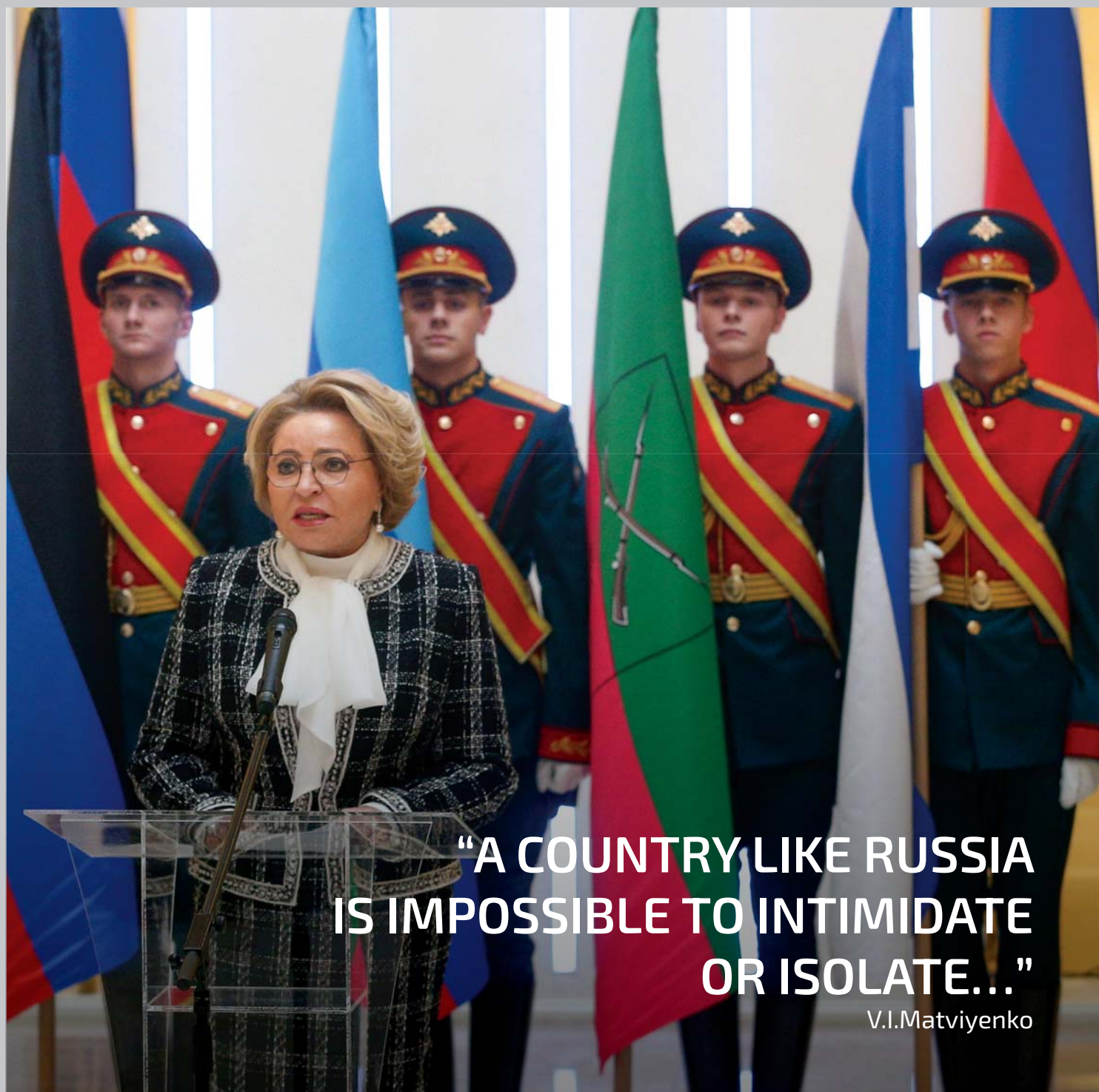


MAGAZINE

RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake – But to learn the truth for the good of our State! № 2(3) JUNE 2023



**“A COUNTRY LIKE RUSSIA
IS IMPOSSIBLE TO INTIMIDATE
OR ISOLATE...”**

V.I. Matviyenko

AFRICA – RUSSIA:
NEW HORIZONS
OF COOPERATION

S.N. LEBEDEV:
“THE ROLE OF THE CIS WILL
ONLY INCREASE IN THE FUTURE”

“OUR MAN IN THE VATICAN”
110TH ANNIVERSARY OF
IOSIF GRIGULEVICH

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IN WHATEVER HARD CONDITIONS
YOU MIGHT HAVE TO LIVE,
NEVER LOSE HEART,
SINCE THE BELIEF IN YOUR FORCES
AND THE DESIRE TO LIVE FOR THE SAKE
OF OTHERS
ARE A GREAT POWER.

р. Дзерожинский



"Intelligence Officer" magazine № 2 (3) 2023 16+

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All of us are destined to live and work in a fateful time

Text: Valentina Ivanovna Matviyenko,
Chairwoman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Oh Russian! A valiant people,
Unique, magnanimous,
Great, strong, resonant with glory,
With the elegance of your virtues!
You are tireless in muscles,
Invincible in spirit,
Simple in heart, kind in feeling,
Quiet in happiness, cheerful in misfortune.
G.R.Derzhavin

The words cited as the epigraph of this article belong to our famous poet, statesman, senator Gavriil Romanovich Derzhavin. And although these lines were written more than two hundred years ago, in the days of the triumphant victory of the Russian army over Napoleon, in my opinion, they are extremely relevant today and, I am sure, will always be relevant.

Since the beginning of time, our people have been famous for their courage, will, perseverance, overwhelming moral strength and love for the Motherland. These high human and civic qualities have at all times served as a support in the development of the Russian

state and its formation as a sovereign world power, looking to the future and always ready to defend its national interests and traditional values.

There is probably no country on this planet that faced as many difficult, dramatic trials as Russia had to overcome. But every time we dealt with the challenges of the time with dignity and moved forward confidently. We won military victories, achieved success at work while being tempered like steel; only becoming stronger, firmer and more resilient. Therefore, we should be rightfully proud of both our Fatherland and our people.

Just think about it! It has become acceptable and even popular to persecute and eliminate people simply because they feel an unbreakable spiritual bond with Russia, want to speak Russian, do not want to forget about our common history, and oppose the neo-Nazi idols worship.

Of course, there are many milestones and memorable dates in the Russian history. And if we talk about recent history, this year is also special and symbolic. We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and, accordingly, the 30th anniversary of the Federal Assembly - the parliament of our country. During this time, the political system of modern Russia has come a long way; demonstrated its resilience, ability to respond to challenges and threats of any kind adequately and ensure the stable development of the Russian state and society. A reliable vertical of public power has been built, a stable economy has been formed, and extensive and irreducible social guarantees have been established.

Working visit to the
Federal Republic of
Brazil. January 1, 2023



That is, saying in the words of our President, Russia has convincingly proven that it is capable of not only adapting to changes, but “of improving itself, striving for the best, making radical breakthroughs forward - to a new political, economic and social structure”¹.

All these years we have been moving along a creative trajectory of development both on the internal and external tracks. We have upheld the principles of equal and multi-vector cooperation on the world stage. And, unfortunately, such vigorous, independent development of Russia has been rejected by a number of states used to consider themselves masters of the world. As a result, as it happened many times in our history, we are once again facing an attempt of the collective West to eliminate Russia as a key obstacle on its way to establishing a unipolar world and its sole hegemony.

It is especially painful to realize that the springboard for the implementation of the “anti-Russia” concept has become our once brotherly Ukraine, where Western curators so “carefully” revived neo-Nazism and encouraged russophobia. How that worked out – the whole world saw from the example of Donbass, whose residents had been subjected to real terror from the Kyiv authorities for many years.

Just think about it! It has become acceptable and even popular to persecute and eliminate people simply because they feel an unbreakable spiritual bond with Russia, want to speak Russian, do not want to forget about our common history, and oppose the worship of neo-Nazi idols.

No matter how hard we had been trying to reach out to Kyiv and its patrons to call for a diplomatic settlement of the conflict in Donbass and compliance with the Minsk agreements, our calls went unheeded. Western countries

¹ The Russian President V. Putin's speech at a gala reception on the occasion of the national holiday - Russia Day, June 12, 2016.

not only recognized, but also supported “respectable” Ukrainian Nazism.

The residents of Donbass could no longer remain under this oppression. It was in Russia that they saw their defender and expressed their independent, firm desire to cast in their lot with our country. All further steps - recognition of the independence of these regions, the decision to launch a special military operation, holding referendums on the inclusion of subjects into Russia - became a hard-won, but at the same time the only opportunity to finally get out of the vicious circle. Thus, we sent a clear, precise signal to the entire world community that we will never leave our own behind. And we will make every effort to ensure that the West would never succeed in their attempts, even the most sophisticated, to solve the ‘Russian question’.

Such a resolute stance caused an unprecedented external pressure on Russia. And of course, the ideologists of this pressure hoped that it would inflict a strategic defeat on us. But they have miscalculated. They have failed to clip our wings. After all, it is impossible to intimidate and isolate a country like Russia. And not only because we have the largest territory or the most powerful nuclear arsenal, but primarily because the economic, humanitarian, and intellectual capabilities of our country are so enormous that it is simply unthinkable to ignore them.

Having dropped their masks and shown their true face, the Western “empire of lies” has irrevocably lost its imaginary title as a stronghold of freedom, righteousness and democracy. And today we see that the changes taking place on the planet have given impetus to the formation of a completely different world order, where there will be no place for unipolarity and dictatorship.

This irreversible, tectonic transition continues to gain momentum before our eyes. And there is no doubt that Russia has an important role to play in the new architecture of international relations, since many states share the unifying,

friendly agenda that we are promoting on the world stage.

We, parliamentarians, regularly see this while dealing with legislators from other countries, as the interparliamentary cooperation becomes increasingly intensive. So, at the beginning of this year, our delegation made an official visit to Brazil, followed by a trip to Algeria. At my personal invitation, our colleagues from Zimbabwe visited the Federation Council. During the recent International Parliamentary Conference «Russia - Africa», in which almost all countries of the African continent took part, we held substantive negotiations with a number of representative delegations.

If you look at our work schedule, on average we have two or three meetings with foreign partners per week. The question is, what kind of isolation can we even talk about?

We see that major events taking place under the auspices, or with the support, of our chamber are gaining new impetus for development. Quite recently, the 10th anniversary Nevsky International Ecological Congress was successfully held in St. Petersburg. Very soon, at the end of June, the Republic of Bashkortostan will host the 10th Forum of Regions of Russia and Belarus.

One could cite more examples. In the current conditions, the activities of our multilateral parliamentary organizations are particularly important. We are developing dialogue through the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Countries, the CSTO

We have sent a clear, unambiguous signal to the world community that we will never leave our own behind. And we will make every effort to ensure that the West will never succeed in even the most sophisticated attempts to solve the “Russian question”.

Parliamentary Assembly, BRICS, EAEU and generally with all responsible partners concerned. We maintain our positions in the Inter-Parliamentary Union. And contrary to the forecasts of “well-wishers,” we note that Russia has many friends and like-minded people who understand and share our approaches and intend to increase substantive, equal cooperation with our country in a variety of areas.

As for the transformation that took place within Russia during this time, it has become just as large-scale. In order to reorient economic and production capacities, preserve jobs after the departure of Western companies, and provide all the necessary support to our defenders in the front, we had to optimize many processes as soon as possible. We had to solve emerging challenges promptly, operating literally 24/7. And, looking at the economic indicators achieved, for example, at the unemployment rate, which became the lowest in our history, we can confidently say that this crucial period was passed without shocks.

But more important than any economic success and statistical indicators is the spirit of unity and cohesion that lives in Russian society today. The fact that the absolute majority of our citizens support the president’s policy and want to help new regions shows the strength of this spirit. It seems to me that this best proves that the Donetsk and Lugansk people’s republics, the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions are not just liberated territories for us, but first of all people, our compatriots, who, finally, after many years of oppression and discrimination, have found a real homeland.

It is no less valuable that the regions, businesses, and our fellow citizens

perceive such a difficult time as a period of new opportunities. I note it every time we have Federal Subject Days in the Federation Council, when I go on working trips around the country. All of Russia - from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok - is literally permeated with the desire to unleash its potential. To support this process and create mechanisms that promote the harmonious, sustainable development of all 89 entities is no doubt the number one priority for the authorities.

The key guidelines for us are the tasks set by the President in the Address to the Federal Assembly, as well as the six strategic goals outlined by the head of state last December. We, of course, approach each of them with equal attention, be it the integration of the four regions into our socio-economic space or ensuring the financial and technological sovereignty of the country. The work is being carried out comprehensively. And I would like to highlight the fact that, by and large, it proceeds without regard to the decisions made by the anti-Russian coalition.

I think that today few people actually pay attention to what additional constraints and illegal restrictions are being discussed or adopted in Washington and Brussels. Our citizens are firmly convinced that even if new packages of sanctions against Russia are imposed, we will be able to give an adequate rebuff and ensure reliable, independent development of our country.

The Federation Council has certainly a special responsibility. We, its members, represent our regions, we are their voice and the advocate of their interests. We have got traditionally a very rich agenda. Besides we have got used to estimate our efficiency precisely by the quality of decisions made - how fully they reflect the realities of the time, how much they are in demand by our citizens.

Precisely this principle underlies the dialogue we carry on with federal executive authorities, with our constituent entities, business and the expert community. And we thoroughly make

sure that every useful initiative is realized. This has already become the corporate style of the Federation Council. It is no coincidence that the upper house of the Russian parliament more and more often is called the “chamber of specific cases.”

There is no doubt, such a substantive, active approach is relevant today not only in the government service, but, basically, in all spheres and industries. Initiative, energy, focus on solving a problem, and not on imitating a heavy activity - these are the qualities that are in high demand in the new reality.

Today we especially need a kind of anti-crisis managers who feel the pulse of the times, generate new ideas and are ready to take responsibility for their implementation. We have already discussed it many times on various platforms. And we are pleased to note there are more and more people like that. This is the most important guarantee that our country will confidently overcome all current difficulties.

Meanwhile, we are realistic that Russia is attacked not only economically or militarily, but also in the information field as much. A propaganda, ideological war has been unleashed against us in fact. As our President rightly noted in his Address, young people – the most receptive part of our society – are its main target.

We can see in the current crisis in Ukraine how destructively the propaganda of the “empire of lies” can affect minds and souls of young people. Thanks to the efforts of the United States and the collective West, just over the last three decades there appeared a generation of young Ukrainians with completely confused life guidelines, brought up not on the ideas of creation and development, but of hatred - hatred for everything connected with the Russian world.

Fortunately, the values of our country have quite a different foundation. Our spiritual and moral ideals strongly unite our society, all our peoples and confessions. We hold sacred the memory of our past and will not allow anyone



to blur our national identity. But we must draw a lesson from the bitter experience of our neighbors.

Let me remind you that, in accordance with the Constitution of Russia, children are the most important priority of state policy. This priority is strict and inviolable. And today a great deal is being done at the state level to cultivate the spirit of patriotism and love for the Motherland in young people, to teach them to think independently, distinguish good from evil and respect their history, culture and traditions.

I consider the creation of an all-Russian movement of children and youth, the return to specialty education system in universities and, in general, the revival of those fundamental traditions in the system

I believe today, basically, few people pay attention to what extra restrictions and illegal sanctions are being discussed or adopted in Washington and Brussels.

Plenary session of the X Parliamentary meetings within the framework of the XXX International educational readings "To the 350th anniversary of the birth of Peter I: the secular world and religiosity" May 17, 2022

Meeting with the winners of the All-Russian competition of youth author's projects "My Country - My Russia". February 2, 2023.



of upbringing and education that have always distinguished our country, to be timely and extremely necessary. I am sure if we abandon the principles once adopted from the West, we will lose nothing, quite the opposite, we will only strengthen our positions. And I have no doubt that the Year of the Teacher and Mentor will give new impetus to this delicate and important activity. The Federation Council, on its part, will provide all the necessary legislative and regulatory support in this field.

Of course, the participation of the Chamber of Regions in the youth agenda is not limited to this. We are also implementing a number of civic-patriotic and educational projects for our youth.

Besides, we are especially proud of the "Children Heroes" project, where we honor children and teenagers who have performed brave deeds. This project was created in 2014 on the initiative of the Hero of Russia, my colleague, Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Yuri Leonidovich Vorobyov, and has gained truly wide and well-deserved popularity. Over these nearly ten years, we have welcomed several hundred children from all over the country at the Chamber of Regions and handed them honorary awards - those who, despite the danger, saved other people from fire and water, protected them from criminal or animal attacks. One could write a whole book about the heroic exploits of these brave girls and boys. And who knows, maybe one day it will be published. But I know one thing for sure and I always say it: as long as we have such brave, determined and caring for other people's troubles youth, we can feel secure about the future of Russia.

There is one more initiative that I would like to tell the readers of this magazine about and which today, in my opinion, is of particular importance. Last year, together with our Belarusian colleagues, we launched the cultural and educational

Initiative, energy, focus on solving a problem, and not on imitating a heavy activity - these are the qualities that are in high demand in the new reality.

patriotic project "Train of Memory". It brought together 200 high school students from Russia and Belarus, who visited 15 cities associated with the history of the Great Patriotic War.

When this idea was first proposed, we could not even imagine that it would become so popular. But the project exceeded all our expectations. It literally came in tune with the spirit of our peoples and turned into a real relay of memory for new generations of our states. That is why we decided to continue the project and, if possible, expand its geography.

This year, besides students from Russia and Belarus, talented children from the Republic of Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic will become the passengers of the "Memory Train". I am sure that they will remember this trip for a long time and it will certainly become another bridge of friendship and good comradeship between our peoples for many years to come.

Of course, today, when there are so many contradictions, when white can easily become black, and black can easily become white to suit the certain states' political ambitions, the younger generation especially needs to be protected. Now we need like airprojects of truth, as well as projects of goodness and projects of creation that will serve as guidelines for our youth and will not allow them to get lost in a whirlpool of lies and falsifications.

I am very glad that more and more such initiatives are appearing in our country. The "Razvedchik" magazine, which was created for a young, active, thinking audience who care for the country's fate, has got the same right message.

On the eve of a significant holiday, Russia Day, I want to address the magazine's founders, all its readers and wish you happiness, inspiration, success and certainly good luck. As you know, it loves the brave. Therefore, be brave, dear friends, set high goals and confidently go towards

As long as we have brave, determined youth who are not indifferent to the misfortune of others, we can be sure about the future of Russia.

your dreams. All of them will definitely come true!

And please remember. It so happened that we are living and working in a fateful time -- a time of great challenges and large-scale changes. But whatever the trials, Russia will definitely overcome them and become even stronger and more glorious. After all, we are, objectively, on the right side of history. And the truth is also on our side.

Happy holiday to you! Happy Russia Day!



Dear friends!

This year we are celebrating the 78th anniversary of the Great Victory. On May 9, 1945, the most difficult and bloody war in human history came to an end. We clearly understand what a heavy price our people paid for the Victory, we realize how many lives that war claimed, how much courage, fortitude and selflessness the older generation showed in those terrible years. It seemed that 78 years ago Nazism had been completely defeated, but now we see that this misanthropic ideology once again has followers.

The Museum of Victory is doing its best to ensure that the crimes of Nazism should be never forgotten, that as many people as possible, especially young people, learn about them. In this work we actively use the materials of our rich collection of unique documentary evidence, organize large-scale expositions and new exhibition projects.

We are glad that your magazine also makes a significant contribution to preserve historical memory. Your edition introduces readers to the Soviet intelligence activities, tells, among other things, about the exploits of intelligence agents during the war years, and publishes analytical materials both about the events of the past and the present. Today, in the period of global challenges, when a large-scale hybrid war is unleashed against our country, it is that serious and thoughtful approach we need.

I am sure that our common efforts are the key to new victories! I wish you all the best - good health, joy and happiness!

Director of the Victory Museum,
Deputy Secretary of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation
Alexander Shkolnik

1
April
1883

Mikhail (Meier) Abramovich Trilisser, revolutionary, Head of Foreign Intelligence (1922–1929), was born in Astrakhan. Since March 1926, he held concurrently a post of the OGPU Deputy Chairman. In 1930-1934 he was Deputy People's Commissar of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspectorate, in 1935-1938 – member of the Comintern Executive Committee, supervised the activities of the special services. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner.



9
April
1948

Sergei Nikolaevich Lebedev, Russian intelligence officer, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation (2000–2007), army general, was born in the city of Jizzakh (Uzbek SSR). He graduated from the Chernigov Branch of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute and the Diplomatic Academy of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs (with honors). He speaks English and German. He was engaged in foreign intelligence since 1975, had frequent long-term foreign postings (Germany, USA). From 1998 to 2000, he was the official representative of the Foreign Intelligence Service in Washington. Since October 2007 – Secretary General of the CIS. He has the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He was decorated with many Russian and the CIS state awards.

15
April
1913

Mikhail Sidorovich Prudnikov was born in the village of Novopokrovka, Tomsk province. In the state security agencies since 1931, he went from a Red Army border guard to a major general, Head of Intelligence of the Main Border Troops Directorate. During the war, in the Special Group of the NKVD, he headed the “Neulovimye” (“The Elusive”) partisan unit, operating on the territory of Belarus. In 1943, he was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for the courage and heroism manifested in performance of command's missions on the front in the fight against the Nazi invaders. After the war, he worked in senior positions in the central apparatus of the USSR NKVD-KGB, and was also engaged in teaching.



18
April
1923

The Dynamo sports society was established to unite athletes and sportsmen who worked in the system of the State Political Directorate of the RSFSR NKVD. The first leader of the society was party and military leader Joseph Stanislavovich Unshlikht. Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky was elected its honorary chairman. Dynamo to this day is affiliated with the internal affairs and state security agencies. Foreign intelligence officers are also active members of this club and steadily achieve high results in competitions at various levels.

5
May
1913

Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich, an outstanding illegal intelligence officer, was born in the city of Vilna. In the 1930s, he was actively engaged in the communist movement. Through the Comintern he traveled to Argentina, then to Spain, where in 1937 he was involved in cooperation with Soviet foreign intelligence. Since 1941 he served as a station chief in South American states, creating a widespread anti-fascist sabotage groups network. In 1948, he became Costa Rica's ambassador to Italy, concurrently serving as envoy to the Holy See in Yugoslavia. In 1953, he retired and began scientific activity. He gained fame as a prominent Latin American scholar, the author of more than 30 monographs and popular science books. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, Red Star, and Friendship of Peoples.



25
May
1913

Donald Maclean, Soviet intelligence officer and member of the Cambridge Five, was born in London. In his student years he was a member of the leftist student movement, and in 1935 he was involved in cooperation with the Soviet intelligence. In the same year he entered the British Foreign Office. In 1950–1951, he headed the American department and passed highly sensitive information to Moscow, including data on English and American nuclear projects. In May 1951, under the threat of exposure he was transferred to the USSR and received Soviet citizenship. In 1961–1983 he worked as a senior researcher at the IMEMO Academy of Sciences of the USSR, wrote a number of large-scale works devoted to international relations, and defended a doctoral thesis. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner and the Red Banner of Labor.



27
May
1893

Boris Yakovlevich Bazarov, career officer and participant in the First World War, was born in the village of Tsitovyangin the Kovno province. In 1921, disillusioned with the “white idea,” he offered his services to the Soviet intelligence. In 1924–1927, he headed residencies in Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia. In 1928, he was sent to Berlin to run illegal agents in France, the Balkans and Great Britain. From 1935 to 1938, he was station chief in the United States and arranged collection of highly useful information. He was awarded two “Honorary Security Officer” badges and a personalized Browning pistol.

31
May
1913

Anatoly Antonovich Yatskov, nuclear intelligence officer, Hero of Russia, was born in the city of Akkerman, Bessarabia province. He worked in state security agencies since 1938. In 1941, he was sent to a residency in New York, where he worked on the US atomic project and ran the “Volunteers” intelligence group (spouses Morris and Leontine Cohen). In 1947, he was sent to France, where he also obtained information on atomic issues. After returning to Moscow, he worked in the Directorate of Scientific and Technical Intelligence, then headed the special KGB faculty, known as KI. He was awarded the Order of the October Revolution, the Red Star and many other awards.



5
June
1943

The USSR State Defense Committee adopted a resolution “On measures to improve the foreign work of the USSR intelligence agencies.” It was based on the proposals of intelligence chief Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin and the experience accumulated in the first two years of the war. In particular, a permanently operating KGB Information and Analysis Department was created, which summarized all information received by the Center and, on its basis, prepared reports on priority topics for the leadership of the USSR.

20
June
1913

Pavel Georgievich Gromushkin, artist, was born in Moscow. After graduating from school, he worked in a print shop. In 1938, he was accepted into foreign intelligence in the department for preparing documents for illegal intelligence officers. When the war began, he was actively engaged in providing cover documents for fighters of the NKVD partisan detachments. The passports he made were successfully used by N.I. Kuznetsov (Paul Siebert), P. A. Sudoplatov, J. Blake, V. G. Fischer (R. I. Abel). After the end of the war, he traveled almost all over the world, carrying out various assignments. In 1987, he was awarded the title of Honored Cultural Worker for a series of portraits of intelligence officers. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, three Orders of the Red Star, and many other orders and medals.





