



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**WALTER G. KRIVITSKY**

**PART 3 OF 4**

**FILE NUMBER : 100-11146**

Walter G. Krivitsky

100-11146 Sub A

(228 pages)

Part 3 of 4 parts

570 Total pages

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

## Hotel Guest Found Shot To Death; Gun in Bed

A man tentatively identified as Samuel Ginsberg of New York City was found shot to death through the head in his room at the Bellevue Hotel, first block of E street N.W., early today. A .38-caliber revolver was found in bed with the body.

Identification was tentatively established through photographs and papers, described by police as resembling passports. They indicated the man recently had been in Canada. Several notes, which police said appeared to be written in Russian, were found in the room.

Hotel spokesmen said the man registered Saturday under the name of "Walter Foret" of New York. The body was removed to the District Morgue.

Walter G. Krivitsky

NOT RECORDED

100-11146-A-

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR  
February 10, 1941

# Red and Nazi Links

## Articles Told of OGPU Purges and Spying

Vast Network of Counterfeiting,  
Plotting and Murders Bared

The following excerpts from the series of sensational articles he wrote for the Saturday Evening Post in 1939 tell the story of the career of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, former Soviet military intelligence chief, found shot to death in a Washington hotel room yesterday.

In his own words, reproduced here by special permission of the Saturday Evening Post, the former Soviet agent describes activities of Stalin's dreaded OGPU of which he lived in daily terror after his arrival in the United States.

By GEN. WALTER G. KRIVITSKY

(As written by him in a series of articles in the Saturday Evening Post.)

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In May, 1937, Stalin bestowed upon me the highest testimonial within his power. Within six months I became the object of an intensive man hunt by Stalin's OGPU agents. How did it happen?

For nearly 18 years, until late in 1937, I was in the Intelligence Department of the General Staff of the Red Army.

During that time I worked in Germany, in Moscow as head of the Central European Division, and finally from 1935 to 1937 as the Chief of Soviet Intelligence for Western Europe.

My experience is a case history of a loyal Soviet officer transformed overnight into State prey to be shot down wherever the shooting is good. It is typical of thousands in the Soviet Union who are glorified as heroes today and tomorrow denounced as traitors.

### TOOK FRIEND AWAY.

In Moscow I put up at the Hotel Savoy. The purge (1937) was in full swing. One of my closest friends, Max Maximov-Unschlicht, a nephew of the former vice-Commissar of War, occupied with his wife the room next to me.

For nearly three years Max had served as chief of our Military Intelligence in Nazi Germany.

One night, I returned to my room very late. I went to bed without knocking at the Unschlichts' door. In the dead of night I was awakened by a noise in the corridor outside.

It must be the OGPU coming for me, I thought.

But they did not come to my door. As I opened it I faced Max's wife, Regina, tears streaming down her cheeks, terror in her eyes.

"They took Max away! They took Max away!" was all she could say.

### 350,000 ARRESTED.

Within the first five months of 1937 350,000 political arrests were made by the OGPU, according to official figures disclosed to me by the chief of the special section in charge of the purge.

In the midst of this tidal wave of arrests and executions... there were those among my associates who doubted that I would be allowed to leave the country...

About the middle of May I ran into an old acquaintance who had served as Soviet military attaché in Rumania. He was a towering and jolly fellow whose sense of humor did not desert him.

the balance and his fall momentarily expected, I received my passport.

### MEETS REISS.

In July I saw my old friend and comrade, Ignace Reiss, in Paris, where I had gone to confer with some of my agents. Reiss and I were bound together by many years of perilous underground service, and there were few confidences which we did not share.

Two hours later I received an urgent message from my Paris secretary, Madeleine, to meet Spiegelglass, assistant to the chief of the Foreign Division of the OGPU, whom Yezhov had sent to Western Europe on a mission of the highest secrecy.

(NOTE: The OGPU, it developed, had intercepted letters from Reiss "resigning" from Stalin's service and denouncing him as a "murderer.")

Krivitsky continues:

To Spiegelglass, the message of Reiss spelled but one thing:

### SPY CHARGE MADE.

From now on, Reiss was a spy, a dangerous enemy to be "liquidated." For Stalin does not permit Soviet agents to leave his service.

Spiegelglass became very explicit. His words left little doubt in my mind that my own fate depended upon my conduct that night. To his insistent suggestion that I take a hand in organizing the "solution" of the Reiss case, so as to establish my own loyalty in the eyes of Yezhov and Stalin, I finally replied that I would have nothing to do with any such undertakings.

AT THAT MOMENT I REALIZED THAT MY LIFELONG SERVICE TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS ENDED.

### REISS ASSASSINATED.

When I read of Reiss's death (assassination) on September 5, I realized that my own situation was desperate. Stalin and Yezhov would never forgive my refusal to participate in the crime.

I had before me now the choice between a bullet in the Lubianka from Stalin's formal executioners, and, outside Russia, a rain of bullets from a sub-machine gun in the hands of his informal assassins.



'HOELZ WAS KILLED BY THE OGPU' Three recent character studies of Gen. Walter Krivitsky, whose mysterious death is branded as a

Miss LaFollette  
Says Ex-Spy  
Was Hounded  
Asserts Krivitsky  
Knew He Was  
in Deadly Peril

SKEPTIC

If Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky killed himself, he was "hounded" to it by the OGPU, Suzanne La Follette, cousin of Gen. Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, declared today.

It was to Miss La Follette, a well-known magazine writer and a family friend of the Krivitskys, that one of the three notes found beside his body was addressed.

Seated in her suite at the Hotel Chelsea, 7th ave. and W. 23rd st., she appeared obviously shaken as she said:

"I'm reluctant to believe he took his own life. He was deeply in love with his wife and child and I know, too, that he told at least two people that some day he would be murdered and it would be made to look like a suicide."

### CAPABLE OF MUCH.

"Do you believe it was murder?" she was asked.

She puffed at a cigarette nervously, and lifted her shoulders helplessly.

"How do I definitely know what it was?" she asked. "But these



# Exposed by Krivitsky



ARS I  
murder

IN AUSTRIA THAN LIBERTY IN THE SOVIET UNION  
er by his friends. Among the motives for  
believed, was Krivitsky's expose of Soviet

ON' 'I ORGANIZED CZECH RAIL STRIKE'  
activities both here and abroad. The quotations above  
are excerpts from his magazine articles.

without knocking at the Unschlichts' door. In the dead of night I was awakened by a noise in the corridor outside.

It must be the OGPU coming for me, I thought.

But they did not come to my door. As I opened it I faced Max's wife, Regina, tears streaming down her cheeks, terror in her eyes.

"They took Max away! They took Max away!" was all she could say.

### 350,000 ARRESTED.

Within the first five months of 1937 350,000 political arrests were made by the OGPU, according to official figures disclosed to me by the chief of the special section in charge of the purge.

In the midst of this tidal wave of arrests and executions... there were those among my associates who doubted that I would be allowed to leave the country...

About the middle of May I ran into an old acquaintance who had served as Soviet military attache in Rumania. He was a towering and jolly fellow whose sense of humor did not desert him even now.

He stopped in his tracks when he saw me on the street.

"Am I seeing things, or is this Walter? What, they haven't arrested you yet? Never mind; don't feel hurt. They'll get around to you soon enough," and he roared with laughter.

But on May 22, the day when the fate of War Commissar Voroshilov himself was hanging in

a dangerous enemy to be "liquidated," for Stalin does not permit agents to leave his service. Spiegelglass became very excited. His words left little doubt in my mind that my own fate depended upon my conduct that night. To his insistent suggestion that I take a hand in organizing the "solution" of the Reiss case, so as to establish my own loyalty in the eyes of Yezhov and Stalin, I finally replied that I would have nothing to do with any such undertaking.

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I had before me now the choice between a bullet in the Lubianka from Stalin's formal executioners, and, outside Russia, a rain of bullets from a sub-machine gun in the hands of his informal assassins.

I appealed to M. Dormoy, the French Socialist Minister of the Interior, revealing my identity and soliciting the protection of his government. In my appeal to him I referred to my Soviet service from 1919 to 1937, and continued:

"I know that a price has been put on my head. The assassins are after me, and they will not spare even my wife or child. I

Continued on Page 9, Column 1.

## 'They'll Get Me This Year,' Krivitsky Said

"They'll get me this year!"

With those prophetic words, the man who once headed the dread Soviet Russian military intelligence in Europe forecast his doom a few weeks ago in New York.

Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky knew even as he was buying furniture for his New York home and planning to become a useful American citizen, that Stalin's OGPU was drawing its dread network around him.

So as he was talking to Boris Shub, his friend and magazine collaborator in Shub's apartment at 10 Monroe st., Knickerbocker Village, six weeks ago, Krivitsky said: **DESPAIRED OF ESCAPE.**

"I haven't any hope of escape. None."

Shub, who also acted as translator for Krivitsky, in recalling that conversation, said his friend had absolutely no intention of taking his own life.

"If he did die by his own hand, which I think unlikely, he actually

was a victim of the OGPU," Shub said. "Their constant hounding and the day-to-day terror which they use against their victims might have taken effect at last."

### FEARS FOR WIFE AND SON.

"Krivitsky was determined to fight Communism to his last breath. He had even been invited by the British Government to come to London and work for them against the OGPU and Hitler's Gestapo."

Fear that the OGPU might have marked 38-year-old Antonia Krivitsky and the son, Alex, for their next victims kept Shub from revealing their whereabouts in New York.

"From what I know of Stalin's OGPU, their lives are none too secure at this very moment," Shub declared.

## in Dear Peril

If Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky killed himself, he was "hounded" to it by the OGPU. Suzanne La Follette, cousin of Sen. Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, declared today.

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### CAPABLE OF MUCH.

"Do you believe it was murder?" she was asked.

She puffed at a cigarette nervously, and lifted her shoulders helplessly.

"How do I definitely know what it was?" she asked. "But these people"—her voice was bitter—"these people are capable of a great deal. My feeling is this: If it is a suicide, then it is a murder. He was hounded and hounded..."

Krivitsky, she said, knew that Hans Brusse—described as one of Russia's "deadliest secret agents"—was in New York looking for him, and revealed that two otherwise unidentified men about a year ago walked up to a woman friend of the Krivitskys on the street with a polite:

"Mrs. Krivitsky?"

"The woman told them she wasn't Mrs. Krivitsky and started to walk away," Miss La Follette said. "But they began trailing her. Walter became quite nervous then and I understand was guarded for several days by FBI men. ... It was about that time, too, that Walter met three OGPU agents in New York and they warned him:

"Stay out of the midtown section of the city."

Krivitsky's visit to Washington, Miss La Follette said, was "something of a surprise."

"I saw him in New York only a day before he left. He didn't tell me he was leaving. I thought at first that was unusual. I think he would have told me he was going to Washington if his mind were definitely made up."

She said she met Krivitsky in 1939, when he first came to the United States. She was then secretary of the commission headed by Professor John Dewey to investigate the Moscow trials. She said:

"I thought he'd have interesting things to tell and so we were introduced to one another. Since that time I've been a good friend of the family."



SUZANNE LaFOLLE Krivitsky "Was Houn-

## Edison Appe For Econom

TRENTON, Feb. 11.—Gov son last night called upon Jersey State officials and ployes for greater economy t ernment than in previous warning that a budget is n mandate to spend.

In his annual budget messa the Legislature, the Gov submitted recommendations the appropriation of \$40,662. from the general State fun the next fiscal year begi July 1, and \$49,537,356.89 the State highway fund fo present calendar year.

## Ex-Governor Moore Leaves for Ariz

Former Governor A. H. Moore, of New Jersey, whose is in Jersey City, left last r for Phoenix, Ariz., where he spend a vacation of about a mo Moore said he has no desir return to public life.



WASHINGTON

CITY NEWS

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

FEB 12 5 44 PM '31

THE BODY OF A MAN KNOWN AS WALTER POREF, ALIAS SAMUEL GINSBERG, WAS FOUND IN THE BELLEVUE HOTEL TODAY. A CERTIFICATE OF SUICIDE WAS ISSUED BY THE CORONER.

OFFICERS WERE UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER THE DEAD MAN WAS GENERAL WALTER G. KRIVITSKY, A FORMER CHIEF OF THE SOVIET ARMY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. IN NEW YORK, KRIVITSKY'S ATTORNEY SAID THE MAN WAS KRIVITSKY.

ACCORDING TO POLICE, THE BODY WAS FOUND BY A CHAMBERMAID THIS MORNING. THERE WAS A GUNSHOT WOUND IN THE HEAD, THEY SAID.

2/10--W0537P

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FEB 13 8 58 AM '31

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WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gandy

FEB 10 5 39 PM '41  
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FBI  
COMMUNICATIONS

NEW YORK--GENERAL WALTER G. KRIVITSKY, WHO WROTE A SERIES OF MAGAZINE ARTICLES EXPOSING ALLEGED COMMUNIST WORLD INTRIGUE BASED ON INFORMATION GATHERED WHILE HE WAS A GENERAL OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OF THE SOVIET ARMY, WAS MURDERED IN HIS WASHINGTON HOTEL, HIS ATTORNEY SAID TODAY.  
2/10--W0516P

ADD KRIVITSKY, NEW YORK.  
THE ATTORNEY, LOUIS WALDMAN, SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY WASHINGTON POLICE THAT WALTER PORCE, ALIAS SAMUEL GINSBERG, HAD BEEN SLAIN AND THAT HE WAS "POSITIVE" THIS WAS HIS CLIENT, GENERAL KRIVITSKY.  
HE ADDED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THE MURDER WAS THE WORK OF THE G.P.U., THE SOVIET SECRET POLICE. HE HAD NO FURTHER DETAILS.  
WALDMAN SAID HE WAS LEAVING AT ONCE FOR THE CAPITAL.  
2/10--W0518P

2/10/41

Memo. Mr. E. A. Tamm

CHC

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# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

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

FEB 10 1950

ADD SUICIDE.

NUMEROUS PAPERS WRITTEN IN RUSSIAN, TOGETHER WITH A PASSPORT INDICATING USE OF AN ASSUMED NAME, WERE FOUND IN THE ROOM, POLICE SAID.

THEY ADDED THAT THE NAME "POREF" APPEARED ON SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS.  
2/10--W0558P

ADD SUICIDE.

POLICE REPORTS SAID THAT IN THE MAN'S ROOM WERE NUMEROUS PAPERS WRITTEN IN RUSSIAN, TOGETHER WITH A PASSPORT WHICH INDICATED THE USE OF AN ASSUMED NAME. THE NAME OF POREF WAS ON SOME OF THE PAPERS, POLICE SAID.

POLICE SAID THAT THE NAME OF THE NEW YORK ATTORNEY, LOUIS WALDMAN, WAS ON SOME PAPERS FOUND AMONG HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS. WALDMAN WAS NOTIFIED AND SUBSEQUENTLY SAID IN NEW YORK THAT THE DEAD MAN WAS KRIVITSKY.

THE HOTEL MANAGER REPORTED THAT THE MAN ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL AT 6 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT, REGISTERING UNDER THE NAME OF POREF. HE SAID THAT SO FAR AS THE HOTEL KNEW HE HAD RECEIVED NO CALLERS. THE HOTEL IS THE BELLEVUE, WHICH IS NEAR THE CAPITOL.

THE DOOR OF THE ROOM WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, THE MANAGER REPORTED, AND NO ONE WAS KNOWN TO HAVE HEARD THE SHOT WHICH KILLED HIM. IT WAS NOT DETERMINED IMMEDIATELY WHETHER THE PISTOL WHICH FIRED THE FATAL BULLET HAD BEEN FOUND NEAR THE BODY.

THE CORONER SAID THAT THE MAN DIED IN THE HOTEL ROOM THE BODY WAS TAKEN TO THE CITY MORGUE.

THE FBI REPORTED IT HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE CASE.

THE FBI CATEGORICALLY DENIED A REPORT THAT KRIVITSKY HAD BEEN WORKING FOR IT.

2/10--W0602P 20-0

## GEN. KRIVITSKY DIES

As it must to all enemies of the OGPU, violent death came this week to Walter G. Krivitsky, the apostate general of Tsar Stalin's secret army.

Was it murder? Or was it, as it seemed, suicide?

Possibly the questions will not be answered positively, for the known evidence, as these lines are written, is entirely circumstantial.

In the manner of the better detective thrillers, the body of Krivitsky was found in a hotel room, with the door latched on the inside; with a bullet hole in his head; with the pistol on the floor; with suicide notes near at hand, apparently in Krivitsky's writing.

The circumstances appeared to be entirely conclusive. But the OGPU is reputed to be masterful at arranging circumstances. And only a month before his death Krivitsky had told a friend:

"Don't you ever believe that I will be a suicide. They have shot everybody else, and they are going to shoot me."

From those basic facts two different conclusions might be drawn:

That the diabolically clever OGPU finally succeeded in erasing its most dangerous enemy, or

That the brilliant Krivitsky, broken by long years of fearful vigilance, decided to end his life in a way that would cause the greatest possible embarrassment for his old enemies.

Take your choice.

\* \* \*

Krivitsky's testimony, first in the pages of the Saturday Evening Post and later before the Dies committee, was greeted with a great caterwauling in the American communist press. 'Tain't so, said the writers. 'Tain't so, echoed the masses of Stalin-lovers and fellow travelers. But in all their indignant writhings they failed to refute a single significant section of the Krivitsky story.

By the failure of the rebuttal, by the implicit corroboration of other refugees from the wrath of Stalin, it seems reasonable to believe that the basic points of the Krivitsky testimony are now established: That he was once a leader of the soviet secret police; that he was a witness to the great blood purges of 1936 and 1937; and that he was obliged to run for his life after his split with Stalin.

If those are, indeed, facts, then it follows that Gen. Krivitsky was not play-acting when he said the Stalin agents were on his trail, when he said "a dozen times in the last year" that he expected soon to be liquidated, when he reported that the sinister Stalin agent known as "Max" had reached New York.

If those are all facts, then the reasonable presumption is that Gen. Krivitsky was murdered on Monday last—either by Stalin or by the fear of Stalin.

The brief illumination of the Russian technique afforded by the Krivitsky tragedy should not surprise any American. We have known all along that the OGPU—or the NKVD, as it is now called—is operating in this country and we have ample evidence from many creditable sources as to its methods. We also know, without the testimony of the late Mr. Krivitsky, that the American communist party is a tool of Stalin, that it is supported by him, and that its "party line" is determined, not by its American members, but by its Russian bankers.

It's an old, familiar story. And not only do we Americans tolerate the existence on our soil of a foreign political party and a foreign secret army, but, strange as it seems, we are now engaged in a diplomatic attempt to make friends with the country which was guilty of those insults to our sovereignty.

Our state department is actually trying to appease Stalin, to lure him to our side—the side of decency and good will—in the world conflict.

Perhaps the late Mr. Krivitsky, on the other side of life's curtain, can smile at that.

Evening World Herald  
Omaha, Nebraska  
February 11, 1941

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100-11146-A

# 'Another Trotsky Case' Krivitsky's Attorney Seeks FBI Action

By United Press

Friends of the late Walter G. Krivitsky insisted today that he was assassinated by an agent of the Soviet secret police, and clamored for an FBI investigation.

Krivitsky's story of his past as head of the Western European Division of the secret police, a director of spies and assassins, is so well documented and detailed that few doubt it. He was found with a bullet in his head in his room in the Bellevue hotel at 15 E. 1st nw, opposite Union Station.

## SPOTTED AN AGENT

All evidence points to suicide, but Krivitsky himself had described the methods of GPU assassinations who often made their victims appear suicides. And only last week he saw in New York City a man he recognized, thru previous associations, as one of the GPU's most clever assassins.

That man was trailing him, according to Krivitsky's attorney, Louis Waldman of New York City, who today formally asks the FBI to take over because "it is another Trotsky case." Leon Trotsky, associate of Lenin and a power in Russia until exiled by Stalin, was assassinated in Mexico City last summer.

Krivitsky's wife insists he was assassinated. So does Boris Shub, his interpreter. They all say that for more than a year Krivitsky had lived in fear of his life.

## 3 REASONS FOR SUSPICION

Mr. Waldman listed three reasons why police should not close the case as a suicide, but should seek an assassin.

1. Questionable authenticity of the "suicide" notes. He said the GPU has specimens of Krivitsky's handwriting "in every language" and that the GPU is recognized as "expert at forgery."

2. Krivitsky talked to him in New York last week of buying a farm in Virginia for himself and his family. Mr. Waldman said "all of his plans were of a man not inclined to self-destruction, suicide or even pessimism, but of a man arranging to start a new life."

Mr. Waldman said Krivitsky was convinced he could no longer live safely in New York and was especially eager to get away from industrial centers where GPU agents center their operation. He wanted the Virginia farm as a hide-away from his pursuers, Mr. Waldman said.

3. Within the past three weeks, Krivitsky had been informed that a special GPU agent named Hans had appeared in New York. Mr. Waldman said Krivitsky told him the man was a "dread killer" and his life (Krivitsky's) was not safe.

## STRICTLY POLICE CASE

FBI and State Department officials said they plan no investigation. State Department spokesmen said it is strictly a case for the police.

Washington police had written the case off as a suicide, but reopened it for investigation. They asked Charlottesville, Va., authorities to find a man named "Dobertov," who, according to one of the notes found in Krivitsky's room in Krivitsky's handwriting, provided him with the revolver that ended his life.

Krivitsky's body was found yesterday morning. Beside the body was a .28-caliber revolver. In the room were the three notes, one in Russian addressed to his wife; another in English to Mr. Waldman, the third in German to "Dear Suzanne"—identified by Mr. Waldman as Suzanne La Follette, New York writer and cousin of Sen. Robert M. La Follette (Prog., Wis.).

Suzanne La Follette is well known in New York literary and Trotskyite circles. She formerly was editor of the now defunct magazine Freeman, and was contributing editor of The Nation. She was a member of a committee which in 1938 held a "trial" in Mexico City of Soviet charges that Trotsky had plotted to overthrow the Soviet regime. Trotsky testified and was "acquitted."

## SIGNATURES THE SAME

Ira Gullicson, metropolitan police handwriting expert, said there is no doubt the signature on the hotel register and the "suicide" notes were written by the same man. He said Krivitsky apparently wrote the note to his wife last because, unlike the other two, it showed nervous stress.

(To his wife he wrote in Russian, addressed to his wife Tanya and his son, Alek):

"Dear Tanya and Dear Alek:

"It is very difficult. 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 Alek yet where his father has 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 with him.

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

FEB 11 1941  
WASHINGTON Daily News

## WENT TO GET GUN

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

"Yours, Vela.

"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 firearms."

[In German, to Suzanne La Follette,

New York writer and second cousin of Sen. Robert M. La Follette (P., Wis.), he wrote:

"Dear Suzanne:

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

"Yours, Walter.

"I also think about your brother and Dorothy."

## LETTER TO WALDMAN

In English, addressed to Mr. Waldman, he wrote:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:

"My wife and my boy will need your help. Please do for them what you can. (Signed) Walter Krivitsky.

"I went to Virginia because I know that there I can get a gun. If my friends have trouble, please, Mr. Waldman, help them."

All three notes were written on plain paper headed only by "Charlottesville"—Charlottesville, Va., where Mr. Waldman said Krivitsky planned to seek a haven for his wife and family.

## PASS KEY POSSIBLE

The door to Krivitsky's fifth floor room was locked, but anyone with a pass key could have opened it. A chambermaid did so when she received no response to her knock. She called hotel officials after finding the body.

100-11146-A

Other means of access to the room are discounted. There is no ledge on the outside of the building along which an assassin could have crept to enter the window. Nor is there a fire escape. Possibility of anyone having descended to the window by a rope from a room above is not believed likely.

J. B. Matthews, special investigator for Rep. Martin Dies (D., Tex.), who knew Krivitsky well and identified the body, said Trotsky told him before his death that he feared both he and Krivitsky would be assassinated.

#### FOUND FULLY CLOTHED

He did not know whether the Dies Committee would investigate his death, but Rep. Dies is en route here from Chicago to help steer a resolution extending the life of his committee through the House today.

Krivitsky registered for a \$2.50-a-day at the Bellevue Hotel Sunday night as "Walter Poref," which he frequently used. "Poref" is his wife's maiden name. Hotel attaches said he apparently had no visitors. The night clerk thought he seemed nervous when he registered.

Hotel officials found his body—fully clothed except for coat and shoes—on the bed. Coroner MacDonald said death occurred "some time during the night." He issued a certificate of suicide but recalled it after Mr. Waldman made his charges.

#### SOUGHT FBI HELP

Only one shell of the revolver had been discharged and that bullet had entered Krivitsky's brain thru the right temple. Police could locate no one in the hotel who heard the shot.

Mr. Waldman said his client had sought his help to obtain protection from the FBI, which denied that it had been in communication with him at any time.

Krivitsky first came to this country in November, 1938, on a visitor's visa from Paris. Since then his visa has been extended several times.

Born Samuel Ginsberg, he became prominent in this country in 1939 when he told the Dies Committee that he had broken a 20-year association with Stalin in 1937 after the Soviet purge and, in consequence, feared assassination by OGPU agents. He had written a series of articles for the Saturday Evening Post purporting to expose world-wide Communist intrigues.

When his magazine articles appeared in the spring and summer of 1939, there was some difficulty about renewal of the visa, Mr. Waldman said, but it was straightened out and after that he went to Canada where he remained until October, 1940. Since then he and his family have been living in New York City.



Krivitsky.



Mr. Waldman with reporters.



Mr. Matthews talks with a reporter.

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 .....



...

# Red-Nazi Links

## Told in Articles

By Krivitsky

Network of OGPU  
Spying, Plots and  
Purges Revealed

Continued from Page 3

have often risked my life for my cause, but I do not wish to die now for nothing."

### EVEN TAILED HERE.

Even in the United States Stalin's long arm of vengeance has tried to reach me.

On Tuesday, March 7, 1939, about four in the afternoon, in company with one of the editors of a New York labor paper, I went to a restaurant on 42nd st. in the vicinity of Times Square. Fifteen minutes after our arrival three men sat down at a table next to us.

I recognized one of them. In our secret service he was known by the nickname of Jim, but his real name was Sergei Basoff. Originally a sailor in the Crimea, a veteran agent of the Soviet Military Intelligence, Basoff had been sent to the United States years ago to observe as a permanent agent here, and for this purpose had become an American citizen.

### NAMES BORIS BYKOV.

Knowing the ways of Stalin, I had no doubt that he had entrusted the job of organizing a hunt for me on this side of the Atlantic to Colonel Boris Bykov. I knew that Bykov was in charge of the Soviet Military Intelligence in the United States, having been assigned to America, in

# WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO.



Knowing the ways of Stalin, I had no doubt that he had entrusted the job of organizing a hunt for me on the side of the Atlantic to Colonel Boris Bykov. I knew that Bykov was in charge of the Soviet Military Intelligence in the United States, having been assigned to America in the summer of 1934.

My companion and I rose to leave the restaurant hastily, but Bykov caught up with me at the cashier's desk. He greeted me in a most friendly way.

"Did you come to shoot me?" I asked.

"No, indeed, this is unofficial. I just want to have a friendly chat with you."

I knew that Gertrude Schindler and Hans Thirmer (named by Kriwitsky in connection with the assassination of Stalin) had begun their work with these same friendly chats.

**TOLD BASOFF TO GO.**

However, I let Basoff walk with me to a nearby publishing house.

"I told Basoff that I did not want to see him again and thought it might be best for him to clear out of the country."

I stayed at the publishing house until long after he had left.

**STRANGE RELATIONS.**

Since 1919 the relations between Soviet Russia and Germany have never been what they seemed.

They have been characterized by secret military and political ties aimed at the destruction of the Versailles system and, ultimately, of the British Empire and France.

I worked with the Communists for the first time in 1920, during the Russo-Polish war. I was then attached to the Soviet Military Intelligence for the western front, which had its headquarters in Smolensk.

**MEMBER OF THE POLISH COMRADES.**

During the Russo-Polish war...member of the Polish Comrades. Petya aided us in organizing saboteurs in creating diversions and in impeding the arrival of reinforcements from France.

**HEATED FRENCH ARMS.**

We organized a strike in Danzig to prevent the landing of French munitions for the Polish army. I

The life struggle rages ruthlessly in Darkest Africa. But this is really only a playful flight staged by lions enjoying a new freedom in the open.

# Red Paper Rails Kriwitsky Here. Fearing Same Fate

Readers of the Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party in this country, learned of the death of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky today—that is, if they looked long and hard enough. The big news of the day had a one-column head on Page 1 and the story stated that Krivitsky was a "rascal."

In parenthetical inserts the Red "newspaper" wrote Stalin's arch-enemy's obituary by calling him a "rascal" and a "Social-Democratic Red-baiter."

Stalin will like that—as he liked the Daily Worker's aloofness about his "marriage" to Hitler, and the Daily Worker's headlines which screamed that 3,000,000 murdered Poles were trying to butcher 180,000,000 peace-loving Russians.

**Lenox School Reception**

Convinced that her husband murdered by OGPU agents may seek her as their next victim, Mrs. Krivitsky was in New York today, under the protective custody of half a dozen men—likely friends who volunteered for the task.

With her is the Krivitsky 17-year-old son, Alex. "He could not have killed himself," friends quoted her as joking, ever and over again. "He could not have seen to watching her."

"He told me he went to see Ben Martin Dugg and because he thought he might be able to find us a home somewhere in Washington where we could escape the OGPU."

**"NEVER HAD A GUN."**

"He never—not at any time—had a gun. I know it. Oh, he was trained and our apartment was watched—I know that. They were after him. They were after him."

Only a month ago, Mrs. Krivitsky revealed her husband's story.

"African Plains" at the Bronx Zoo. Other sit by looking rather he open space for the lions is surrounded by a great mob.

was the telephone and learned that tall, blond-haired woman, of Russian parentage, kept to herself and had very little to do with anything. Krivitsky lived there under the name of Ford.

Mrs. Krivitsky, whose first name is Tanya, was born in Leningrad. She speaks excellent German but can manage only broken English. She learned of her husband's death late yesterday afternoon when Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney, visited her and told her their last apartment was in the Bronx, where Mrs. Krivitsky, a the tragic news.

**SPEAKS GERMAN.**

Their last apartment was in the Bronx, where Mrs. Krivitsky, a the tragic news.

**Travel**

**Travel**



#### STRANGE RELATIONS.

Since 1918, relations between Soviet Russia and Germany have never been what they seemed.

They have been characterized by secret military and political ties aimed at the destruction of the Versailles system and, ultimately, of the British Empire and France.

