

ONE FOR THE CAMERA—A playful elephant at the Vincennes Zoo in Paris, France, shows that he's not only accustomed to posing for snapshots, but even encourages them. A young Parisian, perched on his dad's shoulders, is discovering that a pachyderm can be just as much a ham as anyone else, and even bigger.

The Party Line—

Victim Describes Red 'Confession Technique'

By FREDERICK WOLTMAN

Scraps-Howard Staff Writer

The Kremlin's extraordinary technique for producing forced confessions has long been a source of wonderment and mystery to the democratic nations.

Recently we got a first-hand inside glimpse. It came from one who went through the confession mill (in Lubianka Prison, Moscow) and survived, for the first time in Soviet history, without conceding an iota of guilt.

It was this technique, he said, that finally wore down William N. Oatis, the Associated Press reporter convicted by Red Czechoslovakia of spying last July.

The ex-prisoner of Lubianka is Zbigniew Stypulkowski, 47, a lawyer in Warsaw and a member of the Polish parliament before the Nazis struck from the West and the Red Army from the East. He recently arrived in the U. S. from England as a member of the Polish Political Council to tell his experiences to Polish-American groups in this country.

Mr. Stypulkowski was one of 16 Polish underground leaders invited to dinner by Soviet Marshal Georgi K. Zhukoff. All wound up in the Moscow NKVD prison, ac-

cused of sabotaging the Red army.

The kidnaping, by air, was a brazen betrayal by a great power. It shocked Russia's wartime allies. For at that time, in 1945, the United Nations was on the point of creation, in San Francisco.

Mr. Stypulkowski readily pleads guilty of sabotage—sabotage against the Nazis. He headed an underground organization in the woods outside Warsaw. Nine of his family, including his mother, wife and son, 14, were held hostage in a German concentration camp.

Zhukoff's troops were pounding at the Polish capital, High Red Army officers contacted the underground forces, ostensibly seeking help in maintaining their lines of communication.

The underground chiefs agreed to meet with them. And, as a gesture of good will, they accepted the dinner invitation. At Pruszkow, base of the liberating Red Army, they were told the scene was shifted to Zhukoff's field headquarters.

The party of 16 Poles went by plane to Lubianka. There, Mr. Stypulkowski at once was shoved

into a prison booth in a dark corridor.

Then began the forced confession technique. It lasted 70 days. (Mr. Oatis ran 71.) There were 141 separate interrogations, from three to 15 hours each. Says Mr. Stypulkowski:

"They had three objects. First, to learn every detail of my life, all my weaknesses and ambitions, and play on them.

"Second, to distort my mental balance by inducing continual changes of mood from high optimism to the depths of despair. At one time, the judge would address me as 'Sir' and predict my early release. The next interrogation I was 'a dirty German spy' and would hang or go to Siberia for 30 years.

"And third, to plant in my mind the conviction I must protect myself at all costs, whether innocent or guilty; I must plead guilty, for my sake, my family's and my country's."

At no time did he suffer physical harm. But there were studied "mechanical pressures."

He got two slices of dark bread

and cabbage leaf soup for lunch and barley at night.

His cell had one 300-watt unshaded bulb, hung over the doorway near his bed. If he turned away his face, the guard came in and said, "I must see your eyes."

"I had one blanket. But the prison rules required all prisoners to keep their hands above the blanket. My fingers grew numb and stiff and I would tremble from the cold and sleeplessness."

Of the 16 defendants he alone refused to confess a point. But he was found guilty. The final charge was failing to report a fictitious plot by his own underground to destroy the Red Army. He drew 12 months; the rest up to 10 years. Four died in Lubianka.

"There's a striking similarity between the methods used in Lubianka Prison and by the Soviet government itself," Mr. Stypulkowski declared. "The psychological pressure, the confusion, the constant shifts of Kremlin policy, which raise the hopes of the world for peace and destroy them with threats a few hours later."

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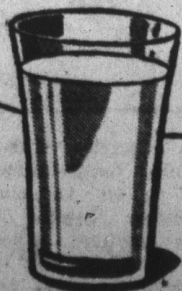


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