

Foreign News—(Continued)

ITALY

Ugo & Camilla

One test of a nation's sense of stability is the manner in which it treats crimes against the state. In Britain month ago a young Highland officer, Lieut. Norman Baillie-Stewart, was tried for espionage and high treason in the full glare of publicity. In Italy last week a secret military tribunal met behind locked doors to try the case of 25-year-old half-French, half-Italian Camilla Agliardi of Brescia and her lover, Warrant Officer Ugo Traviglia. They had been in jail for months,

RUSSIA

Jazz in Moscow

Since the Soviet Government lists jazz music as "vulgar," "demoralizing," few good Communists have heard jazz orchestras. But tourists in Moscow may hear jazz at the tourist hotels. One of the best is at the Grand Hotel where Leader Alexander ("Sasha") Tsfasman, "Russia's Paul Whiteman," postures, stamps and waves his baton. His "Moscow Boys" blare out an acceptable version of jazz. Few Communists go to hear it.

One midnight last week "Russia's Paul

CHINA-JAPAN

"Stupid Heads"

Each time the storm of a great Japanese offensive breaks in North China it is preceded by a gentle shower of propagand leaflets. Month ago the shower fell on Miyun, 50 mi. northeast of Peiping (T.M. May 1). Last week a Japanese plane zoomed through a wild anti-aircraft barrage over Peiping itself. U. S. Minister Nelson Trusler Johnson hopped out of bed into a yellow dressing gown to peer at the plane through binoculars, examine one of the first leaflets:

"Fellow Asiatics:

"Since we all speak the same language [sic] and belong to the same race, we should live and prosper together. Why should we slaughter each other?

"Our army takes pity on your ignorant soldiers, and delivers this solemn command: Cease opposing the Japanese and Manchukuan. Break away from Marshal Chiang Kai-shek. . . . Should you not separate yourselves from your army at an early date and become a new people, our great Japanese-Manchukuan allied army will advance.

"Your soldiers will be exterminated. Good and evil alike will come to harm. You will lose your stupid heads due to the failures of Chiang.

"WILL NOT THAT BE SAD?"

As the Japanese advance pounded its toward Peiping from Kupei Pass on the north and the Lwan River on the east, the Tokyo War Office persisted in its old declarations that Tientsin and Peiping would not be attacked. Said a young attaché with a marked Oxford accent:

"According to our information, T. V. Soong, the Chinese Finance Minister, has cabled to Nanking* urging the Government not to conclude an armistice, because he hoped to persuade the American Government somehow to intervene if the campaign is extended to Pei'ing. We shall be jolly well careful not to be misled into this trap."

Four days later when the Japanese pincers had closed still further on Peiping the Tokyo tune suddenly changed. There came a brief statement from the Foreign office:

"The extent of Japanese operations in Chinese territory are being left entirely to the discretion of Field Marshal Nobuyoshi Muto as commander of the Japanese forces in the field. . . . Continued Chinese counter-attacks are causing the Kwantung Army to lose patience." Field Marshal Nobuyoshi Muto lost no time in making a characteristic statement from his headquarters at Changchun: "If the Chinese abandon their challenging attitude and withdraw . . . the Japanese will immediately return to the Great Wall and devote their energies to maintenance of peace . . . but if the Chinese continue their provocations, the Japanese will be compelled to continue the present . . . operations."

During the week the Japanese aircraft

*While on his way to confer with President Roosevelt last week, preparatory to the World Economic Conference at London.



Soviet Photo Agency

SASHA TSFASMAN (AT PIANO) & HIS MOSCOW BOYS

Young workers were exhilarated but confused.

but only a handful of people in all Italy knew they had been arrested. Even Warrant Officer Traviglia's wife did not know what had become of him until two days before the trial. The charge was simple. The beautiful Camilla seduced Ugo when she learned that he was employed as a messenger in the Ministry of Marine. His job was to carry important documents from one office to another, also to collect and burn all waste paper in every office every night. Documents he photographed or copied. From the scrap-basket scribbles he managed to guess very shrewdly just what plans were under consideration. The beautiful Camilla smuggled the documents out of the country to France and Jugoslavia in the frames of oil paintings. Both confessed, both were condemned to death though King Vittorio Emanuele forestalled French martyrdom by commuting Camilla's sentence to life imprisonment.

