Yes sir," Krivitsky replied. "In addition to the passive role of espionage, there is an active role beginning with their compromising those people and discrediting them, and extending to kidnaping and murdering them, if necessary."

A campaign to discredit Krivitsky, it was recalled, was launched by Communist publications in this country after appearance of his articles on the Soviet in the Saturday Evening Post.

Krivitsky said he was born Samuel Ginsberg on June [illegible], [illegible], in a city in western Ukraine which was a part of Poland until [illegible] before he [illegible].

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E. A. Tamm
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# Police to Quiz Mrs. Dobert On Krivitsky

## Woman to Be Asked to Account For Time After She Drove Exile to D. C.

Investigation of the Krivitsky case hinged last night on the whereabouts of an attractive 30-year-old Grecian woman at the time that Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky was shot to death in a Washington Hotel early Monday.

The woman, Mrs. Marguerita Dobert, told The Washington Post that she drove Krivitsky to Washington Sunday and dropped him near Union Station about 5:30 p. m. so he could catch a train to New York.

But she would not say where she had spent that night, although she acknowledged registering at 10 a. m. Monday at the International House, 1708 New Hampshire Avenue Northwest, and sleeping there Monday night before leaving the city yesterday. Krivitsky's body was found about 9:30 a. m. Monday.

Washington police plan to question her today at her home near Charlottesville, Va., where she was found by newspapermen.

From Mrs. Dobert and her husband, Eitel Wolf Dobert, 33, author, lecturer and former Nazi Army officer, came these disclosures:

1. Krivitsky stayed with them and their 2½-year-old son, Stephen, in their two-room log cabin from Thursday to Sunday.

2. Krivitsky bought an automatic pistol—similar to the one found beside his body Monday morning in Washington's Bellevue Hotel—at Charlottesville Friday.

**Believe Him a Suicide**

He apparently wrote the three death notes, found in the hotel room, on Saturday night at the farm, as he stayed up until 3 a. m., using the Dobert stationery, notepaper which is identical to that of the [illegible] notes.

The Doberts—he is undoubtedly the "Dobertov" mentioned in one of the death notes—are the only close friends of Krivitsky so far reached who are not convinced that the former Soviet general was a victim of the dread Russian OGPU (secret police) and not a suicide.

Washington authorities still maintain Krivitsky killed himself, although they were continuing their investigation last night and Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald had not yet sent his certificate of suicide to the Health Department.

It was established definitely, however, that one of the windows of Krivitsky's fifth-floor room was not locked. It was open six inches, detectives said, but added there still was no way a killer could have reached the window from the outside.

**Detective Chief Convinced**

Detective Chief Bernard W. Thompson said he was "more convinced than ever" that Krivitsky was a suicide.

Ballistics tests, he said, proved the empty cartridge found beside the body came from the gun that lay on the floor. The bullet itself went through Krivitsky's head and entered the wall, where it was lost, he reported. Police do not plan to tear down the walls in an effort to find it, he added.

Pathological examination of Krivitsky's body was begun as a routine procedure to determine if he had been drugged. The tests will take about ten days.

Police also were checking on the origin of the death weapon.

Another angle being checked by local authorities was the origin of a set of new automobile keys found among the dead man's belongings. Some friends said Krivitsky had bought an automobile recently, others said he hadn't.

From Krivitsky's acquaintances over the country came more stories to refute the police theory of suicide.

**Murder Kerensky Says**

Alexander Kerensky, pre-Soviet premier of Russia, told The Washington Post by telephone from New York:

"I am sure it was a murder . . . if it was not a murder, then it was a suicide provoked by a direct menace. I understand that they had been menacing his son, whom he loved dearly."

Krivitsky's wife Tanya, and 7-year-old son, Alek, have been hiding in a New York apartment. [illegible] the death notes, addressed to them, said "I [illegible] to live very [illegible] it is [illegible]."

Kerensky, who [illegible] the rise of bolshevism, once was Krivitsky's mortal enemy. That was when Krivitsky was a high official in Russia's international spy organization, and Kerensky was a refugee from the Lenin regime. They became friends after Krivitsky broke with Stalin in 1937—the year of the "blood purge"—fled to France and then to the United States.

Miss Suzanne LaFollette, New York writer and second cousin of the LaFollettes of Wisconsin, told the Associated Press in New York:

"If it is a suicide, then it is a murder—he was hounded and hounded."

It was Miss LaFollette to whom one of the three death notes was written, and she said Krivitsky had "told at least two persons he would be murdered and it would be made to look like suicide."

**Says He Was Warned**

At one time, she said, Krivitsky "was approached by three agents of the OGPU." She added: "One of them told Krivitsky to stay out of the midtown area of New York if he didn't want to get into trouble. The man said, 'we work in threes—we've been on the lookout for you constantly.'"

Isaac Don Levine, who collaborated with Krivitsky on a series of Saturday Evening Post articles purporting to divulge secrets of Bolshevist international intrigue, told the Associated Press in West Palm Beach, Fla., that he know of no reason why Krivitsky would take his own life.

Krivitsky was "terribly disturbed," Levine reported, by the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico last summer and believed the plot was organized in the United States.

Albert Goldman, attorney for Trotsky, said in Chicago that he and his associates had been negotiating with Krivitsky for an investigation of the exiled Bolshevist leader's death and declared "that might have been a factor in what, according to my opinion, was the assassination of Krivitsky."

**Dies Fears Other Killings**

To the testimony of Krivitsky's acquaintance, Chairman Martin Dies of the House Committee on un-American Activities added a declaration that "what happened to Krivitsky may happen to a lot of others."

Dies, whose committee in 1939 heard Krivitsky's account of Soviet espionage in the United States and elsewhere, then closeted himself with aides.

Later he announced "the question of murder or suicide" was "for the District authorities to determine after a thorough investigation of all [illegible]."

Investigation of the movements of Mrs. Dobert after [illegible] Krivitsky in Washington [illegible] on [illegible] [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
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Mr. Clegg
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Mrs. Dobert first appeared at her home about 9 a. m. Monday and the two of them attended a movie Monday night.

After spending that night at the International House, Mrs. Dobert went to the Morgan home, according to Mrs. Morgan, to pick up a rug she owned, and left for Charlottesville about noon.

Mrs. Dobert told International House employes and Mrs. Morgan that she had received a telegram from her husband calling her home because he was leaving unexpectedly on a lecture tour.

On reaching the farm, 12 miles northeast of Charlottesville, last night, Mrs. Dobert explained she had invented the telegram as an excuse to return to avoid further questioning.

She told a Post reporter that she was so shocked on learning of Krivitsky's death through newspapers that she left immediately to see her husband and confer on what they should do regarding the police investigation.

She said she felt worried because she did not communicate with police before leaving Washington, but she thought it her duty to return home.

While police planned to investigate the Dobert angle, Attorney Waldman announced the Federal Bureau of Investigation had declined to enter the case.

"But," he added, "I will go to President Roosevelt, if necessary," to obtain a Federal investigation.

Waldman said he still believed that his client may have been murdered by Russian agents.

Lieut. George Darnall, chief of the Washington police homicide bureau, left for Charlottesville shortly before 1 a. m. today. It was understood he would spend the rest of the night in a Charlottesville hotel and go to the Dobert farm this morning.

Krivitsky's body, meanwhile, was claimed in the city morgue as pathological tests are made.

# Cabin Krivitsky Stayed In

Post Staff Photos

RUSSIAN VISITED FORMER NAZI OFFICER—Eitel Wolf Dobert—the "Dobertov" mentioned in Gen. Walter Krivitsky's death note—is shown with his son, Stephen, 2½, in the cabin (top) 18 miles outside Charlottesville, Va., where the former Russian OGPU agent stayed [illegible] days before he was shot to death in a Washington [illegible]. Dobert, a former Nazi army officer, broke with the Hitler regime in [illegible]. His wife drove Krivitsky to Washington [illegible].

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Ferrell
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

2

# Krivitsky

Whether Samuel Ginsberg, alias Walter Krivitsky, killed himself or whether, as his friends insist, he was slain by a macabre and mysterious hand, is something of which we shall never be absolutely certain. On the evidence thus far made public all the probabilities point to suicide. Still the evidence is altogether circumstantial and the gap in it is just wide enough to admit a doubt.

No writer of mystery stories would have much difficulty in imagining how a supposed international spy could have been murdered under all the circumstances described in the police report. The police, however, know that the murders that happen in books are rarely the kind that happen in reality. At the same time it has been well established that agents of the OGPU are actively at work in many countries besides Russia. There was the kidnaping some years ago under the very eyes of the Paris Surete of the White Russian Gen. Eugene Miller, whose relation to the Red Army purges Krivitsky himself undertook to explain in one of the sensational articles that first brought his name to the attention of American readers. Krivitsky has also described the efforts made, after his own break with Stalin, to kill or kidnap him in his refuge in France. It all sounds fantastic, but there is no particular reason to believe that the OGPU always draws the line at melodrama.

The Stalinist faction in America has always insisted that Krivitsky was an impostor, but, if so, he was a singularly well-informed one. There is no special reason why the OGPU, who have important fish to fry, should have thought it worth while to hound a mere impostor to death. On the other hand an impostor would have no good reason for believing himself hounded.

All in all, it would seem that the Washington police and coroner disposed of this case in rather summary fashion. Evidently several hours elapsed between the closing of the case and the writing of the suicide certificate, and the moment when it was realized that they might be dealing with something more than an ordinary hotel room suicide. And yet the name "Krivitsky" was signed to one of the three notes found near the body. By virtue of the publicity given to the magazine articles [illegible] before the D[illegible] [illegible]

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## Krivitsky

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## Friend Tells How Krivitsky Tried to Break With Stalin

By Robert De Vore
Post Staff Writer

Charlottesville, Va., Feb. 11.—In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, 12 miles from here, Walter Krivitsky, once one of the dominating figures of the Communist revolution in Russia, prepared himself for death in a log cabin where Gen. Thomas Sumpter, an American revolutionary hero, lived as a boy.

The story was told today by the man through whom Gen. Krivitsky, Western European chief of the Soviet military intelligence, hoped to make a break with his Stalinist past.

His name is Eitel Wolf Dobert, a German trained in a Prussian military academy who became a Nazi and then dropped the tenets of Adolf Hitler for those of democracy.

Dobert today said he fled Germany on the night the German Reichstag was burned in 1933 and "seeking only peace and freedom" came to his remote cabin in the Virginia woods via Switzerland and France.

Dobert, lecturer at the University of Virginia and author of "Convert to Freedom," related today how he had met Krivitsky at the New York home of a writer friend two years ago, how the Russian had become imbued with his preference for the rural life and how, when he had decided to move to Virginia, Krivitsky had proposed that they undertake the back-to-the-farm movement together.

He revealed also that the gun that killed Krivitsky was purchased in Charlottesville after both of them had agreed that they needed "protection" in a place so remote.

Dobert and his attractive brunette Greek wife, Marguerita, 30, whom he maried at Geneva during his flight from Germany, agreed that Krivitsky was a suicide, though judging from his actions during the last four days of his life his self-extermination was "unthinkable." They told this story:

Krivitsky came to their cabin last Thursday for the purpose of making final arrangements for moving from New York his family—Tonia, his wife, and Alex, his son, aged 7.