Trip to Minsk

On April 4, 2023, a joint meeting of the boards of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) and the State Security Committee of the Republic of Belarus was held in Minsk. The heads of the Russian and Belarusian special services Sergei Yevgenyevich Naryshkin and Ivan Stanislavovich Tertel, as well as representatives of key departments of both agencies attended the meeting.

At the meeting the results of cooperation in the main areas of intelligence activities were considered, the tasks and

priorities of joint work under the conditions of aggressive policy of Western countries against Russia and Belarus were discussed. A number of specific decisions were taken, which will make it possible to implement comprehensive measures more effectively to protect the national interests of our states, to continue the steady development and the strengthening of bilateral ties.

During the working trip to Minsk, the head of the SVR also met with President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Grigorievich Lukashenko, who noted the positive results of interstate cooperation between

the special services, including intelligence sharing and technical re-equipment.

«I would like to emphasize that our cooperation is of equal value, of equal mutual interest. We have something, in some points our Belarusian colleagues have something stronger. Indeed, in recent years we have seriously strengthened our cooperation in order to detect and prevent external threats facing our two countries, the Union State. We have quite serious plans to move in this direction,» — S. Y. Naryshkin said after the meeting.

Film Festival «17 Moments»

On April 26-30, the annual international film festival named after the famous actor Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Tikhonov «17 Moments» was held in the town of Pavlovsky Posad, his small homeland. On the opening day of the festival, Pavlovsky Posad schoolchildren who gathered in the Culture Center «October» were shown documentary films about intelligence service: «Feat of the Spy» directed by Y. Novikov and «Destination: Rome» from the series «Eustace to Fitin» (directed by A. Panikov). The creators of the films also talked to the children. Besides, the schoolchildren were given the opportunity to ask questions to the Chairman of the Council of Veterans of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) M. V. Pogudin. Afterwards there was a ceremony of laying flowers at the monument to V. V. Tikhonov with the participation of his daughter Anna Vyacheslavovna.



The competition program included 10 feature films and 12 series, released in 2021-2023. Professional jury determined the winners in the following categories:

Grand Prix — series «Spy» (directed by I. Stakhanov)

Best film series — «Patient Zero»
(directed by S. Trofimov, E. Stychkin)

**Tatiana Lioznova Award
for the best directorial work —
N. Nazarova** (the film «Forbidden to cry»)

**Yulian Semenov Award for the best screenplay —
V. Presnyakov, O. Presnyakov and A. Mikhalkov**
(film «Mr. Knockout»)

**Award for Best Actor —
S. Puskepalis** (film «Tailor from Brooklyn»)

**Award for Best Actress —
M. Tsigal-Polishchuk** (film series «Ranevskaya»)

**Stanislav Rostotsky Award
for optimistic inspiring movie —
film «Golden Bronze»** (directed by I. Kopylov)



Africa — Russia: new horizons of cooperation

Text: Irina Olegovna Abramova,
Doctor of Economic Sciences, Professor, Director of the Institute of African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Following the collapse of the USSR, Russia, despite the colossal efforts and resources invested in the development of Africa, practically curtailed contacts with the countries of the continent. This was done consciously and absolutely purposefully.

Under the slogan “Stop feeding Africa!” we, in fact, were not only disallowed to take advantage of the dividends from existing investments – and these are over 300 industrial enterprises, more than 1000 infrastructure facilities, hundreds of educational, scientific and cultural centers, not to mention the friendly Russian-speaking elite trained in Soviet universities – but were also forced, under US pressure, to write off more than \$20 billion of African countries’ debt on terms unfavorable for us.

All this was accompanied by the massive closure of our embassies, trade missions, cultural centers and Russian media offices, as well as the cancellation of direct flights to the African continent. As a result, the number of African students studying in Russia has sharply decreased. Today, a new African elite is being trained in Western European, American and Chinese universities and, upon returning to their homeland, will become a conductor of non-Russian values. In other words, in the 1990s, not only economic ties were destroyed, but also the entire foundation of our cooperation with Africa, including the humanitarian sphere – science, education, culture. Despite the colossal importance of media in the modern world, we have almost completely shut down our information network on

the continent, and now Africans are forced to draw information about Russia, often distorted or even false, from Western sources. Tellingly, Africa is almost absent in the Russian information space, and news about the countries of the continent are, as a rule, negative or ironic.

Lots of times we have heard the phrase “Russia is not Africa” from the lips of our officials, including very high-ranking ones. Meanwhile, within the framework of the notorious “containment”, the West is applying to our country the same colonial techniques that were once “tested” in African states. We are talking about such instruments as illegal sanctions, bribery of political elites, attempts to forcefully change power through inciting internal protests, the weakening of economies by making them dependent on Western goods and technologies, encouraging “brain drain”, erosion of national identity by imposing the Western system of values, narrowing the scope of the use of the national language, the formation of a colonial type of thinking and much more. It seems that studying the African experience can help us draw the right conclusions from mistakes already made and avoid making new ones while solving urgent problems of accelerated development of our economy and social sphere.

In terms of prospects, the size of potential profits, and since March 2022 also in terms of security for Russian business, the African continent is significantly ahead of Western countries.

Modern Africa is not only a source of natural resources, necessary, among other things, for high-tech industries, but also a significant consumer market, its volume doubling every five years.

Despite the idea, imposed on Russian society, of Africa as the most backward and problematic region of the world, independent expertson Africa, including Western ones, call it the “continent of the 21st century,” emphasizing the steady growth rate of the African economy in the last 20 years, as well as the colossal resource and human potential. There is no point in arguing with the facts that residents of many (but by no means all) African countries are, on average, poorer than the population in other regions of the world. At the same time, in terms of prospects, the size of potential profits, and

since March 2022 also in terms of security for Russian business, the African continent is significantly ahead of Western countries.

Modern Africa is not only a source of natural resources, necessary, among other things, for high-tech industries, but also a significant consumer market, its volume doubling every five years. Today, 60% of the African population are young people under the age of 25, providing a stable demand for goods and services. Moreover, the growth rate of the middle class, which makes up the main solvent stratum of the population, exceeds the corresponding indicators

in Asian countries. In addition, Africa is rapidly emerging as a major supplier of skilled labor to the global economy. According to the UN, by 2040, two-thirds of the increase in the number of workers in the world will come from the African continent.

Meanwhile, Great Britain, France, the United States and other Western countries, concerned about maintaining their global dominance, still have not changed anything and continue to view contacts with Africans through the prism of outdated bloc thinking. As the main task in Africa, the “collective West” aims to preserve its former political, economic and military influence, using, as a rule, various forms of neo-colonialism.

Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks at the international parliamentary conference “Russia – Africa in a multipolar world.” March 20, 2023. RIA News



Chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Valentina Matvienko and Chairman of the National Council of Provinces of the South African Parliament Amos Masondo at the International Parliamentary Conference «Russia – Africa». March 20, 2023. RIA News»

Of particular interest to us is, of course, the experience of China, which, after the departure of the USSR, quickly occupied the vacated niches, and now its positions on the continent largely exceed those that our country once had. In the 1990s and 2000s, the Chinese actually raised their industry on what the “foremen of perestroika” declared as one of the main “burdens” of the Soviet Union. Thus, by establishing economic ties, the Chinese managed to turn the African continent into a guaranteed market for their products, with more than 1 billion consumers. By the beginning of the 2010s, China had become the main trading partner of African states. At the end of 2022, their total trade turnover with China exceeded \$250 billion.

Beijing is now consistently building global value chains in which African producers are offered a significant role. All this is organically built into the strategic plans for the socio-economic development of China itself and its global projects, which fundamentally distinguishes the policy of the PRC from other

In turn, non-Western “players” build cooperation with the Dark Continent on different principles, far from the medieval “vassal-suzerain” model. Thus, India is developing a mutually beneficial partnership with Africa as part of its overall policy of expanding South-South ties, which is fundamentally different from the North-South format that emerged during the colonial era. At the same time, there is a high concentration of Indian business based on geographic (east coast and southern Africa) and historical and cultural principles (English-speaking countries are former British possessions). Brazil, like India, is also increasing its interaction with Africa along the South-South line, acting mainly within the framework of such formats as BRICS and IBSA (a forum of India, Brazil and South Africa). Recently, the Brazilian authorities have initiated a transition from the practice of preferentially developing contacts with Portuguese-speaking countries to cooperation with all countries of the continent with an emphasis on such sectors as the mining industry, agriculture, and transport.

In turn, Turkey politically relies on helping to protect African peoples who, like the Turks, are under threat of losing their national identity due to globalization promoted by the West and the aggressive imposition of liberal values. In recent years, there has also been an active, but still targeted, search for opportunities to involve the religious factor in dialogue with Muslim countries in Africa, where previously Turkish influence was practically zero. In parallel with this, a lot of economic projects are being promoted, mainly in the field of small and medium-sized businesses, which entails rapid growth in Turkish exports. In addition, the Turks are rapidly developing air services and increasing military-technical cooperation with key African states.

Of particular interest to us is the experience of China, which, after the departure of the USSR, quickly occupied the vacated niches, and now its positions on the continent largely exceed those that our country once had.

states. The ultimate goal of these efforts is declared creation of a “Chinese-African Community of Shared Destiny in a New Era.”

In December 2021, at the initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, a joint document “Perspective Vision of Chinese-African Cooperation until 2035” was adopted, within the framework of which the Chinese authorities intend to implement a number of large-scale assistance programs on the continent. In the next three years alone, ten new projects are planned to be launched in areas such as healthcare, ecology and agriculture, including the opening of a “green corridor” for African agricultural products to China. Additional financial and economic measures are also being taken, including the opening of a China-Africa center for cross-border transactions in yuan, the expansion of currency swaps, and the writing off of part of the debt of African countries in order to give a new impetus to the development of trade relations and reach by 2024 trade turnover target of \$300 billion.

In addition, new projects in the field of digitalization, education and professional training are being promoted, humanitarian ties as well as actively expanding. Cooperation is also increasing in such sensitive areas as defense and security. In particular, Beijing is training military specialists for the countries of the continent and intends to increase the volume of military assistance to the African Union. As we see, only a brief enumeration of joint programs indicates how seriously and with what depth of strategic elaboration China intends to cooperate with the Dark Continent in the coming years.

All of the above leads to a clear conclusion: it will not be easy for Russia to compete in the global “fight” for Africa with other players, both old and new. Many may even wonder if we have a chance in this fight. In my opinion, the question needs to be posed differently: do we, in the current realities, have the right to ignore the opportunities that the African continent opens up for our economy and security, and should we ignore them only

because this will require us to bear responsibility, will cost us certain efforts and means and reasonable initiative?

In my opinion, the answer here is obvious. In conditions of total degradation of relations with the West, Russia can and should use the African vector of its policy to solve the problems of sustainable development and strengthen its position in the international arena. A big help here is that Africans perceive our country as the legal successor of the USSR, which played a key role in the process of decolonization of Africa. We are also viewed as one of the leaders of the emerging multipolar world, capable of fighting for our sovereignty and providing security guarantees to other states. In addition, Russia on the continent is considered a reliable economic partner, ready to cooperate with African public and private businesses on an equal and mutually beneficial basis.

It is important that Africans’ hopes for intensified cooperation with the Russian Federation are supported by real steps in both the economic and political spheres, and not limited to verbal declarations about “Russia’s return to Africa.” In almost four years since the first Russia-Africa summit was held in Sochi, there has been no mass launch of new joint projects on the Black Continent. Obviously, in the conditions of fierce competition

During the IT forum “Russia – Africa: digital technologies as a driver of state development and international cooperation.” April 13, 2023. RIA News»



for African resources and markets, we have no time to “swing up” at all.

Some people may not like this, but, in essence, Africans and we now find ourselves “in the same boat,” and not only from the point of view of resisting Western pressure on our political and economic subjectivity and the desire to free ourselves from old and new forms of colonialism. Together we are interested in forming a new, fair world order, where every country and every people will have a worthy place. And, most importantly, in our strategies and development plans we place emphasis on internal transformations, on the transition from resource-based economies to modern high-tech industries, relying primarily on our own resources and capabilities.

Taking into account the above said, technological partnership, as the most attractive direction for African countries, can become a key area of bilateral cooperation in the medium and long term. In the current conditions, the demand for Russian technologies has great growth potential, since our companies have unique competencies and, more importantly, in those areas that are most in demand on the African continent.

The key one is energy, given the fact that up to half of Africans still do not have regular access to electricity. Africans are also interested in Russian equipment for the oil and gas industry, ferrous metallurgy, mining industry, in the construction on the continent of factories for the production of fertilizers from local raw materials, small factories for processing agricultural products,

and water treatment plants, since in a number of countries the problem of lack of drinking water is still not resolved.

There are good prospects for cooperation with Africa in the space industry, including the creation and launch of Earth remote sensing satellites and the construction of ground infrastructure for receiving and processing satellite signals. Russian developments in construction (roads, bridges, tunnels, river/sea ports and airports), in the field of small aviation, in matters of digitalization and cybersecurity (digital transformation programs, “smart city”, etc.) are also in demand. Finally, there is interest in joint projects in the medical field, including the pharmaceutical industry and the fight against biological threats.

Technology transfer, as well as cooperation in the scientific and educational sphere, is beneficial to us not only in terms of image. By providing Africans with real assistance in overcoming the technological gap, by training hundreds and thousands of qualified personnel who will master and promote Russian technological solutions, we will receive a new powerful “army”

of supporters on the African continent. Our manufacturers, including small regional ones, will have additional opportunities to “test” their ideas, as well as, I repeat, a promising fast-growing sales market, consisting mainly of young people.

In general, I think that enough has been said, it’s time to act. The second Russia-Africa summit, opening at the end of July in St. Petersburg, will become, in my opinion, a “moment of truth”, which should actually show the readiness of Russian business, public and private, to build cooperation with the African continent on a long-term basis. This meets the fundamental interests of both our country and all African states without exception. ▬

In conditions of total degradation of relations with the West, Russia can and should use the African vector of its policy to solve the problems of sustainable development and strengthen its position in the international arena.

From the policy of import substitution to technological sovereignty

Text: Elena Borisovna Lenchuk,
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An unprecedented sanctions attack on Russia in connection with the special military operation has formed a whole system of new challenges, the answer to which will determine the prospects of further sustainable development of the Russian economy.

The restrictions imposed by the West, the number of which has already exceeded 13 thousand, have affected almost all sectors of our life. They became most painful in the field of investment due to the closure of access to cheap Western capital for public and private companies in Russia, as well as in foreign trade - a ban on the supply of equipment, components and other high-tech products from unfriendly countries.

As a result of Western sanctions, many production chains have been disrupted, a number

of industries have stopped, production times and costs of many goods have increased. In the changed conditions, thousands of Russian enterprises had to radically restructure their work. This has particularly affected the manufacturing industries, which had a high degree of import dependence even before the current restrictions were introduced. First of all, these are machine tool manufacturing, instrument making and heavy engineering, where dependence on imports reaches 80–90%, as well as the electronic and medical

industry, pharmaceuticals and IT sector (60–70%). In conditions of chronic underfunding of our own industrial complex, in the modernization of which almost no adequate funds have been invested over the past 30 years, our country has long turned into a net importer of machinery and equipment. Thus, in pre-sanction 2021, purchases of this category of goods cost \$144.3 billion (49.2% of all imports), while their sales abroad brought in only \$32.6 billion (6.6% of all exports). Besides, in the geographical structure Imports are dominated by countries that are

unfriendly to us - Germany, the USA, Japan and others.

It is also important that the imposed restrictions affected not only final products, but also intermediate products - components and spare parts. This is especially critical for industries such as the aviation and automotive industries, as well as pharmaceuticals, where the loss of several, and sometimes even one, link can paralyze the work of the entire chain. Moreover, in some cases, if the missing components are unique and suitable analogues cannot be quickly found, even

a high degree of localization of production does not help.

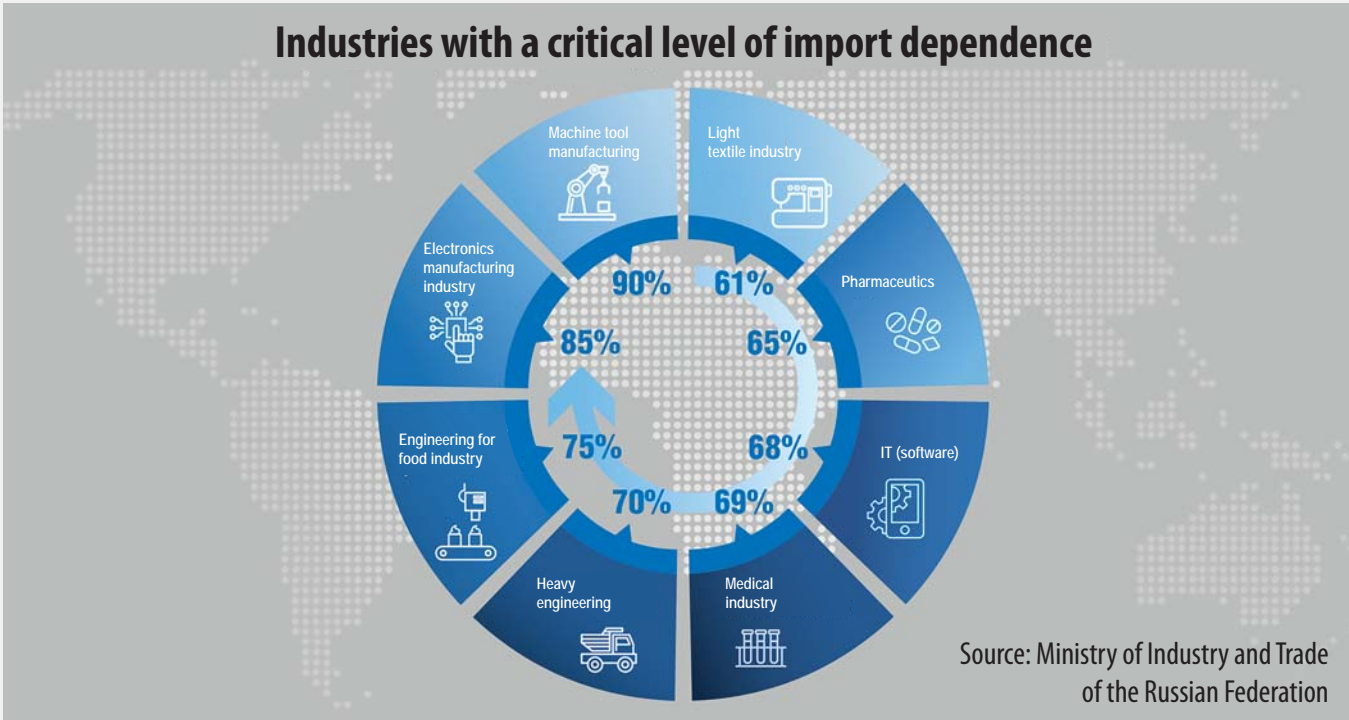
In such conditions, the risks of so-called regressive industrialization are high, that is, simplification of production and transfer of technological lines and processes to turn out products at lower technological standards. Today this is already the case in the automotive industry, where the assembly of cars of lower environmental classes has begun ("Euro 0–3" instead of "Euro 5"), as well as in the field of mobile communications, where

MS-21-310 airliners with PD-14 engine on the territory of the Flight Research Institute named after M. M. Gromov in the town of Zhukovsky. RIA News

deployment of the fifth-generation networks has been suspended due to limited access to the latest technologies and equipment.

Thus, in the current realities, ensuring import substitution of both final and intermediate products, designed to eliminate gaps in production chains, that have arisen due to sanctions, and to restore efficiency of key industrial





and infrastructure segments, is becoming particularly relevant for Russia.

This problem has several solutions. In general terms, they can be summarized into the following three groups:

- search for new business partners from friendly and neutral countries to change the geography of imports;
- building intermediary chains according to the so-called parallel import scheme in order to ensure the supply of critical products from unfriendly states;
- localization of production in key industries through a set of priority projects in the field of import substitution aimed at eliminating critical “windows of vulnerability.”

I’ll say right away that for certain types of products, domestic businesses are quite successful in solving the problems that have arisen. According to some estimates, up to 60% of blocked

imports from unfriendly countries have already been replaced by supplies from states loyal to us. Critical shortages in the IT sector, including computer hardware, software and network equipment, are partially covered by “parallel” schemes. A great help, in particular, was Resolution No. 506 adopted by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2022, which allowed the import of necessary foreign products into the country without the consent of rightholders. The corresponding list of goods already contains about 300 CN FEA EAEU codes.

Here, however, it is necessary to emphasize that “parallel” imports, designed to cover quickly the shortage of critically important imported products and components to restore the integrity of production chains, do not allow to solve a number of other problems, including maintenance, supply of spare parts, software updates, etc. due to which it can be considered

rather as a temporary measure.

The third way - through localization and creation of our own production facilities - is the most reliable, but it requires time, large-scale investments, as well as relevant knowledge and competencies. In this regard, the activation of import substitution policies at the state level through the development of appropriate strategies for individual sectors of the economy and support measures for their implementation is of particular relevance.

Let me remind you that the problem of finding ways to reduce dependence on Western imports arose long before the start of the Special Military Operation (SVO) and the introduction of sanctions. Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke about this back in 2014 against the backdrop of a progressive deterioration of the international situation and increased tension in relations with

leading industrial powers - suppliers of high-tech products. In his message to the Federal Assembly, he, in particular, indicated that reasonable import substitution should become a long-term development priority regardless of external circumstances, emphasizing that the appropriate state programs must be aimed at the formation in Russia of a whole layer of manufacturing companies capable of competing not only within the country, but also on international markets.

At the end of 2014, in furtherance of the ideas of the head of state, Federal Law No. 488-FZ “On Industrial Policy in the Russian Federation” was adopted, encouraging businesses to provide for introduction of import-substituting technologies. In 2015–2016, the government developed more than two dozen sectoral programs and created a set of tools to support projects in the field of import substitution. A large role in the implementation of these programs and projects is assigned to financial institutions, in particular the Industrial Development Fund, whose priority tasks include promoting the introduction of domestic technologies. The scale of support for projects in the field of import substitution can be judged by the allocated funds: in the period from 2015 to 2021, more than 3 trillion rubles were allocated for these purposes, with direct financing amounting to 500 billion rubles.

At the same time, despite some positive changes in certain industries, the import substitution program in industry did not bring significant results: over five years (2015–2020), dependence on imports of industrial goods decreased from 49% to only 40%.

In 2020, the government developed the “Consolidated Strategy for the Development of Industry of the Russian Federation until 2024 and for the period until 2035,” which formulated target guidelines for industry strategies to reduce import dependence for the next decade. However, due to the introduction of Western sanctions, many of the indicators contained in it have lost their relevance. For example, in the machine tool industry it was planned to reduce the share of imports from 76 to 62% by 2035, and the segment of the Russian electronics industry in the domestic market was supposed to grow from 52 to 59% by 2030.

Under the current conditions, adjustments to previously adopted plans are undoubtedly necessary, as well as the development of new effective measures to reduce dependence on external supplies. And such decisions were made. In particular, an import substitution exchange has been created, that is a digital information platform on which Russian customers can place requests for missing components, and suppliers can offer domestic analogues of imported products without intermediaries. In addition, subsidized interest rates on investment loans for

new projects in the field of import substitution were introduced, as well as compensation for business expenses on R&D through the provision of grants for the development of design documentation for key components.

A list of components that are critical for various industries has been compiled, and it already contains over 330 items. It was also decided to support more than 100 projects with grants totaling 4.5 billion rubles. Moreover, a number of measures have been extended to small and medium-sized businesses: reduced-rate lending, payment breaks, a moratorium on scheduled inspections, and a reduction in the tax burden. Finally, the Industrial Development Fund was recapitalized, its volume being increased to 120 billion rubles. In general, as a result of the measures taken, by the fall of 2022, over 160 projects in the field of import substitution were ready to be launched for a total amount of 5.2 trillion rubles.

At the same time, reality dictates the need for further adjustments to state policy in this area. In June 2022, speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, President V.V. Putin said

In the current realities, ensuring import substitution of both final and intermediate products, designed to eliminate gaps in production chains that have arisen due to sanctions and restore the functionality of key segments of industry and infrastructure, is of particular relevance for Russia.



Russian President Vladimir Putin at the "Tulazheldormash" plant. April 4, 2023. RIA News

that import substitution is not the optimal solution for our country. In his opinion, Russia needs a new development model: technological sovereignty. "We are, of course, not talking about complete self-sufficiency in all types of products. In the modern world, this is impossible and inappropriate," the head of state emphasized.

In April this year, speaking at a meeting of the Presidium of the State Council in Tula, V.V. Putin developed his idea, noting that the Russian industry has all the conditions for adaptation and modernization. "We all understand: sanctions, of course, will last for a long time, therefore, along with priority measures to replace imported technologies and products, medium- and long-term

reforms are needed, aimed at the strategic goals of the country's sovereign development," he said.