I worked with the Comintern for the first time in 1920, during the Russo-Polish war. I was then attached to the Soviet Military Intelligence for the western front, which had its headquarters in Smolensk.

During the Russo-Polish war ...members of the Polish Communist Party aided us in organizing sabotage, in creating diversion and in impeding the arrival of munitions from France.

#### HALTED FRENCH ARMS.

We organized a strike in Danzig to prevent the landing of French munitions for the Polish army. I traveled to Warsaw, Cracow, Lemberg, German and Czech Silesia and to Vienna organizing strikes to stop arms shipments.

I organized a successful strike in the Czech railroad junction of Oderberg, persuading the Czech trainmen to walk out rather than handle Skoda munitions for the Poland of Pilsudski.

The years of 1928-32 marked the life of the first Five-Year Plan. They were the years of our heaviest purchases abroad of machinery and materials for the gigantic drive to industrialize Soviet Russia.

One of the major consequences of that drive was an acute shortage of foreign exchange in Moscow. And this led to what may be called Stalin's Five-Year Counterfeiting Plan, a bold experiment launched with a printing of about \$10,000,000 in bogus United States currency.

#### COUNTERFEITING PLANT.

There was a special Valuta Department organized by the OGPU, which employed every conceivable method of terror to pump hidden foreign currency and other treasures out of the population.

The headquarters of the counterfeiting industry was located in the deepest recesses of the Soviet secret service. The distributors of the fake currency were Soviet agents.

Came January, 1933. I was

Waldman, as a Social-Democratic Red-baiter."

Stalin will like that—as he liked the Daily Worker's aloofness about his "marriage" to Hitler, and the Daily Worker's headlines which screamed that 3,000,000 murderous Finns were trying to butcher 180,000,000 peace-loving Russians.

#### Lenox School Reception

# RIVKISKY'S DEATH LAID TO RED TERROR

## Held Victim of 'Mental Murder'

Believe 'Judas' May Have  
Hounded Him to Suicide

By SYD SOHRM  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 11. — General Walter G.  
Krivitsky, arch-enemy of Josef Stalin,

FINAL  
COMPLETE  
LATEST STOCKS

New York  
ENTERPRISE  
Daily American  
AND  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE  
RICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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FEARED 'SUICIDE' TRICK

Must  
Axis,  
Conant

New York Evening  
Journal American  
2-11-41

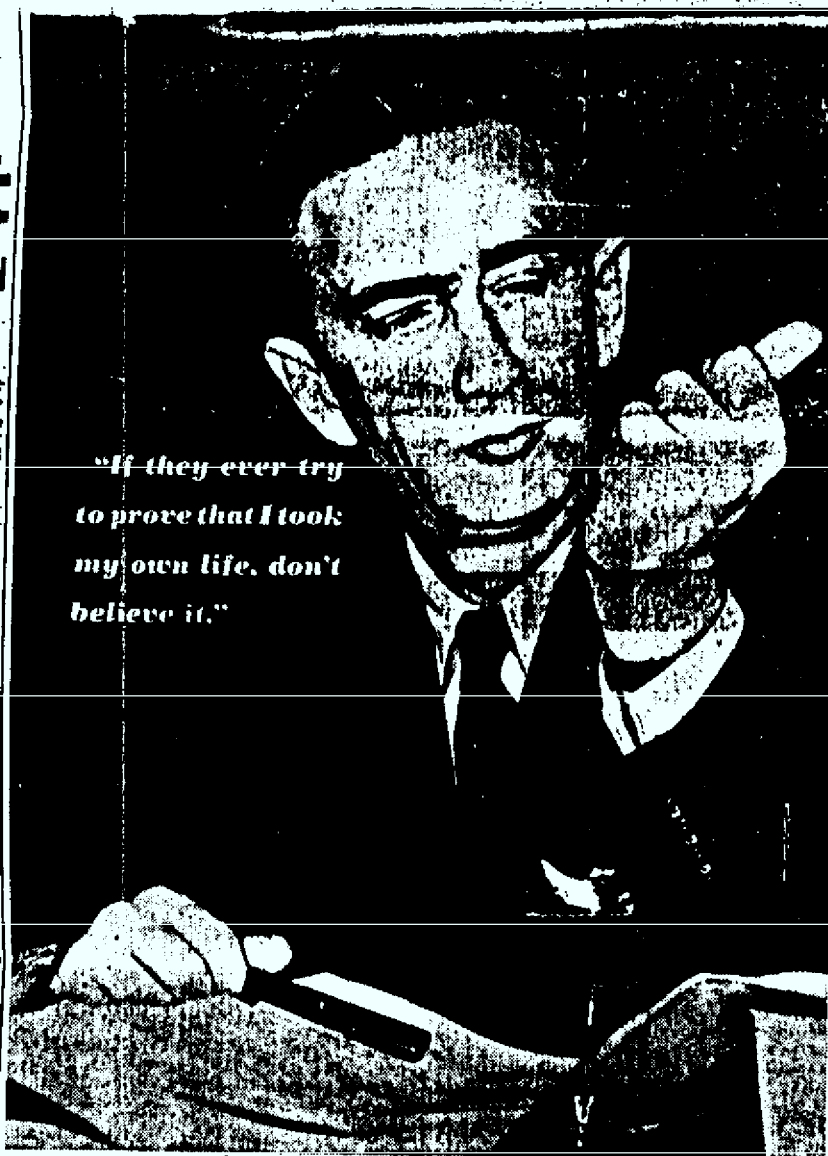
# Axis, Conant

## ad Backs Full British Victory

11 (By United Press).—  
ant of Harvard University  
United States pledge itself  
insure defeat of the Axis

ration's rebuttal witnesses  
supporting the British-aid bill  
before the Senate Foreign Rela-  
tions Committee, Conant said  
that if the United States follows  
the advice of those who would  
limit British aid or advocate a  
negotiated peace "the country  
will be entering on a policy

*"If they ever try  
to prove that I took  
my own life, don't  
believe it."*



Before Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky died, he was accused of being a spy.

## Believe 'Judas' May Have Hounded Him to Suicide

By SYD BOEHM.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—General Walter G. Krivitsky, arch-enemy of Josef Stalin, was a victim of "mental murder" at the hands of the vengeful Red OGPU, the Dies Committee concluded today.

Members of the committee, before which General Krivitsky gave sensational testimony, pointed out that a "Red Judas," identified as a Soviet killer named Hans Bruesse, had hounded his victim over two continents and tracked him in New York and Washington.

The fear of assassination, it was explained, actually may have led the General to put a bullet in his own brain.

Yet, pending further investigation of the strange case, Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald held up his certificate of suicide and conducted an autopsy to determine if the General had been poisoned or drugged before being shot.

## Call 'Suicide Setting' a Blind

And Inspector Barnard Thompson of the Washington police declared that, while the case seemed to be a suicide, "we are not passing up any possibilities."

A State Department spokesman declared flatly that the General was murdered by OGPU agents and the setting was craftily arranged to make his death appear a suicide. This was the view also held by members of the General's family and his friends.

The one-time director of Soviet spying in Western Europe, it was declared, had no financial reason for suicide, since he was well-off; had planned to buy a farm in Virginia, taken out a driver's license and arranged for a gun permit in New York City.

## Charges Police 'Bungled'

Although J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal

country



Before Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky died, he answered his foes. He warned that he might be the victim of a faked suicide,

arranged by Stalin's OGPU. This picture was taken when he testified before the Dies Committee on Red spy work.

**Olav Returning to U. S.**  
HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 11 (UP).—Crown Prince Olav of Norway is expected to leave for the United States today. He visited the Liverpool-Lunenburg Norwegian gunnery school yesterday.

## 3 Gas Blasts Kill 5 Philadelphians

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 11 (By United Press).—Three gas main explosions destroyed nearly a block of homes in a South Philadelphia Italian section today, leaving at least five persons dead and sending 40 others to hospitals.

Several other persons were reported missing and feared buried in the debris.

A patrolman, James Clark, was among those killed. He had entered a home in a hunt for survivors following the first explosion when a second blast leveled the structure.

The bodies of three persons, mangled beyond recognition, were found in the debris of an adjoining dwelling.

The fifth body found was that of a small boy with a toy clutched tightly in his seared arms.

All available ambulances in the city were summoned to take the injured to hospitals.

The second and third explosions came after rescue crews had reached the scene. The blasted homes became a mass of flames a few moments later.

The first blast occurred as most of the residents in the area still were in their beds.

The explosions shook a wide section of the city and were felt as far away as southern New Jersey.

Three housewives and several children were reported among those missing. Many firemen were injured by bricks falling from

determine if the General had been poisoned or drugged before being shot.

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The one-time director of Soviet spying in Western Europe, it was declared, had no financial reason for suicide, since he was well-off; had planned to buy a farm in Virginia, taken out a driver's license and arranged for a gun permit in New York City.

## Charges Police 'Bungled'

Although J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said his organization was conducting no inquiry, Louis Waldman, attorney for the General, made a formal demand for such action and charged the police already had "bungled" the case.

Waldman asserted:

"General Krivitsky did not commit suicide. He was murdered by the OGPU. Only last week, he told me he was aware he was being shadowed and that his life was in great danger. He had particular reason for his fears because of the sudden appearance in this city of one of the deadliest agents of the OGPU."

It was, Waldman asserted, another Trotsky case, recalling the circumstances under which Leon

Continued on Page 2, Column 1.

## THE QUESTION before the house

One question always arises before a house is bought... financing! That's another reason for the Journal-American's 1941 NEW HOMES EXHIBIT at 1834 Broadway, Columbus Circle. Trained F.H.A. experts are on hand to explain how home ownership is now within the reach of almost all incomes. Drop in today!

Admission FREE!

### THE WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warmer tonight and tomorrow.

Sun rises, 6:56 a. m.; sun sets, 5:26 p. m. High tide at Governors Island, 7:40 a. m. and 8:05 p. m.

### HOURLY TEMPERATURES

9 a. m.	32	7 a. m.	32
8 a. m.	33	6 a. m.	34
7 a. m.	34	5 a. m.	34
6 a. m.	35	4 a. m.	35
5 a. m.	35	3 a. m.	35
4 a. m.	35	2 a. m.	35
3 a. m.	35	1 a. m.	35
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 Mr. Clegg.....  
 Mr. Foxworth.....  
 Mr. Nathan.....  
 Mr. Ladd.....  
 Mr. Glavin.....  
 Mr. Nichols.....  
 Mr. Hendon.....  
 Mr. Rosen.....  
 Mr. Tracy.....  
 Mr. Gandy.....

## Gen. Krivitsky Found Dead; Suicide Finding Questioned

**Notes Convince Washington Police He Shot  
Himself, but Friends Charge Former  
Ogpu Officer Was Slain by Reds**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10—General Walter G. Krivitsky, former Red Army Chief of Intelligence for Western Europe and member of Josef Stalin's tight inner circle, was found dead on his bed in a fifth floor room of the Hotel Bellevue near Union Station, early today with a .38 calibre bullet in his right temple. The death weapon lay near his right hand.

Police and the coroner tentatively set the death down as suicide. They disclosed the contents of three notes found in the room that seemed to establish suicidal intent. The handwriting, they said, obviously matched Krivitsky's writing in the hotel register. Friends of Krivitsky, however charged the general had been murdered by Stalin's "Red Judases"—men who had worked with Krivitsky when he was in Russia.

In New York tonight, Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky disclosed that her husband had left that city on Wednesday on two missions. He was to see Representative Martin Dies, before whose committee he had already given much startling information about Red spy activities in the United States, and he was to seek refuge for his family in Virginia. He had hoped, Mrs. Krivitsky said, that by moving his family—herself and their 7-year-old son, Alexander—out of New York, he might elude the Ogpu assassins.

Louis Waldman, the dead man's attorney, told the police here that

Krivitsky had moved in dread of the "Red Judas" assassins since December, 1937, when he remained the only Soviet general to survive the widespread Red Army purge. Only last week, the attorney insisted, he and his client got word that "one of the deadliest agents of the Ogpu" was in New York, looking for the former Red general.

Mr. Waldman said he would insist on a thorough investigation of Krivitsky's death—"something beyond routine investigation."

Krivitsky had moved from one country to another, had crossed oceans and sought out isolated residence from the time he fled Stalin's anger. He had seen one friend after another, including several members of his own branch of the service and of the Ogpu, trapped and left for dead in Switzerland, in France and in the United States. When J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies Committee, identified the body in the morgue tonight he recalled that Krivitsky had told him:

"If they ever try to prove that I took my own life, don't believe it."

Stalin's wrath against the exile increased last August when Krivitsky, in a series of articles in The Saturday Evening Post, disclosed in detail the inner workings of the Red system in neighboring countries and in the United States. In these articles he wrote "Stalin's

CLIPPING FROM THE  
N. Y. TIMES

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100-11146

sub A



long arm of vengeance tries to reach me even in the United States."

Bernard Thompson, chief of Washington detectives, maintained tonight that he found no evidence of murder.

Inspector Thompson said that both the door to Krivitsky's room and the room window 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 stains from the wound. The notes indicated, according to the police, that Krivitsky had taken his own life.

Krivitsky had registered at 6 o'clock Sunday night as "Walter Porel." This was the name, according to his attorney, that he had decided to adopt as his legal name in the United States. Application for legal permission to use this name was to have been submitted to the Supreme Court in New York City. Actually, Krivitsky was born Samuel Ginsberg, the son of middle-class merchants in the Russian Ukraine, near the Polish border on June 28, 1899.

Chief Thompson said the coroner estimated that Krivitsky had been dead about six hours when the body was found at 9:30 A. M. Thelma Jackson, a Negro chambermaid, discovered it. She had passed the door several times in the course of her morning duties on the fifth floor and had knocked each time she passed without getting an answer. When she finally got in, she saw Krivitsky sprawled out with the automatic pistol near his hand. His shoes were by the bed, but his socks were still on his feet.

Detective Sergeant D. Guest, when he reached the hotel, questioned other persons with rooms on the fifth floor. None, he said, could recall hearing a shot. Hotel employees could not remember that "Mr. Porel" had left his room after he came in at 6 P. M.

"All the physical evidence points to suicide," Thompson said. "If we get any further information that indicates it is any thing but suicide we shall certainly look into it."

#### Three Notes Found in Room

Coroner MacDonald made public the text of the three notes found in Mr. Krivitsky's room. One was in Russian, another in German and the other in English. All were



#### FOUND DEAD IN HOTEL

General Walter G. Krivitsky

Times Wide World, 1939

possible. I love you, my only one. "It is difficult to write, but think about me and you will understand that I have to go. Don't tell Alek yet where his father is going. 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 sins are big. I see you, Tanya and Alek. I embrace you.

"Yours,

"VELLA.

"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 firearms."

The note in German was as follows:

"Dear Suzanne:

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

"Yours,

"WALTER.

"P.S. I also think about your

but resigned himself to eventual death at the hands of the OGPU; that he had sufficient funds to carry him on at least two to three years as a result of his writings, which nullifies any thought that he might have feared poverty; that he was eager to find a new home for himself and his family, which is not indicative of a man bent on destruction. When he left home last Wednesday, Mrs. Krivitsky said, he did not seem downcast or depressed.

The "brutal assassin" to whom Mr. Waldman referred, it turned out, is a Hans Bruesse. This Red agent, Krivitsky had declared in his magazine writings, had liquidated some of the general's closest friends and associates, including Ignace Reiss of the Red Secret Service, who was machine-gunned to death in September, 1939, on the Chamblandes Road outside of Lausanne, in Switzerland. In his story Krivitsky dramatically referred to this killer as "Hans, the Red Judas," because the man had killed a number of former co-workers. Operating with the killer, according to Krivitsky, was a woman agent, Gertrude Schilbach. A strand of her gray hair was found in Reiss's hand when his body was picked up on the Swiss road.

Krivitsky was informed six weeks ago, through unidentifiable channels, that Bruesse was in the United States and that his assignment was Krivitsky. The former Red general had spread this word among his friends. They all seemed to know of it tonight.

The story of Krivitsky's attempts to get out from under the shadow of an assassin reads like an E. Phillips Oppenheim thriller. He disclosed in some detail, in his writings, how he slipped through the assassins' hands in Paris and in Switzerland, and of his brushes with them in the United States. On one occasion they trailed him from a restaurant in Times Square. He took refuge in a publishing house and managed to shake them off by getting out of a side door.

Krivitsky was a small, thin man, exceedingly nervous, an incessant smoker. He wore his dark brown hair severely brushed back. His craggy eyebrows all but obscured his eyes. In public places he always seemed restless; scanned the faces of every one in the room.

When his exposés appeared in the Saturday Evening Post that magazine asked for his photograph. He apologized, saying he did not dare have it published.

#### Proved He Was Army Leader

Communists in this country charged that Krivitsky never had been an OGPU leader; they said he was a mere adventurer. Krivitsky, however, proved that he was the Russian Army leader. He testified

Krivitsky set down, "I have lived to tell the tale."

Boris Shub, who translated the Krivitsky writings into English, told reporters in New York tonight that the former military OGPU commander was not the suicidal type.

"I have worked with him and I know his temperament," Mr. Shub said. "He was too convinced of his own importance to consider suicide. Besides, he was a fatalist. He felt that the OGPU would eventually get him. He was resigned to it."

General Krivitsky, who served in the military intelligence department of the Soviet Red Army for eighteen years until November, 1937, was unknown outside high Russian Communist circles—although he had been twice decorated for espionage work—until December, 1937.

At that time, having broken finally with the Soviet Government and refused to return to Moscow from Paris, he threw himself upon the protection of the French Government.

His break with the Soviet, reported here on Dec. 7, 1937, attracting attention because it followed the disclosure that Alexander Barmine, former Soviet chargé d'affaires in Athens, would not return to Russia. General Krivitsky said he knew a price had been set on his head because of his refusal to return to Russia, but that he could not approve the Moscow trials that condemned many of his former associates as traitors and "Trotskyists."

He next came into international notice in March, 1938, when he gave an interview to a Russian émigré newspaper in Paris in connection with the death of Maxim Gorky.

Then he came to the United States, arriving here under the name of his birth, Samuel Ginsberg, having abandoned his legal Soviet name of Krivitsky. His arrival attracted no attention and he was seeking to avoid it, for he lived under the constant shadow of OGPU vengeance. He made the acquaintance of Isaac Don Levine, one-time newspaper correspondent in Moscow, and with the aid of Mr. Levine and Mr. Shub, Russian writer and translator, he prepared his memoirs in secret, working behind drawn shades.

#### Memoirs Caused a Stir

Parts of the memoirs appeared as articles in The Saturday Evening Post. They burst like an incendiary bomb on New York literary circles, then under the domination of leftist writers and critics. The first article was about "Stalin's Hand in Spain," disclosing that Russia had linked its interest in the Spanish civil war to targets of its foreign policy. Coming on top of the wave

article published in The Saturday Evening Post the previous April 29. Advertisements calling attention to the article were placed by the magazine in newspapers throughout the country.

The following October he appeared before the Dies committee to tell his story. He charged that Russian spies engaged in kidnapping and murder in the United States and said that the Soviet secret police had control of the Russian Embassies here and abroad.

Often sent abroad on confidential missions, he was dispatched in 1923 to Germany "to organize the German revolution and to prepare the man-power for the German Red Army." In May, 1933, he was called back to Moscow to head the Soviet War Industries Institute. In 1935 he was sent abroad again, as chief of military intelligence in Western Europe, a post he held until he was superseded when his allegiance became suspect in November, 1937.

He told of working with swindlers, murderers and pro-Fascists for many years without qualms, all doubts being resolved by his fanatical faith in communism. What caused him to break with Stalin, he said, was the assassination of an old friend, Ignace Reiss, by OGPU agents. This frankness led to a new storm of attack, his Communist enemies finding allies in conservative Representatives and popular critics, who argued that his former callousness impeached his testimony.

But his chief assertions found confirmation in the development of Soviet foreign policy and when his disclosures were brought out in book form in November, 1938, under the title "In Stalin's Secret Service," they were published simultaneously in England, Sweden and the Netherlands.

In recent months he had lived in self-desired obscurity, on infrequent occasions contributing an article to The New Leader, Social Democratic newspaper, discussing the background of Soviet foreign policy. He lived in a suburb with his wife and young son, coming in to town infrequently to see one of his friends or to use the public library.

He found relaxation in hiking along the Palisades or in walking across the George Washington Bridge, reading history and chatting with intimate friends of the same political beliefs. Sporadically he took up his writing, dictating for hours at a stretch to a stenographer, reciting events chiefly from memory, although occasionally looking up dates in voluminous notes and stacks of documents that he had brought from Europe.



floor and had another answer. When she finally got in, she saw Krivitsky sprawled out with the automatic pistol near his hand. His shoes were by the bed, but his socks were still on his feet.

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"All the physical evidence points to suicide," Thompson said. "If we get any further information that indicates it is anything but suicide we shall certainly look into it."

#### Three Notes Found in Room

Coroner MacDonald made public the text of the three notes found in Mr. Krivitsky's room. One was in Russian, another in German and the other in English. All were written on sheets of stationery bearing the printed address of Charlottesville, Va.

The note in English read:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:

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

"WALTER KRIVITSKY."

"P.S.: I went to Virginia because I knew there I can get a gun. If my friends should have any trouble please help them, they did not know why I bought the gun."

The note in Russian, addressed to his wife, was translated as follows:

"Dear Tanya and Alek:

"It is very difficult but I want to live very badly. But it is im-

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 sins are big. I see you, Tanya and Alek. I embrace you.

"Yours,

"VELLA.

"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 firearms."

The note in German was as follows:

"Dear Suzanne:

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

"Yours,

"WALTER.

"P.S. I also think about your brother and Dorothy."

Mr. Waldman later said the note to Suzanne was to Miss Suzanne La Follette, a New York editor, whose acquaintance he made while she was secretary of the John Dewey commission that investigated the Moscow trials.

"Dobertov" is a former political associate of Krivitsky.

Mr. Waldman refused to accept the notes as authentic.

"The case is too important to close on circumstantial evidence," he said. "The notes appear to be in his handwriting, but it must be remembered that the Ogpu had specimens of General Krivitsky's handwriting in several languages. The Ogpu is expert in forgery, including the counterfeiting of money which General Krivitsky also revealed in his articles."

Mr. Waldman said he would remain here for the present to press his plea for a continued investigation.

He added that while the notes seemed persuasive of the theory of suicide he nevertheless thought the case should not be closed.

#### Had No Pistol, Wife Says

In New York City, Mrs. Krivitsky insisted that her husband, in the first place, had never owned a pistol in the United States. This was confirmed by Mr. Waldman, who said that Krivitsky had planned to go to the New York police last day to apply for a pistol permit. He had remarked that he expected difficulty because he was not naturalized. One of his purposes in visiting Washington, incidentally, was to try to get his naturalization speeded up.

Other reasons advanced by friends and relatives against the suicide theory were that Krivitsky had all

a restaurant in Times Square. He took refuge in a publishing house and managed to shake them off by getting out of a side door.

Krivitsky was a small, thin man, exceedingly nervous, an incessant smoker. He wore his dark brown hair severely brushed back. His craggy eyebrows all but obscured his eyes. In public places he always seemed restless; scanned the faces of every one in the room.

When his exposé appeared in the Saturday Evening Post that magazine asked for his photograph. He apologized, saying he did not dare have it published.

#### Proved He Was Army Leader

Communists in this country charged that Krivitsky never had been an Ogpu leader; they said he was a mere adventurer. Krivitsky, however, proved that he was the fugitive Army leader. He testified before the Dies Committee and also gave valuable information on foreign spies to the State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He had entered the United States under a temporary passport and in July, 1939, a deportation complaint was filed against him. It was said that the Soviet Government had brought pressure for his deportation. After his testimony before the Dies committee he saw his family safely domiciled in a remote part of Canada under the name of "Thomas" and slipped quietly out of the United States to spend some time in England. Here, his friends maintain, he gave vital spy information to the British, then already at war. As a result of his disclosures in Britain, authorities in London and in other parts of England swooped down on several nests of fifth columnists.

Last March Krivitsky encountered three men coming his way down a New York street. One of them he recognized immediately as "Sergei Basoff," known in the Ogpu as "Jim." "Jim" was a former Crimean sailor, according to the general; labelled one of the top hatchet men for Stalin. Krivitsky on this occasion, managed to remain within well-lighted areas.

He even walked up to Basoff. He said: "Did you come to shoot me?"

Basoff pretended to be surprised. "Not I," he told Krivitsky. "I am myself marked for the

by safely that time."

was seeking to avoid it, for he was under the constant shadow of Ogpu vengeance. He made the acquaintance of Isaac Don Levine, one-time newspaper correspondent in Moscow, and with the aid of Mr. Levine and Mr. Shub, Russian writer and translator, he prepared his memoirs in secret, working behind drawn shades.

#### Memoirs Caused a Stir

Parts of the memoirs appeared as articles in The Saturday Evening Post. They burst like an incendiary bomb on New York literary circles, then under the domination of leftist writers and critics. The first article was about "Stalin's Hand in Spain," disclosing that Russia had linked its intervention in the Spanish civil war to interests of its foreign policy.

Coming on top of the wave of disillusionment caused by the Moscow trials, the Krivitsky disclosures caused many defections in the ranks of Communist intellectuals and their "fellow-travelers," who had been vociferous in their support of Republican Spain. The Communists were furious. The New Masses, beginning a campaign against General Krivitsky, charging, "General Krivitsky, you are Schmucke. Ginsberg!"

The attempt to make capital out of Krivitsky's double identity failed, however, when it became generally known that he had himself disclosed his legal change of name in seeking French Government protection. Meanwhile his disclosures continued, causing new bomb bursts among the intellectuals here and abroad. In an article published June 17, 1939, asking "Why Did They Confess?" he discussed the Moscow trials.

Students of Russian Communist psychology said that while his disclosures provided invaluable source material, they did not provide a complete explanation for the conduct of the prosecuted Russian revolutionists. He explained the paradoxes in their conduct on the basis of the hopeless situation in which they found themselves, as a "last desperate effort" to save communism from Stalin.

#### Predicted Stalin-Hitler Pact

The Stalin-Hitler pact of August, 1939, raised him to new stature and intensified the campaign against him, for he had predicted the change in Soviet relations in an

newspaper, discussing the ground of Soviet foreign policy. He lived in a suburb with his wife and young son, coming in to town infrequently to see one of his friends or to use the public library.

He found relaxation in hiking along the Palisades or in walking across the George Washington Bridge, reading history and chatting with intimate friends of the same political beliefs. Sporadically he took up his writing, dictating for hours at a stretch to a stenographer, reciting events chiefly from memory, although occasionally looking up dates in voluminous notes and stacks of documents that he had brought from Europe.

Krivitsky lay dead. Both, said police, spoke of suicide—but they admitted that the messages might have been forged.

The body of Krivitsky, once Chief of Soviet Military Intelligence in Western Europe, lay unidentified from morning until after 6 P. M. A tentative identification came earlier through an examination of correspondence.

This correspondence showed that Krivitsky also used the names of Samuel Ginsberg and Walter Porof, both of which aliases he used after fleeing Russia and forswearing the Communist Party. He registered last Saturday under the name of Porof. He had no known visitors.

A maid, Thelma Jackson, opened the locked door of his room with a passkey this morning and found him dead. The lock on the door was of the type which can be snapped on from the outside. From the window, there was a straight drop of five floors. There was no sign of a struggle in the room.

Despite the appearance of suicide, authorities did not discount the possibility that someone used a passkey to enter while Krivitsky slept, pressed the pistol to his head, wiped fingerprints from the handle, and left quietly.

No one in the hotel heard the fatal shot.

Krivitsky, in a series of articles

for the Saturday Evening Post, described how former Soviet leaders out of favor with Stalin were hunted to the ends of the world and slain, as was Trotsky.

He had led a similar hunted, furtive life since coming to the United States in 1937. He had hoped for safety here, but a friend warned him: "The OGPU has no frontiers."

In December, 1939, while he was in hiding, the Labor Department ordered him deported for overstaying his visitor's permit. Waldman obtained a series of extensions.

#### Left U. S. Last Year.

"In March, 1940," said Waldman tonight, "he left the country and went to a foreign land—not France—where he thought he would be safe. When Trotsky was killed, he realized he was not safe there, and came back in October, 1940."

In December, 1940, he applied for first papers, and then asked court permission in New York to change his name to Porof as a means of throwing off pursuit. He had gone to Washington to look for a farm somewhere across the Potomac in Virginia, an isolated spot where he could be safe with his wife and son, 7. He stopped in Washington "on business" on the way back.

Murders of once-prominent Russians have occurred all over the

world during the past decade—Paris, Tokio, Budapest and Zurich. Krivitsky's death might easily be one of this chain, police felt.

"We are not passing up any possibilities," said Inspector Berna Thompson of the Washington police, "though on the face of it, it looks like suicide."

The handwriting on the suicide notes "appeared" to be that of Krivitsky, U. S. Attorney Edward M. Curran said, but he added "The case is still open." Curran said there was nothing in the note to indicate a clear motive for suicide.

#### Family in New York.

Matthews said Krivitsky was about 41, and that his wife and small daughter were somewhere in New York State. Police thought they were hiding in New York City.

There appeared, said Matthews, to be no financial reason why Krivitsky should take his life, because a year ago he received \$25,000 from the Saturday Evening Post, and was drawing royalties on a book co-authored by Isaac Don Levine.

It was believed here that Krivitsky entered the country about two years ago. Recently, he went to Canada to re-enter on a quota basis. A passport bearing the name of Ginsberg was found.

The first intimation that the supposed suicide might be Gen. Krivitsky came from Waldman.

Among the man's effects were found papers indicating that Waldman was his attorney.

Chief Thompson telephoned Waldman and asked if he knew anyone using the names of Porof and Ginsberg.

"Certainly I do," Waldman said. "Walter Porof is the name Gen. Krivitsky adopted when he came to this country early in 1939. He had retained me to have that name legally changed. That process is under way right now."

#### Menaced in N. Y.

"Furthermore, he told me that one of the most deadly of the OGPU agents—a man even more to be feared than Jackson, who murdered Trotsky—was in New York and was on his trail. He gave me the man's name, and I am going to turn it over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation when I demand a complete investigation of every detail concerning this death."

Waldman said that the embittered Russian, last survivor of the old military clique and possessor of secrets unknown even to Stalin, was constantly in fear of his life.

"I remember several months ago," he said, "when Krivitsky noticed that he was being followed one afternoon while he was in the vicinity of Times Square. He knew the labor reporter on the New York Times, so he dashed into the Times office and stayed there for several hours until the man who was shadowing him finally left."

