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Ridiculous.

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## SPY CHARGE DENIED BY MISS SMEDLEY

Author Studies Legal Steps  
Against MacArthur—Stein  
Calls Report 'Ridiculous'

Miss Agnes Smedley angrily denied yesterday that she had been "a spy and agent for the Soviet Government," as charged in the Army's report on the ring led by Dr. Richard Sorge.

In a statement issued through her lawyer, the Missouri-born author and lecturer termed the allegation "a despicable lie."

Miss Smedley, best known for her several books about China's civil strife in which she frankly supported the Communist side, said:

"I am not and never have been a Soviet spy or an agent for any country."

She added that she had instructed her attorney, former United States Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge, who was the American Labor party candidate for Surrogate in the last election, to take every legal step to protect her reputation from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's "privileged smearing." She added she would sue the general for libel if he waived his immunity. She also revealed she had asked Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall not to publish the report.

General MacArthur forwarded to Washington the report in which Miss Smedley was named as a spy along with another writer living in this city, Guenther Stein.

### Stein Also Denies Implication

Mr. Stein could not be reached yesterday at his home in 102 West Eightieth Street, but Tuesday evening when advance copies of the report were received here he told The Associated Press that the charges against him were "ridiculous." A native of Germany, he was a correspondent in Japan and China for several British papers from 1934 to 1944 and has written articles for several publications in the United States.

Miss Smedley, who has published four books and many articles about China—she identified herself in "Who's Who" as an "interpreter of China to the Western world and vice versa"—spent twelve years immediately preceding Pearl Harbor in the Far Eastern country.

She conceded in her statement yesterday that in the course of her work as a correspondent for the Frankfurter Zeitung, the Manchester Guardian and other papers, she had met Dr. Sorge and Hozumi Ozaki, cited by the Army as the spy ring's leaders.

"I must, however, say," she added, "that I have never lived in Japan and I knew nothing whatever of their activities there until I read reports in the American press, after V-J Day, which described how they had been brutally tortured and put to death by the same Japanese Fascists who were the enemies of the United States."

She insisted that General MacArthur was making an issue of the spy ring at the present time because of the defeats suffered by the Chinese Nationalist Government. His aim is to "condition the American people into allowing him more troops and money to build Japan into a mighty military base, she asserted.

Miss Smedley, who is 54 years old, has been a vigorous participant in several Left-Wing causes, including an Indian nationalist movement during World War I. Charged then with jeopardizing this country's neutrality, she spent three months in the old Tombs here, but the case against her was later dismissed for lack of evidence. Before going to China, she lived for several years in Berlin.

WOMAN