This means that we are faced with the extremely important and urgent task of ensuring Russia's transition to a new technological level. At the same time, technological sovereignty should be understood in the broadest sense as the ability of the state to have critical technologies that make it possible to fully and systematically solve the problems of socio-economic development, increasing the general well-being of the population and the level of competitiveness of industry. In other words, technological sovereignty is the key to independence in politics and economics, not to mention security and defense.

Among the priorities on today's agenda is the development of an effective industrial policy designed to shape a new image of the Russian

economy, within the framework of which targets and tasks for the development of critical industries will be set, complemented by support measures for their implementation.

It is gratifying that our government is already actively involved in this work. In April this year, Resolution No. 603 approved the Regulations on the conditions for classifying projects as projects of technological sovereignty and projects of structural adaptation of the economy of the Russian Federation. In addition, priority areas for such projects were identified, covering 13 industries: aviation, medical, machine tools, chemical, automotive, shipbuilding, oil and gas, agricultural, railway, specialized mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals, electronics and energy.

It is impossible not to note the great work done by specialists from the Ministry of Economic

Development and the Bank of Russia to develop taxonomy of technological sovereignty projects. In particular, the parameters of a special incentive mechanism have been calculated to allow the use of reduced risk-benefit ratios for bank financing of such projects, which will enable companies working on their implementation to receive loans on preferential terms. According to VEB experts, the total size of the loan portfolio of technological sovereignty projects can range from 5 to 10 trillion rubles, including about 1–2 trillion rubles even in the first year after the launch of the proposed mechanism.

In general, while positively assessing the taxonomy's tools, businesses still note that to solve problems associated with import substitution, the provision of credit funds alone is not enough. We need our own technologies, land, premises, and finally, competent personnel. In this regard, the Government of the Russian Federation has expanded programs for industrial mortgages, the creation of industrial parks, and the introduction of a number of regulatory measures to support business. The issue of stimulating not only producers, but also consumers of products imported by substitution is also being considered.

It is important to note here that the structure of our economy in recent years does not allow us to classify Russia as a country with a predominance of imports. According to experts from the National Research University of the Higher School of Economics (HSE), before the start of the SVO, the Russian industrial complex depended on external suppliers by approximately 40%, which is two times lower than in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe,

1.5 times lower than in Australia and Canada, 1.3 times lower than in Germany.

At the same time, the degree of readiness of our scientific and technological complex to solve the assigned tasks raises questions, given that technological sovereignty is ensured in two main forms: 1) research, development and implementation of critical and end-to-end technologies (according to an established list); 2) actual production of the most high-tech products based on them.

To achieve success, close cooperation between scientists, technologists and industrialists is necessary. It is important to overcome the "disconnection" that has developed in our country in the system of organization and management of science and production, to update comprehensive scientific and technological programs of the innovation cycle, to revive applied science, to strengthen the scientific and technological potential, which during the last three decades has been actively "washed out" contrary to the global trend of its building up. Thus, in terms of the number of research scientists per 10 thousand working population, Russia today lags behind countries such as Denmark, Sweden and

South Korea by almost three times, and by two times behind Germany and the USA.

We are also inferior to developed countries in terms of R&D expenditures per researcher: four times from the United States, two times from Italy, France and South Korea. Let me give you another "screaming" figure: over the past two decades, spending on research and scientific development in Russia has not risen above 1.2% of GDP, while in the USA this figure has long "crossed" the 3% line, and in Israel and South Korea exceeds 4.5%. I think everyone now understands that in order to ensure technological sovereignty, it is necessary to increase investment in R&D in a short time—at least to 2% of GDP. This can be done by curbing the expenditures on acquiring the results of foreign research.

Thus, we have a lot of difficult work ahead of us on the scientific, technological and structural transformation of the Russian economy, but the general course has already been completely determined. 🚩

Technological sovereignty should be understood in the broadest sense - as the ability of the state to have critical technologies that make it possible to fully and systematically solve the problems of socio-economic development, increasing the general well-being of the population and the level of competitiveness of industry.

S. N. Lebedev: “The role of the CIS will only increase in the future”

Army General Sergei Nikolaevich Lebedev was born on April 9, 1948. From 1975 to 2007 he served in foreign intelligence, and from 2000 to 2007 he headed the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. From 2007 to the present he has been Secretary General of the CIS.

Sergey Nikolaevich, you are a person with a unique biography: the son of a Siberian, you were born and raised in Uzbekistan, studied at a university and served in the army in Ukraine (in Chernigov). Then many years of successful work abroad through foreign intelligence. Has this experience been useful to you in your current job and is it easy to find a common language with colleagues in the Commonwealth?

I would not say that my biography is unique - many of my colleagues and friends have a similar life path, especially in intelligence service. After all, it is known that the First Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR, where I came in 1975, carefully selected employees from all over the Soviet Union.

As for my biography, I am Russian by origin (my father is from Biysk, the roots of my mother's family tree go back to Samara), I grew up in the Uzbek Jizzakh, one might say, in a friendly multinational Soviet family. In the same class with me, along with Russians, there were Uzbeks, Tatars, Ukrainians, Jews, Germans, Koreans, and representatives of other nations. And we chose friends primarily based on personal qualities, not paying attention to nationality.

My school certificate shows an A in the Uzbek language, which is partly why my friends and I easily communicated with residents of distant villages in the mountain spurs of the Tien Shan, where we went hiking every summer. They always received us warmly and hospitably, often inviting us to spend the night in their homes. I have considerably forgotten the Uzbek language, but I still maintain good friendly relations with my fellow countrymen from Uzbekistan, and I periodically meet with them both in Moscow and on Uzbek land.

Three days after the graduation party, I went to Chernigov, Ukraine, with a permit from the military registration and enlistment office to enroll in a military aviation school. I didn't

manage to become a pilot, but the next ten years of life in Ukraine gave me a lot: there I graduated from the Polytechnic Institute, made hundreds of friends, and started a family.

And just like in Uzbekistan, at the institute we had a friendly international team: besides local Ukrainians, Russians, Belarusians and Jews, Semyon Grigoryan from Armenia, Osvald Veismanis from Latvia, German Tanya Kramer, and Greek Vladimir Panayoti studied next to me.

The same atmosphere reigned in the zonal (for Ukraine and Moldova) Komsomol School, where I received training as secretary of the Chernigov city committee of the Komsomol, and in the Kiev KGB school, where young operatives from all over our vast country were sent for training. We could not even imagine that our united Soviet Union would cease to exist and things would ever come to bloody conflicts.

Returning to the SVR, I can say that the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service has traditionally maintained (and, as far as I know, maintains today) close partnerships with colleagues from the CIS. My regular meetings from 2000 to 2007 with the heads of the intelligence services of the Commonwealth countries, trips to these states and talks there at the highest level, of course, gave me a lot, which was useful later in my work in charge of the CIS Executive Committee.

Both in the Foreign Intelligence Service and in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I worked for a total of more than 30 years, I was lucky to gain valuable experience in communicating with different people, the practice of building constructive, normal human relationships. You just need to be attentive and respectful to your interlocutors and partners, try to understand their logic and argumentation, while convincingly defending your rightness, and always be ready to compromise and take into account the interests of others.

You have headed the CIS Executive Committee for more than 15 years. Over the years, the Commonwealth has come a long way, many of its members have become economically self-sufficient and are pursuing a multi-vector foreign policy. In your opinion, how great is the interest among them in continuing interaction in the CIS format and what do you see as the prospects for the further development of this organization?

The Commonwealth of Independent States recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. These 30 years were not an easy period. Negative trends in the global economy, sanctions campaigns, efforts of external players trying to turn the Commonwealth space into a competitive field for its subsequent disintegration, as well as other unfavorable factors, unfortunately, have left and are leaving their mark on our joint activities.

As a significant regional structure in the general system of international relations, the CIS fully feels the influence of global challenges and problems. However, despite these difficulties, the Commonwealth is meeting most of its fundamental challenges.

Without supranational powers, without a strict mechanism for monitoring the implementation of adopted documents, trade and economic cooperation has been established and is developing, a working system of jointly countering modern challenges and threats has been created, a diverse humanitarian partnership is being built up, and the legal and regulatory framework is being improved and updated.

Over the years, a lot of useful things have been done for the peoples who live in the Commonwealth. The unifying role of the CIS is really great. Today we maintain our commonality even with those states that at one moment left the Commonwealth. Many of them continue to collaborate in industry councils and other CIS associations. All this speaks to the flexibility of the mechanisms and formats of our interaction.

The Commonwealth of Independent States today is an reputable regional organization that has become an effective tool for ensuring regional stability and an important mechanism for coordinating positions on key issues. But, like any organization, the CIS needs to improve its activities and increase its efficiency. There is no alternative to the CIS today. It is obvious. And here a constructive support for initiatives aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation within the CIS from the leadership of the Commonwealth countries, relevant ministries and departments is very important (and it does exist). Only with such support does the CIS have a chance of continued existence and progressive development.

The basic principles of the functioning of the CIS are the rights of its members to independently choose a development model and selectively participate in those areas of cooperation that are most interesting to them. A mutually beneficial partnership within the Commonwealth meets the national interests of each CIS state. The Commonwealth has enormous potential, from which everyone will benefit.

The role of the CIS will only increase in the future, this is obvious. Both the heads of

member states and heads of government have repeatedly emphasized the importance of not only preserving, but also further strengthening the Commonwealth in order to improve the living standards of citizens and jointly solve problems caused by globalization and new challenges of our time.

Currently, a parallel integration project - the EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) - is being actively promoted in the post-Soviet space. Is this a direct competitor to the CIS or do they complement each other?

As the CIS developed and became established, a number of states began to speak out for more in-depth interaction in the economic sphere, others proposed closer cooperation in the military-political field, and some refrained from more active rapprochement. As a result, the Customs Union emerged, which gradually transformed into the current EAEU, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization - CSTO. I would like to emphasize that both structures came out of the Commonwealth of Independent States and were created on the basis of much of what has already been developed within the CIS.

We are by no means competitors. On the contrary, our organizations cooperate and try to coordinate their activities. At one time, we signed memorandums of cooperation with both the CSTO and the EAEU. We regularly update action plans for the implementation of these memorandums, hold joint meetings of experts and heads of structural divisions, try to coordinate the documents being prepared, and participate on a mutual basis in events held by our organizations. Both we and our partners in the EAEU and CSTO have a firm belief that such contacts and interaction are extremely useful for enriching experience and finding solutions to problems in integration cooperation.

I can't help but ask a question about Ukraine. Tell me, how much did the start of the SVO influence the agenda of the Commonwealth meetings and to what extent are Ukrainian issues currently present in the negotiations within the CIS?

The unifying role of the CIS is really great. Today we maintain our commonality even with those states that at one moment left the Commonwealth.

The leaders of the Commonwealth countries and foreign ministers have repeatedly expressed regret in recent years that Kiev has ceased its participation in the activities of CIS bodies. De jure, Ukraine still remains in the Commonwealth, but de facto, the Kiev leadership has already decided to withdraw from 20% of the treaties and agreements signed earlier within the CIS. Mutual trade has been significantly reduced, and humanitarian contacts and ties have been practically curtailed.

Unfortunately, as a result of these actions, it is the people of Ukraine who are the losers. Russia, together with the other member states of the Commonwealth, has a powerful economic, scientific and industrial potential, rich natural resources, and therefore will easily, without any negative consequences, survive the severance of ties with Kiev, but for the economy and citizens of Ukraine such steps will be very, very sensitive.

As for the attitude of our CIS partners to the special military operation, they all clearly support an early search for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

It is now obvious to everyone that in Ukraine we are fighting neo-fascism, which was deliberately cultivated there by Western countries, including Germany. You worked for many years in the GDR and FRG, and witnessed the unification of the German nation. Do you think that the ideas of Nazism have really not been eradicated in German society and in Europe as a whole, or does its rise have other, perhaps external, reasons?

During my work in the German sector (from 1977 to 1995), we received information about solitary instances of nasty tricks of the Nazis and manifestations of Nazi

At a meeting of the Council of Heads of State - Members of the CIS, October 11, 2017.
RIA News



The obvious and outrageous paradox is that, while condemning the manifestations of Nazism in their own countries, our enemies in the West actively encourage the activities of nationalists in the CIS.

views, but at the official level, it should be recognized, the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany, and especially the GDR, have always condemned such actions, understanding the danger of a revival of Nazi ideology.

Now, in my opinion, it is hardly possible to talk about the threat of a revival of Nazism in Germany and in Europe as a whole. The current growth of nationalist sentiments there and the intensification of right-wing nationalist parties and groups are primarily due to the deterioration of the socio-economic situation and the unprecedented influx of migrants.

The obvious and outrageous paradox is that, while condemning manifestations of Nazism in their own countries, our enemies in the West actively encourage the activities of nationalists in the CIS, provide them with financial and political support, despite the fact that many of these nationalists preach openly fascist views and use fascist symbols. There is only one conclusion: the so-called "collective West" will support even the devil, completely forgetting about its ranting about democracy, just to cause damage to Russia and its allies.

Do you see grounds for normalizing relations with European countries and the West in general?

The course that Europe chose after the collapse of the Soviet Union is, of course, deeply regrettable. Both leaders and citizens of the former Soviet republics sincerely believed and hoped for radical changes in relations with the West, and for building of a new type of relationship in the spirit of mutual

respect and openness. Many today admit that they too naively trusted Western promises and sweet speeches and succumbed to deception. Now that the illusions have finally dissipated, we demanded respect for ourselves. We didn't ask for much: just to provide security guarantees. But no! In response we got only brutal unceremonious pressure, hypocrisy, sanctions... It is obvious that the West has gone too far, convinced itself that everything is now allowed to it. We are obliged to prove that their current course is deeply erroneous and harmful to them. The task is difficult, but we will do it! And after that I will be able to admit the restoration of normal mutually beneficial ties with the European Union. In Germany, for example, there are many sober, clear-minded politicians, and I really hope that Berlin's reasonable, independent approach to forming relations with Moscow will prevail.

In the 1990s, Russia was sincerely committed to cooperation with the West, and there were even calls to stop intelligence work against each other. You were then the official representative of the SVR in Washington and communicated directly with colleagues from the American intelligence services. Was there a real desire on the other side to stop the confrontation, or was it immediately clear that we were being fooled?

In answer to this question, I will repeat once again: in the 1990s, we indeed sincerely believed that we could build equal, mutually beneficial relations. And when I met in Washington with FBI Director Louis Freeh, then with his deputy N. Gallagher, both persistently urged me to curtail our intelligence activities in the United States. "After all, this contradicts the spirit of friendship and partnership that is emerging at the highest level," American counterintelligence officers told me. "In addition, we are forced to use enormous forces and means to neutralize the activity of your intelligence officers, but we could use them to fight real criminals, terrorists."

I remember that I replied that we were ready to do this even the next day, but only on a mutual basis. The SVR employees, I told

N. Gallagher, would not be left without work. These were people with two higher educations, two foreign languages, excellent analysts who knew how to work with people. In the 1990s, they were in great demand in the emerging Russian business structures at that moment. I drew the attention of the head of the FBI to the fact that the CIA's activity in Russia at that time was many times greater than the activity of Russian intelligence officers in the United States. In response, I heard a rather critical review of my colleagues from the CIA, which once again confirmed the rumors circulating in Washington about the difficult relationship between the FBI and "friends on the other side of the Potomac." In the USA, based on the results of my work, I generally got the impression that in the American intelligence services there were certain individual officers who were ready to honestly interact with Russian colleagues on a partnership basis, but the general mood, especially in the leadership, unfortunately, was then and remains today anti-Russian.

Now in Russia there is a rise in patriotism, young people, wishing to provide all possible assistance to our country, are actively involved in volunteering, many have signed up as volunteers for the front. There is also an increased interest in intelligence service. What could you wish for these people?

As long as I can remember, young people have always had an interest in intelligence, because the work of an intelligence officer is surrounded by an aura of romance. But in reality, this is a hard work that requires high devotion and dedication, the manifestation of special professional and personal qualities. Of course, you need to be convinced of the rightness of your cause, be able to resist enemy propaganda, be a true patriot of your country, because there, abroad, they will constantly drill into your mind that you are engaged in illegal activities, working for a "criminal regime" and so on.

A good proficiency of foreign languages (currently at least two), deep knowledge of the future host country, developed analytical abilities, broad erudition, and the ability to



establish contacts and communicate with people are also mandatory for an intelligence officer.

At the headquarters
of the Russian Foreign
Intelligence Service in
Yasenevo.
April 24, 2023

It is no secret that an intelligence officer, as a rule, is faced with the task of finding interesting and useful foreigners, getting to know them, and then, in the course of communication, obtaining the necessary information. But no one will meet you if you do not interest your partner with your erudition, intelligence, and sense of humor. You must be an good conversationist, and for this you need to know and be able to do a lot. And, of course, you need to cultivate self-control and calmness, train your memory and observation skills. Try to acquire these qualities, constantly improve yourself, only after that your colleagues will say: with such a person you can go on reconnaissance!

Interviewed
by Mikhail Pogudin

In reality, the work of an intelligence officer is a hard work that requires high devotion and dedication, the manifestation of special professional and personal qualities.

"The Fourth Estate" of the New Reich

Text: Vladimir Zakovryazhin, writer

The large scale and unprecedentedly high degree of hysteria the Western media - the notorious "fourth estate" - have been writhing in since the beginning of the Russian special military operation gives cause for looking carefully and without emotions at the true motives and methods of their work.

For many decades, we have been told in an obsessive manner that "independent" Western media are a reliable pillar of democracy, a beacon of freedom of speech, a guarantor of objectivity and truthfulness. It is difficult to disagree with the reliability of this pillar for US imperialism and NATO countries. The things are much more complicated with objectivity and truthfulness. In other words, with the need to avoid obvious lies.

The murky stream of malicious fabrications that Western journalists have recently unleashed upon the world suggests that they have completely different criteria for their work, and different ideological inspirers. How can one fail to recall the "instructions" for German

journalism, formulated almost 80 years ago by Joseph Goebbels, Doctor of Philology at the University of Heidelberg: "The bigger the lie, the sooner it will be believed".

Moreover, in the same Federal Republic of Germany, direct personnel continuity was developed in the transfer of "valuable" experience. Thus, for a long time the program director of the largest German television channel ARD was Hans Abich, who during the war years had "gained his skills" as a referent in the Reich Ministry of Propaganda under the same Goebbels. His services turned out to be so significant for the German elite that it established the Hans Abich Prize for achievements in the field of television cinema.

But all this, as they say, is just the thin end of the wedge. Much more diligently, representatives of the Western journalistic "guild" hide the fact of direct copying of Hitler's methods of fooling the population. First of all, two key points are hushed up: close interaction with the intelligence services of their countries and participation, under their strict control, in large disinformation campaigns to achieve specified goals.

A reasonable question arises: how often do foreign intelligence services, primarily, of course, the American CIA, resort to covert operations in close connection with the media? The British writer G. Greene answers this question quite explicitly. According to his assessment, nowadays almost all intelligence activities of the West add up to waging psychological and information wars. Is it so?

Back in 1957, the US Intelligence Council drew the attention of President D. Eisenhower to the fact that 80% of the CIA budget was spent on covert operations. Independent researchers have

made an amendment: in fact, up to 90% of the budget is spent on them, and only 10% remains for "regular" intelligence activity. Moreover, there is a connection with Hitler's "school" here, too.

The fact is that such a subversive technique with a widespread participation of controlled media was developed and actively used in practice precisely in the Third Reich. At the end of the 1930s, a highly secret intelligence organization operated in Nazi Germany, the Ribbentrop Service, which carried out secret actions to ensure German superiority. Back then, however, it was called "more modest" and more vague — active diplomacy.

Take, for example, the story of the provocation organized by the Nazis in 1939 in Gleiwitz on the border with Poland. Then Hitler badly needed a media excuse to invade the territory of the neighboring state. His intelligence services dressed German criminals in Polish uniforms and staged an attack on a small German radio station in the town of Gleiwitz. Then they were killed by "return fire", with the corpses laid out in picturesque poses for easy photographing by instructed reporters. In their correspondence, the "directors" from the Reich Security Main Office cynically called this "still life" "Konserve". Without the rehearsed scream of the assistant media, it would have remained a minor borderline episode. But the very next day, at the command of the Ministry of Propaganda, the German press unleashed hysterics upon the whole world about the Polish "atrocities". And Hitler, "under public pressure", was forced to declare war on Warsaw. It was simple and effective.

The scheme impressed the CIA, which later did not hesitate to use

it from time to time. Remember the same "Konserve" in Bucha in Ukraine, when the Western "fourth estate" acted on a broad front in the "promotion" of the Ukrainian and American special services' production.

Of course, in the USA the Nazi methodology underwent "creative" development. The events that preceded the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 became a half-forgotten example. Then the newly elected President Kennedy needed a reason to invade Cuba. The CIA, together with the Pentagon, rummaged in the Nazi "baggage" and found a suitable option: a secret operation codenamed "Northwoods" was born. O. Stone and P. Kuznik reminded of it in the book "The Untold History of the United States". In general, the owner of the Oval Office was offered an extensive "price list" of provocations, including terrorist attacks against refugees from Cuba in places of their mass

residence (Miami, New York) with accusations against the Cuban intelligence services; a raid by F. Castro's "mercenaries" on a Latin American state adjacent to Cuba; destruction of a passenger airliner in the air by a "Cuban" fighter. Kennedy then did not dare to follow the recommendations of his advisers, but their efforts were clearly not in vain. Let us recall, for example, the strange terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001 and the downing of a Malaysian Boeing over Ukraine. Apparently, something from this "price list" will appear later.

Meanwhile, not all the underside of such actions is made public. All the more interesting are the details when (and if) they do come out. I think many still remember 1990, when Saddam Hussein attacked Kuwait, and the White House demanded that the CIA fabricate a bright pretext for American intervention in the conflict. A "victim and eyewitness" of Iraqi "atrocities"

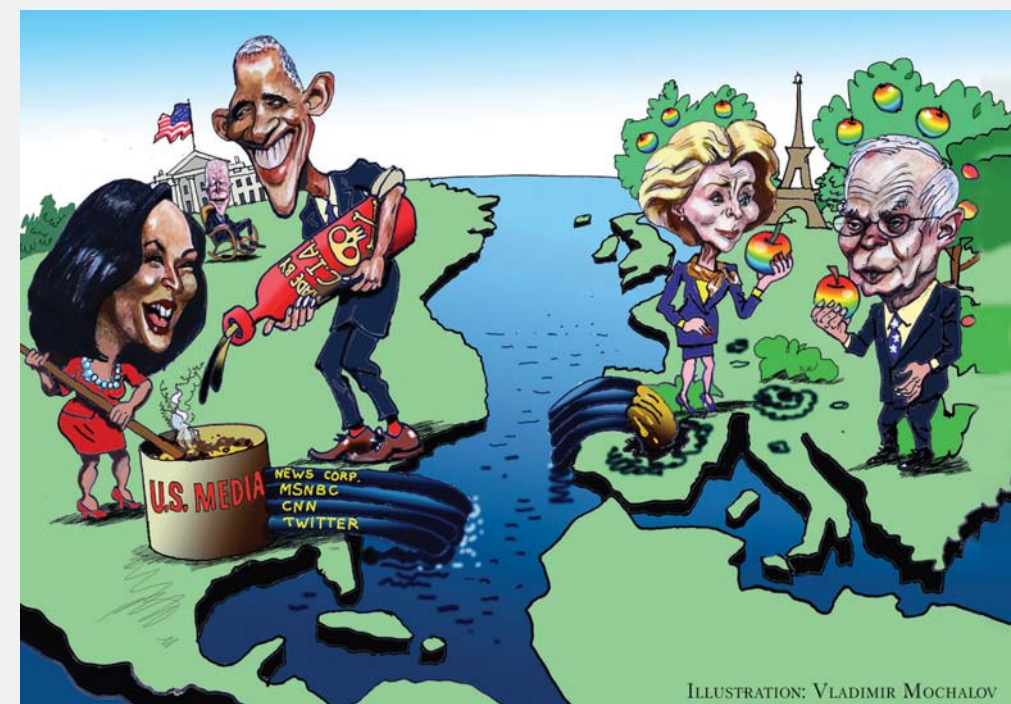
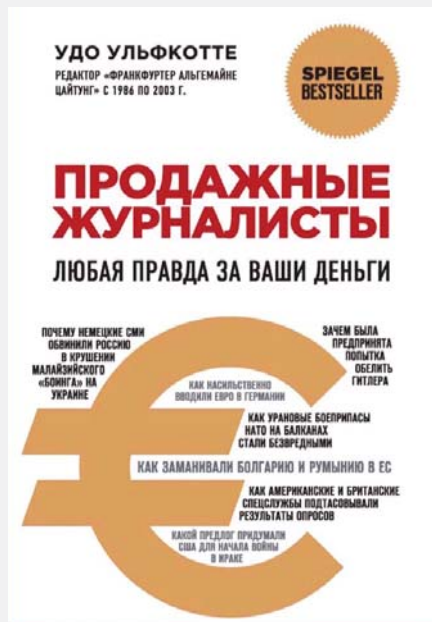


ILLUSTRATION: VLADIMIR MOCHALOV



in Kuwait, a young woman named Nayirah, was prepared to speak at hearings in the US Congress. She sobbed before camera about how Iraqi soldiers threw babies out of incubators onto the concrete floor in maternity hospitals. The corrupt “fourth estate” broadcast this terrible story with angry comments to the whole world. War on Iraq was declared.