In his Saturday Evening Post series, he was particularly vitriolic in his denunciation of Stalin. The Soviet dictator, he said, had murdered everyone who even threatened to get in his way, including most of Russia's most capable statesmen, financiers and military leaders.

## Krivitsky Once Bared OGPU 'Suicide' Killing

(Special to The News)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 10.—The prophetic testimony of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky before the Dies Committee in 1939 rose up tonight to make his death a sinister mystery.

He told a wide-eyed audience then how the OGPU had pursued and killed a friend of his near Lausanne, Switzerland, in so subtle a fashion that the authorities wrote the death off as a suicide. That is also how police and the coroner here first wrote off Krivitsky's death.

#### Put Dead at 35,000.

He testified that Ignace Reiss, an old friend formerly in the Russian secret service, was trailed from country to country and finally dispatched by a gang of OGPU men under the leadership of an individual he identified only as "Siegelglass, an OGPU agent."

Testifying through an interpreter, he declared that 35,000

Russian Army officers were liquidated by Stalin in 1937, the year Krivitsky fled Russia; that 300,000 other persons were exiled; and that millions were interned in concentration camps.

#### Non-Citizens Shot

He told how Communist leaders in Germany, Poland and Hungary were recalled to Moscow and shot, though not citizens of Russia.

He described how the OGPU network extends through the world, even to cover citizens of other lands, who oppose Moscow; how its agents kidnap and murder persons, some of them non-Russians, on foreign soil because they are anti-Stalin.



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	.....

# Krivitsky, Ex-Stalin Spy, Is Shot Dead; OGPU Gets Blame

By SLOAN TAYLOR and JACK PURCELL

Washington, D. C., Feb. 10.—Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, hounded by the OGPU for exposing the bloody secrets he learned as a spy for Stalin, was found shot to death at 9:30 A. M. today in a quiet hotel—perhaps slain, as he feared, by the same agents who engineered the Mexican assassination of Leon Trotsky.

There was a bullet hole in Krivitsky's right temple. Under him lay a .38 caliber revolver with one shell discharged. Though the Coroner at first declared it to be a suicide, tonight he held up the death certificate while police and the FBI followed more sinister clues.

Under the glaring lights of the city morgue, a Dies Committee in-



(Associated Press Wire Photo)  
J. E. Matthews phoning his office to verify the identification of Gen. Krivitsky yesterday.



Walter G. Krivitsky pictured at the time he testified before Dies Committee.

investigator peered at the body and said:

"It's Krivitsky, all right, and it's murder. I have no doubt of it."

"It Was Murder."

The investigator was J. E. Matthews, who revealed that Krivitsky told him less than a month ago:

"They'll get me, sure as hell. When I'm dead, don't ever believe that I committed suicide."

And Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney, declared:

"It was murder. The OGPU had been trailing him."

Krivitsky had reason for this fear, according to Waldman, who said that a notorious OGPU man, Hans B., arrived in this country only a few days ago. He withheld the man's last name for the FBI, and said he would furnish other evidence that this was murder, not suicide.

Yet two notes, one in Russian and one in English, were found in the fifth-floor hotel room where

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

## Investigative Committee's Chairman Promises New Evidence.

### FORGERY OF NOTES ALLEGED

### Attorney for ex-Red Agent Is Sure OGPU Faked His Client's Demise.

Washington, Feb. 11 (A. P.).—Representative Dies of Texas, chairman of the House committee investigating un-American activities, referred today to the death of Gen. Walter Krivitsky as "the biggest story of the year" and indicated that he would produce evidence later relating to the case of the former Russian secret agent. Gen. Krivitsky, a witness several months ago before the Dies committee, was found shot to death in the Bellevue Hotel here yesterday.

A certificate of suicide was issued, but the police are holding the case open pending further investigation, after a friend of the dead man speculated that "an assassin might have counterfeited" the apparent suicide notes found in the Russian's room. Mr. Dies was in conference with aids this morning, including J. B. Matthews, investigator who identified the body as that of Gen. Krivitsky, born Samuel Ginsburg.

The committee chairman told reporters that he was preparing data to present to the House, which has under consideration a resolution to continue the committee's authority for another fifteen months at a cost of \$150,000. Mr. Dies indicated, however, that he had gone over the Krivitsky case with Mr. Matthews and others and said that he would have a statement to make as to "what happened to Krivitsky and what may happen to a lot of others."

### Investigation Pressed.

Louis Waldman of New York, a friend of the former Soviet secret agent, urged a searching investigation of the mysterious death.

Mr. Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney, hurried here after the body had been found in a \$2.50 hotel room yesterday, and disclosed that his client told him only recently of the arrival in New York of a man named Hans.

"This man was known to Krivitsky as an assassin of the GPU (Soviet secret police)," Mr. Waldman said. "Since the arrival of Hans in the United States Krivitsky felt that his days were limited. He asked me to do certain things to get protection for him."

### Revolver in Hand.

The body, a .38-caliber bullet wound in the right temple, was taken to the morgue, but the re-

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sults of the autopsy will not be known for several days.

Detectives said a blood-stained revolver was clutched in the Russian's hand when he was found, and that his unpretentious room showed no signs of a struggle.

Coroner Macdonald said, "We have been convinced that this was a suicide. But in view of the facts Mr. Waldman gave, we are going to keep the case open and run down all leads."

Mr. Waldman's theory of possible assassination was backed by the Russian's widow, Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky, who said at her New York apartment that her husband was warned a month ago that a man was in this country seeking to kill him.

Coroner Macdonald, however, said the handwriting of three notes found by the body—one in Russian, another in English and a third in German—was reported by police experts to be identical with that on Krivitsky's registration card at the hotel.

"It is very difficult and I want to live very badly, but it is impossible," read the police translation of a note written in Russian and addressed to "Tanya and Alek," Krivitsky's wife and son.

#### Read Like Suicide Notes.

A note in English to Waldman asked the attorney to help "my wife and my boy." A third letter to "Suzanne" was written in German and likewise asked help for the widow and son. Mr. Waldman said Suzanne was one of the Russian's friends.

"The letters appear to be suicide notes," Waldman said, "but in the interest of the family and in the public interest, I have asked the authorities not to close the investigation."

"Although the notes are in the handwriting of Krivitsky, it is well known that the GPU, of which Krivitsky had been an official, had specimens of his handwriting. The GPU is expert in counterfeiting handwriting and signatures of Krivitsky."

The little Russian with the grim, lined face gained national notice in October, 1939, when he declared in testifying before the Dies committee investigating un-American activities that undoubtedly there were Russian secret agents in the United States Army and Navy. He told the committee that he broke with Josef Stalin's government in 1937 over the Russian purge carried out that year.

#### Convinced of Murder.

Before that, Krivitsky testified, he served for two years as chief of Russian military intelligence for all western Europe.

Mr. Matthews asserted the Russian once told him, "They'll get me sure as hell. The GPU is going to assassinate Trotsky and me. When I'm dead, don't ever believe that I committed suicide."

Leon Trotsky, anti-Stalinist leader, was slain with a pickaxe last year in Mexico.

Mr. Waldman said Krivitsky had complained recently of being shadowed. He said his client proposed to buy a little Virginia Arm "out of sight of Russian agents," had taken out naturalization papers and obtained an automobile driver's license.

"All these plans are not those of a man planning suicide," the attorney said. "They are the plans of a man who intends to start a new life in the United States."

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Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Starnes  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tamm

### The End of Krivitsky.

It is almost futile to debate the question whether General KRIVITSKY, found dead in a Washington hotel yesterday, died by his own hand or was murdered by Stalinist agents. One of the most refined and least risky methods of homicide is that in which the victim pulls the trigger himself. Psychologists call it suicide by persuasion. A commoner phrase is hounding to death.

General KRIVITSKY was formerly Chief of Intelligence for the Red Army and an intimate counselor of JOSEPH STALIN. In that capacity he was familiar with the Soviet technic of assassination. He knew that once he had broken with Moscow and laid bare its secrets to the world his expectation of life had dropped far below that shown in the actuarial tables. The assassin was on his traces each hour of the day and the night, and he knew it.

If, as the superficial evidence indicates, General KRIVITSKY shot himself, it was only too plainly because he could discover no way out of the snare that had been set for him, the type of snare that he must often, in the past, have laid for others.

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# Murder? Suicide

THREE NOTES may prove that Krivitsky couldn't have committed suicide. Washington police say that one was in Russian, one in English, one in German. So far as is known, Krivitsky spoke but little English, had to use an interpreter for the writing of his magazine exposes, and for his Dies Committee testimony.

"SUICIDE?" said Krivitsky to J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies Committee, not long ago. "Don't ever believe I'll commit suicide. If I'm bumped off, it's murder."

A ROPE, had it been dropped from a window directly over Krivitsky's, could have permitted an assassin access to the room, and could have permitted a departure with the Krivitsky door bolted from the inside, and the window closed.

ALL FRIENDS who could be reached last night were unanimous in the opinion that Walter Krivitsky would not, and could not, have committed suicide.

WASHINGTON POLICE who examined the Krivitsky room carefully, are reluctant to change their original verdict of suicide. They point out one shot was fired from a .38 automatic found by the head, and that the room door bolted from the inside. The shot was fired from a close range.

"NO VISITORS," says hotel management, "were not allowed for Krivitsky from the time he checked in Sunday night until the body was removed at 9:30 yesterday morning."

NO FIRE ESCAPE outside Krivitsky's window would aid an escape. And no ledge along which an assassin could crawl. The room was on the third story above the street.

THE HANDWRITING on the suicide notes, says U. S. District Attorney Edward Curran, matches the handwriting on the hotel register. Curran said he had no doubt that Krivitsky shot himself.

# KRIVITSKY, STALIN FOE, SHOT DEAD *OGPU Blamed by Friends*

— Story on Page 3 —





# The Man Who Told

General W. G. Krivitsky (left), found dead yesterday, is shown with Chairman Dies (center) and Rep. J. Parnell Thomas as he told Dies Committee the story of Soviet espionage in U. S. Intimates believe he paid with his life for enmity to Stalin.

(International)

## He Predicted Nazi-Soviet Pact



GENERAL WALTER G. KRIVITSKY (International)  
Ex-spy chief as he looked on witness stand at Dies Committee hearings.

## Krivitsky Felt His Doom Near

Walter Krivitsky, the lean little ex-Red general in whose eyes death had been dancing for years, predicted only a week ago that the OGPU was drawing closer and ever closer. Yesterday the last of his amazing predictions came true.

He told his attorney, one of the few men he could trust, that he was aware he was being shadowed by the dreaded OGPU, and that the agent entrusted with the job of "eliminating" him was more deadly than Jackson, the man who pick-axed Leon Trotsky to death in Mexico.

"In my opinion," said Louis Waldman, the attorney, as he left last night for Washington. "Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky did not commit suicide." Waldman was most emphatic. "He was murdered by the OGPU."

"Only last week in this of-

fice he told me that he was being trailed and that his life was in great danger.

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

In the Bronx last night, Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky said that her husband went to Washington Wednesday. He had two missions: he was to see Martin Dies, and he

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was to find a farm in Virginia for the family's refuge.

She asserted that her husband never owned a pistol. Last week, he told Waldman that he would go to the New York City police and ask for a pistol permit, but that he expected to be turned down because he was an alien.

His widow argued against the suicide theory, and said that he wasn't downcast or depressed because of the OGPU. Besides, she pointed out, a man bent on suicide would not be out pricing farms in Virginia.

#### **Followed Here**

A few months ago, Krivitsky was walking in crowded Times Square when he noticed that he was being followed. He was in such deadly fear for his life that he dashed into The Times office to the desk of a labor reporter, whom he knew. He stayed until he felt it was safe to leave.

Krivitsky was born Samuel Ginsberg, in the Russian Ukraine. After the Red Revolution of 1917, when he assumed a place in the Soviet hierarchy, he changed the name to Walter Krivitsky.

He rose in party and military councils until he became Chief of Soviet Military Intelligence for Western Europe. He established headquarters in Berlin, and did Stalin's bidding toward building a Red Army within Germany for the overthrow of Hindenburg, and, subsequently, Hitler.

After the purge trials of 1936, Stalin demanded a proof of loyalty from him. Krivitsky was to deliver one of his closest friends to Stalin. Krivitsky reneged. He fled, in 1939, with his wife and his son Alexander to America.

Once here, he created a sensation by exposing Stalin's despotism, not only over Russia, but over all Communists the world over, including the reputed 100,000 in the U. S. These articles were published by the Saturday Evening Post.

Stung, the Communist Party of

the U. S. retaliated by calling him Ginsberg and denying he had ever been a Red general. Krivitsky was then called to testify before the Dies Committee, and not only substantiated his published articles, but asserted that Stalin's blood bath "destroyed" 35,000 Red officers, banished 300,000 Soviet Communists, and put millions of persons into prison camps.

He accurately forecast the Hitler-Stalin pact of August, 1939, and said that Stalin made outright gifts to Hitler of secret information ferreted out of the U. S. by the OGPU.

He told the Dies Committee that OGPU agents were firmly entrenched in the U. S. Army and

Navy. He further said that Earl Browder, head of the Communist Party in America, was little more than a dutiful office boy who takes his orders direct from Stalin.

Krivitsky and his family came here on visitors' permits. The Department of Immigration moved several times to deport them, but Krivitsky pleaded for a stay on the grounds that, to deport him would be to sentence him to death.

Later, he went to Canada and returned under the Canadian quota. He had recently applied for his first citizenship papers.

After the death of Trotsky in Mexico, Krivitsky became doubly alarmed and seemed to feel that the OGPU, having eliminated Trotsky, could now concentrate on him.

Last night, Boris Shub, who served as interpreter for Krivitsky, said he was convinced

Krivitsky has been slain by Russian Secret Service.

Benjamin Stollberg, writer also translated for Krivitsky.

"The thought of suicide is nonsense. Krivitsky told that he expected to be killed and that his murder would be framed to appear a suicide."







Go to my friends and they will help you. Don't go to my enemies. You know who they are."

"Dear Tanya and Dear Alek, (the son)," this note began:

"It is very difficult. 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 Alek yet where his father has gone. I believe that in time you will tell him, because it will...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 sins are big. I see you, Tanya and Alek, I embrace you.

"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 firearms."

The third note was addressed to Susan LaFollette, who is related to Phillip, former Governor of Wisconsin, and his brother Robert, Senator from that State, both of whom followed in the footsteps of their father, the late Senator, as Republican Liberals.

This note asked Miss LaFollette's aid for his family. It was addressed to her at the Chelsea Hotel in New York City.

(Susan LaFollette, at the Chelsea Hotel in New York, said she spent most of last evening with Mrs. Krivitsky. She said that the widow is positive that her husband was slain by the OGPU, and cited the fact that "six weeks ago someone phoned Walter and told him that Hens was in America to get

See next page

to save their falling from torture and death.

Tonight the police attempted to determine if Krivitsky went to his death, in Washington, 1941, under the same pressure.

Whether he killed him, by proxy, or whether he didn't, Stalin had no cause to love the dead man. Krivitsky started blasting the Red boss in 1933, with a series of articles in the Saturday Evening Post, in which he exposed the systematic campaign of murder, terror, forgery, blackmail and counterfeiting—all over the world—by which the Communist International strove to bolster and extend the rule of Stalin.

He put his name at the head of the articles—and the same name went down on the Kremlin's black book, along with two aliases, by which he strove to remain alive.

He presented testimony to the Dies Committee, similar to that in his magazine stories—revealing the presence of Red cells in the U.S. Army. Still more testimony was to come—when Krivitsky died.

His head was half blown off by a single shot from the automatic. The door of the fifth-floor room was barred from the inside. There was no ledge, no fire escape outside the window.

"We are working on all the angles," said Inspector Bernard Thompson.

"All the angles" could refer to a prediction by Leon Trotsky, before Leon Trotsky was murdered last Summer, that "Stalin will kill me and he will kill Krivitsky."

Washington police tonight awaited the arrival of Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney, hurrying here from New York, to obtain a description of a secret agent from the Soviet, who recently arrived in New York, according to Waldman.

The one-time Red General, whose real name was believed to be Samuel or Schneika Ginsberg, had registered at the hotel as Walter Porel, a name he had frequently used as an alias.

Murder—if it was a murder—followed derision as the weapon of the Stalinists. In one of his articles, Krivitsky predicted the signing of a treaty between Germany and the Soviet. Earl Browder, secretary of the American Communist Party, commented at the time that:

"A German-Soviet accord is no more likely than my election as president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States."

The accord was signed a short time later. Browder is not president of the Chamber of Commerce. Krivitsky is dead.

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nim." Bruesse, she said, is an OGPU agent who once before threatened Krivitsky in Marseilles, France.)

One of the most bizarre features of the quondam Red General's death—described over his own signature as a suicide—was the fact that he had told a half dozen associates and acquaintances:

"My murder will be framed to look like suicide."

With objective evidence indicating murder was impossible—and all the known facts of his life indicating suicide was impossible and murder imminent—police were driven tonight to the fantastic conclusion that Krivitsky may have executed his own death sentence upon himself.

When he quit being a Stalin accomplice and turned upon his one-time master, one of the first things Krivitsky did was to expose the methods used by the OGPU in extorting allegedly false confessions from suspects in the Russian "treason trials." He contended that the defendants confessed—and went to certain

Continued on Page 23.

**2 CENTS**  
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**Chicago**

THE WORLD'S

**News**

VOLUME C.—NO. 36 C

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY

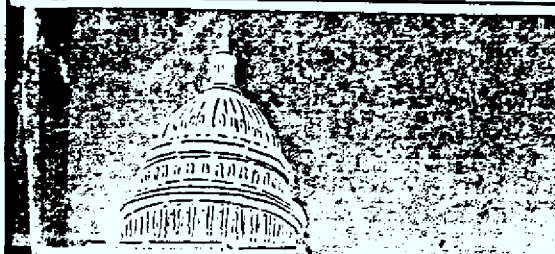
# EX-RED SPY CHI

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Mr. Tele. Rm.  
Mr. Holmes  
Miss Gandy

# DEAD

## Spain's Help

AN LEADER COMES HOME IN  
ARCH OF HIS PARTY



Claim Franco  
Is on His Way  
to See Il Duce

(Map on back page.)  
BERNE, Switzerland, Feb. 10.—  
Diplomatic dispatches reported to-  
night that Gen-  
eralissimo Fran-  
cisco Franco of  
Spain and his for-  
eign minister



GEN. KRIVITSKY  
IS VICTIM OF GPU  
IN WASHINGTON

Sift Charge He Was  
Slain by GPU.

### Revelation by Widow

New York, Feb. 10 (Special).—  
Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky, whose hus-  
band was found shot to death in  
Washington, D. C., today, dis-  
closed tonight that her husband  
left here last Wednesday on two  
missions. He was to see Repre-  
sentative Martin Dies (D., Tex.)  
before whose committee on un-  
American activities he already  
had given much information about  
red spy activities in the United  
States, and then he was to seek  
refuge for his family in Virginia.  
He hoped, Mrs. Krivitsky said,  
that by moving his family—her-  
self and their 7 year old son,  
Alexander—out of New York, he  
might escape GPU assassins. The  
widow, who is in hiding, said her  
husband was warned a month ago  
that such an assassin was on his  
trail. Mrs. Krivitsky said the same  
man tried to kill her in Marseille  
in 1937. She asserted, too, that  
Krivitsky had never owned a pistol  
in the United States.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]  
Washington, D. C., Feb. 10.—(M)  
Every tonight enveloped the death  
of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, former  
chief of Soviet Russia's secret police  
in middle Europe. He was found shot  
in a Capitol Hill hotel room today.  
Based upon the evidence of a  
wounding in Krivitsky's right  
temple and the discovery of a .38  
caliber automatic pistol at his side,  
Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald  
first issued a certificate of suicide.  
This action was taken, however, when  
the dead man was known only as  
Walter Porel, the name under which  
he had registered at the hotel.  
Certificate Held Up.  
After Krivitsky's identity was  
learned the coroner announced that  
he would hold up the suicide cer-  
tificate pending an investigation.  
The lurid imaginations of murder  
fiction writers hardly could summon

CHICAGO  
Daily  
Tribune

100-11146-A 2-11-41

in middle Europe. He was found shot in a Capitol Hill hotel room today. Based upon the evidence, the gaping wound in Krivitsky's right temple and the discovery of a .38 caliber automatic pistol at his side, Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald at first issued a certificate of suicide. This action was taken, however, when the dead man was known only as Walter Poref, the name under which he had registered at the hotel.

#### Certificate Held Up.

After Krivitsky's identity was learned the coroner announced that he would hold up the suicide certificate pending an investigation.

The lurid imaginations of murder fiction writers hardly could summon up more mystifying circumstances than those which made police puzzle over the death of Krivitsky. Against all the indications that he killed himself was the firm insistence of his attorney, Louis Waldman, and J. B. Matthews, chief investigator for the Dies committee, that he was slain for his forthright criticisms of Josef Stalin.

Krivitsky, who wrote a series of articles for the Saturday Evening Post criticizing the Stalin régime, repeatedly had predicted that he would be slain by agents of Stalin.

There were other items which made the investigators wonder.

#### Find Three Letters in Room.

Three letters were found in Krivitsky's room. One was in English, addressed to Attorney Waldman, asking him to take care of his wife and son. Another in Russian, addressed to his wife and 7 year old son who are in New York, said "It is very difficult and I want to live very badly, but it is impossible." The third letter, written in German, was addressed to "Dear Suzanne."

Waldman said the "Dear Suzanne" letter was to a relative of Senator Robert M. La Follette and that she was a New York editor. Altho they appeared to be farewell letters, Waldman insisted they were forged by the Russian secret police. [Text of the letters appear on page 2.]

#### Events of the Day.

A chronological account of the incidents preceding and connected with the Krivitsky death follows:

At 10 o'clock this morning, Thelma Jackson, a chambermaid, attempted to enter Krivitsky's room on the fifth floor of the Bellevue hotel, a modest hostelry not far from Washington's Union station, frequented mainly by tourists and elderly government workers. She employed her pass key when she found the door locked. A safety latch on the door inside had not been used and hotel employees admitted that a skeleton key would permit access to any room in the hotel.

The maid saw a body lying on the bed. It was fully clothed except for coat and shoes. The pistol lay beside the body. The maid's screams brought the manager, who notified police.

Joseph Donnelly, desk clerk, recalled that the man had registered



Washington, Feb. 11 (AP).—Chairman Dies (Dem., Tex.) of the House committee investigating un-American activities today referred to the death of Gen. Walter Krivitsky as "the biggest story of the year" and indicated he would produce "evidence" later relating to the case of the former Russian secret agent.

# FBI won't probe Krivitsky's death

Washington, Feb. 11 (UP).—The federal bureau of investigation refused today to investigate the death of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, former chief Russian spy in west Europe, whose attorney pleaded with the FBI to study the circumstances of

his gunshot wound. The FBI said that it had no concern in the case regardless of whether Krivitsky was a suicide or was murdered by agents of the Russian secret police whom he feared because he had revealed alleged secrets. The police stuck to their belief that he was a suicide. "It is a local matter for the metropolitan police," a FBI spokesman said after Louis Waldman, attorney for Krivitsky and the late Leon Trotsky, victim of an assassin in Mexico, conferred with Inspector Al Rosen of the intelligence division. "The coroner has called it suicide. Even if the coroner calls it murder. It is still a matter for the local police. We are making no investigation."

Waldman insisted that Krivitsky was murdered and that the circumstances indicating suicide were the clever inventions of what he called Stalinist agents. Bernard W. Thompson, detective chief of the District of Columbia police, however said after a night-long investigation, which included an autopsy, that every bit of evidence pointed toward suicide.

## HAND CLUTCHES GUN

Krivitsky's body was found yesterday with his hand clutching a revolver.

Krivitsky, born Samuel Ginsberg, Russian secret agent, was found in his room in a Washington hotel. He was believed to have come here to lend further aid to the Dies committee investigating un-American activities, before which he had once charged that Russian secret agents were members of the United States army and navy. Krivitsky, three notes, written in Russian, English and German, the handwriting in all identical to that on the hotel ledger. Friends charged that even the "suicide notes" may have been counterfeited.

## KRIVITSKY'S FEARS TOLD

Suzanne La Follette said today she New York, Feb. 11 (UP).—Miss La Follette said today she found beside his body in Washington yesterday, Miss La Follette said, would prove nothing. "It is very possible he was forced to write them himself before he was murdered, by threats to his wife and child," she said. Miss La Follette is well known in literary and Trotskyite circles. She formerly edited the now defunct review "Freedom." In 1938 she was a member of the committee which held a "trial" in Mexico City of Leon Trotsky and acquitted him of charges of trying to overthrow the Soviet regime.

**Meeting at the morgue**—Rushing to morgue on arrival in Washington to view body of client Gen. Walter Krivitsky, Atty. Louis Waldman (center) tells reporters he believes former OGPU head was murdered. J. B. Matthews (left), Dies committee investigator, identified the body. (AP Wirephoto)





## 'That's Krivitsky!'

Dies Committee investigator J. B. Matthews forcibly asserts that body of man found shot to death in Washington hotel is that of Samuel Ginsberg, otherwise known as Gen. Walter Krivitsky, former head of Russian secret police. (AP Wire-photo)

## Soviet foe's death held open for quiz

Washington, Feb. 11 (AP).—Declaring that "an assassin might have counterfeited" apparent suicide notes found by the bullet-torn body of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, a friend of the former Soviet Russian secret agent today urged a searching investigation of his mysterious death.

Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's New York attorney, hurried here after the body was found in a \$2.50 hotel room yesterday and disclosed that his client told him only recently of the arrival in New York of a man named "Hans."

"This man was known to Krivitsky as a deadly assassin of the OGPU (Soviet secret police)," Waldman said. "Since the arrival of Hans in the United States Krivitsky felt that his days were limited. He asked me to do certain things to get protection for him."

### CASE HELD OPEN

Although Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald earlier had issued a certificate of suicide, police said they would hold the case open.

The body, a .38 caliber bullet wound in the right temple, was taken to the morgue, but the results of the autopsy will not be known for several days. Detectives said a blood-stained revolver was clutched in the Russian's hand when he was found, and that his unpretentious room showed no signs of a struggle.

Coroner MacDonald said "We have been convinced that this was a suicide. But in view of the facts Mr. Waldman gave, we are going to keep the case open and run down all leads."

Waldman's theory of possible assassination was backed by the Russian's widow, Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky, who said at her New York apartment that her husband was warned a month ago that a man was in this country seeking to kill him.

### IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE

Coroner MacDonald, however, said the handwriting of three notes found by the body—one in Russian, another in English, and a third in German—was reported by police experts to be identical with that on

Krivitsky's registration card at the hotel.

Krivitsky, who told the Dies committee he was born Samuel Ginsberg, had registered as "Walter Foret."

"It is very difficult and I want to live very badly, but it is impossible," read the police translation of a note written in Russian and addressed to "Tanya and Alex," Krivitsky's wife and son.

A note in English to Waldman asked the attorney to help "my wife and my boy." A third letter to "Suzanne" was written in German and likewise asked help for the widow and son. Waldman said Suzanne was one of the Russian's friends.

"The letters appear to be suicide notes," Waldman said, "but in the interest of the family and in the public interest, I have asked the authorities not to close the investigation."

"Although the notes are in the handwriting of Krivitsky, it is well known that the OGPU, of which Krivitsky had been an official, had specimens of his handwriting. The OGPU is expert in counterfeiting handwriting and signatures of Krivitsky."

The little Russian with the grim, lined face gained national notice in October, 1939 when he declared in testifying before the Dies committee investigating un-American activities that "undoubtedly" there were Russian secret agents in the United States army and navy. He told the committee of House members that he broke with Josef Stalin's government in 1937 over the Russian "purga" carried out that year.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Chicago  
AGO DAILY TIMES  
2-11-41

# Capital Police Accused of Bungling as U.S. Aids Hunt Krivitsky

Continued from First Page.

is going. 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 sins are very big.

"I see you, Tonia and Alec. Yours  
VLA."

## POSTSCRIPT MYSTERIES.

There followed a postscript which has aroused many questions among officials who believe OGPU agents dictated the letters for Krivitsky to pen.

"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 was the only place I could get the firearms."

In direct contradiction to this postscript, Waldman explained that Krivitsky, who registered at the Bellevue as Walter Porel, the name he has always used in this country, came to Washington to seek the protection of the FBI.

## TELLS OF SHADOWING.

Waldman stated: "Krivitsky told me last Wednesday that he was going to Virginia for the purpose of buying a farm. He had been dithering for this farm and he had complained to me several times about being shadowed during the past three weeks.

"Then we were informed of the arrival of a special OGPU agent by the name of Hans, who is known as a deadly assassin. Krivitsky said that since Hans' arrival in the United States he felt his days were limited."

Meanwhile police here admitted that they have been unable to locate the "Dobertov" named in the letter to Mrs. Krivitsky.

## ILLOGICAL CLAIM.

Waldman pointed out that he had already secured the promise of New York City police to give Krivitsky a special gun permit granted to aliens. Waldman asked: "Why should Krivitsky have had to go to Virginia to get a gun to kill himself?"

The third letter found in the hotel room was addressed to Susan La Follette, Hotel Chelsea, New York City, a cousin of Senator La Follette.

This note was written in German and might have been written to Miss La Follette, J. B. Matthews, chief investigator for the Dies committee, explained, "because that was the address where Krivitsky received all his mail."

## ASKS AID FOR WIFE, SON.

This letter read: "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."

Like the other two notes, this one also carried a postscript which stated:

"I also think about your brother and Dorothy."

Matthews stated: "The OGPU knew that Krivitsky received his mail through Susan La Follette. They also knew what close friends they were."

## DOZENBERG HUNTED.

While Washington police refused aid in the search for Nicholas Dozenberg, a notorious Communist leader recently released from prison, Dies committee investigators worked frantically to find the man.

It was through the testimony of Krivitsky, also, author of a series



SUSAN LA FOLLETTE.  
Receives Krivitsky note.

deeds by the OGPU, that Dozenberg was convicted by the federal government and sentenced to prison in 1939.

Dozenberg, one time chief of the OGPU in this country and head of a huge counterfeiting ring working here for the profit of the Soviets, was released from prison last January 15 and has disappeared, Matthews revealed.

## DISCOUNT SUICIDE.

The evidence which points away from the suicide theory, as compiled for the New York Journal and American by State Department officials with whom Krivitsky was in frequent communication, present this picture: Krivitsky was well off financially.

He went to enormous trouble to come back to this country from Canada and take out first citizenship papers.

