

HOLLYWOOD, MAY 6--(UP)--RUSSIAN-SPEAKING FILM STAR KIRK DOUGLAS SAID TODAY HE WILL APPEAR ON A RADIO FREE EUROPE BROADCAST NEXT WEEK TO ANSWER A COMMUNIST BROADCASTER WHO SAID THE ACTOR LACKED THE LITERARY KNOWLEDGE OF A FIFTH-GRADE RUSSIAN STUDENT.

DOUGLAS SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM THE CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM, OPERATORS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE, TO SPEAK ON A BROADCAST WHICH WILL BE BEAMED TO RUSSIA AND ALL IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES.

THE INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING ORGANIZATION SAID IT HAD MONITORED A COMMUNIST BROADCAST APRIL 14 WHICH DESCRIBED THE UNITED STATES AS LACKING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ADVANTAGES. THE BROADCASTER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING:

"ONCE UPON A TIME AN ITALIAN FILM PRODUCER INVITED (AN) AMERICAN ARTIST (DOUGLAS) TO PLAY A PART IN A FILM BASED ON HOMER'S 'ODYSSEY.' IN REPLY TO THIS SUGGESTION THE ARTIST SAID THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER MR. HOMER WROTE ANY OTHER FILM SCRIPTS. HE DID NOT KNOW WHO HOMER WAS, BUT IN OUR COUNTRY FIFTH GRADE HISTORY BOOKS TELL ABOUT HOMER."

THE ACTOR SAID HE NOT ONLY STUDIED HOMER AS A CHILD, BUT RE-READ THE GREEK AUTHOR DURING HIS COLLEGE DAYS AT ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY.

HE DESCRIBED THE ATTACK AS ONE DESIGNED "TO PICTURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS A NATION COMPLETELY LACKING IN BREEDING, CULTURE AND EDUCATION," AND SAID HE WELCOMED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER IT BECAUSE IT DID "MUCH MORE THAN ATTACK ME, IT USES ME AS AN INSTRUMENT."

DOUGLAS, WHOSE PARENTS WERE RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS, SAID HE WOULD MAKE HIS TALKS IN THE RED BROADCASTER'S OWN LANGUAGE.

"I SHALL USE TRUTH TO BEAT DOWN COMMUNIST LIES," HE SAID. "I THINK ANY HONEST PICTURE OF OUR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE WILL DO JUST THAT."