Soon after his arrival Krivitsky, who had mentioned to Dobert the need for firearms during Dobert's visit to New York last January, observed a pistol in the log cabin and also informed a similar weapon should be purchased in Virginia without the formality of a license.

**Practiced Shooting**

Dobert and Krivitsky went to Charlottesville and bought the automatic pistol found with Krivitsky's body in the Bellevue Hotel in Washington. Back at the cabin Dobert and Krivitsky engaged in target practice. Dobert said he then noticed that the unmentionable Krivitsky had brought for his gun was "[illegible]" [illegible]

[illegible] after 3 a. m. Sunday writing letters on Dobert's stationery. The "letters"—it developed later—were the notes found in Krivitsky's room at the Bellevue.

Dobert said he was convinced Krivitsky was a suicide because of the "letters." He recalled, also, that his friend on that fateful Sunday morning had walked alone for nearly an hour about the farm in the moonlight.

Mrs. Dobert, mother of Dobert's son, Stephen, 2½, said she would believe Krivitsky's death an assassination save that she considered it impossible for an assassin to have followed Krivitsky on the journey from the remote Virginia farm to Washington.

Mrs. Dobert revealed that while driving from the farm to see friends in Washington Sunday afternoon she had taken the wrong road and had come by a circuitous route.

Dobert said that his only contact with Krivitsky had been "human contacts." He explained that there was no political alliance between them. Both, he said, had taken out their first papers for American citizenship and wished only for a new life together, a democratic and peaceful life on a Virginia farm.

Dobert said he had become converted to democracy while lecturing on National Socialism in France and other countries before 1933.

Dobert and his wife both related that Krivitsky during his stay at their farm cabin and during the ride to Washington had appeared in the best of spirits, told many anecdotes and seemed cheered by the prospect of a "new life." Only once or twice, they said, he turned gloomy and asked them both to take good care of his wife and son "after I'm gone."

**Fears Neighbors' Opinions**

Dobert was fearful that revelation of his existence through Krivitsky's death should lead his neighbors to consider him a Fifth Columnist.

He explained his "Convert to Freedom"—one of several books he has written both in German and English—as the story of a Nazi's learning that "not all of national socialism is gangsterism and that at one phase of its development the German revolution contemplated democracy." He said he was trying to sell "Americanism to Americans."

When Mrs. Dobert dropped Krivitsky near Union Station in Washington Sunday night she asked him, she says, referring to his new gun:

"Do you have your artillery?"

She said he replied somewhat grimly:

"Yes, I have it all right."

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coxworth
Nathan
Ladd
Clavin
Nichols
Lindsen
Rosen
Tracy
Gandy

Wash Post 2-12-41

100-11146-A

# Kerensky Names 'Killer' Of Krivitsky

## Accuses 'Hans B.,' 'Most Brutal Agent Of Ogpu' of Slaying

By CARROLL PEEKE

Alexander Kerensky, former Russian revolutionary leader and a familiar figure in this country, today entered the bizarre Krivitsky death mystery when he flatly charged in New York that the former Soviet spy chief had been murdered "on direct orders from the Kremlin in Moscow by the Ogpu's most brutal killer at large in this country."

Kerensky, who recently spoke before a meeting of the Washington Town Hall, identified the killer as one "Hans B.," the man named by Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney, as the probable killer.

**Mystery Deepens**

Krivitsky was found shot to death in the Bellevue Hotel here Monday, and his death was first listed as a suicide. But Coroner M. Magruder MacDonald ordered the suicide certificate held up when the murder charges were voiced by Krivitsky's friends, and a number of mysterious aspects of the case were revealed.

"Krivitsky was not the man to commit suicide," Kerensky declared in a copyrighted interview with the New York Daily Mirror. "He was depressed, and he had told me he felt his expose of the Ogpu activities here were not being carefully considered. He told me he knew he was in great danger."

**"We Know His Methods"**

Admitting that his own life is endangered, Kerensky said:

"Hans is the man. He is the most vicious murderer in all the Soviet. We know him. We know his methods. His favorite tactic is to drive a man to suicide by threatening to capture and torture his family. This has been done many times in many countries.

"I believe Krivitsky got a concrete warning recently that they

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)

I.N.P.

**Kerensky Accuses Ogpu**

Alexander Kerensky, former leader of Russia and foe of the Stalin regime, declared today that he was convinced that Gen. Walter Krivitsky was murdered by the most brutal slayer of the Soviet secret police.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Wash Times Herald
2-12-41

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# Krivitsky Slain By Ogpu Killer, Says Kerensky

## Ex-Russian Leader Believes 'Hans B.' Shot Foe of Stalin

*(Continued from First Page)*

would kill him or kidnap his family. That is their favorite plan of operation.

"General Krivitsky had a burning mission to expose Stalin for what he is."

**Notes May Be Forgeries**

Inspector Thompson also admitted that he is "not convinced yet" that notes found in the [illegible] room are in Krivitsky's handwriting, although a police handwriting expert at first said that the notes were in the same writing as the signature on the hotel register.

A new element of mystery was injected in the case by Mrs. Dobert, who said that Krivitsky told her he intended to take a train for New York city. She dropped him off near Union Station, she said, after driving him here from Charlottesville.

Instead, he went to the hotel and registered at 5:46 p.m., while Mrs. Dobert registered at the Capitol Park Hotel, just across the street.

Lieut. George Darnall, head of the Metropolitan Police homicide squad, meanwhile, was speeding to Charlottesville, Va., to question [illegible] Dobert, former Nazi storm trooper, and his Grecian wife, Marguerite, who drove General Krivitsky to Washington Sunday afternoon.

**Case By No Means Closed**

The Doberts were located yesterday by the Times-Herald, while Washington and Virginia police were searching for them, and both [illegible] doubt that Krivitsky [illegible] his life.

In view of the statements of the Doberts, in addition to that of Kerensky and of Louis Waldman, New York attorney who came here as soon as he was notified of Krevitsky's death and insisted the former Soviet spy chief had been murdered, police today veered sharply in their treatment of the case.

Inspector Bernard W. Thompson, chief of detectives who had previously insisted that there was nothing to indicate the death was not a suicide, today admitted the case "is by no means closed."

**Checked Out Monday**

A check by a Times-Herald reporter at the Capitol Park revealed that Mrs. Dobert signed the register at 5:47 p.m. Sunday and that she checked out at 11:45 a.m. Monday. She spent Monday night at International House, 1708 New Hampshire Ave. NW., according to attendants there.

Mrs. Dobert told the Times-Herald reporter she knew nothing about Krivitsky's death until she read of it in the newspapers. She admitted she did not get in touch with the police, as she felt she should return immediately to her husband.

At Intenational House, Mrs. Grace S. Lowry, director, said last night that Mrs. Dobert arrived there about 5:00 p.m. Monday, saying she had brought a "friend" to Washington. Mrs. Lowry said the woman had several packages and told her she had bought some new clothes at a downtown department store.

Mrs. Lowry stated that Mrs. Dobert left about 6 p.m., Monday, and it is known that she had dinner with Mrs. Raymond B. Morgan and her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Howes, at 1749 Corcoran St. NW. Both Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Howes said Mrs. Dobert made no mention of Krivitsky during the course of the evening. Mrs. Howes was greatly shocked to learn of Mrs. Dobert's acquaintance with the Russian general-spy.

Times-Herald Staff Photo

**MRS. MARGUERITE DOBERT Drove Ex-Spy Here**

**Tells of Getting Wire**

According to Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. Dobert told her she received a telegram from her husband instructing her to return home immediately. Mrs. Dobert left International House at 11 a.m. yesterday, Mrs. Lowry said. She added she had known Mrs. Dobert for about three months.

In the double-check being made by the police, Lieut. John Fowler, ballistic expert, reported the cartridge found in Krivitsky's room had been ejected from the .38 caliber automatic pistol, which fired the fatal shot.

The last person known to have seen Krivitsky alive was Randolph Thompson, a bell boy, at the Bellevue. He told police he responded to a call from Krivitsky's room about 9 p. m. Sunday night and the general unbolted the door and admitted him. Krivitsky gave him a one-dollar bill, Thompson said, and asked him to buy a siphon of soda. He said the door was bolted when he returned to the room with the soda.

issued a statement scouting suicide theory and declaring shooting of the former Rus master-spy raised "questions of gravest moment." It was bef the Dies Committee that Krivit revealed secrets of the St regime and the outlines of a N Soviet alliance months before was formally announced.

Waldman also still questio the suicide theory and reves Krivitsky had come to Wash ton, on his advice, to seek t protection of the Federal Bure of Investigation because Krivits recently had been advised of t presence in New York of "Han a famed and feared Stalist kill

Meanwhile, Coroner A. M gruder MacDonald announced would withhold the death cert cate in the mysterious case unt all the baffling angles have bee cleared up to his satisfaction. D MacDonald ordered a chemic analysis of the contents of t stomach of the dead Russian ge eral to determine the possibili that Krivitsky had been drugge

Waldman revealed that c January 7, Suzanne La Follette, second cousin of the Wisconsi Senator and a friend of Krivitsky received a letter from Paul Wohl of Lexington Ave., New York which stated:

"Please inform your Honorabl Friend 'K' that an ominous per son is in New York—Hans."

**Urged Trip to Capital**

The attorney said his agitated client came to him with the letter and remarked:

"I am a dead man. Hans never misses."

Waldman then advised Krivitsky to proceed to Washington and demand the protection of the Department of Justice. He expressed the belief that Krivitsky had come to Washington from Charlottesville for that purpose, but was killed before he could reach Director J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI.

At the same time, Waldman, who has been charging Krivitsky was murdered, modified his assertions and declared that if the deed was suicide it was the "suicide of a man who wanted to escape the OGPU agents who were closing in on him." Waldman added:

"No matter whether it was murder or suicide, the OGPU (Soviet Secret Police, now known as the NKVD) is responsible for his death."

In this connection, Waldman posed this question for the American authorities to ponder:

"Can a person furnish information to our Government about Russian espionage, here and abroad, and be safe from OGPU terror?"

**Deny Espionage Data**

[illegible]

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Mrs. Lowry stated that Mrs. Dobert left about 6 p.m., Monday, and it is known that she had [illegible] Mrs. Lowry said. She added she ha[illegible]own Mrs. Dobert for about th[illegible]onths.

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**Gun Ownership Sought**

At the same time, the police were balked in their efforts to determine the original ownership of the death gun. After learning that the weapon, a .38-caliber Colt automatic pistol, No. 43907, 1937 model, supposedly had been registered by "Francis M. McCourt, son of a Boston contractor named Frank M McCourt," they were rebuffed by a stout denial by young McCourt that he ever owned the gun.

Young McCourt, a graduate of Georgetown University, class of 1938, and now an enlisted man attached to headquarters of the Sixth Army Corps, Providence, R. I., denied all knowledge of the weapon. When reached by a correspondent of the Times-Herald at Providence, McCourt said:

"I never owned the gun and I never registered it. If it was registered in my name, someone must have forged my signature. I know nothing about it."