He was undertaking legal steps to change his name to Walter Porel.

He was negotiating to buy a farm.

He was applying for a gun permit.

He had just managed to obtain an automobile license in New York.

The OGPU killer, "Hans," had arrived in this country from Mexico.

Added to this picture is the testimony of Matthews.

## WARNING RECALLED.

Matthews said: "Less than a year ago, Krivitsky, with whom I had become very friendly, told me that the OGPU was determined to assassinate Trotzky and himself. He said to me:

"If I am ever found dead and it appears to be suicide, please don't accept that belief. It will just appear to be suicide. But it will really be murder. Trotzky is to be murdered and I am, too. Please go to Mexico City and warn Trotzky."

"I went to Mexico City soon after this conversation, and saw Trotzky. I even had a letter from Trotzky. I told Trotzky what the general had said.

"Trotzky told me: 'Gen. Krivitsky is right. We are the two men the OGPU are sworn to kill.'"

"It wasn't long after that that Trotzky was assassinated. And now Krivitsky is dead."

## NONE HEARD SHOT.

Other evidence which points to

the murder theory was found by the setting in the hotel room where Krivitsky had checked in last Sunday at 4:55 p. m., sixteen hours before his death.

First, police admit, no shot was heard in the hotel.

Coroner MacDonald admitted that while the shot had been fired into Krivitsky's right temple, the gun, a .38 caliber revolver, was found lying at his left side.

Except for one telephone call to "room service," at 8:30 p. m. Sunday night, Krivitsky made no outside contacts. This one call resulted in his receiving one bottle of sparkling water.

## FOUND BY MAID.

The general was discovered yesterday morning by Thelma Jackson, chamber maid, when she entered the room to clean.

The body was clad in a green slipcover sweater, gray trousers, socks, a shirt and tie. His shoes were under the bed.

The three letters, unsealed, were found on the dresser, on the other side of the room away from the bed. All the notes were written in pencil.

Points advanced by Dies investigators and other federal officials toward the probability that Krivitsky was compelled to destroy himself, were:

Krivitsky was followed constantly and openly by OGPU agents.

He knew, from an intimate knowledge and study of Soviet purges, the system of forcing a former follower to commit suicide after first confessing to wrong doing.

He feared death at the hands of Killer Hans and often, since the arrival of Hans, stated that death would be his lot.

## PLANS NEW SEARCH.

Meanwhile, Waldman, angered by what he termed the "looseness of this investigation," stated that

he intends making an examination of the Hotel Bellevue. Dies investigators, who assisted in the investigation, also plan to assist the FBI.

Waldman, arriving from New York, stated that the mobsters had already taken the body as the circumstances.

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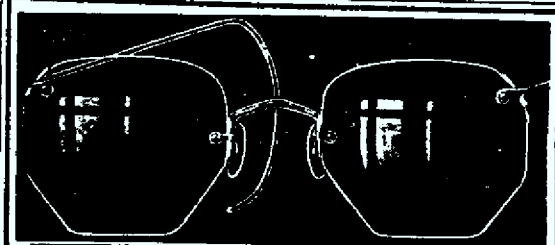
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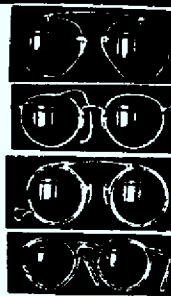


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The Chicago American

2-11-41



# Fear Trotsky Widow Next on Death List

Russians Here  
Certain OGPU  
Killed Krivitsky

BY MEYER ZOLOTAREFF.

Chicago's Russian circles were buzzing today over the tragic death of Walter Krivitsky, the short, wiry Russian general who knew all the secrets of Josef Stalin.

Krivitsky's death had been predicted here as long ago as killing of Leon Trotsky. Local Trotskyites, well acquainted with the machinery of the OGPU, Stalin's secret police, knew it was difficult for any "offender" to escape.

Today, following the death of Krivitsky, they made another prediction. They said the OGPU has not completed its job and has another prospective victim, who is probably as dangerous as the two who have joined many of Russia's best sons in death.

Chicago Trotskyites say the next victim of the OGPU will be Trotsky's widow, Natalie, who was her husband's confidante for thirty-eight years.

While anxiety over the fate of Mme. Trotsky, believed here to be hiding somewhere in Mexico, grew hourly, local Trotskyite headquarters devoted most speculation to the manner in which Gen. Krivitsky met his death.

His body was found in a Washington hotel room. The coroner withheld a certificate stating the cause of death, but Krivitsky's numerous friends and associates here stubbornly insist he was murdered. They say he met the fate of all those who dare condemn Stalin and his doings. They maintain that the long arm of the OGPU, an important branch of which Krivitsky once headed, had finally reached him.

## STALIN'S HAND SEEN.

But whether Krivitsky committed suicide or died at the hands of an assassin, they maintained one thing is certain—

Gen. Krivitsky died because alive he was inconvenient to his arch foe, Josef Stalin.

It does not matter, they say here, whether Krivitsky himself fired the fatal shot into his temple or whether it was done by one of Stalin's agents. They believe Stalin wanted to dispose of Krivitsky at all costs. His activity in the United States annoyed the Red dictator. His revelations and damaging charges hurled at Stalin and the Kremlin, the fortress of the Third International, had to be shut off.

Stalin's many efforts to silence Krivitsky failed. His articles in a national magazine annoyed the Russian dictator, especially Stalin. It is said, even ordered Constantin Oumansky, his American ambassador, to use his influence to halt the series of articles.

When Oumansky failed in his attempt he was called to the Kremlin for an explanation and at one time it was believed that he would be ousted from his post, according to these sources.

Oumansky, local Russians say, also tried to prevent Krivitsky's appearance before the Dies Committee. They maintain he used all his diplomatic power, but despite Stalin and all his cohorts, the wiry little general who knew Stalin well after having served for almost two decades in his government, refused to be silenced.

When Stalin failed to gag his foe by diplomatic pressure, predictions were made in Trotskyite circles that Krivitsky was living on borrowed time.



Mme. Leon Trotsky, with her late husband (left), and Diego Rivera, famous Mexican artist, pictured in Mexico, where Trotsky vainly sought refuge from the vengeance of Josef Stalin. Behind the group are two of the bodyguards whose presence failed to save Trotsky from assassination. The mysterious death in Washington of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, critic of Stalin, has aroused fears that Mme. Trotsky may be marked for death at the hands of Russian OGPU agents.

Soviet regime were obtained from documents supplied by Krivitsky.

But their deaths do not end the chapter. The original documents are still in existence. Moreover, numerous photostatic copies have been placed in bank vaults in cities all over the world.

The only person who knows their exact whereabouts is Trotsky's widow.

Belief that Krivitsky was killed by an agent of the OGPU is based on Chicago Trotskyites' personal knowledge of and communications with the late general. He was known as a brave man who was well aware he was fighting powerful enemies. His friends deny he was a coward who would re-

Trotsky secretaries in Madrid and Paris.

Using these as a basis, they cannot conceive that Krivitsky's death was anything but murder.

They even suggest he might have been forced to send the bullet in his brain under threats of diabolic tortures.

Finally Chicago colleagues of Trotsky point to Marshal Toukachevsky, Boucharin, Zinoviev and other great Russian revolutionaries, who astonished the world during the famous purge trials by "confessing crimes they never committed, but for which they paid with their lives."

OGPUH  
KRIVITS  
SENATO

Special to The  
NEW YORK  
Walker O. Krivitsky  
self he was  
the OGPU, a  
cousin of Se  
Pollette of W  
day.

It was to Miss La Pollette, widely known magazine writer and a family friend of the Krivitskys, that one of the three notes found beside his body was addressed.

Seated in her suite in the Hotel Chelsea, Seventh av. and Twenty-third st., she appeared visibly shaken as she said:

"I'm reluctant to believe I took his own life. He was deeply in love with his wife and child and I know, too, that he told at least two people that some day he would be murdered and would be made to look like suicide."

## MURDER EITHER WAY.

"Do you believe it was murder?" she was asked.

She puffed a cigarette nervously and lifted her shoulders helplessly as she replied:

"How do I definitely know what it was? But these people—their voice was bitter—"these people are capable of a great deal. My feeling is this: If it is a suicide, then it is a murder. He was hounded and hounded."

Krivitsky, she said, knew the Hans Bruess—described as one of Russia's "deadliest secret agents"—was in New York looking for him. She revealed that two unidentified men about a year ago walked up to a woman friend of the Krivitskys on the street with a police.

"Mrs. Krivitsky?"

The woman told them she was not Mrs. Krivitsky and started to walk away, Miss LaPollette said, adding:

"But they began trailing her. Walter became quite nervous then and I understand was guarded for several days by FBI men."

## TELLS OGPU WARNING.

"It was about that time, too, that Walter met three OGPU agents in New York and they warned him: 'Stay out of the middle section of the city.'"

Krivitsky's visit to Washington, Miss LaPollette said, was "something of a surprise." She continued:

"I saw him in New York only a day before he left. He didn't tell me he was leaving. I thought at first that was unusual, thinking he would have told me he was going to Washington if his mind were definitely made up."

She said she met Krivitsky in 1939, when he first came to the United States. She was then secretary of the commission headed by Professor John Dewey to investigate the Moscow trials. She said:

"I thought he'd have interesting things to tell and so we were introduced to one another. Since that time I've been a good friend of the family."

Mr. Tolson  
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borrowed time.

Followers of Trotsky, who knew  
all too well that their leader would  
not be able, despite all precau-  
tions, to escape the wrath of Stalin,  
Krivitsky and Trotsky as certain  
victims of the OGPU.

They believe now that Kriv-  
sky's death is closely connected  
with the death of Trotsky, who  
was slain last August at his estate  
in Mexico. Both Krivitsky and  
Trotsky had consistently con-  
demned Stalin and his regime.  
The two revealed documentary  
evidence concerning the bloody  
purge trials which cut short the  
lives of many of Russia's best  
fighters for freedom.

Several attempts were made to  
kill Trotsky. Many threats were  
made to him, but with no results.  
Finally a pickax in the hands of  
an assassin silenced him.

Krivitsky also was threatened.  
He knew he lived in the shadow  
of death. He often made use of  
leguises to escape persons he  
suspected of shadowing him.

**DOCUMENTS STILL EXIST.**

It is believed here that much of  
the material used by Trotsky in  
his attacks against the

**Mme. Leon Trotsky, with her late husband (left),  
and Diego Rivera, famous Mexican artist, pictured in  
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from assassination. The mysterious death in Washing-  
ton of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, critic of Stalin, has  
aroused fears that Mme. Trotsky may be marked for  
death at the hands of Russian OGPU agents.**

Soviet regime were obtained from  
documents supplied by Krivitsky.  
But their deaths do not end the  
chapter. The original documents  
are still in existence. Moreover,  
numerous photostatic copies have  
been placed in bank vaults in  
cliques all over the world.

The only person who knows their  
exact whereabouts is Trotsky's  
widow.

Belief that Krivitsky was killed  
by an agent of the OGPU is based  
on Chicago Trotskyites' personal  
knowledge of and communications  
with the late general. He was  
known as a brave man who was  
well aware he was fighting power-  
ful enemies. His friends deny  
he was a coward who would re-  
sort to suicide.

They recall the death of Ignace  
Reiss, an important OGPU agent,  
whose bullet-riddled body was  
found in 1937 on a lonely road in  
Switzerland. Reiss was one of the  
favorite emissaries of G. O. Ya-  
goda, former head of the OGPU.  
When Yagoda was removed from  
his post, Reiss wrote to Stalin:  
"We shall go no further to-  
gether."

He sent back to Stalin the  
Order of the Red Star with which  
he was decorated in 1928. With  
this Reiss is believed to have  
signed his death warrant. The  
Soviet secret service knew Reiss  
was too clever and too familiar  
with their methods to fall easily  
into a trap. So a lovely Swiss  
girl was selected to lead him to  
his doom.

They also recall the mysterious  
death last June of Sheldon Harle,  
secretary-guard to Leon Trotsky.  
who was found in an abandoned  
home near Mexico City, shot to  
death. Harle disappeared on May  
24 when a machine-gun attack  
was made on the home of Tro-  
sky. The Chicagoans also pointed to  
the mystery deaths of two other

Trotsky secretaries in Madrid and  
Paris.  
Using these as a basis, they  
cannot conceive that Krivitsky's  
death was anything but murder.  
They even suggest he might  
have been forced to send the bullet  
in his brain under threats of  
diabolic tortures.

Finally Chicago colleagues of  
Trotsky point to Marshal Tok-  
hachevsky, Boucharin, Zimovier  
and other great Russian revolu-  
tionaries, who astonished the  
world during the famous purge  
trials by "confessing crimes they  
never committed, but for which  
they paid with their lives."

They paid with their lives.

he would have told me the man  
going to Washington if his mind  
were definitely made up.  
She said she met Krivitsky in  
1939, when he first came to the  
United States. She was then an  
actress of the common head-  
line by Professor John Dewey to in-  
vestigate the Moscow trial. At  
said: "I thought he'd have interest-  
ing things to tell and so we were in-  
troduced to one another. She  
said that time I've been a good friend  
of the family."

39



# NEWS

# HUNT FOR UGP

ARE YOU playing the new game?  
It is called "Smear Henry Ford."  
It is quite popular among the war mongers.  
You see, Henry is that rare aviator  
born as an American—an all-  
out extinct genius.  
He is glad to make airplanes  
in America—and without a dollar  
of profit either.  
But he does not want to make  
planes for foreign countries,  
those planes return to plague  
some day—lest our present  
enemies become our future ene-  
mies.  
It has happened that way.  
Within less than ten years  
America had fought side by  
side with France against England  
in the Revolutionary War, we  
fought in hand to hand  
war at sea AGAINST France  
because of France's arrogant  
reference with our shipping.  
It no matter if we continue in  
lovely affection with our pres-  
ent friends or if we quarrel over  
her we paid them enough for  
their own fight, Henry  
not like needless war.  
Still, planes for America's  
use is his motto, but no Ford  
for foreign wars.

It ought to please Ameri-  
cans; but Americans, as we  
know, are getting kind of  
these days.  
It is the land of the refugee—  
always the kind of refu-  
gee country wants.  
There are three hundred thou-  
sand of them here.



AMBASSADOR OUMANSKY  
Failed to silence general.

SLAIN GEN. WALTER KRIVITSKY (LEFT) WITH REP. M.  
When former Russian espionage leader exposed Soviet secrets to congress.

ways into the Americas from  
—not all to the United  
States, but  
there are hundreds of  
thousands of Communists of the  
type that destroyed France mak-  
ing their underground bases  
from France into this land  
opportunity—opportunity for  
machinations.  
Italian Camorra and Mafia  
already arrived.  
Russian Bolsheviks are  
used as friends of freedom.  
There are SOME Americans  
who  
they are sort of pushed  
into the background.  
They are not playing the "Smear  
Ford" game, nor the "Smear  
Whelan" game, nor the  
"General Wood" game, nor  
the games that smear Sen-  
ator Johnson or Governor Landon  
or Senator Latham or Hamilton  
or these various folks who  
showing how they have been con-  
sidered Americans.  
If you are interested your  
editorial will tell you how  
to play the game.  
If you pick out all the im-  
portant and patriotic Americans  
and smear them, you will

## LATEST MARKETS

**HERALD**  
VOL. XLI. NO. 186—P. M. TUES. FEBRUARY 1, 1938

# Seize U.S. Aid

## I Dead in Club

## GAS BLASTS KILL 4, HURT

## Urges Even

BY WILSON  
International News  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—A  
lend bill entails risk  
of Harvard University  
committee today  
the hope of America to  
in defeat of Nazi Ger-  
Asked by Senator V  
(R) of Michigan if he  
so far as to urge this  
go to war to bring  
defeat, Dr. Conant replied  
"I would send soldiers  
them off because if they  
torious they might come over  
to kill off our way of life."  
"I would if it were absolutely  
necessary as a last step."  
Dr. Conant gave his testimony  
as the committee began its

# PO DEATH RIN

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington



WITH REP. MARTIN DIES. Dictator JOSEF STALIN. Furious at Krivitsky articles.

**CHICAGO AMERICAN**  
TUESDAY—FEBRUARY 11—1941 3 Cents 5 Cents 10 Cents  
DAILY SATURDAY SUNDAY

## Passport EXTRA

**Bill n War**  
BY W. J. AL, Correspondent.  
ON, F...  
risk...  
B. Conant, presi...  
United...  
Senate foreign rela...  
today...  
is essential because...

SOPIA, Bulgaria, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Bulgarian police seized an American diplomatic courier's passport today and the United States legation announced that "energetic protests" had been...

## Charge Kille Faked Suicid of Krivitsky

BY SYD BOEHM,  
Special to The Chicago Herald-American.  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Two theories, both by considerable evidence, were advanced today by officials to account for the mysterious death of Gen. Krivitsky.

One group, representative of the State Department, believed that the former Soviet Union chief of intelligence was murdered by OGPU agents and the arranged to make his death appear a suicide.  
The other official group, members of the Defense Committee, insisted that Krivitsky's death was "mentally driven," the ex-general being driven to self-destruction.

### Effort to Drop Case Balked

Meanwhile, local police, who had sought to close the case with a suicide verdict, were forced, at the insistence of Krivitsky's attorney, Louis Waldman, of New York, to keep the case open.

With the mysterious gun-death of Krivitsky less than a year the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico, the FBI has been asked to look for members of the OGPU murder ring operating in the United States, North and South America.

Considerable emphasis has been placed on "Dobertov," mentioned in one of the Krivitsky death letters. Since this man might be able to inform authorities of the general's movements prior to checking into the hotel...

### Accuses Police of Bungling

Waldman and each of a half dozen federal officials who knew Krivitsky well state they have never heard of "Dobertov." Waldman said:

"I telephoned Mrs. Krivitsky on the long distance telephone and asked her whether she knew any one by the name of 'Dobertov.' Strangely enough, although the name is mentioned in the letter to her from her husband, she insisted she had never heard of the name."

Waldman, accusing police of "bungling," showed no fingerprint tests had been taken of any of the notes left by Krivitsky in the hotel room where he was found shot to death. Waldman said:

"Material evidence, such as the blood-stained bedspread removed from the room by the hotel, and no attempt made to padlock the room. No fingerprints were taken."

"While Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald told the jury that Krivitsky had been dead several hours when he was found in the Hotel Bellvue, the official report of Inspector Bernard W. Thomsen stated that Krivitsky was unconscious when he was found and died at the hospital about two hours later without regaining consciousness."

One letter, penned in English and bearing the address, Charlottesville, Va., was addressed to Waldman. It read:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:  
My wife and my boy will need your help. Please do for them what you can. Yours,  
Walter Krivitsky."

This postscript was added:  
"I went to Virginia because I can get a gun. If my friends shall have trouble, please help them. They are good people and they didn't know why I bought the gun. Many thanks."

NOTE IN RUSSIAN.  
The second letter, written in Russian, was addressed to the general's wife and son. Translated by the State Department, it read:  
"Dear Tonia and Dear Alex..."

## FDR Fears H Cold, Cuts V

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The threat of another head cold prompted Roosevelt today to hold his office to a minimum. His physician, Rear Admiral T. McIntire, asked Roosevelt to remain in his living quarters as much as possible and to see his office only for the regular afternoon sessions.

THE TIMES-HERALD  
February 11, 1941

Reading Edition

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

# Krivitsky Found 'Suicide' Here



Underwood & Underwood Photo

## Believed Victim of Communist Plotter

Once chief of the Soviet Secret Service in middle Europe, Gen. Walter Krivitsky (above) was found shot to death yesterday under mysterious circumstances in a Washington hotel. This picture was taken in October 1939 when Krivitsky appeared before the Dies Committee to reveal the work of Communist organizations in this country.

NOT RECORDED

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# Soviet Agent Feared Slain By OGPU

## Probe Demanded by Friends Who Cite Threats of Death

A gaping wound in the right temple and a heavy caliber pistol at its side, the body of Gen. Walter Ginsberg Krivitsky, former chief of Soviet Russia's secret service in Middle Europe, was found yesterday on a bed in the Bellevue Hotel, in the first block of E St. NW.

Although Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald issued a certificate of suicide, friends of the Russian secret agent insisted they would demand a complete investigation because of death threats which have hung over General Krivitsky's head for many years.

### Identified By Dies Aide

Dr. MacDonald later announced that the suicide certificate would be held up pending developments in the case. He added that the body of the former Russian general would not be released pending further investigation.

Identification of the body was made at the District Morgue by Dr. J. B. Matthews, investigator of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, before which General Krivitsky exposed Stalin's bloody regime and brought down on himself the wrath of Communists all over the world.

Immediately upon view the body, Dr. Matthews said:

"There can be no question about this being the body of the man known as Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky. I am absolutely certain of that. The last time I talked with General Krivitsky, which was about three months ago, he said, 'They are going to get me sure. Don't you ever believe that I will be a suicide. They have shot everybody else and they are going to get me sure.'"

### FBI Is Interested

While officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said agents had not yet been assigned to the case, they were "very much interested in the case."

The body of the famed Russian soldier and secret agent was discovered about 10 a.m. by Thelma Jackson, a maid, at the Bellevue Hotel. She said she had knocked, and receiving no response, had entered the room with a pass key.

The body was clothed except for coat and shoes. A .38-caliber automatic pistol lay beside the body. The maid summoned the manager, who immediately notified police.

### Registered as "Poref"

Joseph Donnelly, desk clerk, told the police the man had registered under the name of Walter Poref, at 5:49 p.m. Sunday, and had not been seen nor heard after that by hotel attaches. Donnelly said the man carried a small overnight bag of brown canvas, with a zipper top. He said the man appeared nervous as he signed the register for a \$2.50-a-day room.

Found in the man's effects was a passport made out to Samuel Ginsberg, which indicated he had entered the United States from Canada.

The first statement asserting that Krivitsky had been murdered was made in New York by Louis Waldman, an attorney, who was

hurrying to Washington last night to take charge of a private investigation in the case. He said he was convinced that Krivitsky was murdered by the OGPU, the feared Russian secret police. He added that last week while visiting in New York, Krivitsky told him he was "being shadowed and his life was in great danger."

Attaches of the hotel said rooms on both sides of the corridor occupied by Krivitsky on the fifth floor were occupied, as well as those directly across the hall. They were mystified that no shot was heard. Only one shell of the .38-caliber pistol had been discharged.

### Ordered to Canada

Matthews said Krivitsky was ordered by the State Department to go to Canada a little more than a year ago. He was then awaiting deportation at Ellis Island and his departure and destination were kept secret at the time, due to Krivitsky's fears of OGPU agents.

Although Matthews said he understood the State Department was to permit Krivitsky to re-enter this country from Canada with the regular quota of immigrants, he had not seen Krivitsky for a year. He understood the Russian still was in Canada and had no information he was in this country.

Krivitsky, Matthews said, lived for a while in New York city at a Riverside Drive address. That was shortly before he testified before the Dies Committee.

### Russian Letters Found

Several letters written in Russian were found in Krivitsky's effects. Police were having the documents translated, it was learned.

Police announced that a note in English found in the hotel room "substantiated the suicide verdict" first made by Coroner MacDonald. They refused, however, to make public the contents of the note pending translation by the State Department of the notes written in Russian.

Matthews said he had difficulty in persuading Krivitsky to testify before the Dies Committee, before which he appeared October 14, 1939. He said he had heard Krivitsky was hiding in this country, and after several months located him in New York state about 100 miles from New York city. Matthews said he was driven secretly to the place, where

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Krivitsky was living with his wife and one of his children.

When the investigator urged Krivitsky to testify, the Russian said:

"As sure as I do, they'll kill me." Krivitsky came to the United States about three years ago after he had been expelled from the Communist party and lost his Soviet citizenship following a break with Stalin, whom he had served as chief of the secret military police in middle Europe.

In addition to testifying that Russian secret agents were active in the United States, Krivitsky wrote a series of articles for the Saturday Evening Post exposing Communist world intrigues.

#### FBI Denies Information

Attorney Waldman, in New York, asserted that Krivitsky had been co-operating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in antespionage work and had come to Washington to "discuss provisions for safety." Director J. Edgar Hoover, of the FBI, however, denied that Krivitsky was employed or that the agency had the erstwhile general under surveillance. The FBI professed to have no information regarding the case.

The first intimation that the supposed suicide might be Krivitsky came from Waldman after investigators found documents among the man's effects indicating that Waldman was his attorney. Chief of Detectives Bernard Thompson telephoned Waldman and asked if he knew anyone using the names of Porel or Ginsberg.

"Certainly I do," Waldman said. "Walter Porel is the name that General Krivitsky adopted when he came to this country early in 1934. He had retained me to have his name legally changed to Porel. That process is under way right now."

"I haven't the slightest doubt in

the world that the man you found is Krivitsky, and that he was murdered by OGPU, the Soviet secret police.

"I talked with him only last Wednesday, and he told me then he was going to Washington and would be there several days in a hotel."

"Furthermore, he told me that one of the most deadly of the OGPU agents—a man even more to be feared than Jackson, who murdered Trotsky—was in New York and was on his trail. He gave the man's name, and I am going to turn it over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation when I demand a complete investigation of every detail concerning this death."

The General's wife and son were said to be living in New York city, while he had been hiding in a small up-State town to escape the vengeance of Stalin's secret agents.

#### Always Feared for Life

Waldman said the embittered Russian, last survivor of the old military clique and possessor of secrets unknown even to Stalin, was constantly in fear of his life. He added:

"Several months ago, Krivitsky noticed he was being followed one afternoon while he was in the vicinity of Times Square, in New York. He knew a reporter on the Times, so he dashed into the Times office and stayed there for several hours until the man who was shadowing him finally left the vicinity."

Krivitsky was pronounced dead by Dr. Paul Elsberg, of the Emergency Hospital staff, when he reached the Bellevue Hotel in response to a summons at 11 a.m.



# FBI Won't Probe Death Of Krivitsky

**Lacks Jurisdiction;  
Suicide Notes Forged,  
Waldman Asserts**

The Department of Justice shortly before noon today refused to investigate the death of General Krivitsky on the grounds that the case was under the jurisdiction of Washington police.

**By CARROLL PEAKE**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation today was requested to investigate the death of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, once Western European chief of the Soviet Union's spy system, who was found shot to death late yesterday in the Bellevue Hotel here.

Louis Waldman, New York attorney, who insists Krivitsky was murdered, went to the Department of Justice this morning to ask the G-men's assistance in unraveling the bizarre mystery.

## **Charges Bungling**

Waldman assailed the Metropolitan Police Department for "terribly bungling" the case. After preliminary investigation yesterday, a certificate of suicide was issued. This certificate was later withdrawn by Coroner A. Magruder Macdonald, pending further investigation into the shooting.

Other developments in the mystery were:

1. Virginia authorities were asked to locate Eitel Dobert, or Dobertov, said to be a former German army officer living on a farm near Charlottesville. Dobert may have supplied the death gun, according to notes found in Krivitsky's hotel room.

2. Search was also under way for one "Hans," alleged to be an

Ogpu killer who was said to be on Krivitsky's trail.

## **Murdered, Says Wife**

3. Heavily guarded by friends who believe she may be next on the Ogpu deats list, Mrs. Krivitsky in New York insisted her husband would never have taken his own life but had been murdered.

4. Police were conducting ballistics tests on the .38-caliber automatic pistol found beside Krivitsky's body, and also took paraffine tests of his hand to determine if there were any powder marks, which would indicate suicide.

5. District Attorney Edward M. Curran asked for a complete police report on the case.

Waldman charged that Washington police had bungled the investigation by failing to take photographs of the room where the body was found and neglecting to search for fingerprints.

## **"Another Trotsky Case"**

"This is not a suicide," Waldman protested. "It is another Trotsky case."

Leon Trotsky, former Soviet war commissar, was exiled when Josef Stalin came into power. He was assassinated in Mexico City last summer.

After his visit to the Department of Justice, Waldman went to the Bellevue Hotel, where Krivitsky had registered Saturday afternoon under the name of Walter Prokef.

The room had been cleaned after removal of the body, but Waldman

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

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said he wished to become familiar with the "present situation."

Waldman pointed out that from recent conversations he had with Krivitsky, the former Soviet intelligence head had no intention of ending his life.

"About six weeks ago he told me he was planning to buy a farm near Charlottesville, sort of a hideout for himself and his family, to escape the OGPU agents," Waldman explained.

"He was planning to go into court and adopt the name of Prokef, his wife's name. And he told me he was hopeful of perhaps getting a part-time teaching job on the faculty of the University of Virginia.

"About a week ago I saw him last, and he told me he was on his way to Charlottesville to complete the details of the purchase of the farm. He was also planning to buy an automobile.

"Now a man who is so busy with such plans is not apt to suddenly end his life, in my opinion."

#### Letters in Three Languages

Waldman made a careful study of the letters found in Krivitsky's room, and then said these documents added to the mystery. The letters, written in pencil, were headed "Charlottesville, Va." but were undated. One was addressed to Waldman, one to Mrs. Krivitsky and one to "Dear Suzanne," identified by Waldman as Suzanne La Follette, a second cousin of Senator Robert M. La Follette.

"The note to me was written in English," Waldman said. "That to Mrs. Krivitsky was in Russian. But that to Miss La Follette was in German.

"Now Miss LaFollette is not a German scholar, but is an American, and Krivitsky knew that. If he wrote that letter, why was it in German rather than in English?

#### Believes Letters Forged

"We know that the OGPU has experts on forgery, who are able to counterfeit handwriting, and it is entirely possible these letters were forged and planted in the room."

Washington police handwriting experts said however that in their opinion the handwriting of the letters is the same as that found on the hotel register.

Mrs. Krivitsky revealed that her husband had expected to stop in Washington and confer with Representative Martin Dies (D.) of Texas, chairman of the committee investigating un-American activities.

General Krivitsky testified before the committee last year, giving sensational evidence of the working of the Soviet secret police and agents in this country.

Krivitsky told members of the Dies committee his life was in constant peril, and warned them that if he was ever found dead it would not be a suicide, but that he would have been murdered by Soviet agents.

In a book he wrote last year, Krivitsky related how in 1939 Soviet agents picked up his trail

in New York in an effort to kill him.

All the mystery of Old World intrigue was thrown about the case by the delay in the announcement of the death by the police, the action of the coroner, and the charges made by Waldman and the threats made on Krivitsky's life as revealed by Dr. J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies committee who identified the body at the District Morgue.

When Krivitsky failed to return to New York last Friday to appear before the Coudert-Rapp committee investigating subversive activities in the New York schools, Waldman said he became worried for fear his client had met with foul play.

