

# EAST EUROPEAN ALIENS POSE PROBLEM FOR U. S.

## The Government Wants to Shelter Some but to Keep Others Out

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Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 — The extraordinary drama in the cases of Mrs. Oksana Stepanova Kasenkina and Mikhail Samarin, the Soviet school teachers, may have thrown out of focus, some Government officials fear, the real picture of the problem presented by Russian citizens and other Eastern Europeans who want to get into this country and stay.

It is estimated there are desperate thousands who would quickly leap windows, port holes, or any other convenient opening to land in the protective custody of the United States, and thereby escape having to return where they came from. While there is genuine sympathy for these cases, the immigration laws do not recognize such means for entry into this country.

The problem is not simplified by the fact that other aliens from the Soviet zone of influence are trying to get in, not to escape communism but to advance its cause through espionage or propaganda activities. The laws specifically bar these entrants.

So the Government is in the position of granting haven to some refugees, while working day and night to keep out others who are trying to squeeze between the legal bars.

### Community of Exiles

In large, the worry is not so much over the handful of Russians and satellite nationals who have "jumped ship" and whose identities are known to the proper authorities. The State Department has permitted an estimated 100 of these to remain. Some are on visitor visas until a more permanent status can be legally established.

The Russians among these include, in addition to Mrs. Kasenkina and Mr. and Mrs. Samarin, whose cases, of course, are pending, such well-known figures as Victor Kravchenko, Alexander Barmine and Kirril Alexeev. Any help the Government has given, or contemplates giving, these persons is motivated partly by sympathy for their plight. Their willingness and ability to disclose workings of the Soviet High Command has also been a factor in granting them refuge.

For the most part, the known refugees from communism here are émigrés from such neighbors of Russia as Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia. Jan Ciechanowski, former Polish Ambassador who resides in nearby Chevy Chase, Md., engages successfully in writing and lecturing. Ferenc Nagy, former Hungarian Premier, operates a farm in Virginia while serving as chairman of a recently organized international peasant union.

### Many Well Established

Dr. Jurac Slavk joined the colony of exiles last spring when he said he would rather quit as Czech Ambassador than serve a "police state." The group also includes Constantin Fotitch, former Ambassador of Yugoslavia, who is under sentence of death in his own country.

Most of these persons live in or around Washington and New York. While some are still receiving assistance from friends, others have worked their way into American business and professional life.

The "visitors" whose identities and whereabouts are not known offer a graver problem. They are

believed certain to exist, though it is doubtful that even the Federal Bureau of Investigation has any sure idea of how many aliens have reached here illegally. Responsible Government agencies do not agree with certain outside groups, including the American Legion, that the total is "alarmingly large." It is conceded, however, to represent a "tremendous potential" as a problem.

### Borders and Ports Watched

The Immigration and Naturalization Service believes that a relatively few aliens who try it do get through. However, as evidence of the growing border problem, it recalls that 194,000 would-be entrants were captured last year, about twice the number caught by border patrols in 1946. Some may have been Eastern Europeans, but by far the greater number of offenders, the service says, were Mexicans trying to cross the 2,000-mile border to the south. Illegal immigration from Canada, in contrast, was negligible, judging on the basis of arrests.

The watch for Communist, as well as anti-Communist, visitors, while maintained along our vast land borders, is especially vigilant in large ports, including New York. Ship jumping by crewmen who may be sailors in name only, is recognized as a favorite means of illegal immigration. An official recalled this week the example of a Greek ship arriving in New York a year ago with a crew of 242 and leaving with eighty.

Such examples, it is feared, may not be too rare in so large a port, where the immigration service has, in addition to its routine inspection staff, only about twelve trained investigators along the entire waterfront to make thorough ship examinations. It is held physically impossible for them to search every vessel to check on crew lists and stowaways.

### No Chances Taken

However, at present no chances are taken with ships arriving from Russia or the satellite countries. The immigration service has the full cooperation of the FBI, and an official said that the crew of every ship was counted to the last man to see that every one on deck when the boat arrived was aboard when she sailed. This spokesman believed it next to impossible for a Soviet national to jump ship without an FBI agent knowing who he was and getting promptly on his trail.

When a ship jumper is caught he is immediately deportable on the next ship, unless, indeed, his own ship has not been detained. It would not be enough for such a man to plead he did not want to go back to his native land, or feared to do so. "There would be too many of them," an immigration official said.

Actually, another official noted, it is not too easy for a citizen of Russia or a Soviet-dominated land to make up his mind to say openly he does not want to go back. As Mr. Samarin told the House Committee on un-American Activities last week, severe punishment, perhaps death, awaits those who refuse to return to the U.S.S.R. Even if he wins his freedom and does not have to go back, he would fear reprisals against his relatives back home.