

Soviet Dissident Convicted; Gets 7 Years and 5 in Exile

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MOSCOW, Jan. 5 — Vladimir K. Bukovsky, one of the most active members of the Soviet Union's small dissident movement, was convicted today of anti-Soviet agitation and propagandizing. In a summary, one-day trial, he was sentenced to seven years' deprivation of freedom, to be followed by five years' exile.

The official press agency Tass, which transmitted an unusual running account of the day's proceedings to foreign subscribers, said he had been found guilty of having tried to persuade Soviet Army officers to transmit information abroad and of having sought to smuggle subversive material.

His sentence, demanded by Miss Aza Bobrushko, the prosecutor, was the maximum under Article 70 of the Russian Republic's criminal code, which deals with the distribution of information deemed discrediting to the Soviet system.

The 29-year-old dissenter, who has already spent a total of six years in prison, a labor camp and mental institutions, was arrested last March after having sent documentation abroad to show that sane political nonconformists were being held in psychiatric hospitals. The Soviet Government newspaper Izvestia has denied that this is done.

Friends of Mr. Bukovsky cir-

culated petitions among Western newsmen during the legal pretrial activities in the hope of stirring foreign interest in the case.

However, the severity of the sentence was taken as evidence that the Soviet authorities were not to be deterred by the pressure of international public opinion in this case. An outcry abroad after the Leningrad trial of Jewish hijackers in December, 1970, did result in a reduction of some sentences.

Of the seven years of deprivation of freedom ordered for Mr. Bukovsky, the first two are to be in prison, a stricter form of detention, and five in a labor camp. The period of exile that is to follow involves enforced residence in a remote area designated by the authorities.

Apparently defiant at today's trial, Mr. Bukovsky declared his regret, according to courtroom sources, that in the few years he had been at liberty "I did so little."

Although Tass described the proceedings as "public" and said they were attended by newsmen, foreign correspondents were prevented by the police from approaching the courthouse, in the industrial borough of Lyublino in south-east Moscow.

The Bukovsky case aroused the interest of Dr. Andrei D. Sakharov, the physicist, and his associates in the unofficial Committee of Human Rights, which seeks to protect Soviet citizens against civil rights violations.

Dr. Sakharov, who was among friends of Mr. Bukovsky who were barred from the trial today, had joined in a campaign of protest against the seven-month detention of Mr. Bukovsky for observation in a Moscow psychiatric institute after his arrest last March. He was finally declared sane and ready to stand trial.

In an unusual development, two Western newsmen were interrogated by the State Security Committee last September in connection with pretrial investigation of the Bukovsky case. The two, James R. Peipert of The Associated Press and Andrew Waller, bureau chief of Reuters, were instructed by their interrogators not to discuss the matter.



Associated Press

Vladimir K. Bukovsky

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