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Gen. Charles A. Willoughby - speech from MacArthur
intelligence reports. 1957.

CAPITOL STUFF

By JOHN O'DONNELL

Washington, Jan. 31.—Maj. Gen. Charles A. Willoughby, top intelligence officer under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, held a sophisticated Washington audience silent and intent for over an hour and a quarter today—an accomplishment that this reporter has never seen before—when he related one of the great spy stories of all times, a story which links up the FBI arrest in New York last week of the latest Communist spy ring and the MacArthur intelligence reports.

The Willoughby story was a grim one—so far as our republic's internal security is concerned. The retired major general put the finger on the Pentagon, named names, and charged it with suppression of 1 1/2 million words of Communist spy evidence gathered by Gen. MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo. He blamed the failure of top officials in Washington to turn over evidence involving naturalized Americans working for the Kremlin and the protection of traitor suspects on two members of the Roosevelt cabinet—Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes and former War Secretary Kenneth C. Royall.

Along with this came the declaration by MacArthur's former top G-2 that the evidence of Communist, anti-American conspiracy, documented and damning and naming American citizens involved, was withheld by secret influence in Washington so that it never reached the New York court of Judge Harold R. Medina during the long and exasperating trial of the American "top Communists" whose longtime activities had been uncovered by the MacArthur intelligence apparatus.

Gen. Willoughby's report was delivered at a Mayflower Hotel meeting of the American Coalition Societies—a group made up of patriotic organizations. It began with a picture of the global Red network as it first confronted the MacArthur command after the occupation of Japan. Then followed the discovery of all-important papers of the Red master spy, Dr. Richard Sorge, with the names of his American co-conspirators, the suppression of this evidence by top powers in Washington during the Truman Administration and—the most recent development by the FBI—the seizure of the accused conspirators in Manhattan.



Maj. Gen. Charles A. Willoughby Held audience spellbound

Says D. C. Had All the Evidence

According to Gen. Willoughby, Washington for three years had the evidence—name for name, and date by date—of such conspirators as the group tried and convicted before Judge Medina, plus the late Agnes Smedley, Steve Nelson and other Communists.

But none of this MacArthur-Willoughby evidence dispatched regularly from Japan to Washington in batches of hundreds of thousands of words was ever used.

Only the Congressional investigating committees made intelligent use of the material, said Willoughby. The general came back to this country at the time of MacArthur's recall by Truman and turned in his own retirement application. He told his audience today:

"Whoever has had the audacity to stick his neck out is systematically discredited," said Willoughby. "Gen. MacArthur's records were discredited. It was only the committees of Congress which broke the deadlock. But as of today only 15% of the documents of the Russian spy Dr. Sorge has been released by the Pentagon. All this evidence was available for three years but never released at the time it would have proved the guilt of our American Communists and shown that they were not members of a political party but actual members of a criminal conspiracy."

One of the things that got under the hide of MacArthur's master intelligence chief was the peculiar brushoff given by Washington to the evidence involving the late magazine writer Miss Agnes Smedley.

Dr. Sorge Spills the Beans

She, along with other Americans in the Far East, were definitely named by Dr. Sorge when this master Kremlin spy, figuring after two years in a Japanese jail that he had been tossed to the wolves by his Kremlin employers, sat down and wrote his complete story. He wrote that he had been hired and trained by the Kremlin spy institute 20 years earlier, became a German citizen under their orders and operated from Tokyo as a press attache in the German Embassy during the uneasy peace between Russia and Japan when the Kremlin wanted Japan to get into a war with Great Britain and the U. S. and so take the military threat off Russia's Siberia.

The Sorge story told of his meetings in Shanghai with Smedley and other American Reds, their pooled effort to work through the Institute of Pacific Relations to destroy Chiang Kai-shek and put China under Red Rule, and the detailed relations of Miss Smedley with the Red army leader, Gen. Chu Teh.

A bit of the Sorge story sent back from MacArthur's headquarters managed to leak to the newspapers. Then the big boys went into action. "Honest Harold" Ickes, the old curmudgeon, came out with a ringing declaration that Miss Smedley was "an outstanding, patriotic American woman." The televised "Meet the Press" program gave Secretary of War Royall a chance to declare that if he had been in charge at the time the Army "would never have released this report on Miss Smedley."

The Congressional investigation committees didn't take the same view. They subpoenaed Miss Smedley to testify. She went to England—with a time-limit on her departure. If she didn't meet the demand for her appearance, she would run into passport trouble.

"Just before the expiration of that time limit," said Gen. Willoughby grimly, "Miss Smedley died with a sense of exquisite timing. In her will she left all her possessions to the Red army of Gen. Chu Teh. 'My brothers in blood,' she described them in the dedication of her last book."