Waldman declared that Krivitsky was in no financial difficulties and that his wife and son were living in a New York apartment house under an assumed name.

Meanwhile, Dr. Christopher Murphy, deputy coroner, ordered paraffin tests made of the .38-caliber automatic pistol, which was found on the bed beside Krivitsky's body when it was discovered at 9:30 a.m. by Thelma Jackson, 21, a maid, at the Bellevue Hotel. These tests were expected to show the position of the weapon when the death shot was fired.

After an examination of the three notes, Ira Gullickson, handwriting expert of the Police Department, declared "there is no question about the same man who signed the hotel register writing all three suicide notes." There were indications also, Gullickson said, the three notes were written on different days or at least at different times. He said the handwriting showed the growing tension of the writer.

# Krivitsky, Stalin Foe, Shot

## Dead Here

Ex-Soviet Spy Assassinated  
By OGPU, Attorney Claims;  
Suicide Certificate Withheld

Russian General Came  
To Capital Seeking  
Haven, Says Lawyer

By FRASER EDWARDS

Hounded by the dreaded Soviet OGPU for exposing secrets of the Stalin regime, Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, erstwhile chief of the Russian military intelligence service for Western Europe, was found shot to death yesterday in the Bellevue Hotel, off Union Station Plaza, under circumstances which caused Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald to withhold a certificate of suicide.

Although the coroner had prepared a suicide certificate and Police Inspector Bernard W. Thompson, after a careful examination of the fifth floor hotel room where Krivitsky died, said "it looks like suicide," Louis Waldman, of New York, attorney for the Russian general, charged his client "definitely was not a suicide."

NOT RECORDED

100-11146-sub A

FEB 11 1941

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

### Believed Victim of OGPU

Waldman expressed the belief the mysterious figure of Russian secret service work was the victim of the OGPU (Soviet Secret Police) because of his activities in this country against the Stalin regime.

Waldman asserted he would ask the Federal Bureau of Investigation to co-operate with the Metropolitan Police in solving the entire affair. He said there were circumstances connected with the case which made an exhaustive investigation imperative.

After examining the three notes found in Krivitsky's room, Waldman was still unshaken in his opinion that the Russian general had been murdered. He declared the notes "could have been forged," but did declare that "everything was physically consistent with suicide." He said:

"It is well known that the OGPU has specimens of Krivitsky's handwriting in every language. The OGPU is reputedly expert in forging, including the work of counterfeiting currency."

### Intrigue Veils Case

All the mystery of Old World intrigue was thrown about the case by the delay in the announcement of the death by the police, the action of the coroner, and the charges made by Waldman and the threats made on Krivitsky's life as revealed by Dr. J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies committee on un-American activities, who identified the body at the District Morgue.

When Waldman arrived last night from New York, he insisted that his client was the victim of the OGPU and revealed circumstances which led him to that belief. He declared that Krivitsky had no motive for suicide, but on the contrary had every reason to live.

### Bought Refuge in Virginia

Waldman said the former Russian general left New York either Tuesday or Wednesday of last week for Charlottesville, Va., where he was seeking a home for his wife and child. Krivitsky feared attack by the OGPU agents, whom he told Waldman had been trailing him recently in New York.

When Krivitsky failed to return to New York last Friday to appear before the Coudert-Rapp committee investigating subversive activities in the New York schools, the attorney said he became worried for fear his client had met with foul play. After viewing the body at the Morgue, Waldman repeated his assertion that he was "convinced my client was murdered."

Waldman declared that Krivitsky was in no financial difficulties and that his wife, Tonia, and son, Alex 7, were living in a New York apartment house under an assumed name. The widow also was certain her husband had been assassinated and said only a month ago Krivitsky learned that a Soviet NKVD (former OGPU agent) named "Hans" had reached the United States to "eliminate" him.

### Assassination Attempted

"Hans" was reputed to be the Stalinist killer who tried to assassinate Krivitsky in Marseilles in 1937, just after the general had broken with Stalin and was expelled from the Communist party and was forced to flee from Russia, the widow said.

First positive identification of the body was made by Dr. Matthews, who said:

"There can be no question about this being the body of the man known as Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky. I am absolutely certain of that. The last time I talked with General Krivitsky, which was about three months ago, he said, 'They are going to get me sure. Don't you ever believe that I will be a suicide. They have shot everybody else and they are going to get me sure.'"

While officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said agents had not yet been assigned to the case, they were "very much interested in the case."

Meanwhile, Dr. Christopher Murphy, deputy coroner, ordered paraffin tests made of the .38-caliber automatic pistol, which was found on the bed beside Krivitsky's body when it was discovered at 9:30 a.m. by Thelma Jackson, 31, a maid at the Bellevue Hotel. These tests were expected to show the position of the weapon when the death shot was fired.

### Three Notes Discovered

Despite the charges of Waldman and the strange circumstances surrounding the death of the Russian general, police were inclined to the theory of suicide. Three notes were found in the dead man's room—one in English, one in Russian and another in German. They were all addressed to different persons.

One note related that Krivitsky had obtained the pistol in Virginia and police immediately set out to trace the weapon.

A mysterious figure named "Dubertov" was brought into the case in the letter addressed to Krivitsky's wife and child. It was on "Dubertov's" farm, presumably near Charlottesville, Va., that the pistol was obtained. Waldman said he never had heard of such a person, and later a check by telephone with Mrs. Krivitsky revealed the man's name was unknown to her.

Washington police asked Charlottesville authorities to check up on Dubertov and bring him to Washington for questioning provided they found such a person. Both city police and the sheriff's office declare Dubertov's identity was a mystery to them last night.

U. S. District Attorney Edward M. Curran was called into the case and held several long conferences with police officials at headquarters. He declined to state whether his office would take a hand in the case until the police investigation had been completed today.

### Tension Seen in Writing

After an examination of the three notes, Ira Gullickson, handwriting expert of the Police Department, declared "there is no question about the same man who signed the hotel register writing all three suicide notes." There were indications also, Gullickson said, the three notes were written on different days or at least at different times. He said the hand-



writing showed the growing tension, of the writer.

Early today, Coroner MacDonaid said that while he was convinced of suicide, he would not close the case until the charges of murder made by Waldman had been either proven or disproven. Waldman continued it was "a planned murder, which was made to appear a suicide."

While Dr. Matthews did not take the same adamant stand as Waldman, he said Krivitsky had told him in their last conversation about three months ago that "they," meaning the OGPU, "are going to get me sure" and warned him not to believe "I will be a suicide" if the Russian general was found dead.

While none of the notes left by Krivitsky made a definite statement of suicidal intent, one of the notes, addressed to Waldman, asked him to make provision for his family. It was not until after the police had communicated with Waldman that they learned the true identity of the dead man, who was first identified as Walter Poref and then as Samuel Ginsberg Krivitsky's real name.

#### Body Identified

Waldman was met at Union Station by Dr. Matthews and Inspector Thompson, chief of detectives, and driven directly to the District Morgue, where he identified the body and repeated his earlier charge that his client had been murdered.

Although the condition of the body did not hamper identification, it somewhat hampered the police investigation. The top of the head had been almost blown away by a dum-dum bullet and a thick coating of blood made it difficult to determine whether there were powder burns on the face, which would indicate the weapon had been close when the fatal shot was fired.

Another circumstance which hampered the police investigation was the fact the maid had cleaned the room immediately after Krivitsky had been pronounced dead by Dr. Paul Elsberg of Emergency Hospital, who was summoned by the hotel management, after the maid had discovered the body, and the body removed to the morgue to await identification.

Police admitted last night that they had failed to photograph the room at the time the body was found or to have examined furniture in the room for fingerprints.

#### Asked Revolver for Safety

Waldman told police that Krivitsky feared he would be slain by Soviet secret agents in the same way they had engineered the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico. He said during their last conversation, Krivitsky had asked how he could get a permit to carry a revolver for self-protection.

The attorney said he understood that Krivitsky wished to hide in Virginia to be near Washington, where he could confer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State Department. It had been reported that Krivitsky was employed in counter-espionage by the FBI, but this was denied by Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Another fact which Waldman held was evidence against the suicide theory was that Krivitsky had made formal application only five weeks ago to become a naturalized American citizen. He said Krivitsky was going to adopt the name of Poref, his wife's maiden name, to avoid the attention of secret Russian agents in this country.

#### Dies on Way Here

Representative Martin Dies, of Texas, chairman of the House committee on Un-American activities, was en route from Chicago to Washington last night. He is asking the House to make a further appropriation and extend the life of the committee and the death of the Russian general is expected to have an effect on the action of the House.

The body was clothed except for coat and shoes. A .38-caliber automatic pistol lay beside the body. The maid summoned the manager, who immediately notified police.

Joseph Donnelly, desk clerk told the police the man had registered under the name of Walter Poref, at 5:49 p.m. Sunday, and had not been seen nor heard after that by hotel attaches. Donnelly said the man carried a small overnight bag of brown canvas, with a zipper top. He said the man appeared nervous as he signed the register for a \$2.50-a-day room.

Found in the man's effects was a passport made out to Samuel Ginsberg, which indicated he had entered the United States from Canada.

Attaches of the hotel said rooms on both sides of the one occupied by Krivitsky on the fifth floor were occupied, as well as those directly across the hall. They were mystified that no shot was heard. Only one shell of the .38-caliber pistol had been discharged.

#### Ordered to Canada

Matthews said Krivitsky was ordered by the State Department to go to Canada a little more than a year ago. He was then awaiting deportation at Ellis Island and his departure and destination were kept secret at the time, due to Krivitsky's fears of OGPU agents.

Although Matthews said he understood the State Department was to permit Krivitsky to re-enter this country from Canada with the regular quota of immigrants, he had not seen Krivitsky for a year. He understood the Russian still was in Canada and had no information he was in this country.

Krivitsky, Matthews said, lived for a while in New York city at

a Riverside Drive address. That was shortly before he testified before the Dies Committee.

Matthews said he had difficulty in persuading Krivitsky to testify before the Dies Committee, before which he appeared October 11, 1939. He said he had heard Krivitsky was hiding in this country and after several months located him in New York State about 100 miles from New York city. Matthews said he was driven secretly to the place, where Krivitsky was living with his wife and one of his children.

When the investigator urged Krivitsky to testify, the Russian said:

"As sure as I do, they'll kill me." Krivitsky came to the United States about three years ago after he had been expelled from the Communist party and lost his Soviet citizenship following a break with Stalin, whom he had served as chief of the secret military police in Western Europe.

In addition to testifying that Russian secret agents were active in the United States, Krivitsky wrote a series of articles for the Saturday Evening Post exposing Communist world intrigues.

#### Always Feared for Life

Waldman said the embittered Russian, last survivor of the old military clique and possessor of secrets unknown even to Stalin, was constantly in fear of his life. He added:

"Several months ago, Krivitsky noticed he was being followed one afternoon while he was in the vicinity of Times Square, in New York. He knew a reporter on the Times, so he dashed into the Times office and stayed there for several hours until the man who was shadowing him finally left the vicinity."





### **General Krivitsky With Rep. Martin Dies**

This photo was taken in October 1939 when the former Soviet agent (left), found shot to death yesterday, testified before House Committee on Un-American Activities concerning Communist influences in the United States.

# Literary Aide Doubts Suicide Of Red Foe

**Declares General  
Repeatedly Told Him  
He Would Be Slain**

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (U.P.). Boris Shub, who served as interpreter for Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky before the Dies Committee and collaborated with him on magazine articles, said tonight he was convinced that Krivitsky had been murdered in Washington by Soviet secret service agents.

"Krivitsky told me a dozen times in the last year that he would be murdered," Shub said.

## Three Reasons for Doubt

The 38-year-old writer gave three reasons for his belief that Krivitsky's death had been faked as a suicide.

"First," he said, "Krivitsky was too much of an egoist to kill himself. He attached great importance to the value of work he could do in this war and in the future. When I saw him six weeks ago he was bursting with plans for his future."

"In the second place he had no financial reason to commit suicide. I know definitely that he had more than enough money to keep him going for a year or two."

"Third, he was almost fanatically devoted to his family, particularly his 7-year-old son, with whom he used to play by the hour."

## Noticed Reds in Lobby

Shub said that when he was in Washington with Krivitsky for the Russian's appearance before the Dies Committee two Russians were constantly in the lobby of the hotel where they stayed.

"I believe the secret police decided that Krivitsky was then too much in the public eye to kill him at that time," Shub said.

Shub said he collaborated with Krivitsky on two magazine articles—one on the Communist International and the other on the Red Army. He was introduced to Krivitsky by mutual friends in July 1939, he said.

## Offered Post by British

"If Krivitsky had decided to die," Shub continued, "he could have done it much better and more easily by going into service with the British Intelligence. I know for a fact that he had received an offer from the British but turned it down. He was the sort of man who would have preferred a useful death."

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

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WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

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## Krivitsky's Attorney Says F. B. I. Should Investigate Death

Justice Unit's Refusal  
To Enter Case Termed  
'Extremely Regrettable'

(Earlier story on page A-1.)

Louis Waldman, attorney for the slain Russian secret agent, Walter G. Krivitsky, said in a statement issued this afternoon that it "is the clear duty of the F. B. I. to track down those malevolent forces which were responsible for his death."

He said the Justice Department investigators had refused to enter the case and termed this decision "extremely regrettable, to say the least."

Stating that Krivitsky, who was found shot to death in his hotel room yesterday, had been furnishing information on espionage to Federal departments, Mr. Waldman said:

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

### Says He Identified "Hans"

Mr. Waldman, a noted liberal lawyer, said he had given the F. B. I. the full name of the mysterious "Hans" whom Krivitsky had named as a Russian assassin. The arrival of "Hans" in the United States a short time ago put the former Russian officer in mortal fear of his life.

"I furnish the name and address of at least one man in New York who stated in writing that he had seen Hans within the last four weeks. Isn't that a matter for the F. B. I. to investigate?"

"Failure on its part to act in this case will leave the plain inference that any one exposing foreign espionage in our country . . . acts at his own peril."

Police, meanwhile, were seeking to trace the gun with which Krivitsky was shot. It was said they had learned the name of the owner of the gun and were preparing to question him.

### "Dobertov" Believed Found.

From Charlottesville, Va.—where Krivitsky had been visiting—came word that newspapermen had apparently located the "Dobertov" named in the death notes found in the Russian's room.

It was reported that a man named Eric Dobertov had a farm 15 miles north of Charlottesville. Acquaintances in the neighborhood said Dobertov was a German and a former Nazi, who had been expelled from his homeland for criticizing the regime.

The notes found in the Krivitsky room said the Russian had visited the farm of "Dobertov" because he knew he could obtain firearms there. Charlottesville police said they knew of no efforts by Washington police to locate Dobertov or to trace the death gun to that area.

Hans BRUESSE

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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

## Coroner MacDonald Reveals Texts of Krivitsky Notes

Notes which were found in the room in which Gen. Walter Krivitsky was shot to death were read to newsmen at the Morgue last night by Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald.

The letters, he explained, were written on stationery bearing the letterhead "Charlottesville, Va." and nothing more. The first, written in English, was addressed to Mr. Waldman. It said:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:

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

"Yours, Walter Krivitsky.

"I went to Virginia because I know that there I can get a gun. If my friends get in trouble please help them. They are good people and they didn't know why I got the gun."

Letter to Wife and Son.

The second letter was in Russian and addressed to his wife and their 7-year-old son, whose address in New York has been kept secret. It said:

"Dear Sonia and Alek:

"It is very difficult, but 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 Alek 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. My sins are very big.

"I see you Sonia and Alek. I embrace you.

"Yours,

"Vela."

"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 firearms."

Name Unexplained.

No one was available last night to explain who Dobertov is. Neither the man's wife nor Mr. Waldman had ever heard of such a person.

The third letter was written in German. It was addressed to "Suzanne," who, Mr. Waldman explained, is Suzanne La Follette, a cousin of the Wisconsin political family and a liberal writer. It said:

"Dear Suzanne:

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

"Yours, Walter.

"I also think about your mother and Dorothy."

*Louis Waldman*

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THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR  
February 11, 1941

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# Krivitsky Case Studied Closely; Believed Suicide

## Dies Calls Shooting Of Ex-Soviet Agent Year's Biggest Story

While District authorities appeared ready today to list the case as suicide, the shooting of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky in a hotel room here early yesterday was described as "the biggest story of the year" by Chairman Dies as he prepared to ask the House for new funds to continue the work of his committee investigating un-American activities.

Representative Dies indicated he would produce "evidence" later relating to the former chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe.

Meanwhile, Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald has drawn up a suicide certificate which he is withholding until homicide squad detectives can sift every clue at the insistence of Louis Waldman, Gen. Krivitsky's New York attorney.

Mr. Waldman has tried unsuccessfully to enlist the aid of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the belief that Gen. Krivitsky might have been assassinated by OGPU agents for exposing alleged Soviet espionage in this country. The former agent, his friends said, lived in great fear of "liquidation" by the Soviets.

### Was Dies Witness in 1939.

Gen. Krivitsky was a witness before the Dies committee in October of 1939. Mr. Dies told reporters he probably would have a statement to make as to "what happened to Krivitsky and what may happen to a lot of others."

The committee chairman was in closed conference today with his aides, including Dr. J. B. Matthews, an investigator, who helped identify the body as that of Gen. Krivitsky. Mr. Dies is preparing data for submission to the House in support of a resolution calling for \$150,000 and authority to continue the investigation for another 15 months.

Inspector Bernard W. Thompson of the homicide squad said this morning he is seeking to trace the death gun to "the farm of Dobertov," believed near Charlottesville, Va., to which Gen. Krivitsky referred in one of three notes found in his room implying suicide.

Gen. Krivitsky who wrote articles for a national magazine exposing Soviet espionage in this country and claiming to be a former chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe, was found shot to death at 9:30 a.m. yesterday in his fifth-floor room at the Bellevue Hotel, 15 E street N.W.

### Three Notes in Room.

Inspector Thompson said three notes found in the room on "Charlottesville, Va., stationery" were in the same handwriting as the registration card Gen. Krivitsky filled out at the hotel late Sunday afternoon. He said this circumstance was checked last night by Ira Guillekson, the department's handwriting expert.

The gun was found beside

(Continued on Page A-4, Column 1.)

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

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## Gen. Krivitsky Case Checked Closely; Believed Suicide

Dies Calls Shooting  
Of Ex-Soviet Agent  
Year's Biggest Story

(Continued From First Page.)

The body on the bed. Fingerprints had been washed away by blood, it was said. The bullet had passed through Gen. Krivitsky's head. It penetrated the hollow tile of the wall and has not been recovered.

The death gun was a .38-caliber, "super-automatic," one of the most powerful known. It was loaded with cartridges containing hollow-needle bullets of high velocity. This explains the fact, experts said, that the bullet passed through Gen. Krivitsky's head and into the tile wall.

### One Cartridge Fired.

The bullet fell into an opening inside the wall and could not be recovered. Identification experts said, however, it probably had been too badly battered for comparative purposes. The ejected shell was recovered.

The clip inside the butt of the automatic was full except for one cartridge, detectives said.

District Attorney Edward M. Curran, who aided with the inquiry last night, said he was "awaiting a more complete report" from police before deciding what course of action his office might take. He said he expected the full report later today.

Mr. Waldman went to the Federal Bureau of Investigation today to confer with Inspector Al Rosen on details of the case.

It was said, however, the F. B. I. will have no jurisdiction in the case even if police decide it was murder. Spokesmen for the Bureau said Gen. Krivitsky was not associated with their agents in any investigation, and that they knew nothing of his activities in the United States.

The New York attorney then went to the hotel, and was permitted to examine the room in which Gen. Krivitsky met his death. He was accompanied by Lt. George Darnell of the homicide squad and other detectives. Mr. Waldman said he would issue a formal statement later. He implied dissatisfaction with the F. B. I. for declining to enter the inquiry.

The attorney said he was especially puzzled by Gen. Krivitsky's allusion in his notes to "the farm of Dobertov." He said he had never heard of such a man, although he knew the deceased well, and the man also was unknown to Gen. Krivitsky's family.

"Why," asked Mr. Waldman, "should the general go all the way to Virginia to get a gun—when he could have found one much nearer—and then return to Washington to shoot himself?"

"Too, he might have been forced to write those notes. Such cases are common in Soviet liquidations. I know that Gen. Krivitsky had good reason to fear assassins from abroad."

Inspector Thompson said, however, that Gen. Krivitsky's door and windows were locked from the inside, there was no evidence of a struggle, and every reason to believe the notes were genuine.

An autopsy was performed late yesterday and the coroner's office is awaiting the result of a chemical analysis of the contents of the dead man's stomach.

### "Dobertov" Is Puzzle.

Inquiries at Charlottesville of the chief of police failed to locate any one who had heard of a man named "Dobertov" living in that vicinity.

It was the insistence of Mr. Waldman, Dr. Matthews, director of research for the Dies Committee, and others who knew Krivitsky that brought a reopening of the investigation.

They pointed out that Krivitsky had said less than three weeks ago that a Russian assassin, whom he identified only as "Hans," had arrived in this country to kill him; that the slain man had been in mortal fear of his life—seeking a permit to carry a pistol and making arrangements to change his name and flee New York.

### Had Planned for Future.

They insisted that he had been in the best of spirits, that he had made detailed plans for his future in the United States, that he had no reason

to commit suicide. And they repeated again and again his warning that he might be slain in such a manner as to indicate he had killed himself.

Police were convinced that the death was a suicide. Their strongest point was the notes which were found in the dead man's room.

Mr. Waldman contended that it would be no trick for the OGPU, to which he attributed diabolical cleverness, to have forged the notes. He contended that there was a strange tone in the letters and said they did not sound like they had been written by his close friend.

Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky, wife of the general, scoffed at the suicide version. In New York City she said that he had been happy in his home life, was well fixed financially as a result of his writings and was in good health.

He had come to Washington, Mrs. Krivitsky said, to see Representative Dies and to look for a home in Virginia.

#### Previous Attempt Claimed.

She confirmed Mr. Waldman's statement about the mysterious assassin who was feared by the former Russian agent. Mrs. Krivitsky said the same man had attempted to kill Mr. Krivitsky in Marseilles in 1937.

As Samuel Ginsberg the slain man yesterday had been on the verge of passing unnoticed into oblivion. A certificate of suicide had been written for him. The gun which had killed him was en route to the police property clerk.

But the revelation that Samuel Ginsberg was Gen. Walter Krivitsky put a new face on the matter. It was Krivitsky who, in a series of stories which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post a short time before the outbreak of the European war, had predicted that Stalin would sign a treaty with Hitler.

Later, he came before the Dies Committee to make other startling revelations. He described his position under the Russian regime of Stalin as chief of the Western European division of the OGPU, dread secret police.

Ports of entry were canvassed today to determine exactly where Gen. Krivitsky entered this country. Immigration and naturalization service records of incoming aliens being maintained in the offices at point of arrival. There was a report that Krivitsky had come into the United States on a visa which had been renewed two or three times. He was quoted as saying recently, however, that no more extensions would be necessary.

#### Reconstruct Details.

Police, calling in translators to interpret notes which were found in the dead man's room and going back over the whole of their investigation of the "routine" suicide of Samuel Ginsberg, pieced together the whole story as follows:

In the early part of last week Krivitsky called at Mr. Waldman's office in New York. He asked Mr.

Waldman to help him get protection from the F. B. I. because he feared for his life. He said he was thinking of going to Virginia to look over a farm property he wanted to buy as a hiding place for his family.

In Washington he appeared at 5:49 p.m. Sunday at the Bellevue Hotel, a small, quiet hostelry in the first block of E street N.W., and registered as Walter Forest. This was the name he had taken legal steps to adopt—hoping that it would deceive the assassins he believed were seeking him.

No phone calls went from the room nor to it and no visitors were known to have called. Krivitsky ordered a bottle of sparkling water from the room service—although nothing was found in his room with which he might have mixed it.

He was shot some time during the night. A maid, unable to get an answer when she knocked at the room in the morning, used her pass key to enter about 9:30 a.m.

She found the body on the bed. It was on top of the covers. Krivitsky was wearing a sweater and had taken off his shoes.

#### Pistol on Bed.

There was a gaping wound in the right side of his head. The right arm lay across the body, the right hand resting on the left arm. The pistol—covered with blood—was on the bed, to the left of the body.

A doctor was summoned and pronounced the man dead. Police searching through the effects in the room, found three notes. One was in English, addressed to Mr. Waldman in New York. The second was in German and the third in Russian.

There was a passport, issued by the Canadian government, which bore the name Ginsberg. There was nothing to indicate anything but suicide. The room was in order; the door locked; the window—five floors above the street and near no fire escape—was open a little.

Detective Sergt. Dewey Guest of the Homicide Squad, who handled the investigation, concluded that it was a routine case. He closed his investigation and a certificate of suicide was prepared.

Late in the afternoon, there came a call from Mr. Waldman. He told Inspector Bernard W. Thompson that Ginsberg was in reality Gen. Krivitsky. He said that there was no doubt that the man had been murdered and stated that he would come to Washington immediately to aid in the investigation.

#### Matthews Identifies Body.

Seeking identification of the body, newspapermen located Dr. Matthews and took him to the Morgue. It was the Dies Committee chief investigator who had discovered Krivitsky originally and persuaded him to tell his story.

Dr. Matthews viewed the body and said:

"That's Krivitsky. And I'm sure he's been murdered."

Talking to reporters, he told how

he had found the Russian in 1939 in a hide-away in upper New York. The place was so carefully hidden that it took hours to reach it, Dr. Matthews said.

He came to know Krivitsky well and to believe implicitly in the man's story of his experiences as a Russian secret police chief.

"He appeared before the committee on October 11, 1939," Dr. Matthews said. "I rode from Washington to New York with him after the hearings.

"He said then 'There are two of us they're after. Trotsky is one and I'm the other. Don't ever believe I committed suicide.' I went to Mexico City a few weeks later to talk to Trotsky.

"Trotsky told me 'There are two of us they want to get. I'm one and Krivitsky's the other.' Well, they got Trotsky. And now it looks like they got Krivitsky."

#### Returns to Hiding.

Dr. Matthews told police that Krivitsky had gone into hiding after testifying before the committee. The Dies investigator tried to talk Krivitsky out of his fear of assassination.

The Russian went to Canada about a year ago when immigration authorities told him his time as a visitor in this country had expired. He re-entered the United States some months ago, Dr. Matthews said, under a new passport and had made plans to become a citizen.

Police commanders went into conference a short time later. District Attorney Curran joined the conference and the foreign language letters were sent to the State Department for translation.

It was after 11 p.m. when Mr. Waldman reached Washington. He went to the Morgue and viewed the body. Reporters—representing local as well as out-of-town papers and press associations—congregated at the Morgue.

After some time, Dr. MacDonald emerged and called the reporters into the Morgue hearing room. He read them the notes found in the Krivitsky room.

#### Waldman Makes Statement.

When the coroner had concluded his reading of the letters and answered some of the questions which came from the score of reporters, Mr. Waldman stepped forward and asked permission to make a statement.

"I have looked at the body and I've been shown the notes," he said. "Physical appearance indicates suicide and the notes are very persuasive.

"As his attorney and for the public interest, I am asking, however,

that the authorities not close this investigation, for the following reasons:

"It is well known that the OGPU has specimens of handwritings of Krivitsky—who was once in their employ—in every language. They are experts at forgery, as Krivitsky pointed out in his writing.

"I saw him in my office last week. He told me he was going to buy a small farm near a university town in Virginia. He complained that he was being shadowed and asked me to help him get a permit to carry a gun.

"He asked me to help him get protection from the F. B. I. He wanted to change his name and I took steps to accomplish this—in secret proceedings.

#### Planned New Life.

"There was nothing to indicate that this was a man about to commit suicide. All his plans were laid on the basis of starting a new life in the United States.

"I strongly urge that both the local police and the F. B. I. be used to make sure this isn't another Trotsky case."

Dr. MacDonald replied that the case would remain open. The coroner said that he was certain that it was a suicide and had so certified. But if any new evidence was developed he would consider a change in his verdict.

During testimony before the Dies Committee in October, 1939, Krivitsky testified he was born Samuel Ginsberg in the Russian Ukraine in 1899. He said his "official, legal Soviet government name" had been Krivitsky since 1919.

Krivitsky testified that he entered the military intelligence in 1920, and from 1921 to 1923 worked in the third bureau of the Red army general staff. He returned to general staff intelligence work in 1934 after holding several other positions, and said he was chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe in 1936-7. He said he broke with Stalin over the 1937 purge. A short, wiry individual with a lined, grim face, he gave the committee much inside information of what he said was the working of the international Communist system.

#### Testimony Recalled.

Testifying in Russian through an interpreter, he declared that 35,000 members of the Russian Red army corps were "destroyed" by Stalin in 1937; that 300,000 or 400,000 other persons were exiled or imprisoned and "millions" interned in concentration camps.

He also testified that: Communist party leaders in Ger-

many Poland and Hungary were recalled to Moscow and shot, despite the fact that they were not citizens of Russia.

Stalin is the absolute head of the Communist party in the United States.

Stalin could not have accomplished "the great purge" of 1936-37 without "moral support" from other countries because so many elements were against him in his own country.

The OGPU spies not only on foreign governments and on Soviet diplomats—"from Ambassadors to the lowest Embassy officials"—but on citizens of other lands who express displeasure with Moscow.

The OGPU kidnaps and murders persons, some of them non-Russians, on foreign soil—in drives against persons "considered" anti-Stalinists.

#### Writer Says He Was Hounded.

Meanwhile, in New York, Miss Suzanne La Follette, writer for liberal magazines and a distant relative of the La Follettes of Wisconsin, said of Gen. Krivitsky's death:

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

One of three notes found in the former agent's room had been written to her. She explained she had been a friend of the Krivitsky family since January of 1939.

At one time, she said, Krivitsky "was approached by three agents of the OGPU. One of them told him to stay out of the midtown area if he didn't want to get into trouble."

The man said, "We work in three

—we've been on the lookout for you constantly."

Miss La Follette, the Associated Press reported, said Gen. Krivitsky had told at least two persons he would be disposed of by assassins who would "make it look like suicide."



**FRIENDS HERE TO PUSH KRIVITSKY DEATH INQUIRY**—Louis Waldman (center), without having been a New York attorney for Gen. Krivitsky, who rushed here last night to aid with the inquiry into the fatal shooting of Krivitsky, is shown at local Morgue conferring with reporters. J. B. Matthews, a Dies committee investigator, is shown behind Mr. Waldman.

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR  
February 11, 1941

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Gen. Krivitsky shown as he testified before the Dies committee October 11, 1939, to tell his story of the 1936-7 purge of Russian Army officers. —A. P. Photos.