Acting on the assumption that Krivitsky had written the "suicide" notes Saturday at Charlottesville, Coroner MacDonald was prepared to release the three missives until his conference with Inspector Thompson. Louis Waldman, attorney for Krivitsky, asserted the notes could very well be the forgeries of clever OGPU agents.

**Rankin Charges Murder**

Charges that Krivitsky was murdered were made on the floor of the House by Representative John Rankin (D.), of Mississippi, who declared that investigation would show the death gun was found "in the wrong place for the man to have committed suicide."

At the same time, Chairman Martin Dies, of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, was murdered, modified his assertions and declar[illegible] that if the deed was suicide it [illegible] "suicide of a man who wan[illegible] to escape the OGPU agents who were closing in on him." Waldman added:

"No matter whether it was murder or suicide, the OGPU (Soviet Secret Police, now known as the NKVD) is responsible for his death."

In this connection, Waldman posed this question for the American authorities to ponder:

"Can a person furnish information to our Government about Russian espionage, here and abroad, and be safe from OGPU terror?"

**Deny Espionage Data**

Although Waldman claimed Krivitsky furnished "valuable counter-espionage information" to the State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, both bureaus deny this assertion. There was no gainsaying Krivitsky's expose of a Communist plot of world intrigue before the Dies Committee.

Waldman pleaded with the FBI to make a thorough investigation of all the circumstances of Krivitsky's strange death, but the FBI took the position that even if the once master spy of Soviet Russia had been murdered, it was a matter for the District police to handle.

This attitude was bitterly assailed by Waldman. He said:

"If Krivitsky could be done away with either by murder or by being driven to to take his life, how can the Federal authorities expect cooperation in their fight against the Fifth Column from people with lesser strength of character than Krivitsky?

**Held Challenge to FBI**

"General Krivitsky's death is a direct challenge to our Federal Government and to the FBI."

Waldman said he had furnished the FBI with documentary evidence that the mysterious "Hans Bruesse," whom he identified as "a notorious OGPU killer who cast a deep spell of fear on the General," and whom Krivitsky had described in his writings as a "Red Judas" assigned to "liquidate" former co-workers in the Soviet secret police, had been in New York within the last few months.

"Isn't that a matter for the FBI to investigate?" asked Waldman. "Failure on the part of the FBI to act in this case will leave the plain inference that anyone exposing foreign espionage in our country, and giving our Government information as to OGPU activities, acts at his own peril.

"The responsibility and duty of the FBI is plain. They must act."

# Was Krivitsk Murdered? By Franl Waldrop

DOWN in his secret heart, the average citizen likes to believe he is another Sherlock Holmes, and a lot smarter than any cop. He reads the news of the death by violence of such a one as the late General Krivitsky, with aliases, and is certain he knows all the answers.

Frank Waldrop

What's more, he can see all kinds of mistakes in the police procedure toward an official answer.

The odd part about this is he really can see such holes, often as not. Working backward from known facts almost any reasonably bright person can figure out what needs to be added to the record before a conclusion can be drawn and can point out mistakes made by those who have been moving forward and drawing conclusions.

It would be interesting to see the said bright citizen come panting onto the scene of the mystery in response to a shrieking maid, and watch him work forward from body, A, to solution, Z. Could he do better than the cops, really?

---

FOR instance, in the matter of the late General Krivitsky we have some known facts. First, that Krivitsky was a man of unstable mentality.

He had spent years as a spy and troublemaker for the Communists in the insanity-breeding atmosphere of Europe.

Then he escaped to America on finding himself about to get some of the kind of treatment he had been dishing out. And once here, he told all for a good round sum.

He was clearly not what you'd call a solid citizen. He had lived in fear and terror, both as a dispenser and a receiver of evil. He was in fear of his life, as well he might have been, and quite reasonably moody about that.

Some things he did early on last Sunday are still being checked up. But beginning at 5:49 p.m., that day, we have some specific facts to go by.

---

SUNDAY, 5:49 P.M., Krivitsky, alone, registered at the Bellevue Hotel. Joseph Donnelly, desk clerk then on duty, now says he appeared nervous. Krivitsky was carrying a small brown canvas overnight bag. He paid $2.50 in advance.

MONDAY, shortly after 9:30 a.m., a maid, Thelma Jackson, colored, 21, 1315½ B St. SE., knocked on door, no answer. She went in and found Krivitsky on his back on the bed, covers of which had not been turned down. He was dressed in dark blue trousers, green sweater, no hat, coat, overcoat or shoes on. The gun, a .38 automatic, was lying on the left side of body, near arm pit and near right hand, which was partially on his chest.

Close to 10 a.m., maid notified manager of hotel, who notified police. Private E. R. Cox, of Precinct No. 1, in scout car, got the call and went on the run to the hotel at 10:22 a.m. Cox viewed the body, notified Central Bureau at Police Headquarters, which notified Coroner MacDonald, Emergency Hospital and Homicide Squad.

10:45 a.m., Emergency ambulance went out on call, with Dr. Paul Elsberg.

About 11 a.m., Krivitsky pronounced dead. His "suicide" notes were discovered and the one in English read. Among the notes was the word, "Krivitsky."

11:11 a.m., ambulance back at hospital.

Sometime between 11 and 12 noon, Dr. MacDonald got to the hotel and viewed body. Said suicide was indicated by just what you have read above and issued certificate of suicide shortly after 12 noon. Krivitsky had $50.09 in wallet and pocket.

---

DR. MacDONALD said the room was locked from the inside by means of a bolt (not the sliding kind). This bolt is a small knob, elliptic in shape. Regular key to the room cannot open door from outside when bolt is closed. The maid, however, had a master key, which police say, she used to get in.

Krivitsky's personal property was turned over to police property clerk. The body, with all clothes, was taken to the Morgue immediately after Dr. MacDonald viewed it. No police photographs were taken nor was any search for fingerprints around the room made. The police apparently were glad to take the Coroner's judgment without further inquiry.

---

"AROUND 12 noon," Detective Sergt. Dewey Guest, of Homicide Squad, viewed the scene of crime, said it was "obviously suicide" and left before, he says, Dr. MacDonald arrived. Police then wired Louis Waldman, attorney, in New York city, on the basis of the notes found on Krivitsky.

According to Bernard Thompson, chief of detectives, he heard from Waldman, via phone, at about 5 p.m. He stated three times yesterday that Waldman did not tell him the dead man was Krivitsky. Finally, he said Waldman "didn't say positively."

---

JUST when he realized the "suicide" of 12 noon was the celebrated ex-spy, Mr. Thompson at this writing had declined to disclose.

But at any rate, a United Press message from New York disclosed, late Monday afternoon, that Mr. Waldman certainly knew it was Krivitsky who had been found dead, and Waldman was calling the case murder.

So the noon verdict of suicide was then junked, and the police began to wonder, all of a sudden, about such questions as this:

Whose gun? Were there any fingerprints around the place? (Too late by then, of course, for the hotel's maids had tidied up the room.) The gun's possibilities had long since been ruined by the police themselves.

Did Krivitsky see anybody Sunday night? What do the people in Virginia know? Where's his wife? What does she know? How long has Krivitsky been dead? Shouldn't there be an autopsy?

Also, shouldn't we look around to see if there are any more bullet holes in the hotel walls? Casual examination at the time of the Coroner's visit disclosed one hole in wall tiles in which it is assumed the death bullet is now lodged. But nobody bothered to see at first.

---

FURTHER questions: Is this procedure, herewith summed up, what you'd call expert handling by the police?

Conclusion: Anybody'd rather be a second-guessing citizen than Chief of Police Ernest W. Brown, with such a staff of lunkheads to do the field work in homicide matters.

Krivitsky may well have killed himself. He had plenty of reason to. He may well have been murdered. There were plenty of murder experts after him. They'd naturally try to make him appear a suicide.

He might have been, as the first investigation assumed, just a plain insignificant John Doe whose suicide was more convenient for the public than his murder. He might have been anybody. But [illegible] as they may be, there was no excuse for the way the police have handled this case. If the Board of Commissioners have any concern for their reputation they'll [illegible]

NOT RECORDED

100-11146

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

FEB 12 1941

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Fenwerth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
Walters

# Krivitsky Saw Doom as 'Inevitable,' Rep. Dies Declares

Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky believed it "inevitable" that he would be murdered at the direction of Josef Stalin, Chairman Martin Dies, of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, recalled yesterday.

In a formal statement on the mysterious death here of Krivitsky, Dies commented:

"The fatal shooting of Gen. Walter Krivitsky raises many questions of the gravest moment.

**Sought by Terrorists**

"For almost two years our committee has known that the long arm of the Russian terrorists has been stretched across the Atlantic in an effort to reach and destroy Krivitsky.

When the former head of the Western European division of the Soviet military intelligence (Krivitsky) was a witness before our committee, he explained to me in great detail the danger of his assassination at the hands of Stalin's agents. He was reluctant to appear before our committee lest he be more easily spotted by Stalin's killers.

"I am not at this time passing final judgment on the question of murder or suicide in the case of General Krivitsky. That is a question for the District authorities to determine after a thorough investigation of all the facts.

**Committee Has Data**

"But I am prepared to state that our committee is in possession of the fullest information on the methods of assassination employed by Stalin's agents, and that these methods were described to us by none other than General Krivitsky himself.

"The General explained to us what he considered the inev end of himself and Leon Tr at the hands of Stalin's k Shortly after he gave me th formation, I sent one of our mittee's agents to Mexico C an attempt to obtain whi information Trotsky possess the methods and identity o lin's killers in this country.

"Both Trotsky and Kri were convinced that they meet violent death at the in tion of Stalin himself. Kriv in particular, cautioned us ag believing that his death, wh came, would be a suicide."

NOT RECORDED

100-11146 sub A

FEB 12 1941

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

6

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gandy

## The Krivitsky Case

The death in Washington of Walter G. Krivitsky is likely to be a subject of conjecture for a long time. The most obvious evidence of course points to suicide but the reputation which Stalin's OGPU has for implacability and Krivitsky's own warnings that if he were found dead he was not to be thought a suicide afford room for the suspicion that his Russian enemies may have done him to death.

Nor is it wise to laugh off as impossible the suggestion that Krivitsky was hounded till he committed suicide. After the spectacle Russia has furnished of government leaders abasing themselves in court, of confessing all manner of treason and conspiracy in sheer terror of what might come to them if they did not do so, anything becomes credible that has to do with Stalin and the OGPU.

Krivitsky spent years in the front lines of the Communist movement. In those years he must have been completely indocrinated and to leave the party in terror later probably shook his mental moorings considerably. That, plus the fact that he had seen plenty of his fellow party members disappear because of political unorthodoxy, might make him more subject than most to the suggestion that he ended his own life and have done with it.

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## STORY OF KRIVITSKY

Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky had told many things which Josef Stalin and Stalin's henchmen on both sides of the Atlantic did not want told. He told many things which Hitler and Hitler's henchmen did not want told. Krivitsky was found dead in a Washington hotel, a pistol in his hand. Three farewell notes in his handwriting were found beside his body. A clear case of suicide, the Washington police say. The FBI agrees, and refuses to investigate.

