
Query of “Where Is John Reed?” Answered Shipped to Norway, Then Turned Stowaway

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WASHINGTON, DC, Feb. 22 [1920].— John Reed, friend of Lenin and Trotsky, who is under indictment in Chicago for alleged conspiracy to overthrow the United States government arrived in Soviet Russia by way of Finland last December, it is learned. Since his indictment last month federal and Illinois state agents have been searching for Reed all over the United States.

On being told of Reed's presence in Russia — it is not known yet whether he has left there — the State Department was interested to learn the channel through which he obtained a passport. The department is informed that he shipped as a sailor from an American port to Norway. From there he traveled on foot to Stockholm. There he stowed himself away, or was stowed away, on a vessel about to sail for Helsingfors [Helsinki, Finland].

Narrowly Escapes Arrest.

Reed narrowly escaped arrest in Helsingfors, but, by disguising himself as a Russian peasant, he crossed the frontier into Russia. He was received in Moscow as the official envoy of the American Communist Labor Party. As such he attended the

meetings of the Third International and made a speech at the All-Russian Soviet Convention in the middle of December [7th Congress: Dec. 5-9, 1919].

In Moscow Reed lived at the Kremlin as the guest of the People's Commissars.

He was in constant communication with Lenin and Trotsky it is stated, and visited the Red Army at the front.

Reed was in Moscow until the middle of January [1920]. Of that the State Department is quite certain. His reception in Russia was the warmer because two years ago Trotsky appointed him Bolshevist consul general at New York.

Mr. Reed never assumed that office, for, as it turned out, the appointment was made to facilitate his return to the United States.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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