Fadeyev, a Top Soviet Novelist Of Stalin Era, Commits Suicide

Moscow's Literary Dictator, Called Chronic Alcoholic. Had Been Depressed

By Reuters.

MOSCOW, May 14 (Reuters) - Alexander A. Fadeyev, 55, chief Soviet literary theorist of the Stalin era, whose views recently had been under fire, committed suicide yesterday, it was disclosed tonight.

The Soviet news agency Tass said Mr. Fadeyev suffered from chronic alcoholism and took his life "while in a state of grave mental depression."

It was reliably reported that

in his apartment. He caused a sensation at the 1948 left-wing conference of intellectuals in Wroclaw, Poland, when he declared "if hyenas could type and jackals could use fountain pens, they would write like the poet, T. S. Eliot, and the playwrights, Eugene O'Neill and Jean-Paul Sartre."

Mr. Fadeyev was one of the architects of the Stalinist theories of literature that have sharply criticized since Stalin's death for their failure terly attacked Soviet writers' to portray life in its true colors. At the recent Soviet Commu-

nist party congress, he was demoted from a full to an alternate member of the Central Committee. He remained a member of the board of the Soviet Writers Union, of which he formerly was chairman. His Works Were Translated

A Stalin Prize winner, his

works were translated into most European languages. But he was chiefly regarded as a theoretician rather than as an outstanding writer. When Mr. Fadeyev was a delegate to the Tenth Party Congress

in 1921, it adjourned to Leningrad to suppress the Kronstadt naval mutiny and he wounded in the fighting. The Tass announcement said

Mr. Fadeyev's chronic alcohol-

ism had led to the virtual cessation of his creative activity as a writer and of his public and social work. "Various medical measures taken by him for several years did not give positive results," the

agency said. It added that "the Soviet Government highly valued the services of A. Fadeyev and awarded

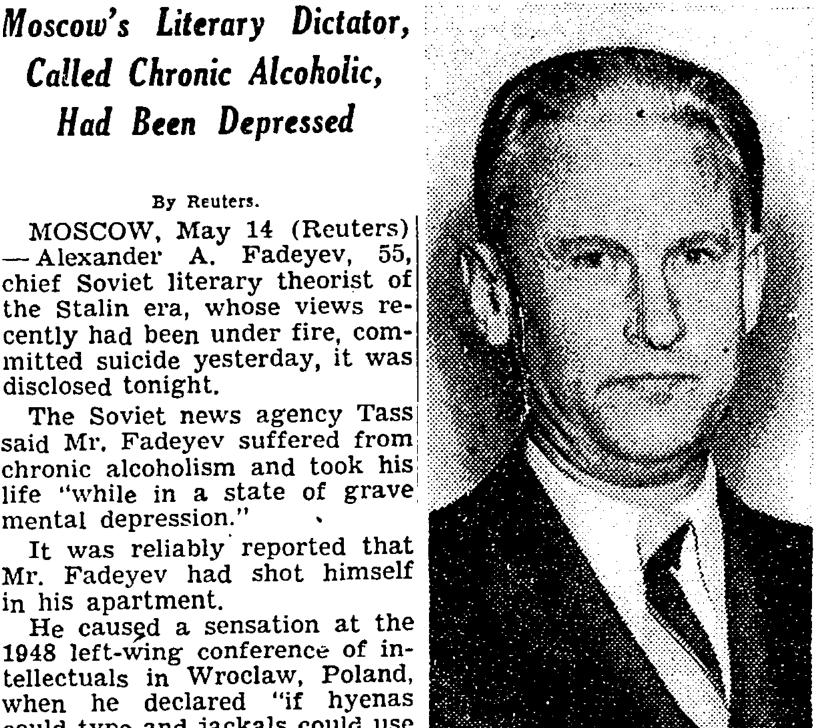
him with two Orders of Lenin as well as various medals."

Rewrote His Major Novel

eral of the Union of Soviet beings. Writers. Ironically, however, he Mr. Fadeyev's greatest literalso was a victim of Communist ary success was "Young Guard," control over literature. He was the tale of young Communist forced to rewrite his major post-underground fighters against war novel, "Young Guard," to the Nazis during World War II. satisfy party demands for The novel was received with trechanges in it. the Soviet Communist party last a million copies were sold.

February, Mikhail Sholokhov, a Then the Communist party asnovelist, described Mr. Fadeyev sailed the novel as "falsely" as a "power-loving general sec-showing panic in the early days

and allocated apartments to give proper credit to Commuwrite. Mr. Fadeyev headed the post- generals. war campaign to purge Soviet three years to rewrite the novel.



The New York Times, 1949 Alexander A. Fadeyev

shortly after the late Andrei A. Zhdanov, a Politburo member and a protégé of Stalin, had bit-"enthusiasm for the cheap, modern, bourgeois literature of the West.'' In 1949, Mr. Fadeyev visited

the United States as head of the Soviet delegation to the Cultural and Scientific Conference World Peace. The meeting was attacked by many sources as a Communist propaganda effort. While in New York, Mr. Fadeyev denied that the Soviet regime placed restrictions on writers or that the Soviet people were not free to voice their opinions. A month later in Paris

accused the United States raising a generation of young criminals who would be used in a future war in the same way that German fascism had used its young people. Mr. Fadeyev was born in the Volga River city of Kimry near

Kalinin, in 1901. He was taken

to the Far East at an early age and spent most of his childhood there. He joined the Communist party in 1918 and fought on the Bolshevik side in the civil war. Mr. Fadeyev's first major literary success was the short novel "Razgrom" (The Rout), published in 1927. The story of a Communist partisan unit fightagainst anti-Communist

forces in the Far East, the book was hailed as being in the Tolstoyan tradition and as the work Mr. Fadeyev ruled Soviet lit-of a writer who could combine erature under Stalin for more Communist ideology with the than a decade as Secretary Gen-presentation of real, live human

mendous acclaim in the early At the twentieth Congress of post-war period, and more than

retary" who delivered speeches of World War II, as failing to but preferred not to nist party leadership during the war, and as caricaturing Soviet Mr. Fadeyev took literature of Western influence When he had finished, the secand ideas. He took over as head ond edition was hailed as both of the writers' union in 1946, a political and literary success.

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