Krivitsky's lawyers and his friends vehemently assert that it is a case of assassination, not of suicide. They point to the methods used by the OGPU in bringing about the demise of persons who have incurred the hostility of the Stalin regime. They cite the murder of Stalin's arch-foe, Leon Trotsky, in Mexico. They remind the authorities that the OGPU even has been successful in compelling its victims to "liquidate" themselves.

Against this there is the considered professional judgment of the Washington police and the FBI. Against it, too, perhaps—but in a rather baffling way—is the story told by the last man to see Krivitsky alive. This man, a former German army officer, told police that Krivitsky spent the week-end with him in a log cabin in Virginia. He said that Krivitsky's behavior during the visit indicated his intention to commit suicide; that he wrote the farewell notes in the cabin—after which his German host went out and helped him buy a revolver.

If Krivitsky's host's story is correctly relayed in dispatches, there may be more of a story in his death than the police and the FBI concede. On the face of the evidence, Krivitsky's own hand fired the fatal shot. Why? Krivitsky undoubtedly lived in constant apprehension of assassination. He had warned his friends, time and again, not to believe in his "suicide" if and when he should be found slain. Did this constant apprehension and his first-hand knowledge of Russian secret service methods so affect his mental balance that he ended the suspense by killing himself? Or is there a more complex explanation? Was he the victim of a Soviet "execution" wherein he was made to serve as his own executioner? If so, what methods were used to compel this bizarre finish to a career which read like fiction?

The Krivitsky case probably is not what Chairman Dies of the House investigating committee called it—"the biggest story of the year." Too many bigger things are happening in the world today than the violent death of a former secret agent. But there may be—and probably is—more to the Krivitsky story than has yet been told.

100-11146-A

Buffalo
Buffalo Courier Express
Buffalo, New York
February 13, 1941

**Friends Demur**

# *Krivitsky Case Closed As a Suicide*

The fatal shooting of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, tortured refugee from Soviet secret agents since his exposure of Stalinist intrigue, was written off definitely and finally as a suicide by Washington police last night.

Following a conference with Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald and Lieut. George Darnall, chief of the Metropolitan Police homicide squad, Inspector Bernard W. Thompson, chief of detectives, told reporters:

"Now, as before, we are convinced that Krivitsky killed himself."

Thompson stressed the words "as before," emphasizing that almost from the moment that Krivitsky was found, his brain shattered with a bullet, in a room of the Bellevue Hotel Monday morning, investigators have deemed the death a suicide.

His remarks pointed to a vast accumulation of physical and circumstantial evidence supporting his conviction, but it wasn't enough for Krivitsky's friends who, with two notable exceptions, steadfastly maintained that the self-styled former western European chief of Soviet military intelligence was the victim of a master Stalinist assassin.

Latest to insist that Krivitsky was slain is the widow of Leon Trotsky, co-father of the Russian revolution, who told the Associated Press in Mexico City last night:

"Krivitsky's death was not a suicide. That suicide theory is just one of the OGPU's many schemes to attempt to cover up its murders.

"Stalinists, for example, tried to make the first unsuccessful attack on Trotsky appear as self-assault."

Like Mrs. Trotsky, associates of her husband, who was killed in Mexico City last summer, have insisted that Krivitsky's death was a plot of the Russian secret police. They have held that if Krivitsky was not actually "liquidated" by a master killer of Stalin, he was at least bounded into self-extermination by incessant surveillance as had actually agreed with his shadowers to kill himself to save his wife and son, now living in New York.

Thompson, however, told reporters that the Krivitsky case is closed "as far as the Police Department is concerned."

There remains one formality, however, before Coroner MacDonald will release a certificate of suicide retracted after its issuance Monday to the District Health Department.

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About [illegible] Darnall and [illegible] [illegible]

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[illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Clavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
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Mr. Sloan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Pennerth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Egan
Mr. Stevin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
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**Friends Demur**

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"Now, as before, we are convinced that Krivitsky killed himself."

Thompson stressed the words "as before," emphasizing that almost from the moment that Krivitsky was found, his brain shattered with a bullet, in a room of the Bellevue Hotel Monday morning, investigators have deemed the death a suicide.

His remarks pointed to a vast accumulation of physical and circumstantial evidence supporting his conviction, but it wasn't enough for Krivitsky's friends who, with two notable exceptions, steadfastly maintained that the self-styled former western European chief of Soviet military intelligence was the victim of a master Stalinist assassin.

Latest to insist that Krivitsky was slain is the widow of Leon Trotsky, co-father of the Russian revolution, who told the Associated Press in Mexico City last night:

"Krivitsky's death was not a suicide. That suicide theory is just one of the OGPU's many schemes to attempt to cover up its murders.

"Stalinists, for example, tried to make the first unsuccessful attack on Trotsky appear as self-assault."

Like Mrs. Trotsky, associates of her husband, who was killed in Mexico City last summer, have insisted that Krivitsky's death was a plot of the Russian secret police. They have held that if Krivitsky was not actually "liquidated" by a master killer of Stalin, he was at least hounded into self-extermination by incessant surveillance or had actually agreed with his shadowers to kill himself to save his wife and son, now living in New York.

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Krivitsky registered at the Bellevue at 5:49 p. m.

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See KRIVITSKY, Page 6, Column 3.

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THE WASHINGTON POST
February 13, 1941

# Coroner's Jury To Be Sworn in Krivitsky Case

## Step Would Simplify Reopening; To Be Listed as Suicide

While ready to list the shooting of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky as suicide, District authorities today were preparing to swear in a coroner's jury over the body of the former Soviet spy chief to simplify reopening of the case should new evidence be developed in the future.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald thought it advisable to take this precaution in view of the widely held opinion of friends not acquainted with the physical facts of the death that Krivitsky may have been assassinated or driven to self-destruction by secret agents whose vengeance he feared.

Dr. MacDonald decided to issue a suicide certificate today on the basis of his personal investigation and another completed last night by Lt. George Darnall, chief of the homicide squad, who spent yesterday in Virginia tracing the death gun and interviewing persons who last saw Krivitsky alive.

In announcing the police investigation was closed last night, Inspector Bernard W. Thompson of the Detective Bureau said the extended inquiry uncovered additional and conclusive evidence that Krivitsky shot himself in the hotel room near Union Station where his body was discovered Monday morning.

**Body to Be Released Today.**

This finding was in conflict with views expressed by members of Congress and by Krivitsky's friends and political sympathizers in many parts of the United States and in Mexico. From Mexico City last night came an Associated Press dispatch quoting the widow of Leon Trotzky to the effect that Krivitsky's death "undoubtedly was another murder by the OGPU."

Krivitsky's body was to be released early this afternoon after the coroner's jury is sworn in. It will be turned over to an undertaker and sent to New York City, the present home of Gen. Krivitsky's widow, Tonia, and 7-year-old son. The arrangements were made by Louis Waldman of New York, Krivitsky's attorney, who came here to insist on a thorough investigation of the shooting.

Lt. Darnall yesterday obtained a signed statement at Charlottesville, Va., from a hardware store clerk identifying the death gun as the one he sold a week ago to a man he recognized as Krivitsky from a photograph. He also identified ammunition taken from the automatic found beside the body.

This account of the purchase was confirmed in another written statement from Mrs. Marguerite Dobert, 30, wife of Eitel Wolf Dobert, former German officer and refugee from the Nazis, who live in a log cabin about 15 miles north of Charlottesville. Mrs. Dobert said she accompanied Krivitsky to the store and helped him make the purchase because he had expressed fear of assassination and wanted the gun for self-defense.

**Dies Inquiry Planned.**

In her statement Mrs. Dobert also told how she drove Krivitsky, who had been their house guest for several days, to Washington Sunday night. Believing Krivitsky had gone to New York, she stopped overnight in a hotel near the one in which the body was found, but did not learn of the death until she read of it in the newspapers. Mrs. Dobert spent Tuesday night with friends and then returned home.

Krivitsky, it was said, had frequently expressed fear of assassination, and planned to retire from "politics" and bring his family to live on the Dobert Farm in the Virginia foothills. A friend of Krivitsky's in New York, it was said, had recently warned him of the arrival of a Soviet "killer" who supposedly was after him for his revelations before the Dies Committee and in magazine articles.

Spokesmen for the Dies Committee said late yesterday that its agents probably will be assigned to investigate activities of supposed Soviet spies in this country as a result of Krivitsky's death. It was explained, however, that the committee has no authority to inquire into the local shooting. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has refused a request by Mr. Waldman to enter the case.

Representative Rankin of Mississippi recently told the House that the position of the automatic on the left side of the body seemed to cast doubt on the suicide theory.

**Fugitive Since 1937.**

Investigators who examined the body and the room pointed out, however, that while Krivitsky was shot through the right side of the head, a natural reflex as he slumped down on the bed would have tossed the gun a few feet to the left.

The hollow-nosed bullet, of high velocity, passed through Krivitsky's head and entered the wall.

Krivitsky, who was 41, was born in the Russian Ukraine as Samuel Ginsberg. He entered the Russian secret service, he said, early in the 1920's and was sent to Germany to help organize a "red army" there. Toward the last of his career, according to his magazine articles, he was chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe, and became a fugitive after Stalin's purge of the Russian army in 1937.

Mrs. Trotsky, whose husband was assassinated in Mexico City last summer, said through a secretary from her fortress-like home yesterday:

"Krivitsky's death was not a suicide. That suicide theory is just one of the Ogpu's many schemes to attempt to cover up its murder."

**Kerensky Blames Assassin.**

"Stalinists, for example, tried to make the first unsuccessful attack on Trotsky appear as self-assault. Krivitsky and Trotsky, she added, did not know each other and Krivitsky was not a member of the Trotskyist organization."

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WASHINGTON STAR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# CASE OF KRIVITSKY CLOSED AS SUICIDE

## Washington Police Hold That Investigation Has Convinced Them He Took Own Life

## CLERK IDENTIFIES PISTOL

## Man Who Sold Automatic to Person Believed General Says It Was One Beside Body

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (UP)—Metropolitan police tonight wrote off the death of General Walter G. Krivitsky, former Soviet military spy chief, as a suicide, but left the way open for further investigation by deciding to impanel a coroner's jury to consider any additional evidence in the case.

Dr. A. Magruder MacDonald, the coroner, announced after a conference with Inspector Ernest W. Thompson that he would issue a certificate of suicide tomorrow morning. At the same time, he added, he will impanel a coroner's jury to hear any further evidence that may "crop up."

Friends of the erstwhile general—who was found shot to death in a hotel room here Monday—contended that agents of the Russian secret police either assassinated him or hounded him to self-destruction for betraying Soviet espionage secrets.

Tonight's decision to reissue the certificate was made on the basis of a report by Lieutenant George Darnall after he had gone to Charlottesville, Va., to interview Eitel Wolf Dobert, former German Army officer, and his Greek wife, at whose home Krivitsky spent his last week-end. Lieutenant Darnall said his investigation convinced him that the death was "a closed case and conclusively a suicide."

### Identifies the Automatic

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., Feb. 12 (AP)—Charles Henshaw, employe of a local hardware store, in a signed statement today identified the pistol found in a Washington hotel beside the body of General Walter Krivitsky as the .38-caliber automatic the clerk sold Friday to a man who registered the weapon in the name of "Walter Paref of Barboursville, Va." A box of fifty mushroom bullets was sold with the pistol.

