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RUSSIAN EXILE SOFTENS IN HIS HATRED OF REDS

Harvard's Sorokin Hits at 'Tough' Policy

BY EUGENE GRIFFIN
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)
Cambridge, Mass., April 2—Until
a few years ago, Pitirim A. Sorokin, Harvard



professor of sociology, an exile from soviet Russia, was famous in academic circles for his hatred of communism.

Now his attitude has softened, and his name appears among the sponsors of activities which are not unfriendly to Moscow.

"I used to be so much anti-Communist that it made me unpopular with the other professors, and they told me I should not feel so strongly," he told a Chicago Tribune reporter.

"Not at Harvard," he added.

"At the University of Minnesota." Sorokin taught at Minnesota from 1924 to 1930, and since 1930 has been at Harvard. He came to the United States in 1923 and was naturalized in 1930.

Fought With White Russians

When the reporter called at Sorokin's home in a Cambridge suburb, he found the professor alone in his study contemplating another petition in line with current Communist policy.

"It's from some of my professor friends," Sorokin said. "They want me to sign the petition to ask President Truman to go to see Mr. Stalin. I don't know whether I should sign. Maybe I will. My name means something in Russia and Czechoslovakia. When people over there see my name, they recognize it and know they have a friend over here. Yes, I may sign."

Sorokin, born 60 years ago in a Russian village, became a professor in St. Petersburg, and in 1917 was secretary to Kerensky in the Russian menshevik cabinet. He fought with the White Russians against the Communists at Archangel, and was captured and condemned to death but was pardoned by Lenin. He was imprisoned three times by the soviet government before he was banished in 1922.

Spied On In Classes
"I tried teaching under the Communist system," he said. "They put spies in my classes, and unfortunately I am not a professor of entomology but a professor of sociology. It is possible to teach about insects without mentioning communism, but I could not teach sociology without talking about it, and the Communists did not like what I said."

Sorokin was given sanctuary in Prague by Jan Masaryk before he came to the United States. Most of his books have been translated into many languages. His early

active and peaceful order of humanity" thru altruism, kindness to enemies and appeasement.

Sorokin said he is convinced that kindness is the best policy in dealing with Russia and communism. He is opposed to a "tough" policy on the part of the United States, and has signed a statement objecting to the "cold war."

He also has objected to the investigation of Communist front organizations by the house committee on un-American activities.

"That committee is ridiculous," he said. "I make fun of it in my classes. I just have to say, 'The Athenian committee on un-Athenian activities,' and the students laugh."

Ridicules Red Trial

The trial of 11 Communist party leaders in New York City on charges of conspiring to overthrow the government by violence also was ridiculous, Sorokin said.

"It gives the United States such a bad name in Europe," he said. "Weeks and weeks drag by, and where have they got with the trial? Nowhere. The Cardinal Mindszenty trial in Budapest was not bungled that way. In only three days, the court had all the documents and evidence, for what they were worth, and a confession."

Sorokin said he does not like THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE "because it does not understand Russia."

"THE TRIBUNE is too anti-Communist," he said. "I hold my head when I read about Russia and Communists in that paper. The Communist party is unimportant in the United States at the present time, and it would be better for all of us to be less anti-Communist and more friendly to Russia."

Sorokin became a sponsor in 1946 of the National Council for American-Soviet Friendship, a reputed Communist front organization, which has been cited as

works in the English language were marked by his resentment against the Communists.

In 1944 appeared his "Russia and the United States," in which he projected his new theory of the decline of communism and the evolution of a new Russia which he predicted would rise on a democratic social structure.

Saw Similar Goals

Sorokin put forward the view in "Russia and the United States" that little fundamental difference exists between the two nations. He saw a new type of society emerging in both.

The Rockefeller Foundation gave \$300,000 to finance research in social sciences at Harvard in 1935, and Sorokin was appointed a member of the committee which handled this fund for five years.

Two or three years ago he was allotted a smaller sum from undisclosed sources to undertake a study of good relations between individuals and nations—"how to make people and nations be more friendly to one another"—Sorokin described it.

On Feb. 9 this year Sorokin was relieved of teaching duties and was appointed head of a research center established at Harvard to pursue his studies in human relations, with the help of faculty members from other departments. He will have \$120,000 at his disposal. The university announced that this money was given by anonymous contributors who had read some of Sorokin's recent books.

Aim: To Reduce Conflict

Purpose of the research will be "to diminish bloody social conflicts and to begin to build a cre-

subversive by the justice department.

He has signed the council's statements praising Henry Wallace's letter to Stalin, urging President Truman to meet Stalin (in 1947) and calling on the United States government to end the "cold war."

He is also affiliated with the American Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born and the American Society for Russian Relief, both of which are under Communist influence, and he was a member of the "Red" dean welcome committee.