Much later, the former correspondent of the authoritative German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine



Speech by Nayirah al-Sabah in the US Congress. October 10, 1990.

Zeitung, Udo Ulfkotte, who broke up with the “factory of lies”, in his book “Corrupt Journalists”, said that the whole story from the beginning to the end was invented by “scriptwriters” from the CIA, and the “eyewitness” turned out to be a daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington. She was previously trained in acting courses to make her performance as effective as possible, and the Kuwaiti authorities paid the American media \$12 million to spread lies.

We have seen many similar cases in Syria, where the “White Helmets” were actively operating, and now we are seeing the same in Ukraine. It is obvious that the entire media “machine” of the West is working day and night to support the neo-Nazi Kyiv regime.

Now it is necessary to say a few words about the corruption of Western media. The already mentioned W. Ulfkotte at one time voiced a “sensation” that attentive observers had known for a long time: most of the leading US media are financed in a varying degree by the CIA. American intelligence sponsors the release of books and films with content beneficial to it, and many correspondents abroad carry out its special assignments. Back in the 1970s, Watergate scandal whistleblower K. Bernstein published a list of 400 journalists who worked for the CIA. According to his information, this “institution” had a special agreement with The New York Times, according to which the intelligence service could at any time “borrow” journalists from the newspaper to perform intelligence tasks.

The whole situation was most eloquently characterized by the editor of The Washington Post, F. Graham, with reference to CIA employees: “In the USA, you can buy

a journalist cheaper than a good...” Then an unprintable expression followed, but we’d better say it in the words of our President, who called representatives of the oldest profession “women with lower social responsibility».

Another extremely interesting side of the notorious Western freedom of speech is the close connection between European and American media, inexplicable to the uninitiated. The book of the former chief of German military counterintelligence, Gerd Helmut Komossa, “The German Map” (Die deutsche Karte), published in 2009, shed light on this situation. The retiree, who, just in case, left for neutral Austria, wrote in it about the existence of a top-secret agreement between the governments of the United States and Germany, according to which each new German chancellor, before taking the oath, must confirm loyalty to allied obligations to Washington. The most important among them in the context of our conversation is the guarantee of complete American control over the German media. In this regard, the slavishly obedient readiness of the German press to be an obsequious “mouthpiece” for the spread of American falsifications is quite understandable. On the other hand, can one seriously expect independence from a country in which occupation troops have been stationed for almost 80 years? I believe it would no exaggeration to assume that the United States has similar agreements with all major European countries.

Of course, press is not controlled in the spirit of American movies about the Wild West. Now everything is done more subtly, with the use of the two CIA’s favorite “tools”: bribery and blackmail. At the same time, the

main attention is paid to integrating the chief editors and publishers of European newspapers and influential journalists who shape public opinion into the wake of Washington’s and the leading US media’s policy. For this purpose, they are included in various kinds of transatlantic organizations and “brain trusts”, which have long served as a front for the CIA. These include, for example, the Berlin Aspen Institute, the German Marshall Fund, and the Munich Security Conference. The leading personnel of the European “fourth estate” receive instructions there on how to conduct propaganda campaigns, as well as “bonuses” from their American masters. These include luxury all-inclusive business trips, the opportunity to interview influential politicians, and even honorary US citizenship.

Then if someone from the journalistic fraternity suddenly balks, then the CIA puts on the table pre-stocked materials with extremely unflattering content for the “truth-seeker” and poses the question bluntly: either you are with us, or...



In the West, the “fourth estate” has long ago turned into a faithful combat companion of the intelligence services waging fierce information-psychological wars.

Wide coverage of the journalistic community is ensured by disseminating information about the opportunity to make good money by preparing articles profitable for the United States. In 2014, The Washington Post wrote that for each publication causing the desired resonance, the American embassy paid from 500 to 20 thousand dollars.

For comprehensive control over the media, the CIA actively uses its strong positions in partner intelligence agencies in Europe. In Germany the CIA through its obedient “shadow” — the German intelligence service BND — managed to ensure that all leading media resources recommend their employees to “help” the intelligence service, although not for free. Not so long ago, by the way, the German authorities, following a request from the opposition, had to disclose some financial details. Thus, over the past five years alone, 1.5 million euros have been spent on subsidies to “independent” media.

The main task of the corrupt journalists is to spread disinformation prepared in the CIA. The same U. Ulfkotte recalled that for the convenience of the work, the BND opened a disguised mini-office not far from the editorial office of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. In urgent cases, German intelligence officers came directly to his office to dictate the theses of the “correct” publications. Among such materials

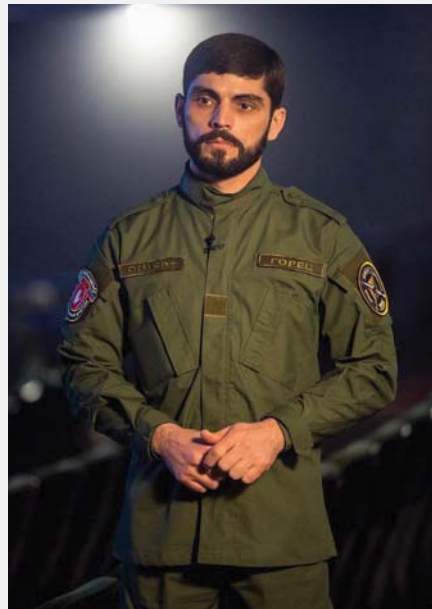
is the article “European firms are helping Libya to create the second poison gas plant”, which caused much noise and turned the public in favor of changing the regime of M. Gaddafi.

The cited examples, all taken from open sources and accessible to the general public, are more than enough to confidently assert: in the West, the “fourth estate” has long ago turned into a faithful combat companion of the intelligence services waging fierce information-psychological wars. The historical records suggest that every state striving for world domination tried to put the media under its full control. The United States, now rapidly moving along the same path, may be rightfully called an “empire of lies”, which has embarked on creating a new Reich.

In conclusion, we would like to add that it is no use appealing to the Western “fourth estate” for conscience and objectivity. You might just as well preach the Gospel in a brothel. You just need to fight the enemy and the tougher the better. After all, war justifies everything!🔪

Russian world as a right to happiness

Text: Yekaterina Kryuchkova, writer, columnist



«My childhood ended when the war in Abkhazia started... I was six years old» - with this short phrase the fighter of the international brigade «Pyatnashka» Alias Avidzba starts the conversation about the Russian world.

The most difficult and important conversation for anyone who is trying to explain to himself what a young Abkhazian boy

is doing on the land where his grandfather Rasim's foot stepped only once, when he was victoriously advancing to Berlin in 1945... A conversation that is more like a confession.

«Then everything ended quickly: Russian brothers came to our aid. But the Abkhazian people are still rebuilding their country, picking up pieces of themselves into a single whole. We knew by name everyone who helped. Every volunteer who came to us, every man whose hands could hold a gun was worth his weight in gold. We, the children of the war, stood behind him. We somehow became adult in a month».

I'm trying to put the pieces of this puzzle together in my head: war - submachine gun - explosions - six-year-old child... It works out badly. To be exact, it doesn't work out at all.

I have a goddaughter, Zlatka. She's seven now. She can read, fool around in the yard, do somersaults, and unless her mum hears, she can whisper on the phone and beg for a new toy from me, and she can invent funny «almost real» holidays. But that's got nothing to do with the war. She can't have something to do with the war. Neither can I. And during our whole meeting with Alias, I'll be trying to understand why someone has raised his hand again to take away someone else's childhood.

«When Russia admitted us, a whole world opened up for us. We were able to study, exchange experience, communicate with young people from all over Russia, and hold big volunteer events. I spoke Russian very little. But books pulled me through, and my friends helped me. Friends from Moscow, from the Far East, from the North Caucasus... I spent nights in libraries at that time, reading Russian books, I couldn't get enough of them».

Alias is an actor of the highest category of the Abkhaz State Youth Theatre. Almost ten years

on stage. And now he is going out again. To tell the truth, the sound of machine gun cannonade does not sound like applauses of grateful spectators. But there, «behind the tape», he's not for the sake of praise either. He is there as the ultimate force of justice, shielding the civilian population with himself from the fascist hatred of neo-Nazis.

«I am a man. I saw the war when I was a boy. I've held a submachine gun in my hands, I served in the army. I know what I am doing. And the reason is not to kill and revel in other people's pain, as aggressors do. I shoot because my people are being attacked here. I stand with a weapon in my hands on the border in a position of defense, as a man shielding those who are weaker: women, children, the elderly...»

Alias's voice is deep and calm. In the course of conversation he himself raises questions that are not normally asked directly. But everything is allowed now.

«Who are you fighting for, brother? Why are you doing this? I didn't ask myself about it. I knew the answer straight away. When the first volunteers went to Donbass, I didn't doubt the propriety of my decision for a minute. Just in one second, my childhood with the smell of gunpowder flashed before my eyes. And I realized that now I was the man who would come and save and shield children. They must not see the war, they have already seen too much...».

Here they say a «Special Military Operation». There they say: a war. It is the war on behalf of those who have been deprived of the brightest and the most irreplaceable thing - childhood.

«When I first came to our «Pyatnashka», I felt fear. No, not for myself. I feared for the children who had something broken inside. I saw them there, in Donbass, in Luhansk... I saw their eyes filled with the wisdom of elders... Children should not have such eyes! It is too early for them to understand all this! And the children of Donbas - they are like little old men. They will know the price of peace, they will fight for silence to the end. Amazingly deep and kind, sympathetic children.

After one of the shellings, I brought our soldier to the hospital. There I met a three-year-old girl, Nastenka. The little girl had a shrapnel wound in her head, and her grandfather was in a very bad state, he had been taken away for an operation. The girl was crying, all alone in the ward. I took the child in my arms, soothing her as well as I could, and asked her: «Nastenka, aren't you afraid of bombing?» - And she babbled: «I'm used to it...» - She's only three, but she's used to seeing and hearing death!»

For a few seconds it gets so quiet that it seems as if we are going to hear the heartbeat of that Nastenka who is no longer scared because she is used to it.

«We need to stay within the system of values in which we were brought up. It was so at all times. Young people are well-fed now, they have everything they could wish for: welfare, studies, books, internet... But they lack the main thing: there is no unity of opinion, no ideology that binds, that teaches how to respect elders, how to keep culture and customs, how to speak warmly about each nationality, its traditions and religion. Now many young guys are confused by double or triple standards. But I will say the following: if we give up our moral foundation, it will not be the Russian world any more... And I want to live in the world that has given the best things on the planet. That's what I'm fighting for.»

Since the beginning of the special military operation Alias Avidzba has taken part in combat actions. After being blown up by a landmine in August 2022, he had his leg amputated, but he has remained in service. In Avidzba's past there is not only a military school, but also a lot of important social work: he was Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Sports and Youth Policy of the Republic of Abkhazia, he headed the Republican State Committee on Youth Policy. Since 2014 till present Alias Avidzba has been an actor of the highest category of the Abkhaz State Youth Theatre.

On the 34th day as ordered!

Text: Yekaterina Kryuchkova, journalist, writer, head of the federal project "Scientific Regiment" of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science

During the Great Patriotic War, an order with the wording "this is impossible, but the Motherland needs it" implied not only the earliest implementation possible, but also moral responsibility for those who were waiting for the results of your work there, on the line of fire.

It was year 1942... The battle of designers behind the drawing boards was as hot as the one for Moscow. Nikolai Dukhov had only 33 days to start production of the famous T-34 tanks from scratch, and then improve them.

FROM A VILLAGE LIBRARY TO A DESIGN BUREAU

The outstanding Soviet designer, laureate of the Lenin and five USSR State Prizes, a native of the Poltava region, Nikolai Leonidovich Dukhov, took a long time to get into science. He was in charge of a village library and was a beet cutter. At the age of 22, he received a Komsomol permit to the

workers' department of the Kharkov Geodetic and Land Management Institute, after which he was recommended for enrollment without tests at the mechanical faculty of the Leningrad Polytechnic University.

In 1932, Nikolai Dukhov was sent to the Krasny Putilovets plant (later the Leningrad Kirov plant), where he worked his way up from an ordinary engineer to deputy chief designer. Already in 1936, he was involved in work to improve armored vehicles, and at the end of the 1930s he took part in the development of a fundamentally new type of heavy tank - the KV (Klim Voroshilov).



"MOTHERLAND NEEDS THIS..."

With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, machine-building capacities began to be transferred beyond the Urals. To Chelyabinsk alone, seven large factories, including Kirov, were evacuated from the European territory of the country. The main task of their work at the first stage was to ensure the uninterrupted production of heavy equipment for the front in the face of difficulties with the supply of components. But the most important task was ahead.

Let us recall that at the beginning of the war, almost half of the



thirty-fours (T-34) were produced in Stalingrad. When there was a danger of a Nazi breakthrough to the city on the Volga, the State Defense Committee ordered to organize the production of the T-34 at the Kirov plant in Chelyabinsk, without stopping the production of heavy KV tanks. The Central Committee of the party said: "It is considered to be technically impossible, but Motherland needs it, and the Kirov workers must do it..."

So in the summer of 1942, Nikolai Dukhov had to work on the T-34 tank. At the beginning of July, he got to know the order: "Deputy Chief Designer N.L. Dukhov must provide the workshops with drawings of the T-34 tank." The task was extremely difficult: it was necessary to develop technological processes for two thousand parts, design and manufacture more than a hundred models, over five hundred dies, up to five thousand types of tools and fixtures, rearrange thousands of machines and create new production lines. Thousands of workers had to

master the production of new parts and their assembly. World experience showed that it took at least four months to establish serial production of machines of this type. The plant workers accomplished the impossible: they completed the task in 33 days!

Already on July 24, each workshop knew the list of components and parts that it must produce. Finally the

first production samples of the T-34, produced in Chelyabinsk, went to the front.

HELLO TO THE COMMANDER'S TURRET

Dukhov would not be Dukhov if he limited himself to copying someone else's design. At that time and in the following months, a number of significant improvements were made to the design of the T-34, which were later adopted at other factories that produced the tank. A document remained where Nikolai Leonidovich named the main innovations in the development of which he took part.

One of these improvements was the famous commander's turret. At first, the T-34 had one major drawback: the crew had poor visibility, especially from the sides and rear. This weakness was quickly discovered by German troops in battle. The problem was solved with the appearance of a commander's turret on the thirty-four, similar to the one installed on the KV-1S. The ability to quickly rotate it independently of the main turret allowed the tank commander to see everything that was happening on



the battlefield - from the front, the side, and the back.

The five-speed gearbox was also fine-tuned. The entirely new unit was accepted unconditionally, since it significantly improved the traction characteristics of the tank. Regarding the gearbox, Dukhov noted, not without pride, that by order of the People's Commissar, the Kirov Plant was appointed as the lead enterprise for the production of this most important power unit of the T-34 tank.

In addition, previously a rather primitive air filter was installed on the thirty-four, but Nikolai Leonidovich insisted on installing a multicyclone, which was much better at cleaning from dust the air entering the cylinders: the engine is the heart of the car, it must be protected.

Dukhov's proposals were accepted for mass production, since he never pursued improvements for the sake of improvements. Changes to the design were made only those that were prompted by experience in the use of military equipment and production problems. Of course, he had to prove a lot, but Dukhov could not do otherwise. He did not divide Soviet tanks into his own and those of others, but first of all thought about the interests of the cause and was proud that he had contributed to the design of the tank that had a huge impact on the outcome of the war and the further development of world tank building.

WITHOUT A UNIFORM AND AWARDS

A bust of three times Hero of Socialist Labor Nikolai Dukhov today adorns the foyer of the assembly hall of the South Ural State University (SUSU). It was here that Nikolai Leonidovich headed the department



"Preserving historical memory is an extremely important state task. Memory of the common past, respect for it, understanding of the experience and contribution of one's country, attitude towards heroes, victories and defeats - this is what forms the self-awareness and spiritual and moral values of each person. It is impossible to talk about the future if history is rewritten to suit political sentiments, as is happening in a number of foreign countries. Our university has always supported projects to preserve historical memory. SUSU was founded in 1943 to train professional personnel for the military-industrial complex, for Victory! By honoring our front-line heroes along with those who worked in the rear, we pass on our traditions, culture, values and meanings to the younger generation."

Alexander Wagner, acting Rector of SUSU

of tank building (later - tracked vehicles), headed the state university examination committee. Students remembered Nikolai Dukhov as a modest, easy-to-communicate person with a good sense of humor. He behaved equally evenly with everyone: both with venerable designers and with yesterday's schoolchildren. He was never seen

at the institute in a general's uniform or with awards. As to how he created his famous KV heavy tank and how he set up production of the thirty-four, Nikolai Leonidovich told his students about that at his introductory lecture.

In his classes, he always had serious work going on - training a new generation of designers.

LET'S GO ON OUR OWN!

Today SUSU remains one of the leaders in import substitution and works in tandem with leading industrial enterprises of the Chelyabinsk region. Like Nikolai Dukhov in 1942, young university scientists are working to ensure that domestic technologies become the support of modern Russian mechanical engineering.

This year, university specialists began developing the first modern domestic transfer case. The project received a grant from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Chelyabinsk Region in the amount of 28 million rubles based on the results of a competitive selection.

Together with the Miass "Ural" Automobile Plant, SUSU is participating in the development of modern transfer cases for all-wheel drive vehicles and wheeled vehicles. In 2025, it is planned to launch a new model range of these units for the promising Ural family of vehicles. This will ensure the plant complete independence from the supply of foreign components.

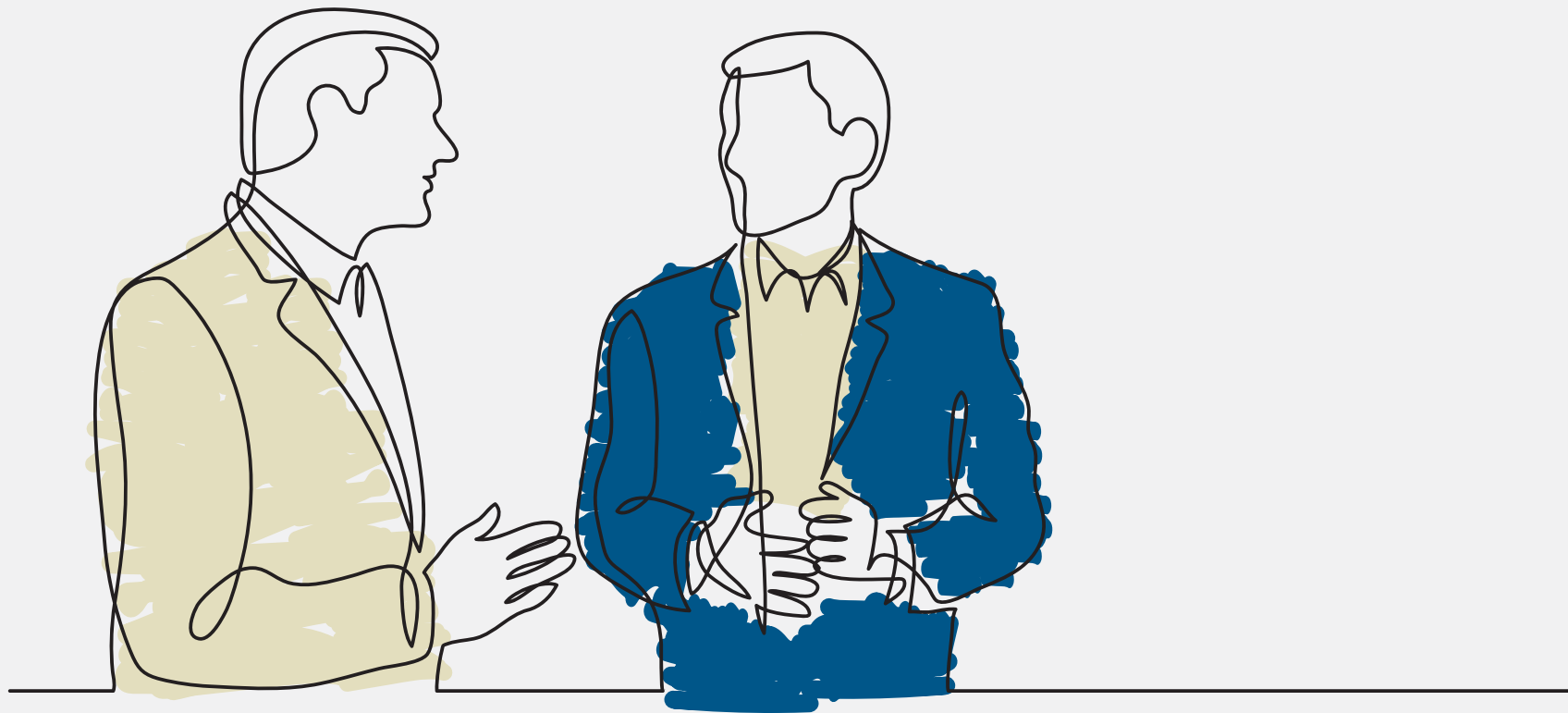
The Chelyabinsk Electrical Equipment Plant together with SUSU is developing a project for import substitution in the energy sector. The system will monitor failures in the distribution of electricity. The search is currently underway for innovative

digital solutions for diagnostics and data transmission in small switchgears.

The university is working on a new technology for the production of safe, broad-spectrum polyurethanes together with the Modern Insulation Technologies plant. The goal of the project is to restore the technological sovereignty of the Russian Federation in one of the key areas of industrial production and its development based on the latest scientific achievements. [Z](#)



Main building of South Ural State University, Chelyabinsk



Lie, but not to me

Text: Olga Bravitskaya, Natalya Samsonova

Keep your eyes open and you will read entire volumes about what is happening around you.

E. T. Hall

How do we evaluate people and determine our attitude towards them? What helps us understand what the interlocutor is actually talking about and what emotions he experiences? Is he deceiving us or not?

In everyday life, intuition usually works. This is an internal feeling based on our experience, which accumulates in the subconscious throughout life and at the right moment prompts the “correct” answer. It is the subconscious that evaluates facial expressions, gestures, voice, gait of the interlocutor (all together is nonverbal behavior) and makes the first conclusion: dangerous - safe.

However, for us, intelligence officers, and other professionals (psychologists, detectives), in order to make the right decision and build high-quality communication, it is necessary to have a more complete picture of what is happening, and for this we need to be able to correctly interpret people’s nonverbal behavior.

Yet, nonverbal communication is relevant not only in professional activities. Any person who is able to notice and correctly interpret changes in someone else’s behavior will be much better at making connections and maintaining communication, understanding any interlocutor, “reading” people, and quickly noticing attempts to be manipulated.

Catching, analyzing and deciphering nonverbal language is a technology that needs

to be studied, developed and consolidated in practice. Then you will develop a conscious skill that will allow you to understand a person’s true intentions and recognize insincerity not only on the basis of intuition.

A feature of nonverbal language is that gestures and facial expressions are spontaneous, therefore they almost always express the true state of a person.

The fact is that nonverbal language accompanies internal dialogue, and people, as a rule, are not able to control it. Before the brain reacts to the situation and begins to think about how to respond, the body and face already demonstrate through nonverbal manifestations what is happening inside. This is why the truth is much easier to see than to hear.

Hence the basic rule: if the body contradicts the words, we believe the body.

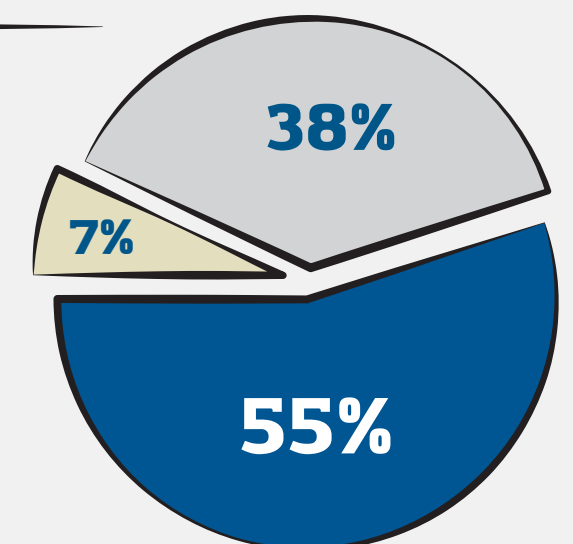
Why do nonverbal expressions matter so much in communication? It’s actually not that complicated. There is a certain pattern in our perception of oral information (*see diagram*).

