

The Great Soviet Crime Ring—

Moscow Takes Over Huge Black Market Network In Attempt To Gather In Dollars

Illicit Commerce Carefully Organized to Yield Funds for International Trade and Espionage

By FRED SPARKS, Times Foreign Correspondent
VIENNA, Sept. 22—How was the great Soviet crime ring born? The Russians first went into the rackets after Ivan Tommy-gunned his way into battered Berlin.
In order to help pay occupation costs and relieve Ivan (who was getting too fat) of some of his converted loot, Marshall Sokolovsky's gangsters ran official black-market stores.
In Berlin and Vienna, at prices pegged way above local ceilings they openly peddled goods through intra-Tourist—a Soviet-sponsored firm.
Choice cuts of beef, milk, potatoes, warm garments and other heavily rationed items were on the stuffed shelves. This at a time when the average German's

ribbed out like the strings on a banjo, and his shoes were lined with yesterday's newspapers.
To raise the marks for these fantastic goodies, furnished herrenvolk sold jewelry, watches, furs and family heirlooms that were dusty when Bismarck bel-

lowed. Any man could walk in off the streets if he had the capital—and no coupons needed, comrades.
Mighty Idea Is Born
This first pleasing experience gave some unsung Communist might mind this idea: "Why not make wider use of Europe's black markets. Particularly to raise badly needed dollars for international trade, diplomacy, espionage and propaganda?"
For by this time the dollar had become dominant and the political and economic division of Europe was complete. Eastern Europe had something Western Europe wanted—food. West-

ern Europe had something Eastern Europe hankered for—raw materials and manufactured goods available only for that despised Yankee dollar.
The black market became the medium—the no-man's-land of cold war.
It was a snap to divert a whacking portion of normal Russian and stooge-state trade to the black markets, where profits were double. For the police state controls every shred of commerce.
Russians Not Used
From the very beginning of the great Soviet crime ring Russians were not employed to do the peddling on a retail level.

This was left to a vast army of camp followers who drifted into continental black markets at the end of the war.
The procedure instituted, which has been followed religiously ever since, was to smuggle stuff—avoiding customs payments—from behind the iron curtain to depots in Germany and Austria, where controls are impossible.
From Soviet warehouses the products were then wholesaled to individual black-market dealers, who played the role of jobbers.
These jobbers had to pay the Comintern in dollars collected by dealing with occupation personnel, travelers and in Zurich—

Europe's present banker and cash vault.
From Germany and Austria the black-market dealers, through international connections, smuggled and resold goods in high demand to almost every other nation in this whirling world.
Spreads Throughout World
Soon this network of crooked commerce became a two-way stretch. When Uncle Sam's counter-blockade banned the Soviet sphere from buying certain strategic materials—even for green dollars—they were forced into the black market to buy as well as to sell.
And so, by the spring of 1947, the great Soviet crime ring was

running in horrible high. Around it mushroomed into action an incredible collection of thieves speaking every language except Esperanto. They all served themselves—and the Kremlin—with the drippings of war, occupation and disorganization.
Is there a single personality—a Capone—pulling the strings on the great Soviet crime ring? Allied sleuths I have chatted with cannot pinpoint any Soviet superman. Certainly, all lines lead to the Gosplan Bureau in Moscow.
This outfit, charged with understanding capitalism, directs economic plans, travel and com-

Columist to Speak

Herbert Hill, Indianapolis News columnist, will speak on "As I See It" at the weekly meeting of the Indianapolis Optimist Club at 12:15 p. m. tomorrow in the Hotel Severin.

FRIDAY BARGAINS
Clearance of 29c to 49c Anklets
50% Cotton, 50% wool, mercerized hile and novelty weave cottons. Firsts and irregulars. White and assorted colors.
15c

Plastic Tablecloths
54x54-In. heavy 4-gauge plastic pretty all-over floral and plaid patterns.
\$1.00

Sanitized Blouses
Tailored broadcloth blouses, V-neck, short sleeve style. White, pink, blue and maize. Sizes 32 to 38.
\$1.00

Wrisley Soap
10 Bars
Fine toilet and bath soap. Assorted fragrances and colors.
55c

Metal Skirt Hangers
All-metal, collapsible hanger. Chrome clips. Holds up to 8 skirts and slacks.
\$1.00

Women's Dress Shoes
That Formerly Were \$3.95 and \$4.95
Pumps, ties and straps. Sizes 4 to 9 in the group but not in every style.
\$1.99

Children's Oxfords
\$2.98 and \$3.95 Values
Sizes broken from 8 1/2 to 13. Good serviceable oxfords for school and dress.
\$1.99