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR  
February 11, 1941

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# Police Report Shows How Delay Came in Identifying Krivitsky

## First Hint Slain Man Was Ex-Soviet Agent Given After 7 Hours

The original police incidental shows how hours elapsed between the finding of the body of "Walter Poret," alias Samuel Ginsburg, and the time investigators discovered the dead man was Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, self-styled former Western European commander of the Soviet military intelligence, magazine writer and Dies Committee witness in espionage investigations.

The incidental follows:

"February 10, 1941. Death—Gunshot, No. 1.

"About 9:30 a.m., Monday, February 10, 1941, Walter Poret, alias Samuel Ginsburg, white, 41 years, of New York City, was found in unconscious condition on bed in room 532 of the Bellevue Hotel, No. 15 E street N.W., by Thelma Jackson, colored, 21, of 1315 1/2 B street S.E., a maid at the above hotel. Walter Poret, alias Samuel Ginsburg, was pronounced dead at 11 a.m., February 10, 1941, by Dr. Eisberg of the Emergency Hospital staff. Death due to gunshot wound in head. Central bureau, homicide squad and coroner notified. Investigated by Detective Sergt. D. Guest, who has possession of gun. Body ordered removed to the D. C. Morgue by the coroner. No known relatives. Reported by Pvt. E. R. Cox, No. 1. Signed by Engstrom at No. 1, 1:33 p.m."

### Attorney Gave First Hint.

The latter time was put on the incidental when Policeman Engstrom put it on the teletype for headquarters.

Although the body was discovered at 9:30 a.m., it was not until police got in touch with Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's New York attorney, about 4:30 p.m., that investigators got an idea as to the identity of the dead man. The identification was strengthened by Dr. J. B. Matthews, a Dies Committee agent, who knew Gen. Krivitsky. Mr. Waldman arrived here about 11 o'clock last night.

Another reason given for the delay was the difficulty which homicide squad detectives had in reading Gen. Krivitsky's handwriting. Detectives saw the Russian and German notes were in some foreign language. The third note, in English, was written in such a difficult hand that detectives thought it also was in a foreign language.

### Notes Given to Interpreter.

The notes, found in an envelope addressed to Mr. Waldman in New York, were given to a Federal interpreter.

On receiving the interpreter's report, detectives wired Mr. Waldman in New York. Mr. Waldman then telephoned police, satisfied himself

the dead man was Gen. Krivitsky, and made plans to hurry to Washington.

The note in English, the detective said, "looked like a doctor's prescription."

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

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THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR  
February 11, 1941

# Police Still Checking All Krivitsky Angles, / But Believe Ex-Soviet Agent Killed Self

## Verdict of Suicide Withheld Pending Further Study

Whether the former Soviet secret agent, Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, 41, was driven to death in a hotel room here by his fear of assassination or by the assassins themselves appeared an open question today, although Washington authorities are only "checking a few angles" before listing the case as suicide.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald has drawn up a suicide certificate which he is withholding until his aides and homicide squad detectives have sifted all physical clues at the insistence of Louis Waldman, Gen. Krivitsky's New York attorney, to whom the agent had frequently expressed fear he would be "liquidated" by the OGPU.

Inspector Bernard W. Thompson of the homicide squad said this morning he is seeking to trace the death gun to "the farm of Dobertov, believed near Charlottesville, Va. to which Gen. Krivitsky referred in one of three notes found in his room implying suicide.

Gen. Krivitsky, a former Dies Committee witness, who wrote articles for a national magazine exposing Soviet espionage in this country and claiming to be a former chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe, was found shot to death at 9:30 a.m. yesterday in his fifth-floor room at the Bellevue Hotel, 15 E street N.W.

### Three Notes in Room.

Inspector Thompson said three notes found in the room on "Charlottesville, Va., stationery were in the same handwriting as the registration card Gen. Krivitsky filled out at the hotel late Sunday afternoon. He said this circumstance was checked last night by Ira Guillickson, the department's handwriting expert.

The gun, a .38-caliber pistol, was found beside the body on the bed. Fingerprints had been washed away by blood, it was said. The bullet had passed through Gen. Krivitsky's head. It penetrated the hollow tile of the wall and has not been recovered.



Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky shown as he testified before the Dies committee October 11, 1939, to tell his story of the 1936-7 purge of Russian Army officers.

—A. P. Photo.

District Attorney Edward M. Curren, who aided with the inquiry last night, said he was "awaiting a more complete report" from police before deciding what course of action his office might take. He said he expected the full report later today.

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the Federal Bureau of Investigation said Gen. Krivitsky had no connection with any investigations by their agents. It was said nothing was known of the Russian at the F. B. I.

Mr. Waldman said he planned to ask the Federal Bureau of Investigation to trace the gun and check on what fingerprint evidence, if any, had been found on the pistol, the door knobs and the windowsills of the room.

The attorney said he was espe-

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Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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WASHINGTON STAR

cially puzzled by Gen. Krivitsky's allusion in his notes to "the farm of Dobertov." He said he had never heard of such a man, although he knew the deceased well, and the man also was unknown to Gen. Krivitsky's family.

"Why," asked Mr. Waldman, "should the general go all the way to Virginia to get a gun—when he could have found one much nearer—and then return to Washington to shoot himself?"

"Too, he might have been forced to write those notes. Such cases are common in Soviet liquidations. I know that Gen. Krivitsky had good reason to fear assassins from abroad."

Inspector Thompson said, however, that Gen. Krivitsky's door and windows were locked from the inside, there was no evidence of a struggle, and every reason to believe the notes were genuine.

An autopsy was performed late yesterday and the coroner's office is awaiting the result of a chemical analysis of the contents of the dead man's stomach.

#### "Dobertov" Is Puzzle.

Inquiries at Charlottesville of the chief of police failed to locate any one who had heard of a man named "Dobertov" living in that vicinity.

It was the insistence of Mr. Waldman, Dr. J. B. Matthews, director of research for the Dies Committee, and others who knew Krivitsky that brought a reopening of the investigation.

They pointed out that Krivitsky had said less than three weeks ago that a Russian assassin, whom he identified only as "Hans," had arrived in this country to kill him; that the slain man had been in mortal fear of his life—seeking a permit to carry a pistol and making arrangements to change his name and flee New York.

#### Had Planned for Future.

They insisted that he had been in the best of spirits, that he had made detailed plans for his future in the United States; that he had no reason to commit suicide. And they repeated again and again his warning that he might be slain in such a manner as to indicate he had killed himself.

Police were convinced that the death was a suicide. Their strongest point was the notes which were found in the dead man's room.

Mr. Waldman contended that it

would be no trick for the ~~OGPU~~, to which he attributed diabolical cleverness, to have forged the notes. He contended that there was a strange tone in the letters and said they did not sound like they had been written by his close friend.

Mrs. Tanya Krivitsky, wife of the general, scoffed at the suicide version. In New York City she said that he had been happy in his home life, was well fixed financially as a result of his writings and was in good health.

He had come to Washington, Mrs. Krivitsky said, to see Representative Dies and to look for a home in Virginia.

#### Previous Attempt Claimed.

She confirmed Mr. Waldman's statement about the mysterious assassin who was feared by the former Russian agent. Mrs. Krivitsky said the same man had attempted to kill Mr. Krivitsky in Marseilles in 1937.

As Samuel Ginsberg the slain man yesterday had been on the verge of passing unnoticed into oblivion. A certificate of suicide had been written for him. The gun which had killed him was en route to the police property clerk.

But the revelation that Samuel Ginsberg was Gen. Walter Krivitsky put a new face on the matter. It was Krivitsky who, in a series of stories which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post a short time before the outbreak of the European war, had predicted that Stalin would sign a treaty with Hitler.

Later, he came before the Dies Committee to make other startling revelations. He described his position under the Russian regime of Stalin as chief of the Western European division of the OGPU, dread secret police.

#### Reconstruct Details.

Police, calling in translators to interpret notes which were found in the dead man's room and going back over the whole of their investigation of the "routine" suicide of Samuel Ginsberg, pieced together the whole story as follows:

In the early part of last week Krivitsky called at Mr. Waldman's office in New York. He asked Mr. Waldman to help him get protection from the F. B. I. because he feared for his life. He said he was thinking of going to Virginia to look over a farm property he wanted to buy as a hiding place for his family.

In Washington he appeared at 5:49 p.m. Sunday at the Bellevue Hotel, a small, quiet hostelry in the first block of E street N.W., and registered as Walter Porel. This was the name he had taken legal steps to adopt—hoping that it would deceive the assassins he believed were seeking him.

No phone calls went from the room nor to it and no visitors were known to have called. Krivitsky ordered a bottle of sparkling water from the room service—although nothing was found in his room with which he might have mixed it.

He was shot some time during

the night. A maid, unable to get an answer when she knocked at the room in the morning, used her pass key to enter about 9:30 a.m.

She found the body on the bed. It was on top of the covers. Krivitsky was wearing a sweater and had taken off his shoes.

#### Pistol on Bed.

There was a gaping wound in the right side of his head. The right arm lay across the body, the right hand resting on the left arm. The pistol—covered with blood—was on the bed, to the left of the body.

A doctor was summoned and pronounced the man dead. Police searching through the effects in the room, found three notes. One was in English, addressed to Mr. Waldman in New York. The second was in German and the third in Russian.

There was a passport, issued by the Canadian government, which bore the name Ginsberg. There was nothing to indicate anything but suicide. The room was in order; the door locked; the window—five floors above the street and near no fire escape—was open a little.

Detective Sergt. Dewey Gues, of the Homicide Squad, who handled the investigation, concluded that it was a routine case. He closed his

investigation and a certificate of suicide was prepared.

Late in the afternoon, there was a call from Mr. Waldman. He called Inspector Bernard W. Thon that Ginsberg was in reality Krivitsky. He said that there was no doubt that the man had been murdered and stated that he would come to Washington immediately to aid in the investigation.

#### Matthews Identifies Body.

Seeking identification of the newspapermen located Dr. Matthews and took him to the Morgue. I, the Dies Committee chief investigator who had discovered Krivitsky originally and persuaded him to tell his story.

Dr. Matthews viewed the body and said:

"That's Krivitsky. And I'm sure he's been murdered."

Talking to reporters, he told he had found the Russian in a hide-away in upper New York. The place was so carefully hidden

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that it took hours to reach it, Dr. Matthews said.

He came to know Krivitsky well and to believe implicitly in the man's story of his experiences as a Russian secret police chief.

"He appeared before the committee on October 11, 1939," Dr. Matthews said. "I rode from Washington to New York with him after the hearings.

"He said then 'There are two of us they're after. Trotsky is one and I'm the other. Don't ever believe I committed suicide.' I went to Mexico City a few weeks later to talk to Trotsky.

"Trotsky told me 'There are two of us they want to get. I'm one and Krivitsky's the other.' Well, they got Trotsky. And now it looks like they got Krivitsky."

#### Returns to Hiding.

Dr. Matthews told police that Krivitsky had gone into hiding after testifying before the committee. The Dies investigator tried to talk Krivitsky out of his fear of assassination.

The Russian went to Canada about a year ago when immigration authorities told him his time as a visitor in this country had expired. He re-entered the United States some months ago, Dr. Matthews said, under a new passport and had made plans to become a citizen.

Police commanders went into conference a short time later. District Attorney Curran joined the conference and the foreign language letters were sent to the State Department for translation.

It was after 11 p.m. when Mr. Waldman reached Washington. He went to the Morgue and viewed the body. Reporters—representing local as well as out-of-town papers and press associations—congregated at the Morgue.

After some time, Dr. MacDonald emerged and called the reporters into the Morgue hearing room. He read them the notes found in the Krivitsky room.

#### Waldman Makes Statement.

When the coroner had concluded his reading of the letters and answered some of the questions which came from the score of reporters, Mr. Waldman stepped forward and asked permission to make a statement.

"I have looked at the body and I've been shown the notes," he said. "Physical appearance indicates suicide and the notes are very persuasive.

"As his attorney and for the public interest, I am asking, however, that the authorities not close this investigation, for the following reasons:

"It is well known that the OGPU has specimens of handwritings of Krivitsky—who was once in their employ—in every language. They

are experts at forgery, as Krivitsky pointed out in his writing.

"I saw him in my office last week. He told me he was going to buy a small farm near a university town in Virginia. He complained that he was being shadowed and asked me to help him get a permit to carry a gun.

"He asked me to help him get protection from the F. B. I. He wanted to change his name and I took steps to accomplish this—in secret proceedings.

#### Planned New Life.

"There was nothing to indicate that this was a man about to commit suicide. All his plans were laid on the basis of starting a new life in the United States.

"I strongly urge that both the local police and the F. B. I. be used to make sure this isn't another Trotsky case."

Dr. MacDonald replied that the case would remain open. The coroner said that he was certain that it was a suicide and had so certified. But if any new evidence was developed he would consider a change in his verdict.

During testimony before the Dies Committee in October, 1939, Krivitsky testified he was born Samuel Ginsberg in the Russian Ukraine in 1899. He said his "official, legal Soviet government name" had been Krivitsky since 1919.

Krivitsky testified that he entered the military intelligence in 1920, and from 1921 to 1923 worked in the third bureau of the Red army general staff. He returned to general staff intelligence work in 1934 after holding several other positions, and said he was chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe in 1936-7. He said he broke with

Stalin over the 1937 purge. A short, wiry individual with a lined, grim face, he gave the committee much inside information of what he said was the working of the international Communist system.

Testifying in Russian through an interpreter, he declared that 35,000 members of the Russian Red army corps were "destroyed" by Stalin in 1937; that 300,000 or 400,000 other persons were exiled or imprisoned and "millions" interned in concentration camps.

He also testified that:

Communist party leaders in Germany, Poland and Hungary were recalled to Moscow and shot, despite the fact that they were not citizens of Russia.

Stalin is the absolute head of the Communist party in the United States.

Stalin could not have accomplished "the great purge" of 1936-37 without "moral support" from other countries because so many elements were against him in his own country.

The OGPU spies not only on foreign governments and on Soviet diplomats—"from Ambassadors to the lowest Embassy officials"—but on citizens of other lands who express displeasure with Moscow.

The OGPU kidnaps and murders persons, some of them non-Russians, on foreign soil—in drives against persons "considered" anti-Stalinists.





Gen. Krivitaky (left) is shown with Chairman Martin Dies at a hearing before the Dies committee in 1939.

—A. P. Photos.

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**FRIENDS HERE TO PUSH KRIVITSKY DEATH INQUIRY**—Louis Waldman (center), without hat, New York attorney for Gen. Krivitsky, who rushed here last night to aid with the inquiry into the fatal shooting of Krivitsky, is shown at local Morgue conferring with reporters. J. B. Matthews, a Dies committee investigator, is shown behind Mr. Waldman.



**FRIENDS HERE TO PUSH KRIVITSKY DEATH INQUIRY**—Louis Waldman (center), without hat, New York attorney for Gen. Krivitsky, who rushed here last night to aid with the inquiry into the fatal shooting of Krivitsky, is shown at local Morgue conferring with reporters. J. B. Matthews, a Dies committee investigator, is shown behind Mr. Waldman.



Gen. Krivitsky (left) is shown in 1939.

## Coroner MacDonald Reveals Texts of Krivitsky Notes

Notes which were found in the room in which Gen. Walter Krivitsky was shot to death were read to newsmen at the Morgue last night by Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald.

The letters, he explained, were written on stationery bearing the letterhead "Charlottesville, Va." and nothing more. The first, written in English, was addressed to Mr. Waldman. It said:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:

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

"Yours, Walter Krivitsky.

"I went to Virginia because I know that there I can get a gun. If my friends get in trouble please help them. They are good people and they didn't know why I got the gun."

Letter to Wife and Son.

The second letter was in Russian and addressed to his wife and their 7-year-old son, whose address in New York has been kept secret. It said:

"Dear Tonia and Alek:

"It is very difficult, but 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 Alek yet where his father is gone. I believe

that in time you will tell him, because it will 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. My sins are very big.

"I see you Tonia and Alek. I embrace you.

"Yours.

"Vela.

"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 firearms."

Name Unexplained.

No one was available last night to explain who Dobertov is. Neither the man's wife nor Mr. Waldman had ever heard of such a person.

The third letter was written in German. It was addressed to "Suzanne," who, Mr. Waldman explained, is Suzanne La Follette, a cousin of the Wisconsin political family and a liberal writer. It said:

"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.

"I also think about your brother and Dorothy."

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NY—Louis Waldman (center), without hat, last night to aid with the inquiry into the snuffing with reporters. J. B. Matthews, Waldman.



Gen. Krivitsky (left) is shown with Chairman Martin Dies at a hearing before the Dies committee in 1939. —A. P.

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Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky shown as he testified before the Dies committee October 11, 1939, to tell his story of the 1936-7 purge of Russian Army officers. —A. P. Photo.

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She found the body on the bed. It was on top of the covers. Krivitsky was wearing a sweater and had taken off his shoes.

#### Pistol on Bed.

There was a gaping wound in the right side of his head. The right arm lay across the body, the right hand resting on the left arm. The pistol—covered with blood—was on the bed, to the left of the body.

A doctor was summoned and pronounced the man dead. Police searching through the effects in the room, found three notes. One was in English, addressed to Mr. Waldman in New York. The second was in German and the third in Russian.

There was a passport, issued by the Canadian government, which bore the name Ginsberg. There was nothing to indicate anything but suicide. The room was in order; the door locked; the window—five floors above the street and near no fire escape—was open a little.

Detective Sergt. Dewey Guest of the Homicide Squad, who handled the investigation, concluded that it was a routine case. He closed his investigation and a certificate of suicide was prepared.

Late in the afternoon, there came a call from Mr. Waldman. He told Inspector Bernard W. Thompson that Ginsberg was in reality Gen. Krivitsky. He said that there was no doubt that the man had been murdered and stated that he would come to Washington immediately to aid in the investigation.

#### Matthews Identifies Body.

Seeking identification of the body, newspapermen located Dr. Matthews and took him to the Morgue. It was the Dies Committee chief investigator who had discovered Krivitsky originally and persuaded him to tell his story.

Dr. Matthews viewed the body and said:

"That's Krivitsky. And I'm sure he's been murdered."

Talking to reporters, he told how he had found the Russian in 1939 in a hide-away in upper New York. The place was so carefully hidden

that it took him to reach it, Dr. Matthews said.

He came to know Krivitsky well and to believe implicitly in the man's story of his experiences as a Russian secret police chief.

"He appeared before the committee on October 11, 1939," Dr. Matthews said. "I rode from Washington to New York with him after the hearings.

"He said then 'There are two of us they're after. Trotsky is one and I'm the other. Don't ever believe I committed suicide.' I went to Mexico City a few weeks later to talk to Trotsky.

"Trotsky told me 'There are two of us they want to get. I'm one and Krivitsky's the other.' Well, they got Trotsky. And now it looks like they got Krivitsky."

#### Returns to Hiding.

Dr. Matthews told police that Krivitsky had gone into hiding after testifying before the committee. The Dies investigator tried to talk Krivitsky out of his fear of assassination.

The Russian went to Canada about a year ago when immigration authorities told him his time as a visitor in this country had expired. He re-entered the United States some months ago, Dr. Matthews said, under a new passport and had made plans to become a citizen.

Police commanders went into conference a short time later. District Attorney Curran joined the conference and the foreign language letters were sent to the State Department for translation.

It was after 11 p.m. when Mr. Waldman reached Washington. He went to the Morgue and viewed the body. Reporters—representing local as well as out-of-town papers and press associations—congregated at the Morgue.

After some time, Dr. MacDonald emerged and called the reporters into the Morgue hearing room. He read them the notes found in the Krivitsky room.

#### Waldman Makes Statement.

When the coroner had concluded his reading of the letters and answered some of the questions which came from the score of reporters, Mr. Waldman stepped forward and asked permission to make a statement.

"I have looked at the body and I've been shown the notes," he said. "Physical appearance indicates suicide and the notes are very persuasive.

"As his attorney and for the public interest, I am asking, however, that the authorities not close this investigation, for the following reasons:

"It is well known that the OGPU has specimens of handwritings of Krivitsky—who was once in their employ—in every language. They

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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70

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

are experts at forgery, as Krivitsky pointed out in his writing.

"I saw him in my office last week. He told me he was going to buy a small farm near a university town in Virginia. He complained that he was being shadowed and asked me to help him get a permit to carry a gun.

"He asked me to help him get protection from the F. B. I. He wanted to change his name and I took steps to accomplish this—in secret proceedings.

#### Planned New Life.

"There was nothing to indicate that this was a man about to commit suicide. All his plans were laid on the basis of starting a new life in the United States.

"I strongly urge that both the local police and the F. B. I. be used to make sure this isn't another Trotsky case."

Dr. MacDonald replied that the case would remain open. The coroner said that he was certain that it was a suicide and had so certified. But if any new evidence was developed he would consider a change in his verdict.

During testimony before the Dies Committee in October, 1939, Krivitsky testified he was born Samuel Ginsberg in the Russian Ukraine in 1899. He said his "official, legal Soviet government name" had been Krivitsky since 1919.

Krivitsky testified that he entered the military intelligence in 1920, and from 1921 to 1923 worked in the third bureau of the Red army general staff. He returned to general staff intelligence work in 1934 after holding several other positions, and said he was chief of Soviet military intelligence for Western Europe in 1935-7. He said he broke with

Stalin over the 1937 purge. A short, wiry individual with a lined, grim face, he gave the committee much inside information of what he said was the working of the international Communist system.

Testifying in Russian through an interpreter, he declared that 25,000 members of the Russian Red army corps were "destroyed" by Stalin in 1937; that 300,000 or 400,000 other persons were exiled or imprisoned and "millions" interned in concentration camps.

He also testified that:

Communist party leaders in Germany, Poland and Hungary were recalled to Moscow and shot, despite the fact that they were not citizens of Russia.

Stalin is the absolute head of the Communist party in the United States.

Stalin could not have accomplished "the great purge" of 1936-37 without "moral support" from other countries because so many elements were against him in his own country.

The OGPU spies not only on foreign governments and on Soviet diplomats—"from Ambassadors to the lowest Embassy officials"—but on citizens of other lands who express displeasure with Moscow.

The OGPU kidnaps and murders persons, some of them non-Russians, on foreign soil—in drives against persons "considered" anti-Stalinists.

## Three Letters Of Krivitsky

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

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 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, Alek, 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 Alek 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 sins are big. I see you, Tonia and Alek. 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 brother and Dorothy."

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Carson ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Gurnea ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Hendon ✓  
Mr. Jones ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

Mr. Tamm  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
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Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

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FEB 11 1941

WASHINGTON POST

Mindful of Eastern

# 2 Ex-Leader of OGPU, Found Dead Here

## Ex-OGPU Chief Found Dead Here



WALTER KRIVITSKY, refugee Bolshevik leader, has been identified as Samuel Ginsberg, found shot to death yesterday in a hotel on E Street Northwest

## Murder, Says His Lawyer; Police Call It Suicide

General Feared  
Russian Secret  
Agents Would Kill  
Him for Talking

Gen. Walter Krivitsky, who claimed to be former western European head of the OGPU (Russian secret police), was found shot to death yesterday in his room in the Bellevue Hotel, 15 E Street Northwest.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald issued a certificate of suicide, but Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's attorney, said in New York that "there is no doubt in my mind that this is the work of the OGPU."

Waldman, once the Socialist candidate for Governor of New York, told the Associated Press that Krivitsky—after his break with the OGPU—had been cooperating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in antespionage work and had come to Washington late last week to "discuss provisions for safety." This statement was denied by the FBI.

### Feared Russian Agents

The body of the refugee Bolshevik leader, whose real name was Samuel Ginsberg, was identified late yesterday by Dr. James B. Matthews, Dies Committee research director.

Matthews said that he had been acquainted for a long time with Krivitsky, who testified before the Dies Committee in 1939 and later wrote a series of articles in the Saturday Evening Post on alleged activity of Russian secret agents in the United States and elsewhere. Matthews said that Krivitsky, on his appearance before the Dies Committee, had told him that OGPU agents were "after him."

"If I die," Matthews quoted Krivitsky, "don't ever believe it was suicide."

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# Krivitsky, Ex-Leader Shot to Death in

89

This statement was denied by the  
FBI

## FBI Feared Russian Agents

The body of the refugee Bolshevik leader, whose real name was Samuel Ginsberg, was identified late yesterday by Dr. James R. Matthews, Dies Committee research director.

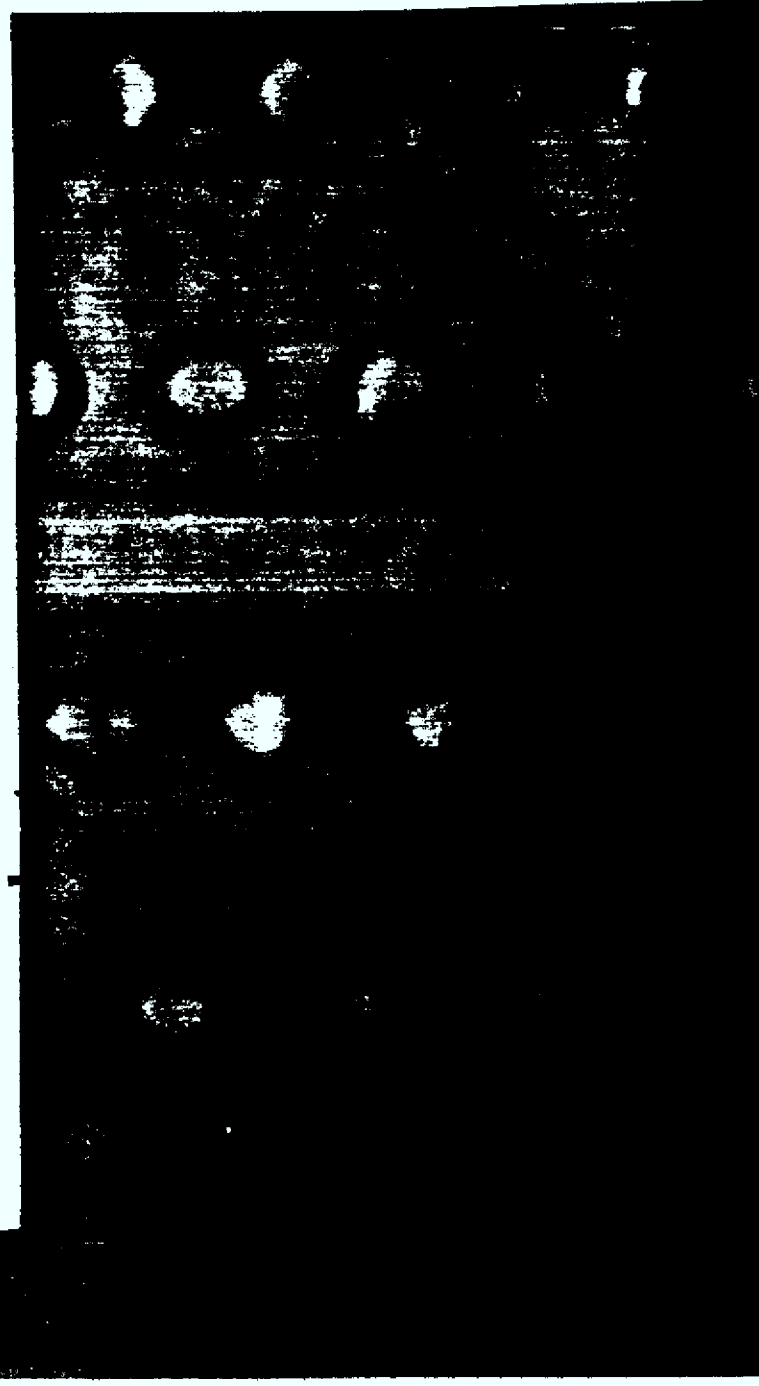
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Matthews said that Krivitsky, on his appearance before the Dies Committee, had told him that OGPU agents were "after him."

"If I die," Matthews quoted Krivitsky, "don't ever believe it was suicide."

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#### Bullet Through Head

A bullet through the head. Krivitsky's body was found on the bed of his hotel room at 9:30 a. m. by a chambermaid, Thelma Jackson, 22. A .38-caliber automatic pistol lay beside the body, and in an envelope on a nearby desk were two letters—one in English and one in Russian—and a passport issued by Canada.

The note in English was addressed to Waldman, asking him to take care of the Krivitsky family. The Russian note had not been translated at an early hour last night.

Krivitsky, police reported, registered Saturday at the Bellevue under the name of "Walter Porot." Before leaving New York for Washington, Waldman said that Krivitsky lately had gone under the assumed name of "Walter Porot" because of his fear of Russian secret agents.

#### Door Locked From Inside

Despite Waldman's expressed "investigation," both Coroner Macdonald and Detective Sgt. Dewey Guest said there was no doubt in their minds but that Krivitsky had committed suicide. The door to his room, according to the hotel's manager, was locked from the inside, and the man apparently had not had visitors since he registered.

Before the Dies Committee and in his magazine articles, Krivitsky identified himself as chief of the Soviet military intelligence in western Europe in 1935-37, a director of the Soviet War Industries Institute

## Krivitsky Shot Dead in D.C. Hotel

SHOT, from Page 1

in 1933-34 and for 17 years in the intelligence service of Stalin.

His official connection with Russia ended in 1937, he said, when he broke with Stalin over the purge of that year. He fled to the United States.

At the time of his testimony to the Dies Committee, he declared that OGUP agents would "spare nothing to reduce me to silence by assassination."

Born in 1890 in the Western Ukraine, Krivitsky told the committee that "the OGUP has its agents planted in all institutions, governmental and industrial, in the United States."

During his testimony, the short, slender man, with black hair brushed straight back, understood questions put to him in English, but answered them in Russian, through an interpreter.

Left wing groups in this country charged in 1939 that Krivitsky was an imposter who never had been a general in the Russian army. The magazine New Masses asserted that in reality he was an Austrian named Schmucka Ginsberg and a habitue of Paris night clubs.

## 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 28, 1890, in a city in western Ukraine which was a part of Poland until a month before he testified.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
H. J. ...  
J. W. ...

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WASHINGTON POST

59

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



WALTER KRIVITSKY.

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

(Pictures On Page 2.)

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 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."

While investigators first scouted the possibility of international intrigue, Curran said he would have all the available facts in his hands by morning and would decide then what action was to be taken.

NOT RECORDED

100-11146 sub A

FEB 11 1941

WASHINGTON POST

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 suicidal 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 "Susan Lafo," of New York City.