Detective Horace E. Caranfa and Lieutenant George E. Darnall of the Washington Police Department obtained the statement from Mr. Henshaw.

The Washington officers left here to go to Gilbert Station, about fifteen miles from Charlottesville, to question Mrs. Eitel Wolf Dobert, who drove Krivitsky Sunday afternoon to the hotel in Washington. Krivitsky had stayed from Thursday to Sunday with the Doberts at their home near here.

### Study All Angles of Case

Louis Waldman, General Krivitsky's attorney, and a number of the general's friends and associates assembled yesterday in Miss Suzanne LaFollette's apartment in the Hotel Chelsea in West Twenty-third Street and collectively studied all angles of the case.

Their conclusions were speculative. The consensus was that here and there in the three notes found in the general's room, there were discrepancies in the forms of certain letters. This analysis was conducted by comparing photostatic copies of the notes with known samples of Krivitsky's writing.

Mr. Waldman said he intended to submit the photostats to professional handwriting experts today. Most of the persons at the Hotel Chelsea meeting seemed inclined to agree, however, that such discrepancies as they detected might have arisen from physical and mental tenseness.

Mr. Waldman disclosed that the metropolitan police in Washington had promised to release the general's body in Washington today and that it might arrive in Manhattan tonight. The funeral is to be private.

CLIPPING FROM THE N. Y. TIMES

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# OGPU Hounded Ex-Spy to Death, Police Believe

## Thompson Cites 'Mental Stress' in Krivitsky 'Suicide'

In closing the strange case of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky as a suicide, Inspector Bernard W. Thompson, chief of detectives, last night conceded the former Soviet spy might have been hounded to his death by threats of the dreaded OGPU.

Thompson said the physical evidence at the Bellevue Hotel, where Krivitsky's body was found Monday, and all subsequent developments "clearly and conclusively show the man took his own life."

**Death by Suicide**

He added:

"The three letters found in this man Krivitsky's room indicate that he was laboring under some great mental stress, and it is entirely possible that the man was driven to his act by threats of death, as charged by his attorney (Louis Waldman, of New York). I am not prepared to say what the motive was, but Krivitsky came to his death by suicide."

Lieut. George Darnall, chief of the homicide squad, reported that Eitel Wolf Dobert, with whom Krivitsky spent several days last week, was now convinced the former spy was a suicide, but his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Dobert, who drove the General to Washington, "could not believe it was suicide," although she admitted many facts pointed to that conclusion.

Darnall was carrying the notarized depositions of Dobert, a former Nazi Storm Trooper and now a refugee from Germany, and his attractive Grecian wife. These documents tell the story, as the Doberts know it, of Krivitsky's movements and reactions in the last three days of his life. These last days he spent on the Dobert farm and in Charlottesville.

**Store Clerk Questioned**

After taking depositions of the Doberts at a two-hour session, Darnall, accompanied by the pair, quizzed Charles Henshaw, clerk in a Charlottesville store. Henshaw identified the death gun, found in Krivitsky's room at the Bellevue Hotel here, as the one the former spy purchased from him and registered in the name of "Walter Poref, of Barboursville, Va."

The manager of the store told Darnall the old-style Colt automatic pistol, No. 43,907, was obtained in a trade-in deal about a year ago, but he was unable to furnish any information regarding the person involved in the deal. Both the manager and the clerk identified pictures of Krivitsky, shown them by Darnall, as the man who bought the gun last week.

**Positive of Suicide**

After his investigation was completed, Darnall said:

"I am more positive than ever that this was a case of suicide. There is no doubt in my mind that Krivitsky planned to end his life while he was in the Dobert home."

Asked by a Times-Herald reporter how he accounted for Krivitsky's discussion of plans for the future and his apparently happy mood as he drove to Washington with Mrs. Dobert on Sunday, Darnall said:

"After all, what does she know of how a man acts before he commits suicide."

Dobert also gave Darnall a connected account of his movements since his arrival in the United States about two years ago, as a refugee from Nazi oppression. After living in New York city, where he filed his first citizenship papers in May, 1940, Dobert said he lived in a cabin up the Hudson River and then went to Florida last winter, before settling near Charlottesville.

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WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

# Police 'Close' Krivitsky Case

## Dies to Bare New 'Sensational Data'

Aroused by Russian terrorists' activities in America, revealed in connection with the strange death of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, erstwhile chief of Soviet military intelligence in Western Europe, Chairman Martin Dies, of the Committee on Un-American Activities, last night was preparing for release today of "sensational information" concerning a similar case of murder or suicide under threat of death.

At the same time, Inspector Bernard W. Thompson, chief of detectives, announced the closing of the Krivitsky case by the Police Department, as Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald said he would reissue his long-withheld certificate of death by suicide, after swearing in a coroner's jury at 11:30 a.m. today at the District Morgue.

In announcing closing of the case, Thompson said all the evidence adduced since Krivitsky's bullet-blasted body was found Monday in a room in the Hotel Bellevue confirmed the original conclusion of police that the man died by his own hand.

Coroner MacDonald explained the jury would hear no evidence, but merely would identify Krivitsky's body in the event of a reopening of the case. He said the body would be released to the Wright Funeral Home to be prepared for burial and shipped to ~~New York~~.

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Washington Times Herald

FEB 13 1941

WASHINGTON TIMES HERALD

# Krivitsky Case Put in Records As Suicide

## Coroner Swears in Jury to Hear Any Future Evidence

The shooting of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky was entered on the District's official record today as suicide after a coroner's jury was sworn in at the Morgue over the body of the former Soviet spy chief to hear any evidence which may turn up in the future to upset the findings.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald shortly before noon issued the suicide certificate he drew up Monday night but withheld pending a more complete investigation. Dr. MacDonald swore in the jury as a precautionary measure because of widely held opinion of Krivitsky's friends and associates that he was the victim of assassins bent on "liquidating" the witness who "knew too much" about Soviet espionage methods.

The jury will not be called for an inquest into Krivitsky's death unless new evidence is brought forward which seems substantial enough to warrant reopening the case. District authorities are convinced no such evidence can be produced.

**MacDonald Convinced.**

Dr. MacDonald said his first examination of the body and the room convinced him that the dead man had shot himself. He said this was indicated by the course the bullet took through the man's head and into the wall and by the position of the body. He pointed out that Krivitsky had lived in fear of assassination and would have made some move to protect himself had any suspicious sound been heard. The shot had been fired at close range and caused instant death.

Those named to the six-man coroner's jury were L. B. Souder, Harold J. Smith, H. C. Adler, J. H. O'Neil, P. Gilbert Breen and F. J. A. Bennett.

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**Body to Be Released Today.**

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**Body Sent to New York.**

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**Statement Obtained.**

Lt. Darnall yesterday obtained a signed statement at Charlottesville, Va., from a hardware store clerk identifying the death gun as the one he sold a week ago to a man he recognized as Krivitsky from a photograph. He also identified ammunition taken from the automatic found beside the body.

This account of the purchase was confirmed in another written statement from Mrs. Marguerite Dobert, 30, wife of Eitel Wolf Dobert, former German officer and refugee from the Nazis, who live in a log cabin about 15 miles north of Charlottesville. Mrs. Dobert said she accompanied Krivitsky to the store and helped him make the purchase because he had expressed fear of assassination and wanted the gun for self-defense.

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THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR
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While stopping at the Dobert home, it was said, Krivitsky practiced firing at a target with the newly-purchased gun.

Yesterday Lt. Darnell obtained two of the exploded shells and returned them for ballistics comparison with the shell found in the death room. Inspector Thompson announced today that comparisons by the department's expert, Lt. John Fowler, revealed all three shells were fired from the same gun.

In her statement Mrs. Dobert also told how she drove Krivitsky, who had been their house guest for several days, to Washington Sunday night. Believing Krivitsky had gone to New York, she stopped overnight in a hotel near the one in which the body was found, but did not learn of the death until she read of it in the newspapers. Mrs. Dobert spent Tuesday night with friends and then returned home.

Krivitsky, it was said, had frequently expressed fear of assassination, and planned to retire from "politics" and bring his family to live on the Dobert Farm in the Virginia foothills. A friend of Krivitsky's in New York, it was said, had recently warned him of the arrival of a Soviet "killer" who supposedly was after him for his revelations before the Dies Committee and in magazine articles.

Spokesmen for the Dies Committee said late yesterday that its agents probably will be assigned to investigate activities of supposed Soviet spies in this country as a result of Krivitsky's death. It was explained, however, that the committee has no authority to inquire into the local shooting. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has refused a request by Mr. Waldman to enter the case.

Representative Rankin of Mississippi recently told the House that the position of the automatic on the left side of the body seemed to cast doubt on the suicide theory.

**Fugitive Since 1937.**

Investigators who examined the body and the room pointed out, however, that while Krivitsky was shot through the right side of the head, a natural reflex as he slumped down on the bed would have tossed the gun a few feet to the left.

Krivitsky, who was 41, was born in the Russian Ukraine as Samuel Ginsberg. He entered the Russian secret service, he said, early in the 1920's and was sent to Germany to help organize a "red army" there. Toward the last of his career, according to his magazine articles, he was chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe, and became a fugitive after Stalin's purge of the Russian army in 1937.

Mrs. Trotsky, whose husband was assassinated in Mexico City last summer, said through a secretary from her fortress-like home yesterday:

"Krivitsky's death was not a suicide. That suicide theory is just one of the Ogpu's many schemes to attempt to cover up its murders.

"Stalinists, for example, tried to make the first unsuccessful attack on Trotsky appear as self-assault."

Krivitsky and Trotsky, she added, did not know each other and Krivitsky was not a member of the Trotskyist organization.

Alexander Kerensky, once premier of Russia, also was quoted as saying that Krivitsky had been assassinated by a secret agent. In an article copyrighted by the New York Daily Mirror, he declared that Krivitsky knew before Christmas that "the most vicious murderer in all the Soviet, whose favorite tactic is to drive a man to suicide by threatening to torture his wife and family," was in New York to kill him.



THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR
February 13, 1941

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Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# How the Press Murdered Story About Krivitsky

By John Koeler

By midnight Tuesday I couldn't find a reporter in Washington, drunk or sober, who believed that Gen. Walter Krivitsky's death was anything but suicide. Up to that hour, most reportorial minds were still open or at least ajar. But even this open-mindedness was partly wishful thinking, for an ingenious murder with international angles is the average reporter's dream-story.

As one veteran newspaper man put it: "As long as he had to die, please let it be murder."

But when Krivitsky's friends, Mr. and Mrs. Eitel Wolf Dobert, on whose Virginia farm he week-ended before blowing out his brains in Washington, were heard from, that clinched it. They told how he bought an automatic and kept talking darkly of suicide.

Marguerite Dobert

We were kicking around in the Hotel Willard room of Syd Boehm of Hearst's New York *Journal and American* when this news arrived from Charlottesville, Va. The UP man said: "Well, the lid's on it now. I'll have to revamp my overnight story."

Somebody else observed: "My paper ran amuck on the story in the first place. That guy Waldman *(Louis Waldman*, Krivitsky's lawyer, who cried 'Murder!' the moment he heard the news and tried to devil the FBI into investigation) sure led the whole American press by the nose. Squeezed plenty of publicity out of it, too, boys. We've been had."