Men's Sport Shirts
Plain colors. Some fancy. Broken lots of values up to \$5. Sizes small, medium and large.
\$2.29

Men's Pajamas
Seersucker. Fancy patterns in colors. Coat style. Expertly tailored. A \$3.95 value. A. B. C. D.
\$2.29

Men's Tee Shirts
Special
White combed cotton. Flat weave. Close fitting collars. Short sleeves. Small, medium and large.
47c

Men's Shorts
Fancy patterns. Many colors. Sanitized snap or boxer style. Full seat. Roomy cut. Sizes 28 to 44.
69c

Boys' Jack Shirts
Made of fancy plaids. Heavy-weight. Sizes 4 to 8.
\$1.98

Boys' Shirts
Boys' shirts made of cotton flannel in fancy plaid pattern. Sizes 6 to 16.
\$1.69

Boys' Babe Ruth Sweat Shirts
Fleeced back in blue, maize, red and grey. Size 4 to 12.
\$1.00

Boys' Slacks
Made of fancy cassimeres. Broken lots. Size 10 to 16. \$3.98 value.
\$1.99

Boys' Dungarees
Special
Made of seersucker. Broken lots. Size 10 to 16. \$4.98 value.
\$1.49

STORE HOURS
Daily 9:30 to 5 P. M.
Saturday 9:30 to 6 P. M.

STAR STORE HOURS—9:30 TO 5—SATURDAY 9:30 TO 6
STAR STORE
360 W. WASHINGTON ST. LI. 6471

5 WAYS TO SHOP
• 10-Pay Plan • Layaway
• Pay Cash • Easy-Pay Plan
• 30-Day Charge

FRIDAY BARGAINS
46-In. Curtain Marquisette
Actual 39c Value
Sheer quality curtain marquisette. Light cream shade.
28c

Plaid Wash Cloths
Actual 10c Value
Colorful plaid wash cloths. Very absorbent. Choice of pink or blue plaid.
6c

Bleached Flour Sacks
Actual 25c Value
36"x36" bleached flour sacks. Full size. Makes ideal dish towels.
19c

39-Inch Unbleached Muslin
Actual 25c Value
39-inch closely woven unbleached muslin. Lengths up to 10 yards.
18c

Stevens All-Linen Crash
Actual 49c Value
15-inch Stevens P bleached or brown toweling. Colored borders.
39c

Cannon Dish Cloths
Actual 12 1/2c Value
3 for
Colorful Cannon dish cloths. Large size.
25c

Wool-Mixed Blankets
Actual \$4.98 Value
70x80-inch wool mixed plaid blankets. Closely woven. Fr.
\$3.99

Cast Iron Pillowcases
Actual 69c Value
36x36-Inch type 140 thread woven pillowcases. Ea.
48c

Women's Mi-Back Foundations
Reg. \$5.98
Strong, sturdy foundation to hold a perfect posture. Side hook, brocade poplin. Sizes 36 to 44.
\$4.99

Girls' Raincoats
Up to \$5.98 Values
One group of children's raincoats. Broken sizes 8 to 12.
\$2.99

Men's Ankle Socks
Fancy patterns. Many colors. "Selected irregulars" of 55c and 75c value. Sizes 10 to 13.
39c

Men's Ties
Neat patterns of a famous maker. Assorted colors. \$1.00 value.
39c

Men's Seersucker Pajamas
Stripes and neat figures. Coat style. A. B. C. D. A \$3.95 value.
\$2.29

Men's Tee Shirts
White. Flat weave. Cotton. Full cut. Small, medium and large.
47c

Men's Hats
Good grade wool felt in all the new colors. Snap brims, matching bands.
\$2.98

\$7.95 Floor Lamp
Decorated pottery base. Silk shade with top and bottom trim.
\$6.00

New Fall \$1.00 HANDBAGS
Durable plastic in shoulder strap, top-handle, zipper top and box styles. Black, brown, red and green. The best values ever offered.
Women's \$1.98 Satin and Crepe Slips
V-neck, tailored and trimmed styles. White, pink, blue, maize, etc. Sizes 32 to 38.
\$1.25
\$1.00 Rayon Knit Petticoats
Elastic waist, lace trimmed bottom. Tea rose color. Medium size.
57c
39c Rayon Panties
Novelty weave rayon briefs. White, maize, pink, blue orchid and nile. Elastic bottom and cuff bottom styles. Small, medium and large.
29c

MEN AND BOYS' WEAR
(17) Men's SUITS \$10.
MADE OF ALL-WOOL FANCY CASSIMERES. While they last. Here is a real buy. Hurry!
Size 34 to 38
Men's Slacks \$7.95 Value \$5.00
Men's slacks made of mixed worsteds. Also all-wool fancy cassimeres. Plain or pleated zipper fly. Sizes 29 to 42.
Men's Sweaters \$5.95 and \$6.95 Value \$3.98
Men's sweaters made of 100% wool. Coat style in navy blue, Oxford grey and brown. All with double elbow. Size 38 to 52.
Men's \$3.98 Coveralls
Made of sanforized white drill. Sizes 40, 42, 44. Special—
\$1.98

FROM THIRD FLOOR
\$5.95 FELT BASE RUGS
9x12-Foot
\$3.95
Now amazingly low priced. Various patterns and colors. Floral and tile designs with borders. All first quality.