To correctly assess a person’s nonverbal behavior, it is necessary to understand that any reaction occurs in response to a particular stimulus. While a person processes the new information received, it is necessary to be able to catch his reactions, then quickly analyze them and interpret them correctly. In this case, five channels should be monitored simultaneously: speech, facial expressions, gestures, behavior, reactions of the autonomic nervous system (redness/pallor, trembling voice, rapid breathing, etc.).

It is important to remember! One body movement of the interlocutor does not mean anything. The peculiarity of nonverbal communication lies precisely in the fact that its analysis is effective only when you consider everything as a whole, taking into account the environment and the correspondence of verbal signals to nonverbal ones.

Meyerabian circle, or Rule 7–38–55

Psychology professor of California University Albert Meyerabian established that we evaluate only 7% of the information we receive verbally (directly spoken words), 38% vocally (tone of voice, intonation of sound), and nonverbally - 55%!



Myths of nonverbal communication

Myth 1

“Pinocchio syndrome”, or “If you scratch your nose, you lie”

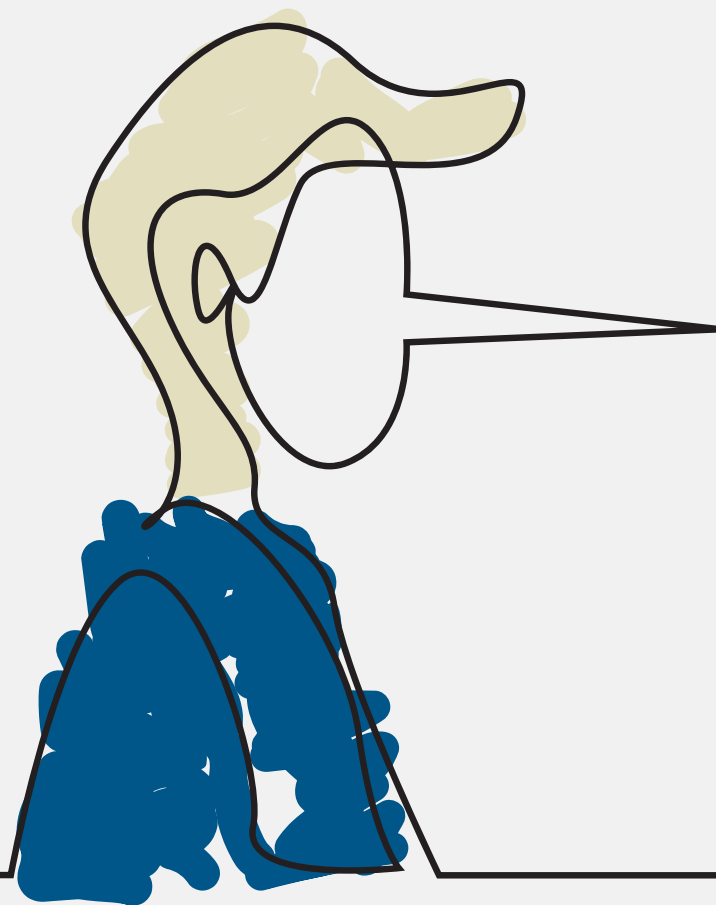
The most common myth! To determine whether the interlocutor is sincere, it is necessary to consider under what circumstances and in what way he rubs his nose. Maybe he is just allergic or is getting sick. Perhaps he is worried about something and touching his face is an adapter gesture with which he tries to calm himself down. Even if a person is worried about something, does this mean that he wants to deceive you?

At the same time, you still need to pay attention to this gesture when your interlocutor has not touched his face throughout the entire conversation, but when answering some of your questions he is lightly touching his nose. In this case, the information received should be double-checked.

Myth 2

“If you sit in a closed position, you definitely hide something!”

This myth is also popular. It is believed that when a person tells a lie, he tries to avoid the gaze of his “victim”. But remember yourself, when you wanted to deceive someone, how did you feel? Was it important for you to understand whether they believed you or not? But how can you find out about this if you don't watch the person you're deceiving?



A lie is always stressful, but stress is not always a lie



Myth 3

“If you sit in a closed position, you definitely hide something!”

A story similar to “touching the nose”: here, too, a complex of factors needs to be assessed. One cannot judge a person's sincerity by one posture. What if sitting with his arms crossed is a person's habit? He's comfortable this way. Some people like to prop their heads up while talking, some like to hide their hands in their pockets, some like to sit with their legs crossed. But does this mean that these people are always hiding something? Not at all! The gestures and postures that you need to pay attention to are those that are unusual for a particular person. For example, when you were having a lively conversation, the interlocutor was sitting in an open position all the time, actively gesticulating, and suddenly, after your question, he unexpectedly leaned away and crossed his arms over his chest. Even if he continued to speak at the same pace, here you just need to think about what influenced the change in his behavior.

Myth 4

“Now you will learn a 100% sign that you are being told a lie!”

Alas, we have to disappoint you! No matter how much everyone would like it, there is not a single sign that would say with 100% accuracy that you are being deceived. It is necessary to remember that all people are different, have their own habits and individual characteristics, so identifying lies is a painstaking work, which is built on focused attention and analysis of how a person behaves in a calm state and how his behavior changes when he experiences discomfort.

Developing the ability to read other people's nonverbal reactions is not at all difficult. It is enough to be a little more observant. Try to notice every involuntary movement that indicates the thoughts and feelings of your interlocutor. Pay attention to everything: facial expression, eye movements, gestures, changes in posture, intonation. Over time, this will turn into an exciting game. Gradually, you will learn to notice nonverbal reactions in your own behavior. This will allow you to promptly prevent or suppress unwanted ones and, on the contrary, emphasize those that are beneficial to you. Good luck!



Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich is the pinnacle of Soviet intelligence, which only those who are marked and chosen by God are able to achieve.

Yu.V. Andropov

The publication in the Encyclopedia of Military Art (Publishing House "Literature", Minsk, 1997) of brief information that in the 1950s, Soviet intelligence officer Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich served as an Envoy Extraordinary with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Costa Rica to the Vatican, Italy and Yugoslavia, caused a real shock in the West. At one time, Western intelligence services, first of all of the United States and Great Britain, as the saying goes, had their eyes on a promising Latin American diplomat, who was expected to achieve no less than the post of Costa Rican Foreign Minister. In all likelihood, this is the only case in the world history when an illegal intelligence officer from one country headed the embassy of another one in three states, being, in addition, knighted in the Order of Malta with the right to wear the Golden Cross.

EARLY YEARS

It must be said that hardly anyone would have been able to discern the future outstanding intelligence officer, whose name would be inscribed in golden letters in the history of domestic foreign intelligence, in the tiny boy Yuzik (by birth Juozas Grigulevičius), born on an early May morning in 1913 in Vilna, Lithuania.

Iosif's father, Romualdas, a pharmacist by training, worked in a pharmacy, his mother Nadezhda (nee Lavretskaya) was a housewife. Both were descendants of the ancient Karaite people (many people confuse them with Jews, but the Karaites have their own religion - Karaiteism), who were resettled from

Crimea to Lithuania at the end of the 14th century. Yuzik did not walk until he was two years old, which was probably caused by a birth injury or some kind of illness. The desperate mother took the child to the Crimea for mud treatment, after which he started walking, but for the rest of his life he did not like to walk and, despite his extreme activity, he quickly got tired of any physical exercise.

Meanwhile, the Karaite origin helped Iosif Romualdovich not only to avoid the mass repressions of the 1930s, but also in some way contributed to his career. In 1939, during one of his visits to the USSR, he had a personal conversation with the all-powerful head of the NKVD, Lavrentiy Beria. During it, the



Iosif with his mother. Panevezys (Lithuania), 1928

latter asked Grigulevich what his nationality was. Hearing the answer: "Karaite," the People's Commissar suddenly perked up and began to clarify: "Which one: Crimean or Abkhazian?" It turned out that Beria's mother, Marta Vissarionovna Jakeli, was also a Karaite, so Lavrenty Pavlovich, as they say, "knew the ropes." From then on, Beria, who rarely favored anyone, developed a certain sympathy for the intelligence officer: his reports went to the People's Commissar personally, and many were directly reported to J.V. Stalin.

YOUNG REVOLUTIONARY

The youthful part of the biography of the future intelligence officer is quite typical for that time: gymnasium studies, passion for revolutionary ideas, exclusion from the lists of students for illegal activities, trial and prison. By the age of 17, the young man had turned into an active participant of the communist movement, becoming a member of the district committee bureau of the Komsomol in Western Belarus and Lithuania. His first experience of underground work, his first failure and arrest date back to the same period. Having learned about the in humane conditions of her son's detention in prison, Yuzik's mother died suddenly. The father, who emigrated to Argentina in search of a better life, also could not help. Yuzik found himself face to face with harsh reality.

Nevertheless, he got through. After leaving prison in 1933, Grigulevich went through Warsaw to Paris, where he entered the Sorbonne. He combined his mastering of science with underground activities within the framework of the International Red Aid (MOPR). It was there that he first came to the attention of Soviet intelligence. The task of engaging the young man to cooperate was entrusted to the head of the Paris



From left to right: I. Grigulevich, cameraman R. Carmen, intelligence officers L. Vasilevsky (Tarasov) and G. Syroyezhkin. Spain. 1937

station, one of the future chiefs of the Soviet intelligence, Alexander Mikhailovich Korotkov. He, however, was unable to complete what he started, as the promising candidate agent disappeared without a trace.

As it later turned out, Iosif learned about his father's illness and hastily left for Argentina. He lived there for about a year, managing not only to brilliantly master the Spanish language, but also to deeply study and fall in love with Latin American

realities, which later played an important role in the life of the future illegal intelligence officer.

In 1936, Grigulevich, on his own initiative, went to Spain to fight against General Franco, as soon as the civil war began there. The brave anti-fascist, who showed courage, resourcefulness and innate leadership qualities (he commanded a company and rose to the position of assistant chief of staff), was again

noticed by the Soviet intelligence. Iosif accepted the offer to embark on a difficult and dangerous, but exciting intelligence path without hesitation. On Spanish land, at the risk of his life, he completed his first assignments for Soviet intelligence services.

SOUTH AMERICA AGAIN

At the end of 1940, now on instructions from the leadership of the Soviet intelligence, Grigulevich (under the pseudonym "Arthur") again went to Argentina to create, virtually from scratch, illegal stations in the countries of South America. He took on the difficult task with his characteristic energy and enthusiasm, using his excellent knowledge of the situation and mentality of the local population. A substantial help was the fact that a significant part of the assistants involved by "Arthur" at the initial stage were former Republican fighters he knew from Spain.

Grigulevich's young wife Laura Aguilar Araujo, whom he had met a year earlier in Mexico, also became a faithful companion in underground work. She came from a poor family with many children, worked as a rural teacher and was a convinced Marxist.

Within a year, Arthur's agent network had expanded so much that it was ready to perform a very important task set by the Center: carrying out subversive and sabotage acts in Latin America against Nazi Germany and other Axis countries. The fact was that since the late 1930s, German trading companies had established a system for purchasing strategic raw materials in the region

for the needs of the Third Reich. Saltpeter, tin, copper, tungsten, platinum, manganese, cobalt, mica, industrial diamonds, as well as food (meat, butter, coffee, cocoa), tobacco, leather, wool, and cotton were exported in large quantities. In a word, everything that the Reich urgently needed and that the leading countries of the continent - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile - were rich in. Transportation of goods purchased through figureheads, as a rule, was carried out on ships sailing under the flags of neutral Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. Having arrived at Mediterranean ports, the raw materials were unloaded and then transported overland to enterprises in Germany and Italy.

Through sources in the police and security services, it became possible to establish that the direct management of the illegal transit was carried out by an Abwehr station chief, captain first rank Dietrich Niebuhr, who held the position of naval attaché of the German Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1939-1941. Unashamed of local authorities, the Germans launched active recruitment efforts among sea carriers, in fact "buying" them with double and even triple fees for the delivery of smuggled goods.

As a result of painstaking work, Grigulevich managed to unravel the cunning schemes of the Abwehr and identify most of the companies involved in the transfer of goods. Members of his intelligence group studied specific routes and schedules of ships, identified the location of warehouses with materials, their security systems and other important issues necessary

for the successful implementation of sabotage.

At the same time, an almost insurmountable obstacle was discovered: the impossibility of using conventional explosives for sabotage due to the potentially quick tracing of the performer and the lack of an experienced shot-firer in the group. After much thought, "Arthur" made an intuitive and, as subsequent events showed, the only right choice in favor of delayed-action incendiary mines, the so-called "lighters."

Outwardly, they resembled metal cans or flasks made from ordinary brass. An igniter was installed at the bottom, and a cap with a flammable substance was attached to the top. The container was filled with a special flammable mixture made up of conventional chemical reagents mixed in a certain proportion, which produced a combustion temperature of about two thousand degrees. The necessary safe delay before the charge began to take effect (up to two weeks) was achieved by a combination of lead and plastic stoppers covering the flask.

To make mines, assistants from among Slavic emigrants who had skills in working with chemicals were engaged. As soon as in February 1942, thanks to the resourcefulness of Grigulevich, a workshop-laboratory for the production of "lighters" was opened near Buenos Aires. The owner of the premises, who had concluded a lease agreement with a representative "businessman," was confident that his factory would produce cans for dog food.

All the components necessary for the production of mines were purchased from different places and with great care so as not to arouse the suspicion of the police. Thus, iron oxide was found in one of the hardware stores in Rosario (the third largest city in Argentina), the owner of which had purchased a large batch of this chemical before the war. The specific product had been left unsold for a long time, and therefore the seller was upset. However, one fine day a capital "entrepreneur" appeared in his shop and immediately bought all the iron oxide in bulk. While the happy owner of the establishment was counting the profits that had

Party card of I. Grigulevich, issued by the Spanish Workers' Party of Marxist Unity (POUM), 1937



Illegal intelligence officers Laura and Iosif Grigulevich ("Louise" and "Arthur"). 1946



unexpectedly fallen upon him, “Arthur” was busily contemplating how many “lighters” his group could produce.

Among the major military successes of Grigulevich’s group was the arson of a saltpeter warehouse in the port of Buenos Aires in October 1942. According to eyewitnesses, early in the morning the gray bulk of the building, which contained more than 40 thousand tons of valuable mineral, blazed from the inside, as if the sun had lit up there. The fire that burst out scattered the remains of the metal warehouse structures around, and the heavy bags of saltpeter melted like wax, spreading a flaming crust across the ground like volcanic lava.

By the beginning of 1943, as a result of a series of acts of sabotage carried out by the Arthur group, the supply of saltpeter from Latin America to Europe had practically ceased, which caused serious difficulties in the work of the German military-industrial complex in terms of the production of explosives and

gunpowder. The total volume of destroyed strategic raw materials and food, according to experts, exceeded 1 million tons. That was the direct and quite significant contribution of Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich and his comrades to the victory of the USSR over the Nazi Germany, which the Motherland duly appreciated: the intelligence officer was awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

ENVOY OF COSTA RICA

After the end of the Great Patriotic War, “Arthur” continued his secret mission, regularly informing Moscow about the current situation in Latin American countries. In order to expand his intelligence apparatus, he constantly made new useful acquaintances and contacts. Over the course of several years, he managed to attract more than 100 people to cooperate, who regularly supplied valuable information. He traveled throughout the entire continent: from Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador to Uruguay and Chile.

Costa Rican passport of I. Grigulevich in the name of Teodoro Bonefil Castro



In the latter, as a result of a brilliant combination, he managed to obtain a Costa Rican passport in the name of Teodoro Bonefil Castro (see photo), which became the main one for the entire period of his further intelligence work. According to the legend he invented, Iosif posed as the illegitimate son of a local coffee magnate.

In May 1949, the Griguleviches arrived at their new place of residence in Rome. Teodoro B. Castro, to whom the Center assigned another operational pseudonym, “Max,” and his wife Inelia Idalina (“Louise”) explained their move from South America by personal circumstances: the death of a six-month-old son who had been born with a congenital heart disorder.

Having decided to engage in the coffee trade, Senor Castro launched active commercial activities on the Apennine Peninsula, rightly believing that in the conditions of the post-war shortage, his bags of aromatic beans would not remain in warehouses for long. He registered his own company, rented premises for offices and warehouses, hired technical personnel, and organized a fleet of vehicles. After concluding fairly profitable deals, money flowed into his bank accounts...

However, no one could have imagined that the successful businessman and his wife were leading a double life. Under the guise of commercial affairs, «Max» traveled throughout Italy and nearby European countries, collecting valuable information about the real state of affairs in their economy and domestic politics, as well as about diplomatic initiatives. “Louise” was engaged in encryption, did all the accounting, and worked as a liaison.

In October 1950, a group of politicians and businessmen led by the country’s ex-president José Figueres arrived in Italy from Costa Rica. Having become interested in a successful compatriot, Figueres decided to make him his trading partner, opening a joint company selling coffee in the Apennines. Having learned the details of the “biography” of Teodoro B. Castro, the ex-president told “Max” that they turned out to be distant relatives: “Your late father was the nephew of the husband of my mother’s aunt!”

Gradually, relations with our intelligence officer reached such a level of trust that J. Figueres decided to make T. Castro his political consultant and asked him to write an election program. Iosif Romualdovich completed the task brilliantly and subsequently joked: “My program brought Figueres to power, and he repaid me with black ingratitude: I never received the post of vice president!”

Nevertheless, at the beginning of 1951, J. Figueres invited “Max” to take the post of first secretary of the Consulate General of Costa Rica in Rome. And already in May 1952, the illegal Soviet intelligence officer presented his credential letters as the ambassador of “his” country to the President of Italy Luigi Einaudi, which automatically opened the doors to the Papal Court for him. In the summer of the same year, Grigulevich was appointed to the post of Envoy of Costa Rica also in Yugoslavia (the presentation of letters to the Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito took place in Belgrade in April 1953).

The rising star of Costa Rican diplomacy (that’s what

At a reception with Italian President Luigi Einaudi. Rome. May 14, 1952



Diplomatic passports of the Castro spouses, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica

European newspapers called Iosif Romualdovich at that time) began to take an active part in international conferences. In this capacity, he managed to make himself noticed on a global scale, speaking as a representative of

Costa Rica with a report at the VI session of the UN General Assembly in Paris. For his bright and emotional speech, he received from the Soviet representative, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR A. Ya. Vyshinsky, the nickname “chain





Audience with Pius XII. 1952

dog of imperialism," which he was later very proud of.

Alongside with his diplomatic work, "Max" gave lectures at the Italian Academy of Culture and Art on the history of the ancient civilizations of the Mayans and Incas, published scientific articles in local magazines, spoke on the radio and even, as they say, received an offer from one of the Italian directors to act in a movie (which, of course, he

refused). He could often be seen in the halls of the Vatican library, studying ancient manuscripts with holy fathers.

By the way, Grigulevich became "insider" in the Vatican long before receiving diplomatic status: the excellent Costa Rican coffee, a bag of which "Max", through his connections, presented as a gift to Pope Pius XII, did not go unnoticed, and soon our intelligence officer

became a regular supplier to Papal Court. This allowed him to make personal contacts in the leadership of the Holy See (during his stay in Rome he was granted an audience with Pius XII more than ten times), to penetrate the sanctum sanctorum of one of the most closed organizations in the world - the Roman Catholic Church, which stood on the most irreconcilable positions in the struggle with the USSR and the ideas of communism.

RETURNING TO THE HOMELAND

At the end of 1953, the Griguleviches' foreign mission was completed. For security reasons, he, along with his wife and daughter Romanella, who was born in Italy in the summer of the same year, were recalled to Moscow. The former illegal intelligent officer "Max" was put into reserve, then at the age of 40 he was sent into retirement. Thus ended the next round of his rich biography, full of travel, dangerous adventures and unique operations under the guise of other people's names and states.

Costa Rican Ambassador to Italy and the Vatican, Teodoro B. Castro, arrived at the Presidential Palace to present his credentials. Rome. May 14, 1952



President of the USSR Academy of Sciences M. V. Keldysh (left) and prominent scholar on Latin America I. R. Grigulevich. 1964



The new, final segment of Iosif Romualdovich's life, this time in the USSR, actually became a return to his roots: Yuzik's penchant for literary and writing activity manifested itself in his gymnasium years, when he wrote revolutionary proclamations, poems and even short stories about the life of ordinary people in Lithuanian towns. If we remember Grigulevich's Karaite origin, even here, if desired, one can discern a hint of writing: the word "Karaite" is translated from Hebrew as "readers."


The first monograph he wrote, "The Vatican: Religion, Finance and Politics" (1957), published under the pseudonym Lavretsky in memory of his mother, was brilliantly defended a year later as a candidate's thesis, which allowed him to quickly make a name for himself as a reputable scientist. In just over 20 years of fruitful scientific publishing work, more than 300 articles published in various periodicals came from the pen of the former intelligence officer; 58 books, including some in the "Life of Remarkable People" series, about the heroes of the Latin American continent: Salvador Allende, Simon Bolivar, Pancho Villa, Che Guevara, David Siqueiros and many others. The monograph "Cultural Revolution

in Cuba" (1965) became his doctoral thesis.

Another important goal of Grigulevich the scientist was the creation of an independent Institute of Latin America within the structure of the USSR Academy of Sciences, where he worked fruitfully and was deservedly elected its corresponding member; it was implemented in 1961. But his long-time dream of heading the institute himself was never destined to come true: according to the memoirs of his contemporaries, J. R. Grigulevich's candidacy was blocked by the all-powerful "grey cardinal" M. A. Suslov, citing as a counter-argument the fact of his work in the NKVD.

Meanwhile, the academic merits of Iosif Romualdovich were recognized not only in our country, but also abroad: he was awarded the Venezuelan Order of Francisco de Miranda, the gold medal of the Peruvian Institute of Human Problems, the highest Cuban orders and medals, became an honorary member of the Colombian Writers Association and a corresponding member of the Institute of Mirandist Studies in Caracas. Continuing to

carry out tireless activities in the field of cultural relations, Grigulevich was simultaneously vice-president of the Society of Soviet-Cuban Friendship, the Society of Friendship with Venezuela, a member of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity of Asian and African Countries. According to his relatives, he never was self-indulgent even in the last years of his life, overshadowed by a serious illness.

The legendary intelligence officer died on June 2, 1988. His beloved wife Laura survived him by almost ten years. The urns with their ashes rest in columbarium No. 40 on the territory of the Donskoye Cemetery in Moscow. For 35 years now, Iosif Romualdovich has been attentively peering from the marble plaque into the faces of visitors and giving them a farewell smile... 

Film "Embarked on the mission. Iosif Grigulevich." 2020





Nadezhda Grigulevich: “My father was a happy man”

Nadezhda Iosifovna, let me start with a trivial question: at what age did you learn that your father and mother were illegal intelligence officers?

I always knew about this, from early childhood. At least, I guessed. The fact is that my parents did not hide anything from me. Of course, they never told me any secrets, but in some jokes something like that always slipped through. Another thing is that as a child I didn't pay attention to this; children are interested in other children, not their parents. Unfortunately...

Did Iosif Romualdovich's acquaintances in Moscow also guess anything?

Of course, someone knew something. Because, again, as if jokingly, this topic was always present. By the way, sometimes my father shared something like that. For example, he said that once he was invited to a closed event at the Vakhtangov theater - the editorial office of the journal “Social Sciences and Modernity,” which he headed for 20 years, was located on Arbat just on the opposite side. So, at the meeting, Vladimir Etush, rubbing his hands and smiling with his signature smile, said to father: “And we know everything about you!..” Everything or not everything, but they definitely heard something.

Do you remember any stories from childhood about your parents' trips abroad? After all they worked as deep cover agents in many Latin American countries. Which ones were favorite?

The favorite one was probably Argentina. Dad always spoke about it, about the people who live there, with great warmth. Firstly, his father emigrated to Argentina from Lithuania and for the

first time Grigulevich found himself there because he went to his father. Secondly, the first years of their life together with my mother passed in Argentina...

I remember a funny story. In Buenos Aires, my parents rented a room from immigrants from Russia who left the country after the revolution, and for some reason they didn't like my dad. They often exchanged some unflattering comments about him in Russian right in his presence. They, of course, had no idea that my father knew Russian, and he heard everything, but didn't show it...

How many languages did your father know in total?

Let's count. Since he was born in Lithuania, it means he knew Lithuanian and Polish, because the Vilnius region was Poland. Then, of course, the Russian language, because at home everyone spoke Russian, and to some extent Karaite. At the gymnasium he studied German and ancient languages; in Argentina and Spain he mastered Spanish on his own, then French and English. Well, and then - Italian. By the way, mom and dad knew and loved Italian very well.

At birth, your parents gave you the name Romanella. Is it still close to you or have you associated yourself only with Nadezhda since childhood?