In the courtyard of Fort Braschi at dawn Ugo Traviglia was marched before a firing squad. Dramatically he begged his executioners' pardon, asked to be shot in the breast, facing the rifles with his eyes unbound. It was not granted. Ugo Traviglia was blindfolded, shot in the back.

Whiteman" and his Moscow Boys were summoned to a meeting of the Moscow Workers Theatre Club. They were the case for the negative in a debate: "Is jazz too bourgeois for proletarian Russia?" In the close, airless clubroom the Moscow Boys took up their instruments and played jazz as they had never played before. They played a waltz, then several French and English foxtrots. The young workers, most of whom were hearing jazz for the first time, were exhilarated but confused. Then Tsfasman called for "Ho Hum," popular three years ago in the U. S. When it was finished the audience cried for an encore. Jazzman Tsfasman had all but won his case. He ended with a rumba.

In the debate afterwards one Comrade Glava, representative of the Youth League's newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, suggested that young workers who could not "resist the appeal of the bourgeois dance" confine their depravity to their homes. Finally the Moscow Conservatory's Music Professor Konnus pulled a long face and gravely approved Tsfasman's jazz.

Alexander Tsfasman stands for jazz in Russia. Some of his compositions: "Jolly Blues," "Sky Trot," "Willy Brest."

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RUSSIA

Джаз в Москве

Поскольку советское правительство признает джазовую музыку к "вульгарной", "деморализующей", мало кто из настоящих коммунистов слушал джазовые оркестры. Но туристы в Москве могут послушать джаз в туристических гостиницах. Один из лучших в "Гранд Отеле", где руководитель Александр ("Саша") Цфасман, "российский Пол Уайтмен", позирует, топает ногами и разматывает палочкой. Его "Московские парни" исполняют приемлемую версию джаза. Мало кто из коммунистов ходит его слушать.

Однажды в полночь на прошлой неделе "ро-

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Soviet Photo Agency

Саша Цфасман (за фортепиано) и его московские ребята
Молодые рабочие были в хорошем настроении, но смущены.

but only a handful of people in all Italy knew they had been arrested. Even Warrant Officer Travaglia's wife did not know what had become of him until two days before the trial. The charge was simple. The beautiful Camilla seduced Ugo when she learned that he was employed as a messenger in the Ministry of Marine. His job was to carry important documents from one office to another, also to collect and burn all waste paper in every office every night. Documents he photographed or copied. From the scrap-basket scribbles he managed to guess very shrewdly just what plans were under consideration. The beautiful Camilla smuggled the documents out of the country to France and Yugoslavia in the frames of oil paintings. Both confessed, both were condemned to death though King Vittorio Emanuele forestalled French martyrdom by commuting Camilla's sentence to life imprisonment.

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сифский Пол Уайтмен" и его "Московские парни" были вызваны на заседание Московского рабочего театрального клуба. Они были аргументом "против" в споре: "Не слишком ли буржуазен джаз для пролетарской России?". В тесной, лишенной воздуха клубной комнате московские парни вали в руки инструменты и заиграли джаз так, как никогда прежде не играли. Они сыграли вальс, затем несколько французских и английских фокстротов. Молодые рабочие, большинство из которых слышали джаз впервые, были восторжены, но растеряны. Затем Цфасман исполнил популярную три года назад в США композицию "Ho Hum". Когда она закончилась, зрители требовали выхода на бис. Джазмен Цфасман практически выиграл этот спор. В завершение он исполнил румбы.

В последующих прениях представлялись газеты "Комсомольская правда" товарищ Глава предложил рабочим молодым людям, которые не могут "устоять" перед притягательностью буржуазных танцев", ограничить свое развратное поведение домом. Наконец, профессор музыки Московской консерватории Коппеус, острою притасу, серьезно одобрил джаз Цфасмана.

Александр Цфасман преставляет джаз в России. Некоторые из его композиций: "Jolly Blues," "Sky Trot" "Willy Breat".