98c Rag Rugs
Hit or miss wabble rag rugs. Size 24x48. Assorted colors.
69c
\$4.99 Curtain Stretcher
For all size curtains. Up to 54 inches. Rigid 4 square frame-hinged easels.
\$3.99
79c Sq. Yd. Felt Base
Sq. Yd.
First quality. Several patterns.
49c
\$9.95 Floor Lamp and Shade
\$6.49
\$2.29 Inlaid Linoleum
Room-size remnant rolls of standard weight. First quality. Marble pattern. Assorted colors. Pieces of 10 to 20 sq. yd.
\$1.00
\$2.98 Clothes Dryer
Natural finish. Size 30 in. wide. 42 in. high. 14 Rods. Gives 382 inches hanging space.
\$2.49
\$1.49 Bread Boxes
and Vegetable Bins in Colors
\$1.00
\$3.98 Stair Carpet
27" wide. Brown color velvet. 12 yd. roll.
\$1.98

100% All-Wool COVERT COATS \$15
Priced to fit your budget.
• Smartly styled
• Flare backs
• Var scalloped yokes
• Satin lined
• Warmly interlined
Come and choose yours tomorrow from this amazingly low priced group.
Grey, green, wine, brown, taupe. Sizes 10 to 18.

Special Purchase 500 Pairs Quality CURTAINS \$1.99 and \$2.39 Values
\$1.39 Pair
All 2 1/2 Yds. Long
Choice of the Following Styles
Light cream shade
Priscilla Ruffled Cushion Dot
Priscilla Ruffled Clipped Figure
Tailored French Marquisette
Tailored Pin Cushion Dot
Tailored Fancy Clipped Figure
Special \$1.39 Pair

Women's Flannelette GOWNS
Up to \$7.98 Values.
\$1.59 2 for \$3.00
One group of outing flannel gowns. Solid colors and stripes. Double yoke front and back. Braid trimmed. Sizes 16 to 40.
Girls' Pea Coats and Snow Suits
Up to \$7.98 Values
\$3.99
Slightly mused. Navy blue pea coats and snowsuits. Some with hood. Broken sizes.

Women's Girdles
Reg. \$3.98, \$5.00 Values
Special purchase of Vanity side hook and slip-on zipper closing girdles. Sizes of 2 to 32.
\$1.99
Children's Union Suits
One-piece knit union suits. Also broken sizes of button-on two-piece styles. Sizes 2 to 8.
59c
Boys' and Girls' Dungarees
Sanforized 8-oz. denim double stitched and deep pocket with rivet head trim. Sizes 2 to 6.
\$1.59

Boys' Briefs
3 for \$1.00
Elastic waist. Sizes 4, 6 and 8. Extra weight for cold weather.
Misses' and Women's Tee Shirts
Regular \$1.19
Fine combed interlock cotton yarn. Colors of white and pink, blue, maize. Sizes of small, medium and large.
\$1.00

INFANTS' NEEDS
Infants' Crib Blankets
First quality Esmond Crib blankets. Pretty jacquard patterns. Rayon satin-binding.
\$1.98
Infants' Knit Gowns
Fine knit tie neck and draw string bottom. Good warm garment for the baby.
59c
Infants' Shirts
Regular 49c Value
Fold over ties, pin back and sleeveless styles. Broken sizes of 3 to 6 1/2.
3 for \$1.00
Infants' Bunting
Reg. \$3.00 and \$3.98
Warm fleece bunting. Zipper closing with hood. Slightly counter tossed.
\$1.99

FROM THE BASEMENT
HOPE BLEACHED SHEETS \$1.84 EACH
81x99-Inch DOUBLE BED SIZE
Actual \$2.49 Value.
Type (28 Thread Woven. First Quality. No Filling.
Nationally-known brand of Hope bleached sheets. Known for giving long wear. Snow white bleached. Phone and mail orders filled.
72x99 HOPE Twin Size \$1.79
42x36 HOPE Pillow Cases Each 49c