Of course, it's close! Who is Romanella? This is Italian for Roman, a girl who was born in Rome. My father came up with this idea. When we returned to Moscow, everyone immediately began to call me Romashka. Imagine, not so long ago, literally a few years ago, I came to visit one of my father's old friends, and his

Nadezhda Iosifovna Grigulevich

Senior Researcher at the Center for Anthropeology of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IEA RAS), Candidate of Historical Sciences. She was born on June 28, 1953 in Rome in the family of the outstanding illegal intelligence officer Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich. Graduate of the Department of Histology, Faculty of Biology, Moscow State University. In 1976–1982 she worked at the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology named after N. F. Gamaleya of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. From 1982 to the present - at the IEA RAS.

now adult son greeted me with the words: “Oh! Hello, Romashka!” Over time, my father, of course, realized that Romanella Iosifovna was too much, and I was renamed in honor of my grandmother, his mother, Nadezhda Yakovlevna Lavretskaya. By the way, Nadezhda, a holy martyr, was also a Roman. Therefore, here, one might say, two Roman women coincided.

Could you tell us more about your father’s origins? He was a Karaite by nationality. What kind of mysterious people are these?

Yes, indeed, they are a very mysterious people and very few in number. They belong to the Turkic language group, but their origin is shrouded in mystery: some consider them to be descendants of the Khazars, others adhere to other versions. These people lived in the Middle East, in the Crimea, and even in Moscow. Here, by the way, their number remains at approximately the same level: before the revolution they were several hundred, today the figure is the same.

So, more than 600 years ago, at the end of the 14th century, the Lithuanian prince Vitovt took some of the Karaites from the Crimea to Lithuania, inviting them to serve as his personal guard. Karaites have always been distinguished

by great devotion, for this they were valued. My father comes from the Lithuanian Karaites; he was born in Vilnius.

The Lithuanian Karaite community is very friendly and united. On its initiative, Karaite language schools are held every summer, which attract Karaites from all over the world.

Have you been to such meetings?

Yes, many times. First by myself, then with my eldest grandson. Unfortunately, the Iron Curtain has now closed on the other side. We are waiting for it to open because we really miss our friends and family. We keep in touch with them now only by correspondence.

Do you still have contact with your maternal relatives?

Certainly. My two aunts, 11 cousins, their children and grandchildren live in Mexico. They came to see us many times, I went to see them...

Mom had a very large family: 12 sisters and brothers, she was the eldest. Grandfather worked on the railway, at the age of 42 he got pneumonia and died. Grandmother was left alone with small children, and my mother, after graduating from university, immediately went to work to help her at least a little. She is a geography teacher by training; after graduating from college, she was assigned to a school in a mountain village in the state of Puebla, where she had to teach Indian children. Of course, the conditions there were very spartan. Mom said that she had to ride to work because there was no other way. The very first time, the horse threw her down, but my mother got up, saddled it again and managed to get to the place.

Obviously, your mother had a strong-willed character.

You know, their whole family was like this: no one ever complained about anything. Mom, as long as I remember, always despised weakness. We can say that she had a masculine character, not every man has that. She was probably the strongest person I

have ever met. And all this combined with a very feminine appearance!

Who was the leader in the family, since they were both bright personalities?

They complemented each other well, despite the fact that they were completely different in character. My father was an extrovert, very sociable and cheerful, with a great sense of humor. As they say, the soul of the company. Mom was a very taciturn, one might even say, a reserved person, but people were drawn to her because she was a good listener and always kept other people’s secrets.

It’s amazing how your father managed to combine active intelligence work with a vibrant social and diplomatic life, which implies publicity...

I think that father was even too much in the spotlight. To some extent, this probably helped him, since it would hardly have come to anyone’s mind that he was a Soviet intelligence officer. He had a very wide circle of acquaintances: from businessmen and diplomats to Pope Pius XII, with whom he had an audience more than ten times. My father told the following story: one day he and my mother were sitting in a restaurant, one of the famous Italian directors approached them and offered to act in a movie. For obvious reasons, father had to refuse.

At the same time, all this publicity had a downside. Mom recalled that once in Rome, father told her that he feared for his life and that he could be kidnapped for ransom, which made her very worried. You know, in post-war Italy this phenomenon was very common.

The risk of an intelligence officer’s public status also laid in the fact that people who knew my father or mother from their past life could come to Rome, and therefore they could be on the verge of failure. Actually, I know at least a couple of such moments. One day, the Center informed my father that a man who they had known since the Civil War in Spain was going to Rome as the Ambassador of Poland. But, fortunately, we managed to avoid meeting him. But my

mother was less fortunate. Once in Rome, at a diplomatic reception, she was recognized by a former teacher who had come to work at the Mexican embassy as a cultural attaché. She came up to her, hugged her and began to question her... You must, of course, have fantastic self-control in order to tell to an acquaintance more than once: “Sorry, signora, you are mistaken! I’m not who you think I am.» This was a real threat of failure, which was averted.

Were your parents happy? Did your father regret anything?

There are difficult moments in everyone’s life. My parents, as you may know, lost their firstborn, my brother. However, I am sure that they were happy people. To be honest, not all intelligence officers can find application for their abilities in peaceful life. My father was very lucky to find himself in science. We can say that he always consciously went towards this. Even while performing difficult assignments abroad, being in difficult situations, when there was no connection with the Center for a long time, he continued to engage in self-education. This had been his habit since childhood.

You also decided to follow the academic path. What influenced your choice?

At school I had a wonderful biology teacher, who, one might say, inspired me to do this. To be fair, it must be said that back then the teaching at school was really good; we had excellent teachers in all subjects. I entered the Faculty of Biology of Moscow State University, where I took an active part in the informal student movement - the Environmental Protection Team. By the way, it is still actively functioning.

After graduating from Moscow State University, I was assigned to the Gamaleya Institute, where I studied radioresistance of bone tissue at high doses of radiation. Then I was invited to the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where the ethnic ecology sector was being created under the leadership of Professor V.I. Kozlov.

In the Hall of Foreign Intelligence History.
May 2023





Video version of the interview

For many years, employees of the sector have been researching the phenomenon of population longevity in the Caucasus, then studying Russian ethno-confessional groups in Transcaucasia. In recent years, our sector (now it is the Center for Anthropoecology of the IEA RAS under the leadership of Doctor of Historical Sciences N.A. Dubova) has been studying demographic, socio-economic, environmental and a number of other problems of the population of small towns in Central Russia, in which we annually conduct field research. Our scientific works are posted on the center's website.

You also work with young people as part of the "Living School" project. Please tell us about the activities of the creative association of travelers "Zuid-West". What are the goals of the project? What successes have you achieved?

Indeed, for more than 30 years, since 1992, I, in the company of wonderful teachers from Zuid-West, have been working with teenagers. During annual historical and environmental expeditions to the Upper and Middle Volga we study the history, ethnography and ecology of these places. The leader and ideological inspirer of this project, which

is being implemented on the site of school No. 109 of the South-Western Administrative District of Moscow, is a talented teacher Vladimir Anatolyevich Muzalev.

The Travelers Club «Zuid-West» is the only children's organization that is a collective member of the Russian Geographical Society. The very idea of its creation arose in the early 1990s as part of the "Living School" project, the goal of which was to teach children not in stuffy classrooms, but directly in nature. During the year, we teach schoolchildren various tourist skills: how to pitch a tent, how to set a sail on a yawl (we use them to sail along the Volga during expeditions), etc. We give children lectures on history, ethnography, hydrobiology, landscape science, so that later they could apply this knowledge "in the field."

This year, for example, we are planning to conduct a survey among long-time residents of a number of villages regarding the presence of destroyed churches in the area. By the way, we call this moment "reconnaissance": we collect information in order to subsequently erect worship crosses in place of destroyed churches. This has already become an annual tradition of our club.

What would you like to wish to young readers?

First of all, I would like to wish young and not only young readers of the magazine to love their Motherland. There is no other better than it. This is where everything else comes from: loving your parents, grandparents, teachers and friends. It is very important! It is important to communicate with them more in order to know your history, the history of your family, your country. And of course, to love your native nature and take care of it. 🇷🇺

Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin

Members of the expedition of the «Zuid-West» club. Vladimir region. 2022



To those who will live, work and fight in the third millennium

I was asked to address young security officers and share with them my thoughts about our work, about the duty of a Soviet intelligence officer, his moral character. I agreed, but after thinking about it, I decided that I could hardly tell them anything new, something that they wouldn't know from their parents, loved ones, teachers and mentors, or read in books or newspapers. Shall I tell them that they should be faithful sons of the Motherland and its courageous defenders, should serve as an example both at work and in the family? Who doesn't know this?! These truths have long become commonplace, although this does not mean that everyone is imbued with them and there is no need to teach anyone. Yes, a person is a complex mechanism, knowledge of the truth does not make him ideal. For a person to become a Human, he must love his comrades, his people, the cause he serves, more than himself. In other words, to see personal happiness in serving people. And this feeling of self-sacrifice in the name of the common good is most characteristic of young people. This is the law of life. A young man is always ready for a feat, ready to perform a noble deed, to sacrifice himself. To remind him of this would be a boring moral lesson.

Does it follow from this that I have nothing to say to the young intelligence officer? Not at all! I would like to talk to him about a lot, tell him a lot. For example, about our difficult, but necessary and important profession, which requires every effort, perseverance, dedication, concentration and deep knowledge. About my intelligence work - difficult, but interesting and meaningful, which I always remembered with satisfaction, because, as it seems to me, it was during those years that I came to know myself most deeply and was able to bring more good to the Motherland. Finally, I would ask what he thinks about the world around us, how he understands his place in it, how he sees our future?

Perhaps not everything that a young intelligence officer tells me will satisfy me. Perhaps there will be something in his answers that will upset me. Perhaps I will argue with him and be able to convince him of something, and perhaps he will convince me of something. After all, I was also young once and did not agree with my older and more experienced comrades on everything.

But both then and now we will agree on the main thing - our absolute devotion to the great cause of serving the Fatherland!

So, what should I say to the young people? I would like to wish them to be a little better, smarter and luckier than us. Maybe not even a little, but much luckier. After all, today they have at their disposal not only the rich experience of previous generations, but also modern miracle technology, knowledge, enormous power, and the highest authority of our state. I would like to wish them that their achievements eclipse our results. We old people won't be offended. On the contrary, we will be deeply appreciative and grateful for this. And I don't doubt for a second that this is exactly what will happen.



Josif Grigulevich. October 1977



«A Knight of Illegal Intelligence»

The Order of Malta of Iosif Grigulevich

Text: Pavel Smelov

In the exposition of the Foreign Intelligence History Hall, a separate stand is dedicated to the deep cover agent Iosif Grigulevich - a man who became a legend during his lifetime. Few heroes of the "invisible front" can be compared to him in courage, determination, perseverance and hard work, which allowed him to achieve highest results.

Veterans remember an episode. One day, Grigulevich's colleagues - intelligence officers, led by Nikolai Sergeevich Leonov, a Lieutenant General of the USSR KGB, came to his apartment. During a friendly conversation, Leonov jokingly asked the host: "Tell me, Iosif, is it true that you received some kind of high award, when you were ambassador to the Vatican?" Grigulevich silently left the table and returned a minute later with an impressively large order on a moiré ribbon. An awkward silence hung in the room. All those present suddenly felt that before them was not just a comrade in a difficult overseas work, but, without exaggeration, a knight without fear or reproach. From then on, Iosif Romualdovich was called "our man in the Vatican" in the intelligence service.

This is the cross, as well as the official document in Latin that proves the elevation of our deep cover agent to the rank of Knight, that we will talk about.

First, let's look at the document (see sidebar). Familiarizing ourselves with it allows us to say with full confidence that Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich, who worked in Italy under the name of Teodoro Bonefil Castro, was indeed admitted as a Knight of the Order of Malta and could rightfully wear the insignia awarded to him - the Golden Cross. And, of course, this happened with the blessing of Pope Pius XII, who closely supervised the activities of the Maltese.

Now I propose to take a closer look at our exhibit. The center of the composition is an octagonal cross with forked ends. Since about the XV century, its shape has been commonly interpreted from the point of view of Christian numerical symbolism. Thus, the eight ends of the cross correspond to the eight categories of blessed men mentioned in the Sermon on the Mount of the Redeemer; the four rays represent the four main virtues of the Christian.

The cross is covered with white enamel and surmounted by a large crown symbolizing a full-fledged monarchical state, which the leadership of the Order of Malta considers itself to be. The evidence of membership is usually worn on the Order's ribbon made



Brother Antonio Hercolani Fava Simonetti, by the grace of God, exercising the powers of the Master, Lieutenant of the Holy House of Hospitallers and the Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, humble servant of Jesus Christ, as well as we, commanders and brothers, have gathered together in our assembly on a solemn occasion sent to us by God.

Your Excellency Teodoro B. Castro,

he who loves God possesses His eternal salvation.

Your many virtues and talents, as well as our devotion to our Order, impel us to bestow upon you our special sign of favor, and therefore, in view of your piety and charity, we present you for admission in the religious circle of the full Knights of our Order and authorize you to wear our Golden Cross of the appropriate class. At the same time, you receive and share with us all the rights and privileges with which we are endowed with in order to fulfill the will of our Lord, on the condition that you, like all of us, strictly obey His commandments. Moreover, according to our law, even in times of war, it is not necessary for you to join any charitable association of the members of our Order, while sharing all our concerns and labors and having the authority to challenge the actions of any of your brothers in the Order, if their actions in any way contradict our principles, but you must try to strictly adhere to them yourself. The above is certified by this joint bull of ours and confirmed by affixing with this seal.

Executed in Rome, at the Magisterium of the Order on November 21, 1953

of expensive fabric, usually moiré, black in color - a reference to monastic asceticism. 1953 года The coat of arms above the crown in the form of a heraldic shield is a straight white cross on a red background, which symbolizes the impeccability of knightly honor on the battlefield.

Cavalier crosses had several degrees of distinction according to the status of their holders. Crosses of the highest (first and second) degrees, as a rule, were made of gold and had rich decorations. The cross of the third degree awarded to Iosif Grigulevich is made of gilding and decorated rather modestly: around the coat of arms there are ribbons that perform an aesthetic function and a ring stylized as a prayer rosary, with which it is attached to the moiré. The same function is performed by the elegant rosette connecting the crown with the coat of arms.

The Order of Malta, whose full name is the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John, of Rhodes and of Malta, was founded in the XI century and is considered the oldest in the world. In the context of this article, I do not consider it necessary to go into the details about its history, but I would still like to remind you of some of its chapters. Thus, at the end of the XVIII century, when Malta was under the rule of Napoleon, members of the Order asked the Russian Emperor Paul I to become their new Grand Master, to which he readily agreed. On November 29, 1798, the ceremony of acceptance of the title by

Paul I took place. On the same day, a decree was promulgated establishing the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which became almost the highest distinction in Russia ("rivaling" the Order of St. Anne and the Order of St. Andrew the First-Called). And although this award did not last long, many outstanding personalities became its holders. Among them were the commanders A.V. Suvorov and M.I. Kutuzov, the Prince P.I. Bagration, the Admiral F.F. Ushakov, the poet G.R. Derzhavin.

After the revolution of 1917, the Order of Malta took an irreconcilable stance towards Soviet Russia. In the 1930s and 1940s, among its members were many representatives of fascist Italy and the Third Reich. During the Great Patriotic War, the Hospitallers equipped an ambulance train for a campaign to the East, where Italian and German soldiers were treated. Together with the Nazis, they almost reached Stalingrad.

Subsequently, the Order's capabilities were actively used by Western, mainly American, intelligence services, which saw it as a communication channel between the CIA and the Vatican, as well as a convenient cover for their agents in Italy and other countries. Moreover, the fact of such cooperation was not concealed. In 1946, the Order presented an award with the straightforward wording "for counterintelligence work" to the head of station of the American Office of Strategic Services (predecessor to the CIA) in Rome, James Angleton. In 1948, a similar award was given to Reinhard Gehlen, a prominent intelligence officer of Nazi Germany, who, after the war, headed the West German intelligence service, essentially a branch of the CIA, which launched a secret war against the USSR and its allies.

It should also be noted that during the years of our deep coveragent's work in Rome, relations between the Maltese and the Papacy were in crisis. In 1947, the Order, seeking the recognition as an independent state entity, managed to establish diplomatic relations with several Latin American countries; it raised concerns in the Vatican which attempted to liquidate a competitor. Apparently, the Maltese leadership saw the

high-ranking Costa Rican diplomat Teodoro B. Castro, who had extensive connections in European political circles, as a potential ally and for this reason actively courted him. By the way, these efforts were not in vain: diplomatic relations between Costa Rica and the Order were established in 1958, and, as one might guess, our intelligence officer was at the origin of this process.

It is necessary to mention separately the incredibly complex and subtle work that I. R. Grigulevich managed to carry out so that he began to be considered "one of them" in the Pontifical Household. In his operational reports, he hinted how difficult it was. For example, in June 1951, during the initial period of his stay in Rome, he wrote: "I sold 150 sacks of coffee to the Vatican... I wasted a lot of time on this and the only thing I have achieved is that now I am able to enter the Vatican without a pass... It's difficult to develop the Vatican bastards: firstly, you need time, secondly, time and, thirdly, time. It takes a whole day to visit the Vatican. Vatican bureaucrats are something terrible. They accept hundreds of people every day, and you have to wait for hours and days to be accepted by some Vatican rat."

At the same time, I. R. Grigulevich was well aware of the dangerous game he was playing, trying to enter the "inner sanctum" of the anti-Soviet Catholic system nourished by the Western secret services: "It goes without saying that the stronger my position seems to me, the more I must be on my guard, the more I must be vigilant. The more my connections expand, the more the risk increases, the more the contingency multiplies and so on. But this is all part of the game, an integral part of the life and work of an intelligence officer. I think we have to take this risk, because in this case it is worth it." (from a February 1952 report).

It is all the more amazing to realize that in just two and a half years our intelligence officer was able to establish such trusting relationships with the local elite that he was accepted into the most closed societies and associations. Iosif Grigulevich managed to get close to even the most mistrustful



Vatican clerics, including the all-powerful head of papal counterintelligence, cardinal Borgognini Duca, thanks to which he regularly obtained valuable information.

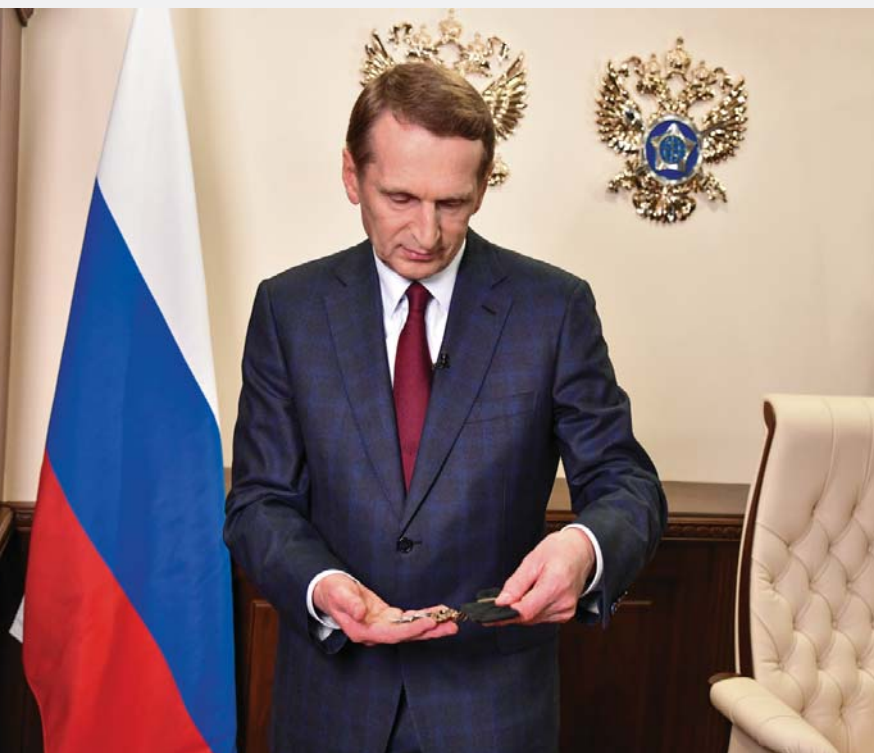
With the head of the Vatican's counterintelligence, cardinal B. Duca. 1951

Therefore, for us, intelligence officers, he is a true knight, who has earned this title with a brilliantly played role, one of the many with which his bright life, dedicated to serving the Motherland, was filled. ♣



... It's difficult to develop the Vatican bastards: firstly, you need time, secondly, time and, thirdly, time. It takes a whole day to visit the Vatican. Vatican bureaucrats are something terrible. Hundreds of people are accepted every day, and you have to wait for hours and days to be accepted by some Vatican rat.

On the movie set
"Embarked on
the mission. Iosif
Grigulevich". 2020



The fight against White emigrant terror in Soviet Russia

Text: Vladimir Viktorovich Markovchin,
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of the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces

A hundred years ago, in the early 1920s, a stream of emigrants poured out of Russia against the backdrop of the Civil War. According to various estimates, between one and a half to two million people left the country at that time.

In 1920 alone, more than 300 thousand people left Novorossiysk, Odessa and Crimea in the direction of Europe, including the remnants of the defeated White Guard armies. Along the borders of the former Russian Empire there was not a single state where Russian refugees did not arrive. Unable to accept defeat, some of them united into counter-revolutionary organizations and began collaborating with foreign intelligence services, hoping to take “revenge” with their help.

The largest in number was the evacuation of parts of Baron Wrangel's army and the civilian population from Crimea to Turkey in November 1920, carried out on more than one hundred and twenty military and merchant ships. Later it would be called the “Russian Exodus”. According to documentary evidence, in just four days (November 13–16), up to 15 thousand soldiers of the Cossack troops, about 12 thousand officers and 4–5 thousand soldiers of regular units, up to 10 thousand military school cadets, over

7 thousand wounded officers, more than 30 thousand officers and officials of the rear units, as well as up to 60 thousand civilians were brought away through Crimean ports.

The hopes of those who left for a quick return to Russia to continue the civil war were not justified. At the same time, they were faced not only with technical problems, including a shortage of weapons and food, but also with the outright reluctance of former partners from the Entente states to continue to assist the fugitive White generals.

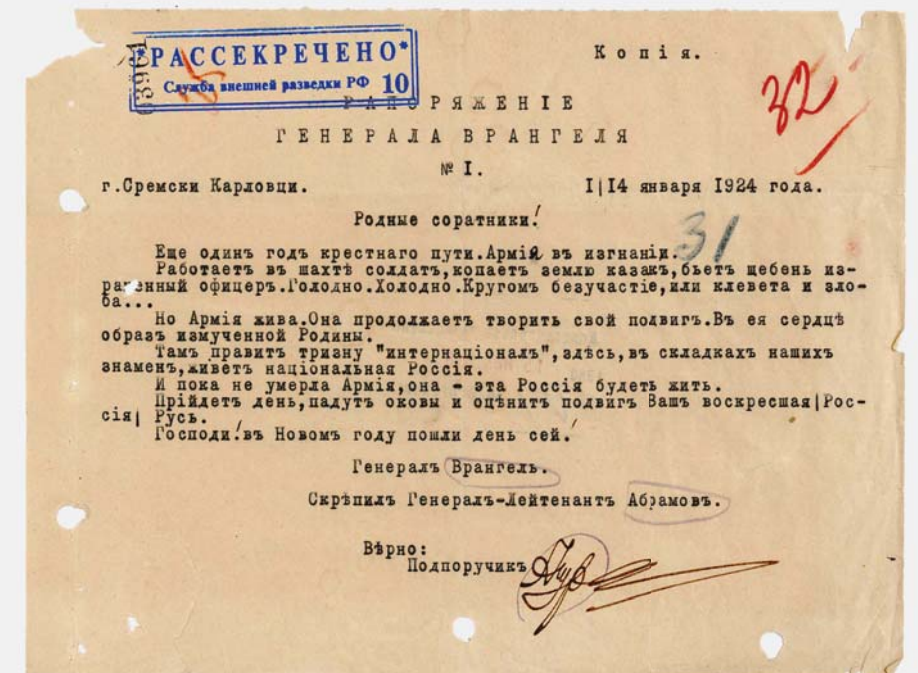
It should also be noted that the conditions in which the remnants of the White armies found themselves in foreign lands were in some places far from not only comfortable, but even more or less tolerable. And although the military leadership,

Wrangel's address to the officers of the White Army.
Sremski Karlovci (Serbia), January 1 (14), 1924

including Baron P. Wrangel himself, did their best to support in their subordinates the belief in an imminent “triumphant” return home, the dates of this “triumph” were constantly postponed. As a result, both discipline and any confidence in the future quickly collapsed in military collectives. Many soldiers and officers took up trivial criminality.

As a result, all attempts to resume hostilities were given up, first in the European part of the USSR, then in the Asian part.

At the same time, there was a circle of military men who dreamed of something more active than working on the agricultural plantations of Bulgaria or building roads in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (KSCS, formed on December 1, 1918, renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929). Among them, a new movement of Russian “volunteers” arose, who were ready to undertake dangerous tasks on the territory of Soviet Russia for an appropriate reward. Moreover, the number of those willing to take the risk was quite large both the first time after fleeing Russia, and subsequently (the second half of the 1920s - 1930s) due to the new generation of Russian emigrants who grew up in foreign countries.



One of the first centers for the preparation and planning of sabotage and terrorist actions was the secret military organization created in 1922 by General Alexander Kutepov, which at first included several dozen people who enjoyed the support of the army leadership in exile.

