

the United Nations as the one program behind which all the Christians of the world could unite, thus fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah that nations would beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Jakov Zhidkov did a perfect job in Rio for the Communists in their use of religion. He was accepted, defended, and re-elected a vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance, so he may continue to serve the Communist cause with such deceitful propaganda.

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The most outstanding example in the United States of the Communist use of the National Council of Churches — and this is of continuing importance in view of more recent developments — has to do with the case of Metropolitan Nicolai.

The National Council of Churches initiated first, a visit to Moscow, and second, a return visit to the United States by the representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church.

1

Nicolai, the second top ranking churchman of the Russian Orthodox Church, had been well known as the outstanding propagandist for the Kremlin. He was in charge of what is called Foreign Relations for the Moscow Patriarchate. He was one of the founders of the Communist World Peace Council. His articles, appearing over a period of years in the *Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate*, eulogized Stalin and promoted the Communist propaganda line in its political demands. Nicolai insisted that germ warfare was used by the United States on the mainland of China. His tirades against the American soldiers in the Korean conflict were the worst. He called our American boys civilized savages; General MacArthur was another Hitler. He always addressed his listeners as "Dear Friends of Peace," and in an address before the first session of the World Peace Council, February 23, 1951, he said: "Only five years have gone by, and all humanity has become a witness of the repetition of that nightmare in the American aggressions in Korea!" And again, "... I have in mind the conduct of the war in Korea by the American aggressors." He insisted that the "American neofascists began a systematic cannibalistic destruction of the 'lower' Korean race ... cynically violated standards not only of international rights, but of human morals. Executions without trial, and inquisitions, secret and public. Dreadful tortures of victims. ..."

No one represented the Communist attack upon the West through the church as Nicolai did. To understand the full import and the proper perspective of this development, one must realize how it was planned in advance and its connections directly with the World Council of Churches.

2

An official publication of the National Council of Churches, entitled, "American Churchmen Visit the Soviet Union," reports: "The visit of the National Council of Churches' deputation to Russia was planned almost a year in advance. In June, 1955, the Council's governing General Board, responding to an appeal of the 1954 Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches, voted that a widely representative group of American church leaders visit the USSR 'as a manifestation of the spiritual fellowship binding all Christians.'"

The delegation was headed by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, then president of the NCC. Nicolai personally met the plane in Moscow; and, arm-in-arm, he and Eugene Carson Blake walked from the airfield. In their first conference with the Russians, Metropolitan Nicolai alone met with the churchmen for two hours. For ten days

they were the guests of the Russians. In their own report of the journey, published in the official NCC document, we are told: "The Americans called Saturday noon, on invitation, upon Georgi Karpoff. He is the government liaison in relations with the Russian Orthodox Church. ..." This is the Georgi G. Karpov, the major general of the secret police, whom Josef Stalin put in charge of all religion. Thus the American delegation officially paid its respects to this Communist who has masterminded the whole world-wide conspiracy against religion.

The report continues, "Karpoff entertained 60 at a dinner honoring the deputation at the Hotel Metropole on Saturday." Karpov is said to have "deplored the short visit and urged many times that they (the Americans) come again. All conversation participants, including the Patriarch and Metropolitan Nikolay, were present at the dinner, which was served in the most lavish Russian manner."

The report further indicates: "At the closing session Dr. Blake presented gifts to Metropolitan Nikolay. ... The possibility of a common Christian witness was envisaged in an exchange of memoranda by American and Russian churchmen in their closing session. ... The Russian Orthodox memorandum by the Metropolitan, in which other churches concurred, said: 'We seek complete concurrence with our American brothers in Christ on basic questions concerning the defense of peace, rejection of aggression, on resolving international conflicts by peaceful means, reduction of armaments, struggle against atomic weapons and the very spirit of war. Together with you we believe in God's love, and cannot consider that war is inevitable.'"

The NCC officials returned to the United States, heralding the success of their visit. Actually they had been in the hands of the Communists, the secret police, who had used them most effectively. This visit to Russia by these American churchmen, an official delegation from the National Council of Churches, gave the Communists a prestige and an incalculable commendation throughout the world. It brought untold grief, sorrow, and despair to Christians behind the Iron Curtain, to think that leaders in the Western world could be so duped as to permit themselves to be so used by the Reds.

3

In June of that year Nicolai headed the delegation that came to the United States — Nicolai who had stood as an honor guard by Stalin's bier, the Nicolai who had made false statements as a member of an investigating commission, attributing to the Germans the massacre of the Polish officers in Katyn. Actually, it was by Stalin's orders. This Nicolai was ushered around the United States by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake. He received the most effective kind of publicity. He came with the holy kiss of love as he announced at International Airport, New York City. He denied that he worked with the Communists, he preached peaceful coexistence, he was received by college students, and the climax came when he was the honored guest of the National Council of Churches, attending a meeting of the general board itself. Reporting this meeting in Toledo, Ohio, June 7, under the heading, "Russians Visit N.C.C.," *The Christian Century*, June 20, said: "The eyes of Russia were upon the General Board of the National Council of Churches as it met in regular session here yesterday. The ears of Russia, at least of the delegation of visiting Russian churchmen, heard some of the discussions of a particularly lively and significant meeting. ... One session of this meeting was given over to a report by the American travelers. At another the Russian church leaders brought their greetings."

So deeply committed were the National Council lead-