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 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 9:30 a. m. by Thelma Jackson, 21, colored chambermaid, in the fifth-floor hotel room.

#### Pistol on the Floor

She had passed the door several times during the morning and had 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 4:40 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 attendances 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 employees 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 fingerprints on the pistol. These 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 that city Wednesday on several missions. Among other things he was to see Representative Martin Dies and seek refuge for her and the boy in Virginia.

Waldman, on arrival here last

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 Couderc 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 told friends some time ago that he had visited Leon Trotsky in Mexico before the exiled Communist leader was assassinated last summer and that Trotsky had been fearful both of them would be killed by the OGPU.

The Saturday Evening Post, in

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, 1933. 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."



## Lawyer Views Krivitsky's Body — D. A. Heads Investigators



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 Bolshevik'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.

## Lawyer Views Krivitsky's Body . . . D. A. Heads Investigators

Page 1.



Post Staff Photo  
**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 Matthews (also hatless), Dies Committee investigator, who first identified the refugee Bolshevik's body.

NOT RECORDED

THE WASHINGTON POST  
February 11, 1947

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

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 "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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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.

THE WASHINGTON POST  
February 11, 1941

~~NOT RECORDED~~

## Three Letters Of Krivitsky

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

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 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, Alek, 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 Alek 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 sins are big. I see you, Tonia and Alek. I embrace you.

"VELA."

"P. S.—On the farm of Dobriev 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 Dobriev 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 brother and Dorothy."

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

(Pictures On Page 2.)

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 (Russia's 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 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:

NOT RECORDED



"The case is not closed."

While investigators first scouted the possibility of international intrigue, Curran said he would have all the available facts in his hands by morning and would decide then what 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 suicidal 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 "Susan Lafo," of New York City.

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 SHOT, Page 2, Column 1.

## 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 antespionage work. The FBI denied any connection with the man.

NOT RECORDED

#### **"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 9:30 a. m. by Thelma Jackson, 21, colored chambermaid, in the fifth-floor hotel room.

#### **Pistol on the Floor**

She had passed the door several times during the morning and had 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.

*Alexander Krivitsky*

#### **No Shot Heard**

There were no outgoing telephone calls, no visitors and no occupants of the hotel heard a shot during the night, hotel employees 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 Proket, 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 that city Wednesday on several missions. Among other things he was to see Representative Martin Dies and seek refuge for her and the boy in Virginia.

Waldman, on arrival here last

NOT RECORDED

Gen. 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 in 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 told friends some time ago that he had visited Leon Trotsky in Mexico before the exiled Communist leader was assassinated last summer and that Trotsky had been fearful both of them would be killed by the OGPU.

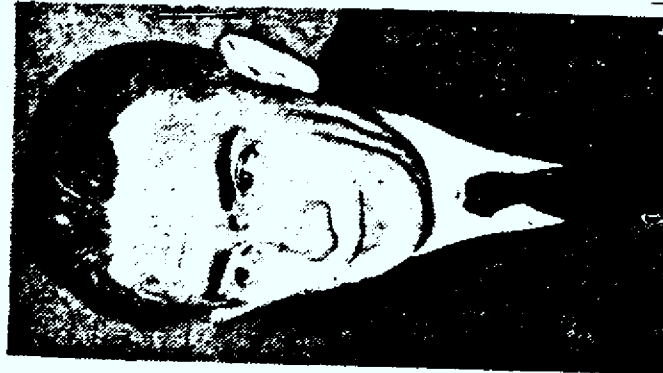
The Saturday Evening Post, in

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, 1933. 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."

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



WALTER KRIVITSKY

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

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

100-11146-subA

THE WASHINGTON POST  
February 11, 1941

## 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 28, 1890, in a city in western Ukraine which was a part of Poland until a month before he testified.

NOT RECORDED



# 'Another Trotsky Case' Krivitsky's Attorney Seeks FBI Action

By United Press

Friends of the late Walter G. Krivitsky insisted today that he was assassinated by an agent of the Soviet secret police, and clamored for an FBI investigation.

Krivitsky's story of his past as head of the Western European Division of the secret police, a director of spies and assassins, is so well documented and detailed that few doubt it. He was found with a bullet in his head in his room in the Bellevue hotel at 15 E-st nw, opposite Union Station.

## SPOTTED AN AGENT

All evidence points to suicide, but Krivitsky himself had described the methods of GPU assassinations who often made their victims appear suicides. And only last week he saw in New York City a man he recognized, thru previous associations, as one of the GPU's most clever assassins.

That man was trailing him, according to Krivitsky's attorney, Louis Waldman of New York City, who today formally asks the FBI to take over because "it is another Trotsky case." Leon Trotsky, associate of Lenin and a power in Russia until exiled by Stalin, was assassinated in Mexico City last summer.

Krivitsky's wife insists he was assassinated. So does Boris Shub, his interpreter. They all say that for more than a year Krivitsky had lived in fear of his life.

## 3 REASONS FOR SUSPICION

Mr. Waldman listed three reasons why police should not close the case as a suicide, but should seek an assassin.

1. Questionable authenticity of the "suicide" notes. He said the GPU has specimens of Krivitsky's handwriting "in every language" and that the GPU is recognized as "expert at forgery."

2. Krivitsky talked to him in New York last week of buying a farm in Virginia for himself and his family. Mr. Waldman said "all of his plans were of a man not inclined to self-destruction suicide or even pessimism, but of a man arranging to start a new life."

Mr. Waldman said Krivitsky was convinced he could no longer live safely in New York and was especially eager to get away from industrial centers where GPU agents center their operation. He wanted the Virginia farm as a hide-away from his pursuers, Mr. Waldman said.

3. Within the past three weeks, Krivitsky had been informed that "a special GPU agent named Hans had appeared in New York." Mr. Waldman said Krivitsky told him the man was a "thread killer" and his life (Krivitsky's) was not safe.

## STRICTLY POLICE CASE

FBI and State Department officials said they plan no investigation. State Department spokesmen said it is strictly a case for the police.

Washington police had written the case off as a suicide, but reopened it for investigation. They asked Charlottesville, Va., authorities to find a man named "Dobertov," who, according to one of the notes found in Krivitsky's room in Krivitsky's handwriting, provided him with the revolver that ended his life.

Krivitsky's body was found yesterday morning. Beside the body was a .38-caliber revolver. In the room were the three notes, one in Russian addressed to his wife; another in English to Mr. Waldman, the third in German to "Dear Suzanne"—identified by Mr. Waldman as Suzanne La Follette, New York writer and cousin of Sen. Robert M. La Follette (D., Wis.).

Suzanne La Follette is well known in New York literary and Trotskyite circles. She formerly was editor of the now defunct magazine Freeman, and was contributing editor of The Nation. She was a member of a committee which in 1938 held a "trial" in Mexico City of Soviet charges that Trotsky had plotted to overthrow the Soviet regime. Trotsky testified and was "acquitted."

## SIGNATURES THE SAME

Ira Gullicson, metropolitan police handwriting expert, said there is no doubt the signature on the hotel register and the "suicide" notes were written by the same man. He said Krivitsky apparently wrote the note to his wife last because, unlike the other two, it showed nervous stress.

(To his wife he wrote in Russian, addressed to his wife Tanya and his son, Alek):

"Dear Tanya and Dear Alek:

"It is very difficult. 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 Alek yet where his father has 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 with him.

## WENT TO GET GUN

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

"Yours, Vela.

"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 firearms."

In German, to Suzanne La Follette, New York writer and second cousin of Sen. Robert M. La Follette (D., Wis.), he wrote:

"Dear Suzanne:

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

"Yours, Walter.

"I also think about your brother and Dorothy."

## LETTER TO WALDMAN

In English, addressed to Mr. Waldman, he wrote:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:

"My wife and my boy will need your help. Please do for them what you can. (Signed) Walter Krivitsky.

"I went to Virginia because I know that there I can get a gun. If my friends have trouble, please, Mr. Waldman, help them."

All three notes were written on plain paper headed only by "Charlottesville,"—Charlottesville, Va., where Mr. Waldman said Krivitsky planned to seek a haven for his wife and family.

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WASHINGTON NEWS

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#### PASS KEY POSSIBLE

The door to Krivitsky's fifth floor room was locked, but anyone with a pass key could have opened it. A chambermaid did so when she received no response to her knock. She called hotel officials after finding the body.

Other means of access to the room are discounted. There is no ledge on the outside of the building along which an assassin could have crept to enter the window. Nor is there a fire escape. Possibility of anyone having descended to the window by a rope from a room above is not believed likely.

J. B. Matthews, special investigator for Rep. Martin Dies (D., Tex.), who knew Krivitsky well and identified the body, said Trotsky told him before his death that he feared both he and Krivitsky would be assassinated.

#### FOUND FULLY CLOTHED

He did not know whether the Dies Committee would investigate his death, but Rep. Dies is en route here from Chicago to help steer a resolution extending the life of his committee thru the House today.

Krivitsky registered for a \$2.50-a-day at the Bellevue Hotel Sunday night as "Walter Poref," which he frequently used. "Poref" is his wife's maiden name. Hotel attaches said he apparently had no visitors. The night clerk thought he seemed nervous when he registered.

Hotel officials found his body—fully clothed except for coat and shoes—on the bed. Coroner MacDonald said death occurred "some time during the night." He issued a certificate of suicide but recalled it after Mr. Waldman made his charges.

#### SOUGHT FBI HELP

Only one shell of the revolver had been discharged and that bullet had entered Krivitsky's brain thru the right temple. Police could locate no one in the hotel who heard the shot.

Mr. Waldman said his client had sought his help to obtain protection from the FBI, which denied that it had been in communication with him at any time.

Krivitsky first came to this country in November, 1938, on a visitor's visa from Paris. Since then his visa has been extended several times.

Born Samuel Ginsberg, he became prominent in this country in 1939 when he told the Dies Committee that he had broken a 20-year association with Stalin in 1937 after the Soviet purge and, in consequence, feared assassination by OGPU agents. He had written a series of articles for the Saturday Evening Post purporting to expose world-wide Communist intrigues.

When his magazine articles appeared in the spring and summer of 1939, there was some difficulty about renewal of the visa, Mr. Waldman said, but it was straightened out and after that he went to Canada where he remained until October, 1940. Since then he and his family have been living in New York City.



Krivitsky.



Mr. Waldman with reporters.



Mr. Matthews talks with a reporter.

WASHINGTON

MAY 1941

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COMMUNICATIONS

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

THE WASHINGTON-TIMES HERALD SAID TONIGHT THAT A MRS. MARGUERITE DOBERT, WHOSE HUSBAND WAS DESCRIBED AS A FORMER NAZI STORM TROOPER, MOTORED GEN. WALTER G. KRIVITSKY TO WASHINGTON FROM HER CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., FARM SUNDAY, THE DAY BEFORE HE WAS FOUND SHOT TO DEATH IN A HOTEL HERE.

THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED MRS. DOBERT AS SAYING SHE LEFT KRIVITSKY NEAR THE UNION STATION AFTER HE TOLD HER HE PLANNED TO TAKE A TRAIN TO NEW YORK. THE NEWSPAPER SAID IT LEARNED THAT KRIVITSKY ARRIVED AT THE DOBERT FARM THURSDAY FROM NEW YORK IN AN AUTOMOBILE DRIVEN BY A "STRANGER;" THAT MRS. DOBERT DROVE KRIVITSKY INTO CHARLOTTESVILLE FRIDAY TO PURCHASE A PISTOL "FOR PROTECTION."

THE WOMAN'S HUSBAND, EITEL WOLF DOBERT, TOLD THE TIMES-HERALD, HE NEWSPAPER SAID, THAT HE AND KRIVITSKY ENGAGED IN TARGET PRACTICE LAST WEEK-END.

"HE WAS ALWAYS FOOLING WITH THE GUN," DOBERT WAS QUOTED. "I WARNED HIM IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY SAFETY CATCH."

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*Send to Div 1*  
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# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Jones

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

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FEB 11 1941

THE FBI SAID TODAY IT HAD NO INTEREST IN THE KRIVITSKY CASE. IT SAID THAT WHETHER GEN. WALTER G. KRIVITSKY WAS A SUICIDE OR WAS MURDERED IS A MATTER FOR THE LOCAL POLICE.

"IT IS A LOCAL MATTER FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE," A FBI SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER LOUIS WALDMAN, ATTORNEY FOR KRIVITSKY AND THE LATE LEON TROTSKY, CONFERRED WITH INSPECTOR AL ROSEN OF THE FBI INTELLIGENCE DIVISION. "THE CORONER HAS CALLED IT SUICIDE. EVEN IF THE CORONER CALLS IT MURDER, IT IS STILL A MATTER FOR THE LOCAL POLICE. WE ARE MAKING NO INVESTIGATION."

WALDMAN INSISTED THAT KRIVITSKY WAS MURDERED AND THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATING SUICIDE WERE THE CLEVER INVENTIONS OF WHAT HE CALLED STALINIST AGENTS.

BARNARD W. THOMPSON, DETECTIVE CHIEF OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICE, HOWEVER, SAID AFTER A NIGHT-LONG INVESTIGATION, WHICH INCLUDED AN AUTOPSY, THAT EVERY BIT OF EVIDENCE POINTED TOWARD SUICIDE.

"UP TO THE PRESENT OUR INVESTIGATORS HAVE FOUND NOTHING TO SUBSTANTIATE THE THEORY OF MURDER," THOMPSON SAID. "EVERY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE POINTS TO SELF-DESTRUCTION AND WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION THAN THAT FROM KRIVITSKY'S ATTORNEY TO SUPPORT THE THEORY OF MURDER."

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# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Feb 11 2 47 PM '42

RECEIVED

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

ADD DIES, HOUSE.

THE RESOLUTION CONTINUING THE COMMITTEE TO APRIL, 1942, WAS PASSED 353 TO 6 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE. REPS. DICKSTEIN, FRANK HOOD, THOMAS H. ELIOT, RUDOLPH TENEROWICZ, THOMAS E. SCANLON, AND VITO MERCANTONIO, VOTED AGAINST IT.

THE HOUSE THEN APPROPRIATED \$150,000 FOR THE COMMITTEE, WHICH PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$235,000.

SPEAKER RAYBURN APPOINTED REP. HARRY P. BEAM TO THE COMMITTEE TO SUCCEED JOHN J. DEMPSEY, OF NEW MEXICO, NOW A MEMBER OF THE U.S. MARITIME COMMISSION.

2/11--EG329P 20-0

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FEB 13 3 18 AM '42

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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

## Coroner MacDonald Reveals Texts of Krivitsky Notes

Notes which were found in the room in which Gen. Walter Krivitsky was shot to death were read to newsmen at the Morgue last night by Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald.

The letters, he explained, were written on stationery bearing the letterhead "Charlottesville, Va." and nothing more. The first, written in English, was addressed to Mr. Waldman. It said:

"Dear Mr. Waldman:

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

"Yours, Walter Krivitsky.

"I went to Virginia because I know that there I can get a gun. If my friends get in trouble please help them. They are good people and they didn't know why I got the gun."

Letter to Wife and Son.

The second letter was in Russian and addressed to his wife and their 7-year-old son, whose address in New York has been kept secret. It said:

"Dear Tonia and Alek:

"It is very difficult, but 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 Alek yet where his father is gone. I believe

that in time you will tell him, because it will 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. My sins are very big.

"I see you Tonia and Alek. I embrace you.

"Yours,

"Vela.

"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 firearms."

Name Unexplained.

No one was available last night to explain who Dobertov is. Neither the man's wife nor Mr. Waldman had ever heard of such a person.

The third letter was written in German. It was addressed to "Suzanne," who, Mr. Waldman explained, is Suzanne La Follette, a cousin of the Wisconsin political family and a liberal writer. It said:

"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.

"I also think about your brother and Dorothy."

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FEB 11 1941

WASH STAR

WASHINGTON ONLY NEWS SERVICE

FEB 11 6 18 PM '41

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F B I  
COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

REP. MARTIN DIES, IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THROUGH THE OFFICES OF HIS COMMITTEE ON UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES, SAID TONIGHT THAT THE LATE GENERAL WALTER KRIVITSKY HAD CONSIDERED IT INEVITABLE THAT HE WOULD DIE AT THE HANDS OF RUSSIAN POLICE AGENTS.

DIES SAID THAT FINAL JUDGMENT ON THE QUESTION OF MURDER OR SUICIDE IN THE CASE RESTED WITH DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUTHORITIES, BUT THAT KRIVITSKY HAD CONSIDERED ASSASSINATION "AT THE HANDS OF STALIN'S KILLERS" TO BE THE INEVITABLE END OF HIMSELF AND LEON TROTSKY, WHO WAS KILLED IN MEXICO CITY.

DIES' STATEMENT SAID:

"THE FATAL SHOOTING OF GEN. WALTER KRIVITSKY RAISES MANY QUESTIONS OF THE GRAVEST MOMENT.

"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 SOVIE 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 GEN. KRIVITSKY. THAT IS A QUESTION FOR THE DISTRICT AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF ALL THE FACTS.

"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 GEN. KRIVITSKY HIMSELF.

"THE GENERAL EXPLAINED TO ME WHAT HE CONSIDERED THE INEVITABLE END OF HIMSELF AND LEON TROTSKY AT THE HANDS OF STALIN'S KILLERS. SHORTLY AFTER HE GAVE ME THIS INFORMATION, I SENT ONE OF OUR COMMITTEE'S AGENTS TO MEXICO CITY IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN WHATEVER INFORMATION TROTSKY POSSESSED ON 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.

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WASHINGTON  
FEB 11 1951

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RECEIVED  
F B I  
COMMUNICATIONS

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

400  
✓  
L  
Pulvack

R-40-PM

Mr. Rosen says this is not true  
as to Waldman or Krivitsky

THE SOVIET RUSSIAN SECRET POLICE EITHER DROVE GEN. WALTER G. KRIVITSKY TO SELF-DESTRUCTION OR ACTUALLY LIQUIDATED HIM FOR BETRAYING THE SECRETS OF JOSEF STALIN, THE FORMER SOVIET SPY CHIEF'S LAWYER SAID TODAY.

WHETHER IT WAS MURDER OR SUICIDE, ATTORNEY LOUIS WALDMAN SAID. "THE GPU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH."

IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, THE MANNER OF KRIVITSKY'S VIOLENT PASSING IS TRANSCENDED BY THIS BROADER QUESTION:

"CAN A PERSON FURNISHING INFORMATION TO OUR GOVERNMENT ABOUT RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE, HERE AND ABROAD, BE SAFE FROM GPU TERROR?"

WALDMAN CLAIMED THAT KRIVITSKY HAD FURNISHED "VALUABLE ESPIONAGE INFORMATION" TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE FBI. BOTH DEPARTMENTS DENIED THIS. KRIVITSKY DID EXPOSE TO A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WHAT HE PURPORTED TO BE A COMMUNIST PLOT OF WORLD INTRIGUE.

WALDMAN ASSAILED THE FBI'S REFUSAL TO INVESTIGATE.

"IF KRIVITSKY COULD BE DONE AWAY WITH EITHER BY MURDER OR BY BEING DRIVEN TO TAKE HIS LIFE," HE SAID, "HOW CAN THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES EXPECT COOPERATION IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE FIFTH COLUMN FROM PEOPLE WITH LESSER STRENGTH OF CHARACTER THAN KRIVITSKY?"

"GENERAL KRIVITSKY'S DEATH IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND TO THE FBI."

THE ATTORNEY SAID HE HAD FURNISHED THE FBI WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT ONE HANS BRUESSE (WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS A "NOTORIOUS GPU 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 SERVICE) WAS IN NEW YORK WITHIN THE FOUR MONTHS.

WALDMAN DEMANDED TO KNOW WHAT BRUESSE WAS DOING IN THE UNITED STATES, HOW HE GOT HERE, WHO HIS ASSOCIATES ARE AND WHERE AND HOW HE FUNCTIONED.

"ISN'T THAT A MATTER FOR THE FBI TO INVESTIGATE?" HE ASKED. "FAILURE ON ITS PART 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 THE GPU ACTIVITIES, ACTS AT HIS OWN PERIL."

"THE RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY OF THE FBI IS PLAIN. THEY MUST ACT."

2/11--W0622P CJER

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# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

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

FEB 11 6 29 PM '41

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COMMUNICATION

ADD WALDMAN.

LATE TODAY, WALDMAN INJECTED A NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO THE CASE TO EMPHASIZE HIS THEORY THAT KRIVITSKY EITHER WAS ASSASSINATED OR DRIVEN TO SUICIDE. HE PRODUCED A LETTER SENT TO MISS SUZANNE LA FOLLETTE, A FRIEND OF THE KRIVITSKY FAMILY AND SECOND COUSIN OF SEN. ROBERT LA FOLLETTE OF WISCONSIN.

THE LETTER, SAID BY WALDMAN TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY A "PAUL WOHL" WHO CLAIMED KRIVITSKY OWED HIM \$200, INSTRUCTED MISS LA FOLLETTE TO "TELL YOUR FRIEND THAT AN OMINOUS MAN IS IN NEW YORK -- HANS."

WALDMAN QUOTED THE LETTER AS ADDING THAT:

"HIS (KRIVITSKY'S) DEVIIOUS PRACTICES JUSTIFY THIS WARNING. I HESITATE TO SEND IT. IT MAY BE BETTER TO LET THE RATS DEVOUR THE RATS."

WALDMAN DOUBTED THAT KRIVITSKY OWED ANY MONEY, SAYING HIS LATE CLIENT WAS FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT.

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# Reveals Workings

## Stalin 'Axmen' in U.S.

BY MEYER ZOLOTAREFF.

Albert Goldman, for many years an intimate friend and legal advisor of the slain Leon Trotsky, told in Chicago today of the many instances in which men had been killed by agents of Stalin.

He believes Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, found dead in a Washington hotel Monday, was also a victim of the Stalin killers. Goldman has long been a student of the operations of the OGPU, Stalin's secret police.

### NAMES KILLERS.

He said he believed Krivitsky was murdered just like Trotsky, Trotsky's son and prominent men in Germany and Spain. Goldman, who is on his way to New York, even named many of the expert killers used by Stalin to wipe out his enemies in all parts of the world.

Goldman said he was positive



ALBERT GOLDMAN  
'Krivitsky was murdered ...'

that Krivitsky, former Soviet military intelligence chief, knew well that he was to be the latest victim of the Soviet's murderers.

Krivitsky knew Stalin's killers were shadowing him, Goldman said, and was well aware of their ability and their blind devotion to their master, Stalin.

### FLEES IN FEAR.

As a result of the recent influx of Stalin's agents to New York, Krivitsky began looking for a place of refuge, traveling from one city to another, in constant fear to be caught in the trap set for him by Stalin and his OGPU.

Mr. Goldman said:

"The OGPU does not forgive

anyone who sins against Stalin. You cannot resign, you cannot escape from its clutches. Krivitsky also fell its victim.

When told that evidence leads to believe Krivitsky had committed suicide, Goldman replied:

"Even if Krivitsky had killed himself because he got sick and tired of leading a hunted life, the world must consider him, just the same, a victim of Stalin and his OGPU.

"As far as I am concerned, I will still believe it is murder artistically masquerading as suicide. For I know very well the methods of the OGPU, which often puzzles the world by making a slaying look like a suicide."

Goldman recited many similar cases, where Stalin's foes had been murdered and the world made to believe they had ended their own lives. He pointed to the case of Leon Sadoff, Trotsky's own son, who in 1938 was found in Paris dead from poison. The French police issued a verdict of suicide, but Goldman said he had documents proving agents of the OGPU had poisoned young Leon.

Another son of Trotsky, Serge, had been "liquidated" during the bloody purge trials in Russia. In this case, the OGPU stated, it disposed of Serge because he had been active in spreading disease among Russia's population, by spreading contagious bacilli. A daughter of Trotsky, and Serge's



FRANK JACKSON  
After he slew Trotsky

sister who lived in Germany, recently committed suicide. The circumstances leading to her have never become known.

Goldman related other instances of how far the arm of OGPU can reach. He said:

"Take, for instance, Willie Rosenberg, a prominent Communist. I met him years in Berlin. When Hitler came to power he fled to France. A ally of Stalin, he later had misunderstanding with him. He was ordered to come to Kremlin, but refused. Then word he had hanged himself. I have statements from people who investigated the matter. They say Willie had been murdered. Andrei Nin, head of the

THE CHICAGO AMERICAN

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# OGPU 'Ring of Slayers'

sh 'Poum' party, a semi-Trotsky-  
istic group, was arrested by the loy-  
alist government during the civil  
war in Spain. It was found later  
that he had been kidnaped by an  
OGPU agent and killed, because he  
was another of Stalin's important  
foes."

It is the opinion of Goldman  
that Mexico City and New York  
are now prominent centers of  
Stalin's OGPU. He said:

"Most of the OGPU agents re-  
side in Mexico, because this land  
is safest for them at present. The  
heads of Stalin's secret intelli-  
gence apparatus for the Western  
hemisphere have made their head-  
quarters in New York City. Be-  
cause murdering Trotsky, the slayer,  
Jack Jackson, had to go to New  
York to get instructions.

OGPU agents in America watch  
the Communist Party to  
be sure it doesn't break away  
from the Kremlin and become an  
independent party. They also pen-  
etrate every organization which  
in some way or other be-  
comes a tool of Stalin, such as labor  
groups. Stalin's agents  
in the U. S. also devote much of  
their activity to industrial and  
spy espionage."

Referring to Trotsky's murder,  
Goldman said he had proof that  
Jack Jackson had been a  
member of the OGPU. He said:

"On a recent visit to Mexico City,  
I met a man who joined the Interna-  
tional Brigade, a Stalinist outfit  
in the Spanish loyalist army, who  
died subsequently in one of Gen.  
Franco's concentration camps.



**LEON TROTSKY**  
Assassin Jackson's victim.

"In one of his articles the slain  
Gen. Krivitsky disclosed that the  
OGPU came into possession of  
thousands of passports which were  
taken away from members of the  
International brigade. That proves  
conclusively that Jackson was a  
member of the OGPU."

On a recent visit to Mexico City,  
I met a man who joined the Interna-  
tional Brigade, a Stalinist outfit  
in the Spanish loyalist army, who  
died subsequently in one of Gen.  
Franco's concentration camps.

Goldman said, he met a man,  
known as the most vicious killer  
of the OGPU, who had been  
swinging Stalin's ax during the  
Spanish war.

When asked about Trotsky's  
widow, Natalia, Goldman said she  
resides in her old home near  
Mexico with her 15-year-old  
grandson "Sleva." She is depressed  
since her husband's death. She is  
preparing for publication Trotsky's  
unfinished book on Stalin. Guards,  
secretaries and friends guard her  
against possible OGPU attempts to  
liquidate her, too.

## 2 Die as Canadian Trains Crash Head-on

TRENTON, Ont., Feb. 12.—(AP)—  
The engineer and firemen of a  
passenger train were killed today  
in the head-on collision with a  
freight train east of Trenton.

## 2 NAZI PRISONERS ESCAPE

CALGARY, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Two  
German prisoners of war escaped  
from a working party near a  
prairie internment camp at dusk  
yesterday.

## Krivitsky Slain Says Tunney

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 12.—(AP)—  
Gene Tunney, former world  
heavyweight boxing champion,  
told a University of Minnesota  
audience last night he was con-  
vinced a slaying—not suicide—ex-  
plained the death of General Wa-  
ter G. Krivitsky, former Soviet  
secret service agent who was found  
shot to death in a Washington  
hotel room Monday.

Tunney said in his estimation  
the "suicide notes" found in Kriv-  
itsky's room were forged.

"I knew General Krivitsky well  
and I know he had too much to  
live for to commit suicide," Tun-  
ney said.

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

## FINDING IS DELAYED IN KRIVITSKY DEATH

Waldman's Plea That General  
Was Ogpu Victim Puts Off  
Issuance of Certificate

POLICE SURE HE TOOK LIFE

Former Reich Officer Asserts  
Ex-Spy Chief Purchased  
Pistol to Kill Himself

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 11—The metropolitan police remained convinced today that General Walter G. Krivitsky, former Red Army spy chief, took his own life yesterday in the Hotel Bellevue here.

Formal issuance of a suicide certificate was delayed only by the plea of Louis Waldman, Krivitsky's lawyer, that Ogpu agents might have driven Krivitsky to self-destruction by terrorist tactics, or that they might have killed him and made it look like suicide.

In either case, Mr. Waldman contended, Krivitsky's death is a challenge to the Federal Government, which up to now has refused to enter the investigation.

The lawyer pointed out that the tense little man who had been Stalin's chief agent in Western Europe had given the United States valuable information about Red spy activity in this country. Not to investigate his death, Mr. Waldman said, would be to scare off other possible witnesses with valuable information.

In Chicago, Albert Goldman, formerly counsel for Leon Trotsky, who was assassinated in Mexico City last summer by Soviet operatives, disclosed a motive for the possible murder of Krivitsky. He said he had recently negotiated with the general to help solve the Trotsky killing.

Dies Sees Others in Peril

Representative Martin Dies, head of the House Committee which in 1939 heard Krivitsky give startling details of Ogpu operations in the United States, told reporters that "what happened to Krivitsky may happen to a lot of others." He said that both Trotsky and Krivitsky feared eventual death at Ogpu hands.

notes that clearly showed suicidal intent. The dead general's friends, familiar with Ogpu tactics, insist the Red agents knew enough about Krivitsky's home life—of his affection for his wife and 7-year-old son—to have forged these notes, but the police handwriting expert, after comparing the notes with other specimens of the dead spy chief's writing, is positive the notes were written by the general.

No Sign of Struggle

Nowhere in Krivitsky's room did the detectives see any sign of struggle. The automatic pistol that fired the .35-caliber bullet into Krivitsky's right temple—and the wound was a "blast," or contact, wound—was not in the dead man's hand where assassins most likely would have placed it. The police rest their suicide finding on these facts.

In the face of all this, Mr. Waldman said: "Whether suicide or murder, the GPU is responsible for this man's death. If it was suicide, he was driven to it by GPU hounding." The lawyer said he had turned over to the F. B. I. the name of a man in New York who had warned Krivitsky that Hans Bruesse, Soviet agent and former Krivitsky subordinate, was in New York City. The general had written of his fear of this man.

Mr. Waldman said: "What is Hans Bruesse, a foreign agent, doing in the United States? How did he get in? Who are his associates? Where and how does he function? Aren't these matters for the F. B. I. to investigate? Failure on its part to act in this case will leave the plain inference that any one exposing foreign espionage in our country and giving our government information about GPU activities in the United States does so at his peril."