When the Russian All-Military Union (ROVS) appeared in September 1924, uniting the remnants of the White armies under the leadership of P. Wrangel, subversive activities against the USSR reached a new, higher level.

In addition to the military, numerous representatives of anti-Bolshevik parties who found themselves abroad became an ideal “breeding ground” for the cultivation of terrorism. A considerable part of them had terrorist experience. Take Boris Savinkov, for example, one of the founders of mass political terror in Tsarist Russia.

Having first settled in Poland, Savinkov started active work against

Soviet Russia, using all possible methods for it: from organizing gang incursions into Soviet border territory and preparing armed rebellions and terrorist attacks to creating “windows” on various sections of the USSR border for bringing in agents, counterfeit money and anti-Soviet literature.

Another White émigré organization, the Brotherhood of Russian Truth (BRP), created in 1921 in Berlin with General Pyotr Krasnov as one of the leaders, tried to solve similar problems. The BRP had representative offices in the Baltic states, France, the USA, Yugoslavia, as well as in Harbin (Manchuria), which became the center of Russian emigration and, accordingly, the anti-Bolshevik underground in the Far East.

Financial support for B. Savinkov, A. Kutepov, P. Krasnov and their associates was provided by the authorities of Western states interested in eliminating the Soviets, primarily Poland, England,

France and Japan, a significant part of the funds coming through special services. Regular transfers to the counter-revolutionaries also came from representatives of the Romanov family who had gone abroad.

It should be noted that political terror, along with acts of subversion and sabotage, was actively practiced by Whites even during the Civil War. Thus, on April 5, 1920, a resonant murder of General Romanovsky, the Chief of Staff of P. Wrangel, took place in Constantinople by a former White Guard officer. When the emigration realized the futility of other methods of changing power in Soviet Russia, the course towards terror was recognized an urgent necessity.

The priority targets for attacks were representatives of the Soviet leadership, government agencies and departments, including during their stay abroad.

One of the first high-profile terrorist actions was the murder of Soviet diplomat and prominent Bolshevik Vaclav Vorovsky in May 1923 in Lausanne. There was nothing remarkable in the act of terror itself, except that its perpetrators were former officers of Wrangel's army, Maurice Conradi and Arkady Polunin, who, following the results of the trial and the active behind-the-scenes intervention of the White émigré leadership, were acquitted.

The desire to solve political problems using terrorist methods,

as well as other forceful attempts to overthrow the power of the Soviets, could not remain unanswered. Moreover, the Chekist intelligence agents immediately began to work proactively. On the eve of the "Russian Exodus", the Special Department of the VCheKa sent its employees to work inside the emigration. The problem was solved relatively simply: taking advantage of the confusion in the camp of the escapees, groups of security officers dressed in White Guard uniforms went abroad with them.

Meeting of ROVS members at the organization's headquarters. Paris. 1920s

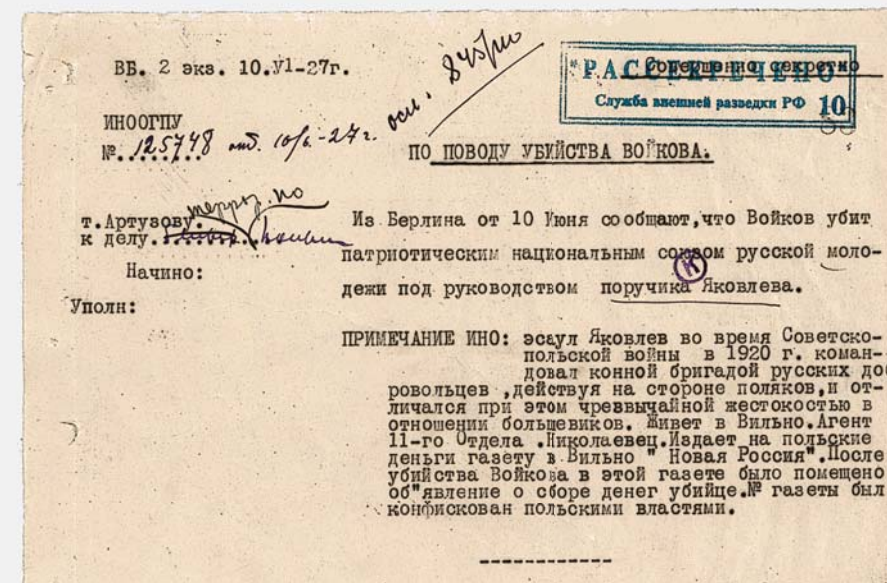


Special message from the INO OGPU about the murder of Voikov. June 10, 1927

As a result, the young Soviet intelligence service, which in those years was headed by M. A. Trilisser, managed to regularly obtain information about almost all the processes taking place among the White emigrants. In addition to operational information about the preparation of terrorist attacks and other subversive work, the leadership of the INO (INO - foreign department, the short name for foreign intelligence service from 1920 to 1936) presented to the leadership generalized and analytical reports, on the basis of which political decisions were made. Together with Chekist counterintelligence agents, multi-step operational combinations were planned and implemented aiming at disrupting anti-Soviet actions and neutralizing the most odious leaders of the White émigré movement.

Classic examples of brilliant operations (totally about 50 of them were carried out) were "Trust" and "Syndicate-2", as a result of which it was possible to lure the British spy Sidney Reilly (operational pseudonym ST.1.) who had miraculously escaped arrest in Moscow in 1918, into the territory of the USSR, and then arrest and bring him to trial, as well as the already mentioned B. Savinkov.

ROVS employees against the backdrop of the building where the organization's headquarters were located. Paris. 1920s



In 1925, S. Reilly, who professed terror as one of the most effective measures in the fight against Soviet power, was sentenced to death by a court decision. B. Savinkov was also initially sentenced to capital punishment, but then the sentence was commuted to ten years in the camps. The remaining "Savinkovites" never recovered from such a powerful blow.

Other anti-Soviet organizations suffered a similar fate. Particularly, in Ukraine, the "All-Ukrainian Insurgent Committee" of Yu. Tyutyunnik was exposed, and he himself was brought to the USSR and arrested. In the Far East in 1926, in the course of a complex operational combination, it was possible to neutralize ataman B. Annenkov, known for his bloody atrocities during the Civil War. All



this made it possible to significantly stabilize the situation in the Soviet border regions and within the country as a whole, since the same Wrangelites, represented by the ROVS, having settled in France and other Western European countries, did not have a large number of prepared “windows” on the border with the USSR and preferred to carry out terrorist attacks against Soviet representatives abroad.

Here again, foreign intelligence service had its say, revealing a significant part of extremist plans. Thus, in December 1926, the Berlin station of the INO OGPU obtained information about the preparation of an assassination attempt on the USSR People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs Georgy Chicherin. Plans for his elimination upon arrival in Berlin were hatched by a group of monarchists (see document 1). Thanks to the efforts made, this threat was localized.

In June 1927, in Warsaw, the White emigrant Boris Koverda fatally wounded the Soviet diplomat Pyotr Voikov. During the investigation, his actions were presented as an individual murder, although the Soviet side insisted that White emigrant organizations participated in organizing the terrorist attack.

INO information also made it possible to prevent most of the planned terrorist attacks in the USSR itself. Among the few “successes” of terrorists was the attack by ROVS militants on the Central Party Club in Leningrad in the summer of 1927, during which one person was killed and about 20 were injured. There was also an attempted terrorist attack in Moscow in the summer of the same year, which resulted in an unsuccessful arson of a dormitory for OGPU employees. Moreover, on the return route, when crossing the Soviet-Polish border, the terrorists were killed. Other similar “expeditions”, as a rule, ended in a similar way.

In January 1929, after the death of Baron P. Wrangel, the main organization of the Russian diaspora - the ROVS - was headed by General A. Kutepov, a very authoritative and energetic man, and also an implacable enemy of the Soviet regime. Actively pushed by the political circles of England and France, who dreamed of organizing a new campaign against Soviet Russia, A. Kutepov set the task of bringing terror against the Country

General Kutepov (center) with his supporters. Paris. 1920s



of the Soviets to a new level. But nothing came out of this adventure either.

In January 1930, as a result of another brilliant secret operation carried out in Paris by a group of Soviet deep cover intelligence officers led by Yakov Serebryansky, General A. Kutepov was kidnapped in broad daylight and died (presumably of a heart attack) in the course of attempt to take him out to the USSR.

The daring action of the OGPU stirred up emigrant organizations, and the idea of political terror received new impetus. A variety of organizations, including Ukrainian nationalists, rushed to prepare attacks against Soviet Russia, and the candidacy of the leader of the USSR I.V. Stalin was seriously considered as the main object of elimination. It was also planned to destroy Soviet diplomatic facilities abroad on a massive scale (see document 2).


Of course, the intelligence service was ready for it. A special memorandum sent by the leadership of the INO to the Paris and other foreign stations ordered to strengthen the anti-terrorism line and more closely “guard” operational development facilities that took an active part in the preparation of terrorist acts. The best intelligence personnel were involved in the work on White emigration: V. M. Zarubin, S. M. Shpigelglas, N. I. Eitingon, P. A. Sudoplatov and many others. The flow of messages arriving at the

Center has increased many times over.

In September 1937, the INO managed to organize and carry out another successful operation: A. Kutepov's successor as head of the ROVS, General E. Miller, was kidnapped in Paris, which made it possible to completely decapitate the White emigrant movement. Considering that over the years of struggle against the Soviets, up to 80% of the participants in various combat groups, including almost all the most active members, were arrested or eliminated, the rest finally realized that the bet on terror was a failure.

What's the result? Soviet intelligence officers and counterintelligence officers “outright” outplayed their foreign opponents, preventing the majority of terrorist actions at the stage of their conception. All this did not leave Western intelligence services, primarily British and

French, the opportunity to somehow influence the domestic and foreign policy of the young state, not to mention the violent change of power in the USSR.

It should be added that after the Great Patriotic War was over, NKGB officers arrested almost all the White émigré terrorists hiding in the territories of the countries liberated by the Red Army. Significantly, the states of the Hitlerite bloc, such as Italy and Finland, voluntarily handed over to the USSR all the Russian emigrants who became notorious in the field of political terror and other anti-Soviet activities. After this, new trials took place, finally dotting the i's. 



Covers of the emigrant magazine «Nation», published in China in the 1930s

ТВ. 7.XII.26г. 9

ИНО СТУ

В 4867 от 24/12

Из Берлина.

Т.Михайлову
Т.Агоде
Т.А.
Т.Артусову
Т.Сталки
Т.Рыкову
Т.Литвинову

И даны

Почино:

Уполн:

ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ ИНО:

Сведения о подготовке покушения на Чичерина получены нами от одного из участников террористической организации. Хотя к сведениям необходимо относиться с осторожностью, однако, допускается возможность, что Вл. Кн. Андрей Павлович действительно мог вестись за такое дело и его субсидировать.

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО.

ПОДГОТОВКА ПОКУШЕНИЯ НА тов. ЧИЧЕРИНА
МОНАРХИЧЕСКОЙ ТЕРРОРИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЕЙ В
ПАРИЖЕ.

В Кап д'Оль около Ниццы в вилле Алам проживает бывший Вл. Кн. Андрей Владимирович, представитель Вл. Кн. Андрей Владимировича и начальник всех его заграничных отделов армии и флота.

На тайном заседании 7-го августа с.г. в Ницце было решено организовать БОЕВУЮ ДРУЖИНУ, которая под высочайшим руководством Андрея Владимировича примет за активную работу вплоть до террористических актов. На этом заседании присутствовали: председатель - Андрей Владимирович, секретарь - полк. КУЛЧЕВ /или Кульнев/, члены: генерал МАСАНОВ, ГОРЕ-МЯСИН - Бульвар Гамбетты 73 /у него же происходило заседание/, полк. Иван МИАНСАРОВ, полк. СРГАРД /Марсель, Лагерь Виктора Гюго/, полк. ХОСРОВЯНИ /или Хосровьяни/ - Марсель, Лагерь Виктора Гюго, начальник Марсальского отдела армии и флота, и начальник его канцелярии Владимир КРАСИНСКИЙ.

В БОЕВУЮ ДРУЖИНУ вошли: в качестве ее верховного руководителя Вл. Кн. Андрей Владимирович. Начальником генерал МАСАНОВ, секретарем полк. КУНЦЕЛ /или Кунцел/, членами полковник СРГАРД, штабс-капитан Иван МИАНСАРОВ, штабс-капитан Федор АНДРЕ /Упешского отдела, поручик Артём ТАМШЕВ, Ницца, гостиница "Босежуар" /поступил он по личной рекомендации Андрея Владимировича, знавшего его отца по Ницце по адресу. В их доме скрывался Андрей Владимирович. По приходе красных их имени, будто бы, было сожжено/, полпоручик гвардии ТОЛСТОЙ, служащий в Банке "Кредит де Монако" в Монако.

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/в Петрограде в 1920 году расстреляны его отец и мать/, поручик Банского корпуса ЛИПАВЕ /Ницца, Стель Регина/ и вольноопределяющийся князь ДЮБАНОВ-ГОСЛОВСКИЙ.

Дружина все время занималась пропагандой по лагерям и среди русских служащих во Францию.

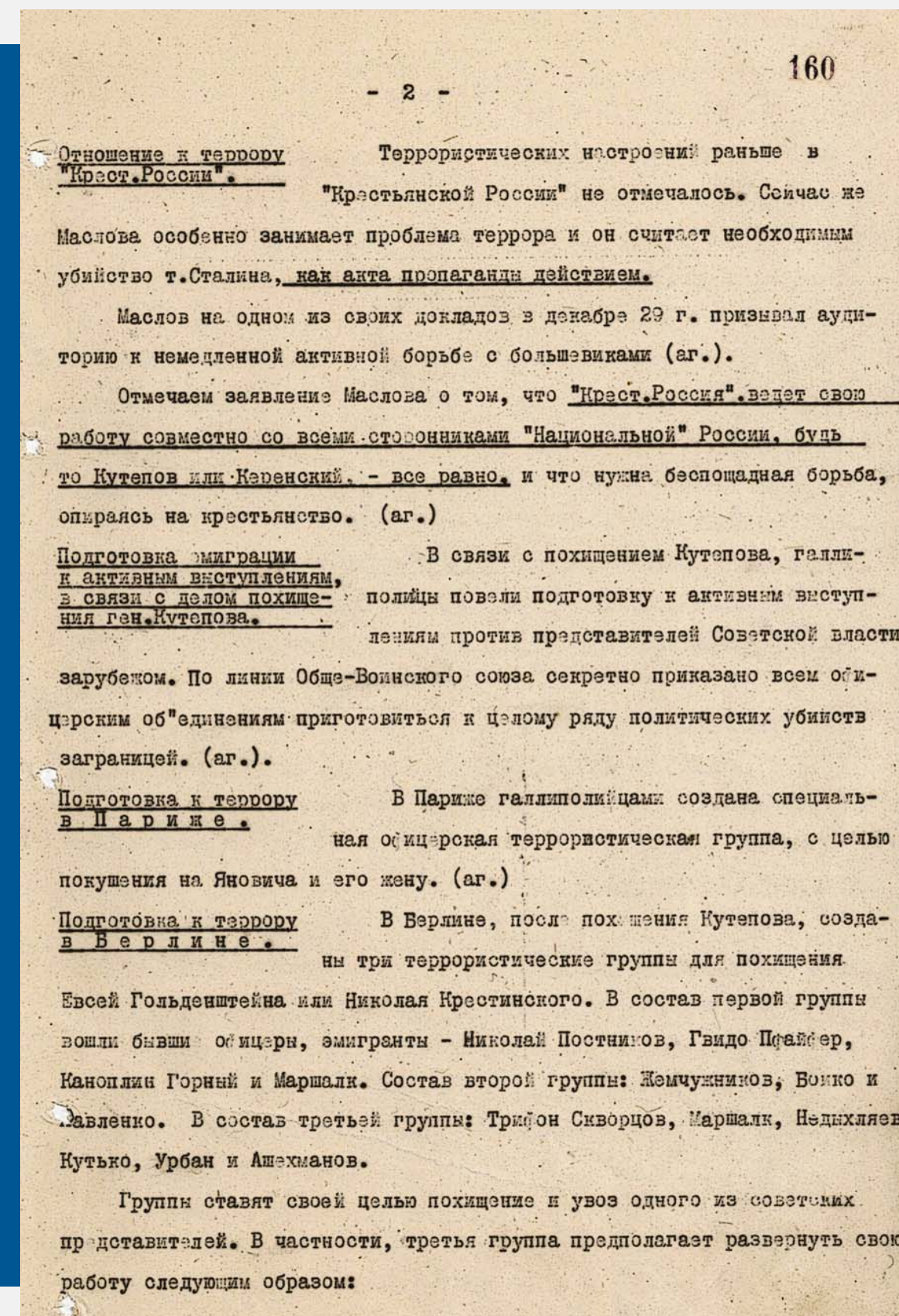
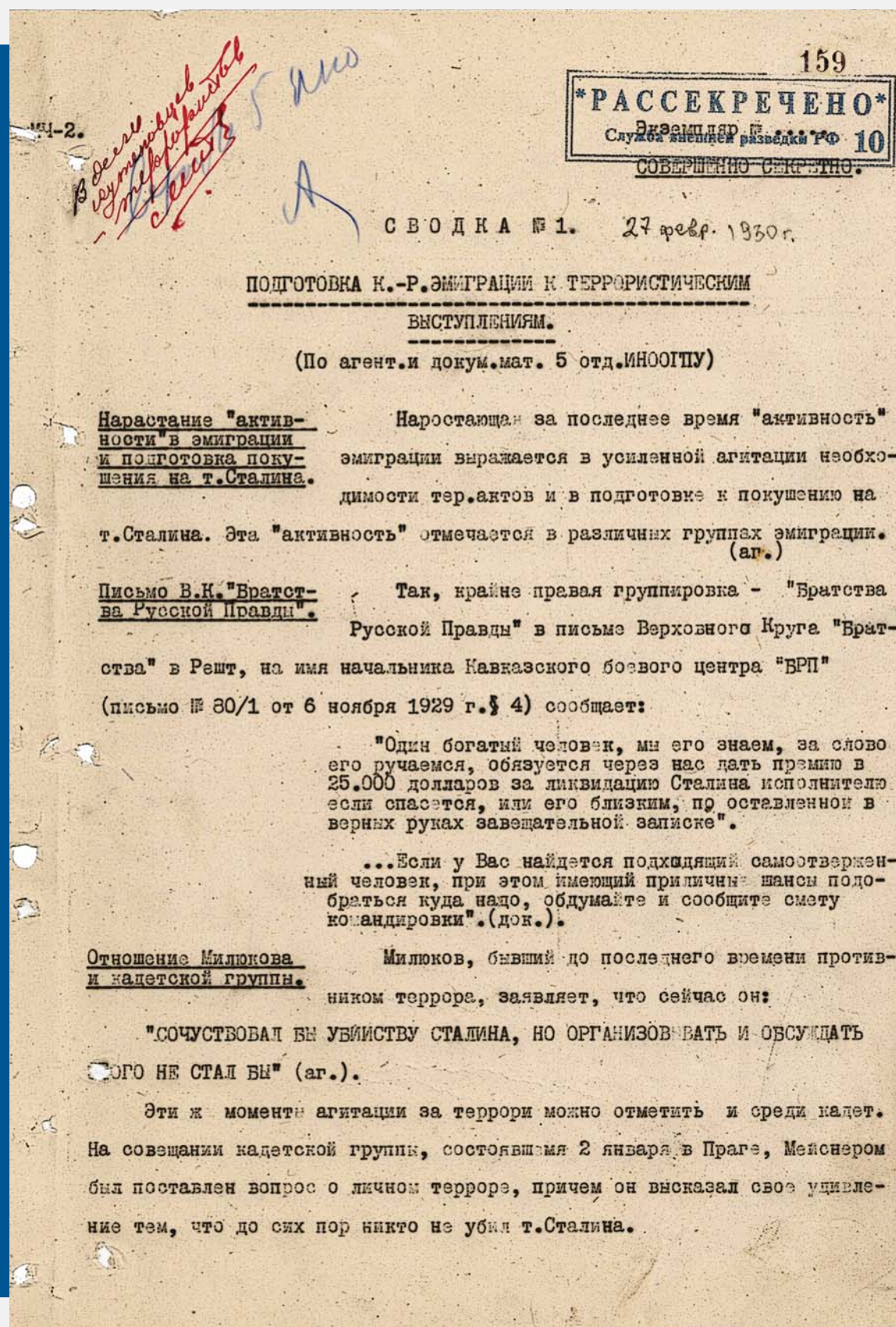
27-го сентября с.г. МИАНСАРОВ получил предложение явиться к КРАСИНСКОМУ, который отнес его на автомобиле в Кап д'Оль к Вл. Кн. Андрею Владимировичу. Андрей Владимирович заявил МИАНСАРОВУ о его решении совершить террористический акт на ЧИЧЕРИНА в случае его приезда в Европу и предложил по этому поводу начать предварительную работу. ТАМШЕВ и ТОЛСТОЙ выразили полную готовность совершить этот акт. Роли были распределены следующим образом: полковник СРГАРД - технический руководитель, для связи с Андреем Владимировичем ТАМШЕВ и ТОЛСТОЙ, активные участники всего дела, а МИАНСАРОВ должен приготовить документы, организовать переход границу и охрану. Деньги на эту работу в сумме 15 тыс. франков, по сведениям, выдал Вл. Кн. А. В. чу герцог ЛЕХТЕНБЕРГСКИЙ, главный акционер Банка в Ницце "Слав де Медя". Специально для этой цели герцог в конце октября приехал из Германии в Ниццу.

Как только в Ницце получилось известие, что Чичерин собирается выехать в Берлин ТАМШЕВ и СРГАРД выехали в Кенигсберг, причем, ТАМШЕВ должен был совершить покушение на пути между Кенигсбергом и Дирхау и скрываться в Данинг, где его должен был ждать полковник СРГАРД /для Тамшера из Гити приехали пропуска и паспорт/, но план этот разстроился, вследствие того, что Чичерин поехал морем и вследствие того, что в Париже стало известно о поездке Чичерина во Францию, и о его поселении в Луо ла Пери, в полчаса езды от Ниццы. По приказу Вл. Кн. МИАНСАРОВА выехав в Данинг и сообщив упомянутым лицам решение В.К. отложить дело. Тогда МИАНСАРОВ и полк. СРГАРД уехали в Брюссель, где они должны были встретиться с генералом ГАРТАНОМ. Последний должен был передать им приказание от Вл. Кн. Дмитрия Павловича из Парижа с инструкцией от Андр. Вл.-ча, ехать ли прямо или следить за дальнейшей поездкой Чичерина. В приказании говорилось, МИАНСАРОВУ вернуться в Париж, полк. СРГАРДУ заехать на один день в Женеву, а

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ТАМШЕВУ постараться по мере возможности наладить слежку во Франции и в Женеве, но никаких мер не принимать. СРГАРД уехал в Женеву, ТАМШЕВ в Брюссель, а МИАНСАРОВ в Дюссельдорф и Берлин. Все трое должны не позже 30-го декабря собраться в Париже.

Верно:



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1/ Дать успокоиться общественному мнению и получить окончательное известие о Кутепове, в случае его смерти - 2/ совершить убийство или похищение Крестинского в Берлине - увезти его в Сербию.

Группа предполагает провести свой план в действие в мае или июне 1930 г. Для приведения плана в действие группа намерена взять у бывшего германского консула во Франции Роде автомобиль "Багати" идущий в час 160 км. и совершить побег в Сербию с похищенным Крестинским. (ар.).

Подготовка к террору в Праге. Ген.РЯБИКОВ - кутеповский разведчик в Праге, заявляет, что: "Любая судьба Кутепова дает право на убийство советских представителей за-рубежом, причем французские суды будут оправдывать как и в процессе Литвинова".

"Сейчас на очереди не работа в России, а организация террора заграницей."

Приехавши в Прагу ген.Головин считает, что на похищение Кутепова нужно ответить организованным террором заграницей.

Генералы Головин и Рябиков считают возможным и безопасным начать террор в первую очередь в Париже, где террорист будет безусловно оправдан французскими властями. Якобы, такое обещание было получено беглыми у французов.

Рябиков считает также, что покушение на Советское Полпредство нужно готовить в первую очередь в Берлине, где эмигранты меньше всего связаны с правительственными кругами.

Маслов ("Кр.Рос.") заявляет, что нужно отнестись серьезно к мысли о заграничном терроре, а затем с удвоенной энергией приняться за террор на территории СССР.

Для проведения террористических актов в Праге галлиполийцами подобрана активная группа в составе: Булашевича, Муравьева, Значко-Значковского, Д.П.Никитина, М.А.Юнакова и Вильгалема.

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Отмечаем также наличие в Праге подготовленной группы кутеповцев которая по приказу должна попытаться проникнуть одновременно в Консульство и Полпредство и открыть стрельбу по работникам советских учреждений. (ар.)

Подготовка УВО к террористическим выступлениям.

