

# SOLTI DENIES HE EVER BELONGED TO RED SOCIETY

## Conductor Still Hopes to Get U. S. Visa

BY LARRY RUE

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 12—Georg Solti, 41, instead of conducting as scheduled the Chicago Symphony orchestra in Ravinia park this week, will be in Munich tomorrow to prove that he never belonged to a communist organization. Charges by the counter-intelligence corps [CIC] that he was a member of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship prevented Hungarian born Solti from getting a visa just before he was to take off for Chicago.

Solti already has established a reputation as one of western Europe's leading conductors. He has been musical director of the city theaters in Frankfurt since last year. He held the same position in Munich from 1946 to 1952 when he was called here. Solti also has conducted various European orchestras as well as the the London Philharmonic orchestra last January, where he received the highest praise.

### Indignant at Delay

"I can tell you these last two weeks have been the most hateful days in all my life," Solti said in an interview in his home here. What makes him particularly indignant is the failure of the United States consulate here to call attention to the charges against him until only a week before his scheduled departure for Chicago altho he had applied for a visa April 6.

"I was notified on June 17 that Washington had approved my visa," he remarked. "I went to the consulate on June 25 and received the visa, good for one year. The only thing lacking was the signature of the consul which I was to get later. The consul then asked me whether I was sure I had filled out correctly the visa application and had listed all the organizations I had belonged to. I assured him I had filled out the questionnaire correctly."

### Affidavit Not Enough

A few days later Solti was informed by the consulate that the CIC had reported his name was on a list of members of the communist organization. "I told them never in my life had I belonged to such an organization," he said.

The consul explained that if he went to Munich and got a certificate by the police there that he had never been a member of the organization that should be evidence enough.

"I did just that, obtained a police affidavit and presented it to the consulate," Solti said. "But it was not enough."

Meanwhile, Solti's manager in New York had intervened with Washington, but the consulate here insisted he could not go to America as long as this matter was not entirely cleared up.

"I can assure you that the list on which my name allegedly appears is a falsification," Solti said. "If the society ever listed me as a member I shall sue."

### Wants Full Clearance

Solti said the American consul had proposed he make a new visa application for some special arrangement so he might still be able to go to Chicago. "I refused, explaining that I want to get a proper visa and have my reputation cleared completely so there will be no suspicion whatever before I go to the United States," Solti said.

"I regret more than I can say not being in Chicago," he said. "I do not even know who has taken my place there. But I do hope that I will be able to make a trip to the United States in September."

He is scheduled to appear as a guest conductor in San Francisco then.

Solti left Hungary in 1939 and spent the entire war in Switzer-

land. There, eight years ago, he married a Swiss girl.

"What makes this whole thing more ridiculous is that I was called from Zurich by United States occupation authorities in 1946 to take over the job as chief conductor in Munich," he remarked.