Eitel Dobert

Everybody agreed.

All the greater my surprise yesterday morning, then, upon finding that the New York press was still eagerly developing the murder motif.

The *Journal and American*, for example, front-paged in letters of fire the "startling" revelation that Dobert thought Krivitsky had bought a .32-caliber gun (Krivitsky shot himself with a .38).

In later editions, however, the *Journal and American* reluctantly had to settle for "mental murder" (the OGPU had hounded Krivitsky to death), for the shopkeeper who sold the gun had spoken up. She swore in a written statement that she had sold the General a .38.

Meantime, the *Daily Mirror*, New York's other Hearst paper, trotted out poor old Alexander Kerensky, who said, sure, Krivitsky must have been murdered. Kerensky was head of the second provisional government in Russia in 1917. He's to exile now, here in New York, a foe of Stalin.

My own experience with the Krivitsky case began and ended with a telephone whanging in my ears and jolting me out of bed. The first time was Monday midnight

Alexander Kerensky. The press played up his statement that it was murder.

when my city editor sent me racing for the next Washington train.

In Washington I headed straight for the Bellevue Hotel and tried to engage room 532, where the General died. The manager thought it was a morbid idea and refused. So I took the next best thing, a room of the same size and location two floors above.

It was in the Bellevue's lobby that I first met Louis Waldman, a short swart Ukrainian-born Socialist lawyer with a rare sense of public relations. Like all my colleagues, I kept getting excited summonses from him all day, now to hear his latest "evidence" that Krivitsky had been murdered, now to take a prepared statement lambasting the FBI.

A sample of Mr. Waldman's "evidence": the toothbrush in room 532 was still wet, and surely no man would brush his teeth before killing himself.

When I was not following Mr. Waldman around I concentrated on Police Headquarters, where affable, easy-going Inspector Bernard Thompson handed out the results of the investigation as they were completed. In its early stages this investigation had not been over-brilliant.

So sure had the police been of suicide, they tried to take no fingerprints in room 532, took no photographs, failed to check over the hotel's 240 guests, took six hours to identify the body and never even knew that Marguerite Dodert had been in Washington until the reporters told them.

"Frankly," Inspector Thompson told me, "we were all set to close the case until this man came down from New York. Then we had to investigate every angle he brought out."

I turned in, dog-tired, around 1 a.m., but first I took a look around my room, which corresponded in description to 532. If I had had any doubts about the manner of the General's end, I had none now. Only a human fly could have entered by the window. There was no ledge and no fire escape. True, a pass key could open the door, even if the bolt was thrown. But there was a telephone in the room, within three feet of the bed. And I cannot believe that if the General, in his jittery state, heard a key turning in the lock, heard a man approaching him, he would not have used that phone. Since Krivitsky was almost fully clothed, it's a fair assumption that he was still awake.

So thinking, I slipped off to sleep. Then came that second midnight phone call. Sleepily, I heard a strange voice, low and husky, say: "Don't ask any questions. Just hurry down to the police station. They've arrested Hans Broussa." (Broussa is the OGPU killer who Mr. Waldman insists has been seen recently in New York.)

I will never know whether the caller was a practical joker, a crank or just a garden-variety loon.

CLIPPING FROM
P.M. NEW YORK DAILY
DATE FEB 13 1941
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# Krivitsky Tips Jailed Many Canada Reds

By RAY DOYLE AND HENRY HILLMAN

New evidence that the Soviet OGPU had the most pressing motive for murdering Gen. Walter Krivitsky was supplied by high authorities in Washington yesterday, when they revealed the ex-Stalinist spy chief found shot dead in his hotel room had "immobilized" hundreds of Communist agents in Canada and England and was preparing further exposures in those countries and the United States.

Washington police closed their inquiry and announced the verdict of suicide. Lt. George Darnall, chief of the homicide squad, made the announcement after questioning Mrs. Margaret Dobert, 30, and Eitel W. Dobert, her husband, a Nazi refugee, both close friends of Krivitsky.

However, Louis Waldman, attorney for Krivitsky, told the Mirror last night that he had been assured in Washington the case was still open. Waldman said he himself was not satisfied with certain aspects of the "Dobert angle," and had hired private investigators to pursue it further.

The lawyer said he was also submitting the General's three "suicide notes" both to well-known handwriting experts and to Mrs. Krivitsky for examination.

Whether it was murder or another case of suicide driven by terror, Krivitsky's death seems to have resulted from his recent activities as a scourge and exposer of the men carrying out the type of intrigue he organized and directed in Western Europe.

Friends of Krivitsky, tight-lipped with fear for their own lives, gave full credence to the official revelations of his activity and again demanded that the Federal Government reopen suspicion of murder and hunt for the OGPU agent, Hans Bruesse (or Brusere), the man Krivitsky himself had declared was plotting his assassination.

The living symbols of Krivitsky's success in exposing the Soviet spy system are the hundreds now held in Canadian and British concentration camps, the official sources said.

From December, 1938, three

## Mirror Gets Kerensky's Story

*Here is Alexander Kerensky (right) being interviewed by Mi reporter, Ray Doyle. By permission of the Mirror, the exclu story published yesterday was transmitted over wires of the en world. The man who was Russian premier in the period betw Czarism and Bolshevism still shows vigor.*

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months after Britain declared war against Germany and thus became a target for the agents of the Soviet-Nazi partnership, until November, 1940, Krivitsky was in Canada, reportedly in close touch with R. H. Gagnon, superintendent of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police.

During that period, secret raids throughout Canada bagged scores of spies, provocateurs and saboteurs. All are now in concentration camps, officially guilty of "acts against the realm" or "acts disruptive of the progress of the war." The British Empire, of course, is not at war with Russia and, therefore, makes no arrests of Soviet spies as such per se.

Krivitsky's work, the Washington sources said, was so successful in Canada that the British Government induced him to go to England, where spy activities are far more dangerous.

It was disclosed that sometime around the New Year, the spy turned spy-hunter, boarded a vessel "somewhere on the Canadian coast" and landed at Liverpool after a stormy voyage across the North Atlantic in convoy. Officers of the British Intelligence, chosen for their knowledge of the Russian language and their specialization in Soviet espionage, were detailed to Krivitsky.

### Another Reason

After a visit of a few weeks, again coinciding with arrests of "activists"—the field workers of the espionage system — Krivitsky insisted on returning to New York, where his wife and young son were unprotected. The British asked, and he agreed, that he would go back to England next Spring for further work.

Krivitsky had another reason for returning. In the Fall of 1939, shortly before he went to Canada, he testified before the Dies Committee. On the record were his charges that OGPU agents have penetrated the U. S. Army and Navy; that the American Communist Party, headed by Earl Browder, was financed largely by Moscow, but that it carried out only the smallest type of Soviet work here, the more important being done by a web of agents headed by a six-man staff.

But Krivitsky told even more—

## Entertained Krivitsky

MRS. MARGUERITE DOBERT

*Washington police conferred with her and her husband before calling Krivitsky's death suicide.*

off the record, it was learned, made many broader statem off the witness stand, that Committee investigators h been checking.

To aid in this work of expo spies in the democracy rus aid to Britain, Krivitsky c back—came back to death.

Washington police repo yesterday that the .38 ca death gun found in the room bought by Krivitsky last Fr in Charlottesville, Va., under name of "Walter Poref," on his aliases.

Krivitsky's body will be bro here from Washington late to

# Krivitsky Fate—That of Ex-Spy, Mallon Holds

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—There was not much doubt, in the mind of any Government authority here who knows Moscow, that Krivitsky was murdered. Nor has there existed much hope the real nature of the neat job could be exposed.

An acknowledged principle of Stalin regime holds no one can be permitted to be an "ex" secret agent. That regime considers it an essential, unbreakable rule for the maintenance of discipline to work the destruction of anyone who leaves its secret service.

JOSEF STALIN
*Wants No 'Ex' Secret Agents*

If a single exception were allowed to exist, the hope would always be held out to those in the toils that they, too, might one day successfully escape. Murder to that end is not considered a crime of hate, but of necessity.

The standard Russian way of handling such a matter as Krivitsky in a country where murder seldom goes unpunished, is to force the victim to suicide.

It could have been done by threatening harm to Krivitsky's wife and child.

It could have been accomplished by a Russian agent confronting the recalcitrant in his hotel room here with a gun, backed by a persuasive argument.

## 'Bought' Life of His Family?

Krivitsky could have been made to understand that his life was gone and that the only way he could buy the safety of his family was by [illegible]

That some adaptation of this suicide formula was followed in this instance is implied in Krivitsky's notes:

"I want to live so badly, but it is impossible . . ."

The repeated professions of his love for his wife and son preclude the possibility that he could voluntarily hurt them so grievously by suicide.

This affection was the dominant point of his notes, stressed as if to tell the story of his death in language his pursuers could not interpret the way his wife could.

The only alternative is that Krivitsky was insane, a possibility which is unbelievable to any who knew him.

If this sounds fantastic, so are the Russians.

Next on the death list is the author of a book published a few weeks ago.

He exposed his experiences in counter-espionage for both the Nazis and Russians. The name signed to the book is a pseudonym, but his identity is known to the Russians as well as our authorities.

The last to fall before Krivitsky in this country is recorded on the public records as a fatal "automobile accident."

No publicity attached to that case because only those with access to the deepest files of this Government even know he was a former Russian agent. He had written no books.

## OGPU on Job in Washington

The shocking phase of the case to Government authorities was the implied confirmation that the OGPU or the Russian military intelligence (Krivitsky was in the latter service) is working on the job in this country.

Not only that, but it effected its purposes so adroitly within a few blocks of the Capitol of the United States.

None of these convincing circumstantial conclusions will be expressed openly by anyone connected with this Government.

You must prove what you believe, in diplomacy, and even so, sometimes you do not mention it.

To talk officially would cause international complications and at a moment when this Government is pursuing greater purposes through a policy of mild helpfulness to the relentless liquidators of [illegible]

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# Dies Committee Probing Death Of Krivitsky

## Bruesse, Red Judas Killer, Suspected; Suicide Verdict on't Halt Quiz

Special to the New York Journal and American.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Dies Committee is conducting a searching inquiry into the activities of "certain Soviet OGPU agents" in this country in connection with the fatal shooting of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, it was learned today.

A spokesman for the committee, who confirmed the investigation, strongly indicated that the Hans Bruesse, whom Krivitsky feared and who was known to him as the "Red Judas" killer," is among the agents involved.

The spokesman intimated that even an official verdict of suicide in the case, which is expected to be issued during the afternoon, will not halt the investigation.

"The Dies Committee on Un-American Activities wants to know not only how Gen. Krivitsky died but why he died," it was said.

**DIES TO MAKE STATEMENT.**

Rep. Martin Dies, Texas Democrat, and chairman of the House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, was preparing a statement for publication concerning the OGPU inquiry and whatever results have been achieved to date.

As far as the police are concerned, the case probably will be concluded with the issuance of a suicide verdict by Coroner A. McGregor MacDonald. The way will be left open, however, for submission of any new evidence that develops before a Coroner's jury.

Detective Inspector Ernest W. Thompson said:

"Now, as before, we are convinced that Krivitsky killed himself."