Wohl Issued Warning

The man who warned General Krivitsky that Hans Bruesse was in New York, it turned out, is Paul Wohl of 178 Lexington Avenue, who collaborated with Krivitsky in a series of exposé articles written in Paris in the winter of 1939.

On Jan. 7 Mr. Wohl wrote to Miss Suzanne La Follette, a friend of General Krivitsky's. His message said:

"My Dear Miss La Follette: Will you please inform your honorable friend, K, that an ominous person is in New York: Hans. This letter is addressed to you since K hides from me. . . . His devious practices hardly justify this warning. I hesitate to send it. It might be better to let the rats devour each other. . . . Yours truly, Paul Wohl."

The "K" referred to was Krivitsky. He and Mr. Wohl had had a falling out over money matters, something connected with their writings. Today, in New York, Mr. Wohl said he knew that Krivitsky—"a haunted and hunted man," he called him—had contemplated sui-

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ment, which up to now has been to enter the investigation. The lawyer pointed out that the tangle involved a man who had been Stalin's agent in Western Europe and on the United States. He had valuable information about Red spy activity in this country. Not to investigate his death, Mr. Waldman said, would be to scare off other possible witnesses with valuable information.

In Chicago, Albert Goldman, formerly counsel for Leon Trotsky, who was assassinated in Mexico City last summer by Soviet operative, disclosed a motive for the possible murder of Krivitsky. He said he had recently negotiated with the general to help solve the Trotsky killing.

#### Dies Sees Others in Plot

Representative Martin Dies, head of the House Committee which in 1938 heard Krivitsky give startling details of Oppu operations in the United States, told reporters that "what happened to Krivitsky may happen to a lot of others." He said that both Trotsky and Krivitsky feared eventual death at Oppu hands.

In a speech in the House Representative Rankin of Mississippi referred to the death of Krivitsky and declared that if House members investigated the "homicide" they would find "that the gun was in the wrong place for it to have been suicide." Mr. Rankin declared "that's an old trick to kill off those who are too enterprising to suit their enemies."

In conversations with friends in New York recently Krivitsky declared he believed his end was near. He based this statement, among other things, on the fact that his removal had become a practical necessity for Moscow. He pointed out that in recent months there had been an influx of Comintern agents into the United States from Mexico City and France.

Those coming from Mexico City, he said, had migrated there after the collapse of the Loyalist regime in Spain. Those coming from France he characterized as agents and rank-and-file Communists who had been in French concentration camps and were released, as he said, on pressure from Germany and Moscow. Krivitsky termed all these as belonging to the "most daring and most desperate agents of the Comintern and the GPU."

#### In Position to Interfere

The purpose of the influx of these agents into the United States, Krivitsky told friends, was to set up a vast terrorist and sabotage organization in this country for action designed to help cripple this nation's defense and aid-to-England program. Krivitsky was pictured by friends who knew him both in this country and abroad as the one man who was in a position to interfere seriously with the activities of the organization in the sense that he knew many of the leading agents in question personally and was familiar with the methods of organization and action used in other countries where the fifth column played an important role in bringing about their collapse.

It was pointed out that on his visit to England last year Krivitsky had given valuable information to the British Government that led to wholesale arrests of fifth columnists in England. More recently, the British authorities invited him to visit England again. According to Krivitsky's friends, "he still had a great deal to tell," but he was disappointed in the failure or refusal of American authorities to pay serious attention to what he told them. The sole exception was Representative Dies, it was pointed out.

The general's friends had made much of the fact that he had no pistol when he left New York for the South last Wednesday. This was cleared up today. Eitel Wolf Dobert, a former German Army officer, of Charlottesville, Va., disclosed that Krivitsky came to his home last Thursday, that the general bought the suicide pistol in Charlottesville and that he sat up until 3 A. M. Sunday writing the suicide notes. Krivitsky went into Washington and registered at the Bellevue at 6 P. M. Sunday.

Metropolitan police who know little or nothing of the devious methods attributed to Red undercover agents, on the other hand, stood on the bare physical facts they encountered when they entered Krivitsky's hotel room early yesterday.

The room was, roughly, about ten feet square. The one door to the corridor was locked from the inside by a throw latch, which the maid opened from the outside with a master key. The wide window looked out past a ledgeless sill, was locked from the inside also. There were no fire escapes.

Where, Krivitsky left three

#### Wohl Issued Warning

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The "K" referred to was Krivitsky. Wohl had had a long talk with Mr. Wohl and was talking out over money matters. Something connected with their writings, in New York, Mr. Wohl said he knew that Krivitsky was "haunted and hunted man." He called him—had contemplated suicide.

In a statement in New York Krivitsky's widow rejected emphatically the idea that her husband committed suicide voluntarily. She insisted that he killed himself as a consequence of a deal with Oppu agents, who threatened to kill her and their boy Alexander, to whom Krivitsky was passionately devoted.

"I am convinced that my husband was forced to write the notes he left behind," Mrs. Krivitsky said. Soviet regime while in Paris, Mrs. Krivitsky was a frequent visitor to our home. He knew a great many details of our life. I see his hand in the notes my husband was forced to write. His note to me, in particular, certainly does not sound like him. Walter had utter contempt for him. Walter had never killed himself willingly. They forced him to write these notes and then they forced him to kill himself. He made a deal with them to save me and our boy."

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N. Y. TIMES

DATE FEB 12 1940  
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17

# Krivitsky Probe Urged

## Lawyer Asks Congress Inquiry

May Make Appeal to Roosevelt; Dies Hints at Own Quiz

**EXCLUSIVE**—Secrets of Gen. Krivitsky's OGPU-hunted life are revealed today by his close personal friend and literary collaborator, Boris Shub, in an article on Page 4.

By EYD BOEHM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — A Congressional investigation of the 1944 shooting of Gen. Walter O. Krivitsky was demanded today by his attorney, Louis Waldman, who insists Krivitsky was a Russian OGPU murder victim.

"I'll go to President Roosevelt, if necessary, to insure that this case is thoroughly sifted by the Federal authorities," Waldman said.

The mystery of Krivitsky's violent death was intensified when it became known that an investigation was under way to determine if the gun found beside the General was the same one he purchased

LAST TO SEE KRIVITSKY



Two of the last friends to see Gen. Walter Krivitsky alive were Eitel Wolf Dobert, author and ex-Storm Trooper from Germany, and his Grecian wife, Mar-

Krivitsky "could not have taken his life," but Dobert supported "mental murder" theory advanced by Rep. Martin Dies, chairman of the House committee before which Krivitsky had given anti-Soviet



# Lawyer ASKS Congress Inquiry

May Make Appeal  
to Roosevelt; Dies  
Hints at Own Quiz

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By SYD BOEHM

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"I'll go to President Roosevelt, if necessary, to insure that this case is thoroughly sifted by the Federal authorities," Waldman said.

The mystery of Krivitsky's violent death was intensified when it became known that an investigation was under way to determine if the gun found beside the General was the same one he purchased on Thursday at Charlottesville, Va.

## DOUBTS ABOUT GUN.

Eitel Wolf Dobert, former Nazi storm trooper and friend of the General, raised doubts about the death gun by saying it was his impression that Krivitsky had purchased a .32-calibre weapon.

Because of the conflicting angles in the case, an official verdict of suicide still was withheld and charges were redoubled that Krivitsky, implacable foe of Dictator Stalin, either had been slain by the OGPU or driven to kill himself by "mental murder" methods, presumably involving threats to his wife and children.

Rep. Martin Dies, chairman of the House Committee Investigating un-American Activities, aided with the belief that the case was



Two of the last friends to see Gen. Walter Krivitsky alive were Eitel Wolf Dobert, author and ex-Storm Trooper from Germany, and his Grecian wife, Marguerita, with whom he's shown above. Mrs. Dobert said today she felt convinced

Krivitsky "could not have taken his life," but Dobert supported "mental murder" theory advanced by Rep. Martin Dies chairman of the House committee before which Krivitsky had given anti-Soviet testimony. International Soundphoto.



NEW YORK January 7, 1943.  
17th andington Avenue.

**THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATIONS**  
**455 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N.Y.**

There is a lot of information in this book, and it is well organized. The author has done a great job of putting together a comprehensive guide to the world of business. The book is a must-read for anyone who is interested in business.

Here is a letter found among the effects of General Walter G. Krivitsky, who was found shot to death in Washington hotel, International Soundphoto.

**By SYD BOEHM.**

**Continued from First Page**

"I drove him to Washington on Sunday afternoon," she said. "All the way up he exhibited keen interest in the farms we passed. Dobert added:

"He was a man who worried very much and was terribly fearful of retribution. I think he probably

By Ben Hunt

/Hiberto untold facts about the life of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky and the activities of his last days are told in the article below by Boris Shub. A magazine writer and close personal friend of the late Soviet general, Shub was also the translator of Krivitsky's writings and acted as his interpreter when Krivitsky appeared before the Dies Committee. Shub was with Krivitsky almost consistently from the time of the general's arrival in the United States in 1938 until shortly before Stalin's former aide left New York for Moscow, fatal trip to Washington.)

I worked with Walter Krivitsky as his translator and literary collaborator for almost a year.

I knew the man as well as anyone possibly could. I do not know whether the bullet which killed him was fired by his hand or that of an OGPU assassin, but even if he fired the shot himself, he was murdered, — murdered by the Soviet secret police which has been on his trail constantly since the day he broke with Stalin.

Since the day he arrived in the United States in November, 1938, the OGPU has never been off his trail long.

For a time, while he was in Canada from December, 1939, to November of last year, Krivitsky seemed to be reasonably safe. There were not more than four or five people in that country aware of his identity.

In Montreal, where he spent the winter and early spring, only R. H. Gagnon, Superintendent of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police, knew the man he was instructed to protect.

Early in January Gen. Krievitzky left Montreal on a secret mission to England, by way of Nova Scotia, where he boarded a British vessel which was escorted by convoy to Liverpool. There he was met by



"HE WAS SLAIN," Boris Shub (above) translator of Gen. Krivitsky's article, is convinced Stalin was murdered.

"HE WAS SLAIN," Boris Shub (above) translator of Gen. Krivitsky's article, is convinced Stalin was murdered.

was slain in Mexico I received a letter from Krivitsky, written in Russian, in which he asked me to communicate to him whatever I could on the affair and, accordingly:

"I'm here, of course."

I recalled that in May, after that first attempt on Trotsky's life, at which Trotsky's bodyguard Alexander Harte was slain, Khrushchev wanted to go down to Mexico City and help the police track down the killers.

But when I heard the name of Trotsky's death, I said, "I don't feel that if Khrushchev had been in Mexico, he might well have recognized Frank Jackson, who frequented the Trotsky home, and in OGPU operations."

# Feared OGPU Agent Would Kill Him Out

Edgar Waldman, is in English, the language in which he would write his book. Although Krivitsky did not write English well, he could write a little. The language in his "My Wife and My Boy," however, does not, is character-

—The reply to Miss Simmons' question, in German, is also written on the surface. That is the sentence in which he usually conversed with Miss LaFol-

with a close friendship. He asks him to have a party, he is angry with him and says: "You is very good and honest, very good." As a matter of fact, John Abner is a highly educated man and speaks very strongly of my speaking. He is tall, very

...the language in the letter to  
the effect:  
"In the form of Debarter . . . I  
want to say Debarter because that  
is the only place I could get any-  
thing to produce the most alarm."

measured as devoted  
Edward of Ratisbon.

Spencer was a cadet in a Princeton military academy, who joined the National Socialist Party as a youth and became a Storm Troop leader. But after a visit to France, he broke with the Nazis several

months before they came to power. While he presently he wrote a book describing the operation of a "democratic" society.

After the revolution, he was sent to Germany to help an dangerous underground fight against the Nazi regime. The communists in Russia distinguished him with Stalinism, and he returned in 1945 and devoted himself

"mental murder" and indicated he would conduct an inquiry. A declaration followed a statement from the floor of the House by John E. Rankin, Mississippi Democrat, that Krivitsky, former Soviet spy, was a murderer's son.

Rankin, transferring his activities to New York, was of the opinion that Hans Bruesse, alleged "Red Judas" of the OGPU, who may have had a hand in Krivitsky's death, still was at large in the metropolis. The attorney intends to have the handwriting of the suicide notes in the case analyzed to determine if Krivitsky had written them.

The mystery of the death gun remained a feature of the inquiry.

**ON THE GUN.** The .38 calibre Remington-Union found near Krivitsky when his body was discovered Sunday morning at the Hotel Bellevue has been traced to Private Francis McCourt of the 6th Army Corps, Providence, R. I., a son of Frank H. McCourt, millionaire Boston contractor.

Private McCourt had owned the gun while a student at Georgetown University and, according to police, lost it two years ago.

At the Charlottesville Hardware Company, in Charlottesville, Va., where Krivitsky purchased his gun, it was said he had bought a .38 calibre Colt automatic.

**CALIBRE DISPUTED.** Yet Dobert, the ex-storm trooper, insisted the gun had been of smaller calibre.

**DOBERT'S STATEMENT.** Dobert is the "Dobertov" mentioned in one of the suicide notes and lives near Charlottesville with his beautiful 30-year-old Grecian wife, Marguerite.

"General Krivitsky bought a .32 calibre gun; I am positive of it because I handled it myself," Dobert declared.

And Mrs. Dobert explained: "I drove the General to town last Thursday because he wanted to buy a gun for self-protection. He told us that Hans Bruesse, a notorious OGPU killer, had been sent to this country to assassinate him as Trotsky had been murdered.

"We went to a Charlottesville hardware store, where Walter bought a gun for \$15. He gave his name there as Walter Poref, the name he adopted in this country.

**"CHEERFUL ALL THE TIME."** "He constantly asked my husband and me just how much damage this .32 calibre automatic could do. But he was cheerful all the time.

"On Saturday he asked me to drive to town and buy 150 cartridges for the gun. He would engage in constant target practice with the .32, and used the cartridges for that.

"My husband even let him try his heavier .38 automatic.

Dobert, a refugee from Germany because he wrote a book praising democracy, said he was familiar with American firearms and could not possibly have made any mistake as to the calibre of the gun Krivitsky bought.

**LAW KRIVITSKY HERE.**

"I saw Walter in New York about a week before he came to visit," Dobert said. "He asked me then whether my wife was afraid to go out here in the woods alone. I explained that she had a gun to protect herself and knew how to use it.

Then the following week he came to visit us and said he needed a gun to protect himself. He was

armed with which a gun could be purchased in this country."

"I drove him to Washington on Sunday afternoon," she said. "All the way up he exhibited some interest in the gun we passed."

Dobert added:

"He was a man who wanted very much and was terribly fearful of assassination. I think he probably



**PAUL WOHL**  
Gave Warning of Danger

killed himself, but was driven to it by his constant worry."

**WARNED BY WRITER.**

It was Paul Wohl, a stocky freelance writer, of 173 Lexington ave., New York, who first warned Krivitsky that the alleged "Red Judas" killer, Bruesse, was in that city. Wohl, however, was of the opinion that the General had killed himself.

Wohl explained that though a long-time friend of Krivitsky, he had broken with him—"in a friendly manner"—over financial matters growing out of literary work he had done for Krivitsky in Paris.

"But I saw Bruesse on 54th ave. one afternoon and decided to warn him. I could not do so directly, so I wrote a letter to Miss Suzanne La Palatte, who I knew would know where he was."

Wohl said.

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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 ✓

# KRIVITSKY VICTIM OF SUICIDE MANIA, SAYS CLOSE FRIEND

An intimate of the slain or self-destroyed Gen. Walter A. Krivitsky who sheltered him in Paris, planned his flight to the United States and lived with him for nine months in New York, told The News last night that Krivitsky had frequently spoken of suicide and had a "persecution mania."

Paul Wohl, a writer and a close friend and collaborator of Krivitsky since 1937, said the death of the former Russian spy in a Washington hotel on Monday appeared to be "definitely suicide."

## Doubts 'Hans' Incriminated.

Of a mysterious character called "Hans," sometimes referred to as Hans Bruesse, Wohl said, "It seems highly improbable that he had anything to do with it." Hans was brought into the picture Monday night by Krivitsky friends who branded Hans as one of the OGPU's most wily and blood-thirsty killers.

Some of the Krivitsky-ites went so far as to charge that Hans was sent here for the express purpose

of erasing Kravitsky and making it appear as a suicide.

Actually, it was Wohl who brought Hans into the drama in the first place. He saw him in New York five weeks ago, getting on a bus on Fifth Ave., north of Madison Square, and passed the word on to Krivitsky.

"Since Hans remained in the OGPU when Krivitsky quit, I thought he would want to know," Wohl said.

## "Hans" a Lock Expert.

But far from being a brutish slayer, said Wohl, Hans is a fat, blond Dutch youth of 24, who served his OGPU apprenticeship under Krivitsky in Paris in 1937.

He also, according to Wohl, acted as Krivitsky's chauffeur, handyman and political disciple—prior to Krivitsky's break with the Soviet. Hans' specialty as an OGPU agent, Wohl said, was his skill as a lock expert. This may have caused the accusers to draw conclusions about the locked door of the room in which Krivitsky's body was found, he pointed out.

Wohl said he had three reasons for doubting that Hans would have been assigned to liquidate Krivitsky, even if the OGPU ever made such plans.

## Not Killer Type.

First, he said, Krivitsky knew Hans very well and would be on guard against him—he could not stalk his prey.

Second, Krivitsky, as Hans' teacher, had a great influence over him and—even though they're

political enemies now—Hans probably never harm him.

Third, Hans was not the type of agent assigned to killings. "I was a technical expert, and of too a calibre for this work," Wohl said. Krivitsky, with whom he and worked for nine months in 114th St., near Riverside I was portrayed by Wohl as a being individual who lived "world of super morals."

## Often Talked of Suicide

"I think he died just because he could not live unless he had a cause. Since exposing the S he has felt that the whole was against him. When we were together, he often talked of suicide."

He interpreted every move in Russian politics as something directed against him personally. He often told me men were following him and he was obsessed with the notion that some one was to kill him."

CLIPPING FROM THE  
 NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

DATE FEB 12 1941  
 FORWARDED BY N.Y. DIVISION

100-11146-A



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 .....

# Suicide Notes Called 'Forced'

The widow of Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, through the writer friend to whom one of Krivitsky's "farewell" notes was addressed, last night expressed to the Daily Mirror her "absolute conviction" that the anti-Stalinist leader had not voluntarily ended his life.

"He was forced to do what he did, if he committed suicide," she declared. "But I don't believe he ever wrote those notes. That was not his way of expressing himself."

Her statement was relayed and seconded by Suzanne LaFollette, magazine writer and cousin of Sen. LaFollette. Miss LaFollette said she and Mrs. Krivitsky agreed the General's three "suicide" notes had been dictated by his slayers under threat of killing his wife and son. The writer told of a recent conversation with Krivitsky in which he criticized efforts by



SUZANNE LAFOLLETTE  
(Opp.)

"I saw him a week ago in New York," she said in her suite at the Hotel Chelsea, 7th Ave. and W. 23d St. "We talked about the war as everybody is doing these days. We agreed that lifting the moral embargo against Russia is a mistake and he added:

"I believe our Government is mistaken in the idea it can prevent Stalin from playing with Hitler."

Miss LaFollette, who was secretary of the John Dewey commission that investigated the Moscow trials, was emphatic in her belief that he did not commit suicide.

"It was murder," she said, "by the agents of the OGPU. They could have forced him to write those notes by threatening his wife and child."

"The OGPU stops at nothing in this country."

"I remember that, when Trotsky was murdered, Gen. Krivitsky said: 'I will be next. It is only a matter of time.'"

"He often warned his friends that he would be killed and it would be made to look like suicide."

Miss LaFollette pointed out that one "suicide" note mentioned "Dobertov," former political associate of Krivitsky.

"Krivitsky was very cautious and would never have done this," she said. "Also, he signed himself Walter Krivitsky. He invariably signed himself merely as Krivitsky."

"In the letter addressed to his

with, she is urged always to be quiet and never get angry with their seven-year-old son Alexander. Krivitsky never would have written this, knowing she had never been otherwise toward the boy."

CLIPPING FROM THE  
NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE FEB 12 1941

FORWARDED BY N.Y. DIVISION

# Kerensky Names Killer, Says Stalin Doomed Krivitsky

By RAY DOYLE AND WILLIAM FALVEY  
(Copyright, 1941, by the Daily Mirror)

Alexander Kerensky, the man who freed Russia from the crushing yoke of the Czars only to see it shackled by Stalin, yesterday charged that General Walter G. Krivitsky—his recent ally—was murdered on direct orders from the Kremlin by the OGPU's most brutal killer, whom he named.

In an exclusive interview at his New York home, Kerensky told the Mirror Krivitsky knew before Christmas that the assassin was here to kill him.

He revealed also that Krivitsky had notified Federal authorities of his danger.

"Krivitsky became more depressed daily. He confided to me that he felt his exposes of OGPU activities here were not being carefully considered. But he was not the man to commit suicide," Kerensky said.

In Washington, the death remained listed as a suicide, over protests of Krivitsky's attorney, Louis Waldman, and Congressman Dies, who called it the "biggest story of the year" and promised startling revelations.

Late yesterday Rep. Rankin (D-Miss.) charged on the floor of the House that a "murderer's bullet" had killed Krivitsky. Denouncing a Congressional investigation, Rankin asserted "the gun was in the wrong place for it to have been suicide."

Waldman assailed the FBI and State Department for failing to protect a man who had furnished



ALEXANDER KERENSKY  
"Krivitsky confided to me..."

valuable espionage information" to them, which was promptly denied by both departments.

In obvious fear that his own life may yet be claimed by Stalin, Kerensky spoke guardedly of his knowledge of OGPU operations here. But he said:

"Hans Bruesser is the man, the most vicious murderer of all the Soviet. We know him. We know his methods. His

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
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CLIPPING FROM THE  
NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

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# No Tears Shown By Daily Worker

The Communist-owned Daily Worker reported the Khrushchev death under a small, one-column headline at the bottom of Page 1, and in a note in parenthesis said:

"Khrushchev appeared as a state witness before the Dies Committee... with the usual anti-Communist slanders and vilifications of Communists. Subsequently the Saturday Evening Post ran a scurrilous article on the Soviet Union under Khrushchev's name."

Stalin to the danger of Red penetration only increased his zeal. In Russia, he knew, similar revelations would result in the immediate "liquidation" of thousands. Yet here, his only reward was "smear campaign," bravely carried on by the Reds.

Nevertheless, he made applying the firm faith that he would eventually succeed.

The OGPU knew every movement Khrushchev made. He realized he was being followed every minute. Khrushchev knew it, too. They carried on their association by telephone and through an intermediary whom Khrushchev described as a "mutual confidence."

The penetration of doom showed masterfully after Christmas, when Hans Bruner appeared in America, Khrushchev said.

Khrushchev would not reveal the extent to which Khrushchev was cooperating with British authorities. But he indicated that the former western European spy chief was in constant communication with them. It may have been his revelations which resulted in the recent suppression in London of the Communist organ—"The Daily Worker."

"Of one thing I am certain," Khrushchev said, "Khrushchev knew his number was up the day he learned Hans Bruner was in America."

In Washington yesterday, the offices leaned toward the view that Khrushchev killed himself as the alternative to waiting for his hour chosen by Stalin.

This decision was made by the insistence of Waldman, Khrushchev's New York City spy who was murdered at Stalin's activities.

Waldman demanded FBI investigate the case, but met only silence from that source.

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

There was no reply from the FBI, but observers were inclined to believe it was shunning its movements.

In Chicago an attorney for the late Trotsky called it an assassination. In New York, Ben Gitlow, formerly a leader in the American Communist movement, and Suzanne LaFollette, cousin of the Wisconsin Senator, also declared he was murdered.

One of the three notes found beside Khrushchev in his Hotel Bellevue room was addressed to Miss LaFollette.

J. B. Matthews, special investigator for the Dies Committee, likewise refused to concede that Khrushchev was a suicide.

He quoted Khrushchev's caution to him that:

"If you ever find me dead, don't believe I committed suicide."

Matthews also recalled Trotsky's ominous warning in Mexico City when the first attempt was made on his life there:

"Stalin will murder me and then Khrushchev."

Another who adhered to the

notes found in Khrushchev's hotel room were pinned on Dobbert's stationery.)

On Sunday Mrs. Dobbert drove their guest to Washington. His parting words to her, she said last night, were to "take good care of his wife and child. The Dobberts offered no explanation of why Khrushchev had bought a gun in Virginia when he could have obtained a pistol in New York.

Alexander Kerenky, one of the original leaders in the Russian revolution, ruled his country for four months immediately after the overthrow of the Czarist regime in 1917. Kerenky, a socialist opposed to violent change, was himself deposed in Sept., 1917, when the Bolsheviks seized power. After the Reds deposed his forces, the ex-Premier fled to England. He has since condemned Stalin as a worse tyrant than the Czar.

Khrushchev and Kerenky once were enemies. That was when Khrushchev headed Stalin's secret police, whose victim he now seems to have become. They joined forces soon after Khrushchev broke with Stalin in 1957—the year of the worst blood purge in the annals of civilization. That was the year Stalin "purged" the Soviet by murdering more than 300,000, including hundreds of his closest friends.

Before they became allies, however, Khrushchev associated himself with Leon Trotsky, whose murder had been ordered and who was executed last year in Mexico.

"Khrushchev soon found Trotsky was no better than Stalin and quit him in disgust," said Kerenky.

"We welcomed him. He was sincere in his belief that Russia was being throttled by Stalin. We work for a more democratic regime. That was his passion as an, too."

During the 1937 "blood bath," said Kerenky, the OGPU made an attempt on his life in Paris. He was warned of it by French Government officials and escaped. He may have had Khrushchev to thank for the warning. He never knew.

It was about the time of the purge, Kerenky revealed, that Khrushchev warned Leon Blum, then Premier of France, that Stalin and Hitler had joined secretly in a pact aimed at England and France. Later he told the British.

"There, too, his warnings for American citizenship in were given a cold reception. So he decided to come to America."

Khrushchev's failure to awaken England, France and the United

favorite tactic is to drive a man to suicide—by threatening to capture and torture his family. It has been done many times in many countries.

"I believe Khrushchev got a concrete warning recently that they would kill him or kidnap his family. That is their favorite plan of operation. Khrushchev had a burning mission to expose Stalin for what he is. And in my opinion he was not the type to commit suicide," he said.

The name of the sinister "plan" also was introduced last night by Waldman, who made public the contents of a letter which he said he had given the FBI. The letter, written a month ago by Paul Wohl of 113 Lexington Ave., N. Y. C., to Suzanne LaFollette, friend of Khrushchev, said:

"Please inform JC that an ominous person is in New York: Hans... His (Khrushchev's) devious practices hardly justify this warning. I hesitate to send it. It may be better to let the rats devour each other."

Wohl, a refugee newspaperman who had collaborated with Khrushchev and who said the General still owed him \$200, had to warn the General after he saw Hans Bruner near Madison Square Garden early in January.

Wohl identified Bruner as the man who had been chief aide to Khrushchev when the latter headed Russian intelligence in Western Europe. He said Bruner was so widely known as a Soviet agent that he himself would hardly be assigned to "assassination plots."

Bruner was a native of the Netherlands and son of a former Dutch labor leader. Wohl said Wohl delivered the Russian agent message.

The writer said Khrushchev had lived in deadly fear of Stalinist agents, and that he believed this fear, plus remorse over what the General considered his "errors," had caused Khrushchev to "take his own life."

Further support for the suicide theory came last night from Elzel Wolf Dobbert, the "Dobbertov" mentioned in one of Khrushchev's notes as a recent host of the General. Dobbert, a former German Army officer who broke with the Nazi regime and is now lecturing here, said Khrushchev came to his farm near Charlottesville, Va., on Thursday.

**Lead Stationery**

While visiting there, Khrushchev bought a .38 caliber pistol in Charlottesville, Dobbert said. The General stayed up until 3 a. m. Sunday writing, according to Dobbert. The controversial "suicide"

## When He Was a Dies Witness



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	

### **Root Out the Ogpu!**

Whether the death of Gen. Walter V. Krivitsky, former chief of the Russian intelligence, shall finally prove suicide or murder, the agents in this country of the Russian secret police should be founded up and jailed or deported. The probabilities seem to be that Krivitsky was assassinated, as Trotsky was in Mexico, by Stalin's messengers of personal revenge. Political assassination is rightly held in particular abhorrence in this country; and the American government cannot afford to tolerate its agencies.

It should not be too difficult for the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice to locate and identify the members of the Ogpu in this country and with them the agencies of the Gestapo, the similar Nazi terrorist organization. Neither the Ogpu nor the Gestapo can have any legitimate business in the United States; neither is here for our good.

Determining who, if anybody, killed Krivitsky is the immediate problem, but tracing the Red and the Brown spy networks is even more important. So long as they are intact nobody in this country to whom Stalin or Hitler may take a dislike can be called safe; no industry can be protected from sabotage.

100-11146-A

LOS ANGELES TIMES  
FEB 12, 1941

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Foxworth  
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Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gandy

# Levine Believes Reds Murdered Gen. Krivitsky Writer Warns of OGPU Web Over America

Special to the New York Journal  
and American.

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 12.—Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky was "probably" killed by OGPU agents in a carefully hatched Stalinist plot, Isaac Don Levine, Krivitsky's collaborator, asserted today.

Declaring he was convinced the OGPU has established "a network through North America," Levine warned that the U. S. Government must take strong measures to prevent "a wave of murders" by Stalinist assassins.

## FEAR OF MURDER.

Krivitsky lived in such mortal fear of assassination, Levine revealed, that when the Dies Committee sought to serve a friendly subpoena on him the server had to be driven by Levine to a secret rendezvous 60 miles from New York and there personally introduced to Krivitsky.

Levine disclosed that a month ago "a mutual friend" had seen Hans Bruesse, the so-called "Red Judas" OGPU agent, whom Krivitsky feared, walking on Fifth ave., near 23d st., in New York.

"I reported his presence to Representative Dies and other Federal authorities," Levine said.

## "REFUGEE SPIES."

"Many secret agents are entering Mexico and this country as refugees," Levine declared. "Some are sponsored by leading officials who are in perfectly good faith."

"But I should say that about 10 per cent of these political refugees brought over by committees with Communist leanings are either OGPU or George agents."

If authorities could "break down" the mystery of how Trotsky's assassin, "Frank Jackson," first met Sylvia Agoloff, the Russian spy who introduced the two, "we would know facts about the OGPU which would be of great value to the government."

CLIPPING FROM THE  
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FEB 12 1941  
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100-11146-A