

Russian Author Shuns Limelight

By JOHN BEST
 MOSCOW (CP) — Mikhail Sholokhov, the Soviet author who received the Nobel Prize for literature in Stockholm, lives a life of hermit-like obscurity in the Don country of southern Russia despite his fame.

The 60-year-old writer, whose masterpiece *And Quiet Flows the Don* has been translated into 73 languages, shuns the limelight.

His favorite pastime is hunting and he was away from his home at Veshenskaya, near Rostov-on-Don, when the Nobel award was announced Oct. 25.

Sholokhov is a personal friend of former premier Nikita Khrushchev and one report is that his wife and Khrushchev's wife Nina are sisters. He is a member of the Supreme Soviet and of the Communist party central committee.

STILL A MYSTERY
 He made one of his rare public appearances in Moscow recently but it did little to dispel the aura of mystery, almost of legend, that surrounds his name.

He turned up at a press conference dressed informally in a grey suit and blue turtle-neck sweater and indicated his distaste for the affair by pleading in answer to a question, for a quick end to proceedings so that all could "get busy with something else."

Sholokhov lives deep within the Cossack country that he helped make famous in his epic of the Russian revolution and civil war, and in his more recent *Virgin Soil Upturned*, a story describing in grim detail the collectivization of the Don peasantry in the early 1930s.

A man of trim build and medium height, a healthy stand of grey hair, reddish face and hooked nose, Sholokhov is believed to be extremely well off. His works have sold millions of copies and still have a wide sale, particularly *And Quiet Flows the Don*. He received \$56,000 from the Swedish Academy with his Nobel Prize.

There had been talk that he has not been doing much writing in recent years but he told the press conference he is working on a novel about the Soviet

war effort. It's entitled *They Fought For the Motherland* and the first volume will be completed next year, he said.

To many foreign observers, Sholokhov is representative of a type of not-very-courageous Russian writer who has allowed himself and his name to be used for propaganda purposes in order to stay in favor with Soviet authorities.

PROTEST TO STALIN
 On the other hand, Sholokhov, who fought on the Bolshevik side in the civil war, is said to have addressed an outspoken letter to Stalin in 1933 protesting the "disgusting methods" used by Communist cadres whipping into line Don peasants who balked at collectivization.

Sholokhov was in the vanguard of the attack on Boris Pasternak in 1958 for *Doctor Zhivago* and then was forced by ridicule and censure at home to reject it.

He still calls Pasternak, who died in 1960, an "internal emigre," and says he (Sholokhov) is the "first Russian and Soviet writer" to win the award.

It is no secret that one thing that upset Soviet authorities about the award to Pasternak—whose novel has never been published here—is that they thought Sholokhov should have come first.

Sholokhov said he has not changed his view that Pasternak is "an old maid's writer," an opinion that now appears to

Rusk Rejects Red Charges Yank Aggression In Asia

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. State Secretary Dean Rusk has rejected Soviet charges of American aggression in Southeast Asia. He blamed Peking and Hanoi instead for seeking military victory on their own terms in South Viet Nam.

Rusk told a press conference: "We do know authorities in Peking have given substantial assistance to Hanoi. . . . We think there are some Chinese personnel working on communications that have been disrupted and there have been technical assistance people there for some time."

He said the Soviet leaders know also that a solemn pact guaranteeing the neutrality of Laos was agreed to by North Viet Nam and Communist China as well as by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Rusk said the Soviets know that the Laos agreement was

not observed by North Viet Nam for even a single day.

Rusk's press conference coincided with a new attempt by Britain to get peace negotiations on Viet Nam started. London proposed to the Soviet Union a 12-nation appeal to Communist North Viet Nam to quit fighting and negotiate.

It called on the Russians to join in signing and circulating the message among the nine countries which attended the 1954 peace parley on Indochina and the Indian, Canadian and Polish governments, which compromise the Viet Nam control commission.

Moscow seemed certain to re-

ject the British proposal. Just three days ago the Soviets had proposed that Britain join in a condemnation of American action in what Moscow termed "the bandit war." Britain and Russia were co-chairmen of the 1954 conference.

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RCMP Destroy Still In Quebec

GLEN ROBERTSON, Ont. (CP)—RCMP officials raided and destroyed a still in this town just west of the Quebec border.

Police arrested Raymond Bel-

iveau, 22, and Robert Herber, 29, both of Montreal and charged them with being in possession of the still. They will appear Tuesday in magistrate's court at Alexandria.

Police impounded a car with Quebec licence plates and about \$5,000 worth of equipment used in preparing a still.

PRINCIPAL SENTENCED
 KINGSTON, Ont. (CP)—G. I. Bildson, 33, principal of Macdonald Public School here, was sentenced Wednesday to six months definite in reformatory, and three months indefinite on a charge of contributing to juvenile delinquency through an act of indelicacy.

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