**HOUNDED TO DEATH.**

Friends of the general, archenemy of Dictator Josef Stalin, continued to insist he either had been slain by an OGPU agent or hounded to death by threats against his family.

Louis Waldman, his attorney, pursued his attempt in New York to obtain an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but Director J. Edgar Hoover has refused so far to act, holding the matter is one for the Washington police.

Gen. Krivitsky, former chief of Soviet Military Intelligence in Western Europe who predicted the alliance between Red Russia and Nazi Germany in a series of magazine articles exposing Communism, was found shot to death Monday in the Hotel Bellevue.

**LEFT 3 SUICIDE NOTES.**

Three suicide notes, said by police handwriting experts to have been penned by him, were in his room, the door and windows of which were locked. The revolver was identified as the same one he purchased last Thursday in Charlottesville, Va., while he was staying nearby with friends, Mr. and Mrs. Ethel Wolf Dobert.

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]

Re: Kromer

## KRIVITSKY'S BODY HERE

### Attorney Refuses to Drop His Theory of 'Forced' Death

The body of General Walter Krivitsky, former chief of the Soviet Military Intelligence for Western Europe, who was found shot dead in his room in a Washington hotel last Monday, arrived in New York late last night. The funeral today will be private.

The Washington police have listed General Krivitsky's death a suicide, but Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald and Inspector Ernest W. Thompson of the Washington detective force have said that a coroner's jury would be impaneled to hear any additional evidence in the case that may "crop up."

Louis Waldman, General Krivitsky's attorney, and Mr. Krivitsky's widow and friends continued to insist here yesterday that the former Soviet official was either murdered or was forced to kill himself.

Mr. Waldman declared that "regardless of what the Washington police may or may not do in further investigation of General Krivitsky's death, I shall continue to demand a thorough probe in order to establish the hand of the GPU in this case."

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CLIPPING FROM THE
N. Y. TIMES

DATE FEB 14 1941
FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION

Times Herald

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1941

# Krivitsky Died To Save Family, Says Widow

## One 'Suicide Note' Written Under Ogpu Coercion, She Claims

Belief that Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky was coerced into killing himself in the Bellevue Hotel here by the OGPU, the Russian secret police, was expressed yesterday by his widow.

Mme. Krivitsky gave her version of the case in New York while Washington police officially listed the death as a suicide and Dr. A. Magruder MacDonald, District coroner, issued a suicide certificate.

**Calls It Murder**

Discussing one of three so-called "suicide notes" found in Krivitsky's room, Mme. Krivitsky said:

"I believe the letter was written under coercion.

"The OGPU had threatened that they would kidnap or harm me and our child unless he did what they directed—kill himself. He made this bargain because of his great love for us.

"But he was murdered in this fashion, just as surely as though they had pulled the trigger of the gun."

Mme. Krivitsky contended the translation of one of the letters given out by police was inaccurate. One paragraph of the "official" translation read:

"It is very difficult but I want to live very badly, but it is impossible."

**Bargain to End Life**

The correct translation of the Russian language in the note, the widow said, was:

"It is very difficult but I want very badly to live, but to live is no longer allowed me."

This, the widow said, indicated her husband made a bargain to end his life in return for the safety of his wife and child.

MacDonald swore in a coroner's jury over the body, but failed to take testimony. He explained this was done so the jury would be available should future evidence warrant reopening the investigation.

MacDonald then released the body, which will be sent to New York for cremation.

**Price Asks Survey**

As a result of disclosure that Krivitsky purchased the death gun in Charlottesville, Governor James H. Price, of Virginia, yesterday asked the State Defense Council to make a survey of laws governing the sale of weapons in the State.

Police regulations in Charlottesville permit the sale of pistols to anyone above the age of 21. Governor Price said he believed some uniformity in regulations governing the sale of firearms throughout the State should be established.

Nash Times
2-14-41

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# Coroner Issues Krivitsky Suicide Verdict Today

## Dies to Release 'Sensational' Data On Similar Case

Aroused by Russian terrorists activities in America, revealed in connection with the strange death of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, erstwhile chief of Soviet military intelligence in Western Europe, Chairman Martin Dies, of the Committee on Un-American Activities, last night was preparing for release today of "sensational information" concerning a similar case of murder or suicide under threat of death.

At the same time, Inspector Bernard W. Thompson, chief of detectives, announced the closing of the Krivitsky case by the Police Department, as Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald said he would reissue his long-withheld certificate of death by suicide, after swearing in a coroner's jury today at the District Morgue.

**Evidence Points to Suicide**

In announcing closing of the case, Thompson said all the evidence adduced since Krivitsky's bullet-blasted body was found Monday in a room in the Hotel Bellevue confirmed the original conclusion of police that the man died by his own hand.

Coroner MacDonald explained the jury would hear no evidence, but merely would identify Krivitsky's body in the event of a reopening of the case. He said the body would be released to the Wright Funeral Home to be prepared for burial and shipped to New York.

In closing the case Inspector Thompson conceded the former Soviet spy might have been hounded to his death by threats of the dreaded Ggpu.

Thompson said the physical evidence at the Bellevue Hotel, where Krivitsky's body was found Monday, and all subsequent developments "clearly and conclusively show the man took his own life."

**Death by Suicide**

He added:

"The three letters found in this man Krivitsky's room indicate that he was laboring under some great mental stress, and it is entirely possible that the man was driven to his act by threats of death, as charged by his attorney. I am not prepared to say what the motive was, but Krivitsky came to his death by suicide."

Lieut. George Darnall, chief of the homicide squad, reported that Eitel Wolf Dobert, with whom Krivitsky spent several days last week, was now convinced the former spy was a suicide, but his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Dobert, who drove the General to Washington, "could not believe it was suicide," although she admitted many facts pointed to that conclusion.

**Store Clerk Questioned**

Darnall was carrying the notarized depositions of Dobert, a former Nazi Storm Trooper and now a refugee from Germany, and his attractive Grecian wife. These documents tell the story, as the Doberts know it, of Krivitsky's movements and reactions in the last three days of his life. These last days he spent on the Dobert farm and in Charlottesville.

After taking depositions of the Doberts at a two-hour session, Darnall, accompanied by the pair, quizzed Charles Henshaw, clerk in a Charlottesville store. Henshaw identified the death gun, found in Krivitsky's room at the Bellevue Hotel here, as the one the former spy purchased from him and registered in the name of "Walter Poref, of Barboursville, Va."

The manager of the store told Darnall the old-style Colt automatic pistol, No. 43,907, was obtained in a trade-in deal about a year ago, but he was unable to furnish any information regarding the person involved in the deal. Both the manager and the clerk identified pictures of Krivitsky, shown them by Darnall, as the man who bought the gun last week.

Wash. Times
2-14-41

100-11146-A

THE LATE GENERAL KRIVITSKY
*Mystery Shrouds Sudden Death*

Se

No. 19,413—

# Stalin Killer Method Told By Ex-Agent

*Probably the most talked-of writer in America today—and a man marked for death by the Soviet Secret Police—is Jan Valtin, author of the sensational best-seller, "Out of the Night"*

*An ex-member of the OGPU, himself, he knows their ruthlessness and their determination to blot out any "ex" agent, such as was Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, strangely dead in Washington this week. That's why Jan Valtin, who knows the ways of the OGPU and the Nazi Gestapo which apes it, hides his face from the world while masquerading under a name he frankly adapted from "Valentine."*

*He has emerged from seclusion briefly to write the following story exclusively for the New York Journal and American, in which he discusses the Krivitsky shooting and gives a terrifying glimpse of OGPU technique.*

**By JAN VALTIN**
**Author of "Out of the Night" and Former OGPU and Gestapo Agent**

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For many years I ranged all the continents and oceans as a member of Joseph Stalin's private "international police." I had unusual opportunities to learn the techniques of Soviet terror as practised in foreign lands, as well as the psychology of OGPU operatives and other Soviet foreign agents. It is with that personal background that I approach the mysterious death by shooting of General Walter Krivitsky.

With only newspaper accounts of the tragedy in Washington to go by, I would not venture a definitive judgment. Nevertheless, I feel it my duty to warn the American authorities against accepting the superficial facts as final proof of voluntary suicide. Despite appearances, I am convinced that the explanation is not so simple.

As reported in the press thus far, there are critical gaps in the story. There are unanswered questions of motive and method. I shall indicate a few of them farther below.

## OGPU Agents Adept At Faking Suicides

If I were forced to choose among the many possibilities and theories, I should guess that there was another person present in the little hotel room when the trigger was pulled.

Let us begin by establishing a few more general considerations which are essential to an understanding of this case.

The first of these is that murder disguised as suicide is a procedure thoroughly familiar to every active agent of the OGPU.

Any number of deaths in-

Continued on Page 3, Column 3

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scribed on the official records of Paris, Bucharest, pre-Nazi Berlin as routine self-destruction were in reality subtly camouflaged assassinations. In the case of a secondary and unknown victim the trick works more often than not. It is only the prominence of Krivitsky, after all, which is forcing a closer examination.

Krivitsky himself, of course, was fully aware of this standardized Soviet method of assassination—a method used also by other totalitarian killers.

That was why he warned his wife, his friends, and even a member of the Dies Committee, over and over again, not to believe it if he should die under circumstances that look like genuine suicide.

Another OGPU technique which I know only too well is what has been described as "forced suicide." I am aware that to the average American, including American police officers, that sounds too melodramatic for belief.

## Cites Hitler Purge of Capt. Roehm in 1934

To those of us who have lived close to the fantastic drama of political warfare and vengeance in Europe in the last 20 years, it sounds not only credible but like ordinary routine.

Everyone remembers some of the blood-curdling incidents in the notorious purge in Nazi Germany in June, 1934.

Adolf Hitler personally, it was reliably attested, ordered his former friend and lieutenant, Captain Roehm, to commit suicide right there and then. When Roehm couldn't bring himself to it, Hitler had one of his gunmen do the [illegible]

The same method of induced self-annihilation marked the end of other blacklisted leaders.

But no one has surpassed the Communists in the application of this sinister form of murder with the victim's own hand. In connection with Joseph Stalin's great blood purges of recent years, there were hundreds of suicides. Only the politically naive will believe that they were all voluntary.

We cannot know how many of them consented to kill themselves at one blow as the alternative to death by slow torture at the hands of sadistic executioners.

There is every reason to suspect, at least, that prominent Bolsheviks like Michael Tomsky, General Gamarnik and other alleged suicides ended their own lives as the price for saving the lives of people dear to them.

## Suggests Krivitsky Feared Torture of Kin

Imagine a man like Krivitsky, passionately attached to his wife and his seven-year-old son, given the choice between killing himself and having his family packed off to Russia for torture by the kidnaping route which so many others had traveled before them.

This is purely speculative. But I happen to know that such things have happened elsewhere in these cruel years. Suppose that Krivitsky had been confronted with a threat to his loved ones—backed up by a frantic note from his wife asking him to save her and their son. The forging of such a note, of course, is child's play to the experts on Stalin's foreign police force.

Even if the hand that wrote the farewell notes and the finger that pulled the trigger of the revolver were Krivitsky's, the possibility of a deal under duress is decidedly not eliminated. Those notes sound phony to me. They contain just the sort of trivia a clever agent, having familiarised himself with the domestic life of the victim, would dictate.

But they are unorganized, explain nothing, each of them with a postscript, and the whole set is in the tone of a distressed youngster rather than a mature, intelligent man with the background of adventure and power.

## Self-Destruction Not In Code or Character

There is the matter of motives, which as any crime specialist will tell you, is often as crucial as the physical evidence.

I never met Krivitsky, though I had heard about him and his work while I was myself engaged as a

CAPT. ERNEST ROEHM

*"Hitler ordered his former friend, Capt. Roehm, to commit suicide. When Roehm couldn't bring himself to do it, Hitler had one of his gunmen do the job."*

—Jan Valtin.

Comintern (Communist International) agent. He was in the foreign espionage, quite distinct from the world-wide Comintern police in which I then served.

But I find it hard to believe that anyone with his training and his long years of facing the chance of sudden death would voluntarily choose suicide as a way out of any situation. It is neither in the code nor in the character of men with that particular background.

At no time since his break with Stalin had Krivitsky been in a more satisfactory position. He had finally established the legality of his own and his family's residence in the United States. He had taken the first steps toward becoming an American citizen. He was well fixed financially for the time being. His usefulness had been recognized by the British as well as the American governments.

I find it impossible to believe that the news that Hans Bruesse or any other OGPU agent was in New York would either surprise him or drive him to the ultimate despair.

Krivitsky knew, as every one familiar with the Kremlin's system knows, that Stalin's killers are at large in the world and that a city like New York has never been without them. I have myself run into several of them and recognized them at once, and I understand the same happened to Krivitsky.

It may be true that the relentless man-hunt of which he knew himself to be the prey had finally cracked his moral resistance. I cannot prove the contrary. But I must set down my firm conviction that the explanation sounds to me fantastic in the extreme.

Besides, there was a slowness in his actions in his last days, a calmness in his outward behavior. According to the Doberts and others who saw him last, that does not jibe with nervous breakdown.

On the other side of the balance are Stalin's possible motives for wiping him out. Not even the OGPU or the Gestapo murder for the fun of it. There are three distinct reasons why a "liquidation" in foreign countries is undertaken:

1. To silence someone who knows too much and who, after or having fallen out of favor, is known to have important information which he might still give away.

2. To discourage others who could hurt Moscow's interests if he joined the intelligence service of another nation.

3. To wreak a revenge which would demonstrate the ability of Stalin's regime to follow and strike "renegades" in any part of the world; this primarily to deterrent others tempted to throw off Moscow's yoke.

## All Three Motives Applied to Krivitsky

It happens that all three motives applied with special emphasis to Krivitsky. The OGPU knew well enough that he had not yet told everything and that he was planning to write another book.

It was aware that Krivitsky, cooperating with the American or British Intelligence, would be able to identify important Russian agents and expose Russian espionage procedures.

Finally, the notoriety around his revelations made him a particularly conspicuous target for the kind of long-distance vengeance that would send a shiver down the spine of thousands of the Kremlin's human tools abroad.

Nor must we overlook the fact that two nations, not merely one, had a keen desire to eliminate this man. Whatever the political and military relations between Germany and Russia may be, there is certainly extensive cooperation between their foreign espionage systems.

Krivitsky had made a secret trip to London to give information to the British. The fact that the [illegible] were urging him to return is proof that his contribution to Germany's enemy was valuable. The Gestapo therefore had every reason to give the OGPU a helping hand on the job.

The best espionage and criminal brains of both Hitler's and Stalin's Secret Services were thus pitted against this one man in a foreign country.

What is more, neither of them had any desire to commit murder openly—American public opinion is too important in the scales of world affairs just now for such doing.

## Reds Try to Sidetrack Murder Suspicions

A "forced suicide" would serve their purpose perfectly. The [illegible] of Europe to [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] the Daily Worker [illegible] the opening paragraph needed no [illegible] to be entirely [illegible] detailed.

It told how the agent said [illegible] the Washington hotel knocked [illegible] Krivitsky's door and got no answer. Then, it says, "she tried [illegible] pass key and found that the door was bolted on the inside," whereupon, frightened, she phoned the desk clerk.

All other newspapers were [illegible] that the maid's pass key [illegible] opened the door, and that she called for help only after she [illegible] the body.

Whether the door was [illegible] from within or merely [illegible] a pass key is of extreme [illegible] tance. Misinformation on [illegible] particular point, taken together with the tone of the whole [illegible] indicates the kind of [illegible] to brush away the [illegible] "forced suicide" theory. [illegible] am trying to conceal [illegible] those responsible for [illegible] death, hope the [illegible]

"THE KREMLIN SECRET SERVICE—CO[illegible]

Above inscription appears on photo received from Moscow, although "agents" appear in uniform and may be just working men, members of Communist Party.

Jan Valtin writes: [illegible] agents now in the [illegible] Mexico can be counted not the hundred."

ICE CORPS"

writes: "I believe Kremlin w in the United States and n be counted by the score, if undred."

"close the case" and leave them free to stalk the next victim.

## Points to 'Loose Ends' Of Death Mystery

I said that there are unanswered questions. Perhaps the police by this time have answers, but on the basis of information revealed at this writing, it seems to me fair to indicate a few of the "loose ends" of the case:

1. The rooms on both sides of the one in which Krivitsky died were occupied by women. The walls in such hotels are likely to be flimsy. A 38-calibre automatic [illegible] in a small room makes a [illegible]-class explosion. Yet neither [illegible] neighbors nor anyone else [illegible]ard any noise. Is it not possible [illegible]at there was a silencer on [illegible] [illegible]tol, carried off by a witness to [illegible] "suicide?"

It is reported [illegible] [illegible] and does not normally cause a [illegible]t of blood. The hand and the [illegible] drop instantaneously on firing [illegible] quickly for the trickle of blood [illegible] them. Is it not possible [illegible] another person "stage-set" [illegible] after the "suicide" was [illegible]

Krivitsky was last seen by a [illegible]y who brought him a bottle [illegible]ater, at 6:30 in the evening. [illegible]ody was found about 15 hours [illegible]. He had been dead perhaps [illegible] at most five, hours. There [illegible] therefore an interval of some [illegible]ours that is unaccounted for. [illegible] employes were not in a posi[illegible] to know whether anyone had [illegible] into the room and left it [illegible]. There was time enough for [illegible] bargaining, arrangement of [illegible] and unhurried work by any [illegible]er.

The first rule among men in [illegible]age service is to protect their [illegible] in case of trouble. Yet [illegible]sky seems deliberately, in his [illegible], to have dragged his best [illegible] into the mess unnecessary. He not only wrote to Suz[illegible] Feliotte—a note that said [illegible] and served no purpose—[illegible] mentioned her relatives [illegible]. And he men[illegible] [illegible], writing in their

name in a postscript, between the lines, like an after-thought. Why?

## U. S. Now Main Center Of Soviet Assassins

No matter how this case ends—and personally I am sure that it offers the Government a chance to trace and corner some of Stalin's most active agents—it should make the American people aware of the fact that America is today the main center of Soviet killers and spies.

The war has barred so many countries to them, and American affairs are so important to Stalin and to his Nazi partner, that it offers the most fruitful area for active effort.

I believe that the Kremlin agents now in the United States and Mexico, operating in close contact, can be counted by the score if not the hundred. New York is an obvious concentration point for them, surpassed only by San Francisco.

Soviet ships are, in the final analysis, the most important connecting elements for the extensive network; where the Soviet ships make harbor, there is reason to look for conspirative centers.

San Francisco, more than any other city in the Western Hemisphere, is now the natural headquarters for conspirative contacts and communications, because Soviet-American trade flows mostly across the Pacific.

Hundreds of Stalin's "activists" from all countries had been gathered in Spain until the Loyalist cause fell. Murder, official and otherwise, had been their daily work for three years.

As a source for daring and desperate agents the OGPU, and other branches of the Soviet foreign services, must now find them invaluable. Droves of them have come to the United States as stowaways or sailors, or by way of Mexico, which is now overrun with these ex-Chekists from Spain.

## Calls Hans Bruesse 'Fanatic Activist'

In the past two years I have run into several notorious OGPU agents. Since my book "Out of the Night" appeared, there have been a series of efforts to trace my whereabouts. Mysterious voices have called at my publisher's office.

One spy mentioned in my pages showed up personally, demanding to see me. Strangers have invaded the home of my American wife's family, seeking to find me.

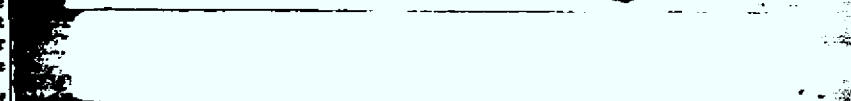
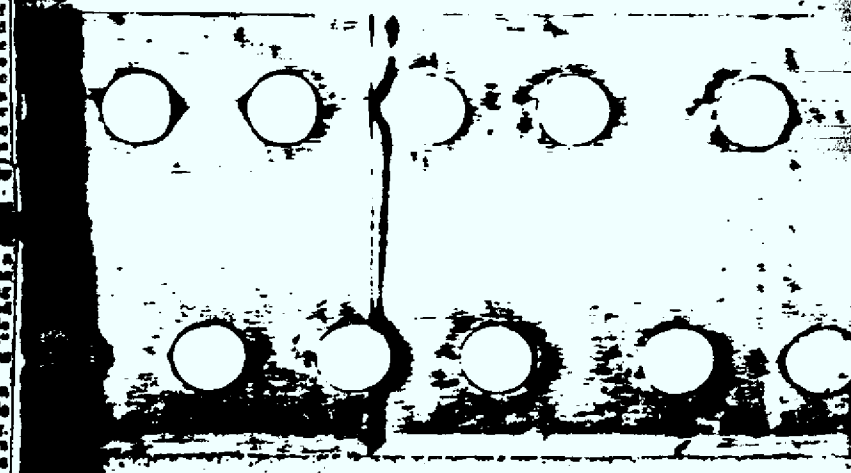
On a day when I intentionally led certain inquisitive people to think that I would be away from my hide-out in the country, a Packard drove into the secluded place. I saw the uninvited visitors and had no doubt they were making a check-up of the lay of the land—surveillance always precedes an attempt at violence. (Naturally I have abandoned that hide-out.)

Hans Bruesse, whom Krivitsky suspected of being his "shadow," is a young and fanatic activist. Even more sinister agents, I have reason to believe, are now at work in the United States.

The authorities are said to be looking for George Mink, the Philadelphia taxi driver who blossomed into one of Stalin's bloodiest tools; among his numerous victims in Spain were a number of American boys who had volunteered idealistically to fight for Stalin there, without knowing what they were walking into.

## Tells of Communist Spies on Water Front

Where is Michel Avatin, alias Lambert, whom I regard as the deadliest of all the Kremlin's killers extant? My hunch is that he is somewhere in our midst. Or Richard Jensen, formerly the head of all of Stalin's staff of passport forgers?

On the basis of strong circumstantial evidence, I believe that George Hagner is still here. He was sent to the United States by the Comintern in 1937 to take charge of Moscow's activities on the waterfront.

In particular, he took in hand