12 февраля с.г. в Праге состоялось совещание представителей УВО и гетманского "фронта" по вопросу совместных активных выступлений против Полпредств и Консульств СССР заграницей, в связи с делом "Союза Вызволения Украины". На совещании присутствовали от УВО - Урбан и Мартинец, от Провода Укр.националистов - Сциборский и от Гетманского "фронта" Костарев.

УВО считает необходимым начать не только индивидуальный террор против посланников и ответственных работников советских представительств, но и по словам Урбана "массовое уничтожение", путем организации взрывов в советских учреждениях заграницей. Выступления намечаются в первую очередь в Польше - Львов и в Праге, затем во Франции и Германии. Новое об"единение ставит перед собой задачу проведения террористических актов и будет называться "Боевой Центр". (ар.).

НАЧ 5 ОТД. ИНО ОГПУ
(Федоров)

“Stierlitz! I’d ask you...”

To the 50th anniversary of the legendary film



In 2023, we celebrate a triple anniversary: the 50th anniversary of the release of our favorite film series and the 95th anniversary of the two great actors who played the main roles in it - Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Tikhonov (SS Standartenführer Max Otto von Stierlitz, also known as Soviet intelligence officer Maxim Isaev) and Leonid Sergeevich Bronevoy (Heinrich Muller). “Razvedchik” invited the daughter of “Stierlitz” [Anna Vyacheslavovna Tikhonova](#) and her husband, actor and director [Nikolai Georgievich Voronovsky](#) to remember how the scenes wereshot, discuss the secrets of the film’s success, and talk about modern cinema.

Anna Vyacheslavovna, veterans of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) consider “Seventeen Moments of Spring” to be a reference film about intelligence. In our opinion, the film is very true to life, to the realities of our profession. What do “17 Moments of Spring” mean to you?

Anna Tikhonova (A.T.): For me, of course, it means a lot, much more than just a good detective film or a story about the war. You see, it’s all together: the father’s image, and everything that the film represents. This, if you like, is a kind of code of attitude to life, to our country. It seems to be something comprehensive, not only for me, but for all Russians. I remember the poem of Gennady Shpalikov: “...How do these wings sprout? And they sprout like that, out of nothing, out of nowhere. There is no explanation for the miracle...” In my opinion, this film is definitely a miracle. Of course, it is based on specific things, primarily on the talent of its creators. As film experts say, in this film “all the parts are joint,” that is, all the people who worked on it - the director, cameraman, actors, composer - were the highest professionals. Everything came together. Their talents and souls united and were able to evoke such a resonance in the hearts of the audience.

Nikolai Voronovsky (N.V.): Yes, [director of the film] Tatyana Mikhailovna Lioznova managed to assemble an amazing team. First of all, this is the tandem of [the chief consultant of the film, Colonel General of

the KGB of the USSR] Semyon Tsvigun and [script author] Yulian Semenov, who created the plausible version of the film that we all know. The novel, of course, differs from the film. They revised it together, coming up with something on the run, like, for example, the famous scene of Stierlitz’s meeting with his wife in the cafe “Elephant”. By the way, this idea was suggested to Vyacheslav Vasilyevich by his friend, deep cover intelligence officer Konon Trofimovich Molody, who once had a similar secret meeting with his wife abroad. A perfectly brilliant scene, and absolutely silent.

A.T.: It’s interesting that at first, they tried to film it with words. But then they realized that words were superfluous there - they simply weren’t needed.

What was the attitude of Vyacheslav Vasilyevich himself to the role of Stierlitz?

A.T.: Dad treated this role very responsibly. In fact, everyone on the film set worked with total commitment, understanding that this was a serious film based on documentary events. It is known that Tatyana Mikhailovna was offered to make the film in color, which would have been even cheaper, but she flatly refused in favor of greater authenticity: the black and white film went better with newsreel footage. That is, everything was meticulously thought over!

N.V.: I remember an episode from the shooting of “Seventeen Moments...”. Vyacheslav

Vasilyevich sits quietly on a bench behind the lighting fixtures, thinking intently about something, obviously getting ready. He is called to act, he gets up and leaves. Now there is no such thing. An actor can stand in the middle of the pavilion, tell jokes, and a minute later he has a serious scene with a murder, for example. There is no immersion in the role, everything is somehow superficial. Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, by the way, in order to remain fully involved, never starred in two films at the same time.

Do you watch modern films about intelligence?

N.V.: Certainly. We work in this field. We hold the annual film festival “17 Moments” named after Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Tikhonov, where films about intelligence are also shown.

Are there many good films among them that reach the level of “Seventeen Moments...”? And what, in your opinion, is modern cinema lacking first of all?

N.V.: The most important thing is that everything should be fair. People should work not for money, but with all heart.

A.T.: Quite true! I watch a lot of modern films about war and intelligence. It often happens that the actors are good, and the director is not bad, and it is clear that a lot of money has been invested, but the film, so to say, “does not grab you.” I can’t explain why. The filmmakers seem not to take what they are shooting about, these events in the war, seriously. For them, it’s all like it’s not real, it’s just stories. And the war also seems to be unreal for them. I don’t know how else to say.



And during the selection of films for the festival, I have come across a problem: when a film is of high quality from a technical point of view, and it is clear that a lot of money has been invested, it is often “wrong” in content, that is, it is filled with things that denigrate Russia. This became sort of key to success of Russian films in the West. If I find a “right” film and I see that people wanted to make a soulful film about Russia, about Russian people, as a rule, it is a low-budget film. In my opinion, this is one of the reasons why there is a lack of good films now. There is a discrepancy between content and quality. Therefore, it is very difficult to select films. Probably, the state should monitor this, it should form an order. Arts Council and censorship should also be brought back.

N.V.: Absolutely right! Moreover, it is these films with nasty stuff about Russia, that mainly receive the highest awards in Cannes and Berlin. And naturally, a young director, a graduate of VGIK, who dreams of gaining recognition in the West, is forced to follow the lead of the Western film jury. We need to start by obliging the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation to form government orders for domestic scriptwriters and directors. We shouldn’t give money to film companies, so to say, with our eyes closed, but purposefully contribute to the emergence of correct, truthful cinema.

A.T.: This topic is certainly important, but very difficult. If now everyone without exception starts shooting patriotic films simply because there is an order for it, nothing will work. Such films should be shot by keen people. We need strict selection, like in intelligence when hiring a person. Then it will make sense. And it is necessary to reveal the personality in these films. You see, now a film, as a rule, focuses on events, actions, shoot-outs, but almost no one shows a person, his inner world, like Stierlitz’s.

You are absolutely right! In “Seventeen Moments...” there is only one episode with weapons, when Stierlitz kills agent Klaus. Once in the entire film! Nowadays it is

believed that films about intelligence should include as much shooting as possible. In fact, an intelligence officer’s main weapon is his intelligence. Vyacheslav Vasilyevich managed to show the intense mental work of intelligence officers very truthfully and convincingly, to make the viewer understand how hard valuable information is obtained.

A.T.: There is another important point. Vyacheslav Vasilyevich never played negative characters, because he understood that millions of viewers were behind him and he had a responsibility to them. Now many young filmmakers do not pay attention to it and even laugh at this approach. Like,

On the set of the film



T. M. LIOZNOVA:

“The image of Isaev, as I pictured him, of course, fell in line with the characters that all my life I have produced films about, although all my characters are very different. The character of “Seventeen Moments” gave cause to... to fully artistically, convincingly, conclusively and emotionally tell not about Superman, not about the vaunted James Bond, but about a person who, due to circumstances, does exactly this thing - which is by no means the most joyful, but, on the contrary, it is a painfully difficult task, but he does it, sparing neither his strength, nor his nerves, nor life itself - honourably, fearlessly, honestly and to the end.”

I'm an actor, I have to show myself from different sides. That is, they love not art, but themselves in art. We have many wonderful young and talented actors who have all the external data to claim the role of a positive national hero, whom millions will follow. But most people have something wrong in their heads.

You've touched upon the most important topic about the educational role of art.

N.V.: I am convinced that any art, be it literature, cinema or theater, must have a

good beginning. Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, for example, is the only Soviet and Russian actor who starred in three films nominated for an Oscar. These are "War and Peace", "Burnt by the Sun" and "White Bim Black Ear". He had the opportunity to star in the fourth, but refused the role of the seducer Rodion in "Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears," saying that he didn't play scoundrels.

A. T.: Vyacheslav Vasilyevich always read the script very thoughtfully, but not only because of his role, but he looked at everything in its entirety, at the general message. This is how they were taught at VGIK. The old masters said that it was necessary to understand what responsibility is assigned to the actors. They are guides, they talk to the viewer in the language of art.

Vyacheslav Vasilyevich is, undoubtedly, a brilliant actor, and Stierlitz is the reference film image of an intelligence officer. What does this profession mean to you? What feelings does it evoke?

N.V.: For me, intelligence is, first of all, romance, danger and adventure. It seems to be actually perfect for boys! Of course, we need to popularize this profession as much as possible.

A.T.: And I really like the words said by [head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service] Sergei Evgenievich Naryshkin, that one of the most important things in the work of an intelligence officer is motivation. Present-day young people seem to lack motivation seriously. They lose their concentration because of all this bustle - TikTok, YouTube, social networks. There is a lot of this in their lives, but it's all about nothing, you know? People must have a goal, a core, something worth living and working for. And intelligence is just such a core.

By the way, I personally know intelligence officers who entered the profession thanks to the dad. One day in the early 1990s, he went to the set to Switzerland, went into a local store and got confused - at that time, stores

abroad were very different from ours. Then he heard from behind: "Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, let me help you." The person turned out to be a Russian. It was clear what was his job. He and dad became friends, and then they invited me to visit. I lived with their family and traveled around Switzerland. And this man told me that in his youth he worked as a lighting technician at the Gorkyfilm studio, when Vyacheslav Vasilyevich starred there in "Seventeen Moments...". He was so inspired by his role that he decided to radically change his life and went to study to become an intelligence officer.

Concluding this warm and sincere conversation, what could you wish our readers? There are students and even, perhaps, future intelligence officers among them who have decided to take the path of serving the Fatherland.

N.V.: Once Vyacheslav Vasilyevich received a letter from a little girl who, after watching "Seventeen Moments..." wrote to him: "Thank



you for this film, now I understand how to love the Motherland." Vyacheslav Vasilyevich subsequently emphasized more than once how glad he was that the audience felt this, because there is not a word about the Motherland and love for it in the film itself. Everything seems to be behind the scenes. Therefore, I would wish young people to love Russia deeply and selflessly and be ready to defend it. ♣

Chess match with Sergei Bondarchuk (from the personal archive of A. Tikhonova)



Interviewed by Mikhail Pogudin and Vladislav Ilyin

Video version of the Interview



FACTS ABOUT THE FILM

Initially, the premiere was planned to coincide with May 9, 1973, but due to L. I. Brezhnev's visit to FRG, it was postponed to August 11 of the same year.

In the USSR alone, the audience for the premiere screening exceeded 80 million people. In the evenings when the film was being shown, the streets of Soviet cities became empty, even the crime rate decreased - this fact is reflected in police reports.

In August 1973, Cuban leader Fidel Castro noticed that his officials were taking time off from meetings at the same time and rushing home. When it became clear what was going on, he gathered all the members of the government and organized for them a special screening of all the episodes of the film in one day.

Many noted that Vyacheslav Tikhonov successfully "thought" on camera. To the question of Yu. Semenov: "Slava, how do you manage to do this?" - Vyacheslav Vasilyevich replied: "It's simple: I'm scrolling through the multiplication table in my head."

Artistic cinema space of “Seventeen Moments of Spring”

Text: Pavel Vitalievich Ilyshev,
member of the Moscow Union of Artists,
associate professor of the art faculty of VGIK named after S. A. Gerasimov

This film was originally conceived as a hit dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Gorky's film studio. And it not only became one, but also solved a super-task, becoming, in fact, part of the national cultural code.

Why this happened is still a mystery, despite the fact that over the past years a lot has been said about the film by its creators, film experts, and specialists in the field of history, psychology, and regional geography.

A whole range of factors seems to have contributed to the huge success of the film. There is an excellent casting, brilliant acting, excellent stage direction, and the masterly work of the camera team led by P. E. Kataev - T. M. Lioznova's longstanding companion in almost all of her films, and wonderful music with piercing lyrics, and much more.

I wanted to dwell on those aspects that, for various reasons, remained in the shadow for a long time. We are talking about a painful search and, as a result, the successful creation of the fine cinemaspaces of the film by its production designer Boris Dmitrievich Dulenkov, whose 105th anniversary we will celebrate very soon - on July 8.

Cult films about Soviet intelligence officers were shot before “Moments...” as well. Each of them was memorable in its own way. For example, “Shield and Sword” based on the book written by V. M. Kozhevnikov was memorable for its song “From where the Motherland begins...”, “Dead Season” with D. Yu. Banionis in the role of the person whose prototype was K. T. Molody was memorable for the famous scene on the bridge.

The series directed by T. M. Lioznova, despite its length, gained audience's hearts completely, without exception. It can only mean one thing - the authors managed to create a harmonious, extremely believable, understandable and attractive cinemaspaces, which the viewer enters simply, without ceremony, sometimes without noticing it.

Here we are, together with Stierlitz, walking around his slightly strange and mysterious mansion, here we are sitting slightly behind with Himmler and Schellenberg in the cinema room, and now we are taking

an invisible side chair in Muller's office. The task of constructing, or, in professional terms, modeling, the mentioned space depends on the presence (or absence) of a powerful creative tandem of director and artist.

This is exactly the tandem that T. M. Lioznova had with B. D. Dulenkov. They studied at VGIK almost at the same time, and after the institute they came to the Gorky film studio together. And already in the 1960s they found themselves in neighboring chairs: she was in the director's one, he was the production designer's one, and over the next two decades they made joint productions.

Of course, any film begins with a script, first literary, then directorial. But then the production designer comes to the fore. In Soviet times, films were accepted for release only after the studio board had approved the production designer's sketches illustrating the film's imagery.

Then, together with the director, the production designer began creating layouts and drawings of the pavilion's scenes.

Despite the fact that from the outside the Stierlitz mansion is a real house preserved in Germany to the present day, all of its interiors are sets designed at the film studio. In real premises, such shooting is technically impossible (from the point of view of light, equipment and other factors). Modeling and setting up the scene based on the existing script text and the storylines laid in it is the job of a large art group led by a production designer.

This is an extremely difficult task, since it is important not only to build a historical location, typical for the events described and saturate it with period-appropriate props (museum workers easily cope with it), but to find and incarnate an accurate set stylistics that would “fit” into the camera footage and help actors to catch the “nerve” of drama and talentedly reveal the character of their characters.

It seems that B.D. Dulenkov fully succeeded, which is well illustrated by his author's sketches of the scenes presented in this article, now stored in the State Tretyakov Gallery and the State Central Museum of Cinema.

Although the film, as T. M. Lioznova emphasized, is on a military theme, we see the battles mainly from newsreels, and a sophisticated intellectual duel runs like a red thread through the whole film. It

B. Dulenkov. Special mansion. 1973
© Tretyakov Gallery

B. Dulenkov. Tavern «Elephant». 1973
© Tretyakov Gallery

seems that in order to connect these two lines, at the very beginning of the series there was a special figurative reference to the film “The Cranes Are Flying” directed by M.K. Kalatozov (not present in the novel): the same skein, the same strange, clinging, like hands, branches of trees. Thus, the viewer at the subconscious level feels that Stierlitz is performing a feat no less than the soldiers at the front.

Returning to the intellectual duel, it was quite natural to use

black-and-white-checked chess ornamentation. It can be seen in many locations, including the floor in Himmler's cinema room, the tablecloth on the table in the kitchen of Stierlitz's mansion, the curtains in his living room, and in the facade of buildings in the city of Meissen, which played the role of Switzerland. By the way, the director introduced into the film the chess game between Stierlitz and Frau Saurich, where, in violation of the rules, Black starts and... loses.





Shot from the film "Seventeen Moments of Spring." Directed by T. Lioznova. 1973

B. Dulenkov. Cell. 1973
© Cinema Museum

However, undoubtedly, the chess theme alone was not enough for the style of the film. It is not enough for a strong artistic image. It was necessary to raise the high-scoped drama to the maximum level. After all, Stierlitz is playing an intellectual game not with a German housekeeper, not with Müller and Schellenberg, and not even with Himmler and Bormann. In fact, he is dueling with the Führer himself; it is not for nothing that Hitler's bunker is shown in the opening scenes of the film.

Visually, it is contrasted with Stierlitz's "thought shelter" - the mansion. Moreover, this "thought bunker" is polygonal. Yu. Semenov himself wrote about this in the novel, emphasizing that the more corners there were in the room, the easier it was for Stierlitz to think. In the shot, we often see the main character through doorways: moving around the scenes, he constantly bends around something, be it staircase railings, pieces of furniture or a piano.

For the same purposes, obviously, a fairly spacious and seemingly low-functional bay window was made with curtains that could be controlled only by the main character (Holtoff, as you know, tried to close them for a long time, but he failed to do that).

It is curious that several times we see a staircase leading to the second floor, but we do not know what is happening there. This technique symbolizes that "Stierlitz's attic" is something utterly personal. Perhaps it concerns his memories of the past included in the novel, but not included in the film, primarily about the times of his youth in Vladivostok, about which even for us, the audience, who are already too knowledgeable, it is too early to know...

Isaev-Stierlitz's thought process is going on continuously. And in order to show it, the look alone, though extremely deep and expressive, of Vyacheslav Vasilyevich was not enough. He had to constantly take something in his hands and perform some simple everyday actions. For example, he had to light candles

and a fireplace, move glasses and dishes, use writing materials. Special props were required that would give impetus to the diversity of train of thought: these were classic candlesticks, a homemade bottle with a candle entwined with several layers of congealed wax, ashtrays in the shape of sea shells, and table ink utensils with an unusual design.

The wall attributes are even more striking: fancy masks, deer antlers, hunting horns, unusual sculptural compositions. The grotesque theatricality strikes the eye. This also has its script justification: according to the novel, Stierlitz bought this mansion from the children of the musical actors who had died during a bombing.

In this regard, there is one more characteristic detail: a volume of the works of F. Schiller was chosen as the book from which Stierlitz deciphered the incoming intelligence messages. This was also a kind of psychological trap (perhaps suggested by one of the consultants who knew German history well). Schiller's main play, "William Tell", was banned in 1941 on

Hitler's personal orders. In case of a purposeful looking for incriminating evidence during a search in the mansion, it would definitely have drawn attention. By the way, it is shown in one touch in the film, when Muller's people burst into his house and one of them reaches out his hand to this book. But to the appropriate question, Stierlitz could always retort that this was left by the actors, since Schiller was far ahead of all authors in pre-war Germany in terms of the number of productions.

The theatricality is also felt in other locations of the film. Particularly, the deliberate asceticism of the corridors of the imperial administration contrasts with the spacious and luxurious offices of the Reich leadership. It's as if we are going from the theater foyer to the stage into a large auditorium. This style is based not only on the script texture, but also "works" for the entire drama of the film.

I will also briefly touch the topic of Stierlitz the artist. In the novel it is described quite clearly, but in the film, it is limited to caricatures of the leadership of the Reich. In reality, they were also drawn by B. D. Dulenkov. In a similar manner, by the way, he portrayed T. M. Lioznova herself on the set, and in 1974, for the director's 50th anniversary, he created her portrait, which was later exposed at exhibitions.

Well, in conclusion, I would like to quote a fragment from a letter sent to Tatyana Mikhailovna after the

B. Dulenkov. Potapov's office. 1973
© Cinema Museum

release of "Seventeen Moments..." among thousands of others: "I have never written such letters, I am doing this for the first time, and the reason for this is what has been happening to our family for 6-7 evenings. I am a teacher, my husband is an engineer, we have two children, boys, and my mother. And so, it seems like there is a family, but in fact, there is no family. We return at seven o'clock in the evening after our work, the children return after school, and we feel that nothing binds us, that we have gathered together purely formally. But the showing of your film has begun. And it turned out that we react to all the events of the film in the same way. In the moments when tears well into my eyes (we, our family, lost loved ones in the war) - and this is the only way people of my generation can react to your film - I suddenly notice that my sons, too, have eyes full of tears, as well as my mother and my husband. And I feel, I realize that I am a happy woman, I am among people with whom I understand life in the same way. There are no discrepancies. There is something else - insignificant, transient, characteristic of the whirlwind of



Drawing by B. Dulenkov

our lives, frolics, age. But the main inextricable thing I have is my family. And I am very grateful to you for the fact that I understood this thanks to your film!"

[More sketches here](#)



Special purpose athletes

For the 100th anniversary of the Dynamo

Text: Maxim Ktorov

In 1921–1922, after the end of the Civil War, the leadership of the USSR took a number of measures to quickly restore the country's economy and reduce spending on security forces. Against this background, the OGPU bodies increased attention to the professional growth of personnel, including special, military and physical training.

“A Chekist (security officer) must be not only politically mature, but also physically seasoned,” said the founder and the first head of the VChK-OGPU Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky. On his instructions, at the beginning of 1923, a group of commanders of the OGPU troops of the Moscow district, led by Pavel Semenovitch Uralets, prepared a project for the creation of the first multidisciplinary sports society under the auspices of the OGPU of the USSR. Later, P. S. Uralets recalled: “The goals were both preparation for military service and improvement of the health of members of society, effective use of free time, introducing

masses of people to physical culture through visual propaganda of competitions and, finally, creating a material base for sports activities...”

At the same time, at the suggestion of another co-founder - a worker of the Moscow electrical plant “Dynamo” L.V. Nedolya-Goncharenko - it was decided to also give the new sports organization the name “Dynamo”, that is, “strength”. A rhombus was proposed as an emblem, where in 1926 a football player A.P. Borisov entered the capital letter D, and the colors of the uniform and flag became blue and white. According to the generally accepted version, the society received the white and blue colors on the initiative of F. E. Dzerzhinsky, who believed that the colors of the clear sky symbolize the purity of thoughts inherent in all true Chekists.

All these proposals were approved at the founding meeting of Dynamo, held on April 18, 1923 in the part of the VChK-OGPU club building transferred to the future Dynamo players at number 13 on Bolshaya Lubyanka Street. Representatives of all 20 then-existing departments of the Central Office of the OGPU took part in it. One of the first Soviet intelligence officers, Fyodor Pavlovich Fokin, who worked in the Baltic countries in 1921–1923, was elected executive secretary of the society. Together



Dynamo club building under construction. Moscow, Bolshaya Lubyanka street, 12. 1930



with P. S. Uralets and the deputy chairman of the OGPU of the USSR, Iosif Stanislavovich Unshlikht, they prepared proposals for the creation of regional Dynamo organizations throughout the Soviet Union, as well as for the establishment of the highest governing body of the society - the Central Council. F. E. Dzerzhinsky, elected honorary chairman of Dynamo, signed the corresponding orders in October 1924.

By 1926, Moscow Dynamo players were holding citywide competitions on the football field in Orlovo-Davydovsky Lane, at the ski station in Sokolniki, on the tennis courts on Petrovka Street near house 26 and at the new shooting range in Mytishchi. At the same time, USSR national teams began to travel to international competitions of workers' sports clubs, the core of which were Dynamo fighters, shooters, and football players. The organizer of these events was a subsidiary of the Comintern - the “Red Sportintern” created in 1921.

The construction of their own stadium, which began in the fall of 1926 in Petrovsky Park along the Leningradskoe Highway, aroused enormous public interest in the activities of Dynamo. The project, authored by the outstanding constructivist architect Arkady Yakovlevich Langman, was implemented using the “people's construction” method. By August 1928, three concrete stands for 45 thousand spectators had been erected. Rising to the height of a four-story building, the stadium stretched out like a giant horseshoe for half a kilometer with straight northern and southern stands and a semicircle on the western side.

The new stadium was opened in the summer of 1928 with the All-Union Spartakiad. A. Ya. Langman later became the author of the projects for the new administrative building of the Dynamo society built in 1931 (Bolshaya Lubyanka, 12), and then the service building of the central apparatus of the OGPU-NKVD, where from 1934 until the move to Yasenevo in 1972, foreign intelligence was also located. It is noteworthy that in both cases the customer was the then head of intelligence Stanislav Adamovich Messing, who chaired the Dynamo Central Council in 1929–1931. In 1931, he proposed holding annual summer parades of



athletes on Red Square with the indispensable participation of Dynamo athletes.

Another little-known fact: in 1930, S. A. Messing saved from repression the large manufacturers of sports equipment, brothers Maxim and Mikhail Tsygankov, at whose factory back in 1906 the production of the first Russian tennis rackets “Maxim” had been launched. With the outbreak of World War I, the Tsygankovs launched mass production of Finnish-style army skis. The family business did not stop during the NEP era. However, then, in the wake of the abolition of private property, the entrepreneurs ran the risk to be arrested, until S. A. Messing suggested that they start large-scale production of tennis rackets, skis, skates, soccer balls and boots. Of course, the first recipients of the new sports equipment were Dynamo.

From the end of the 1920s, following adult athletes, Dynamo began to actively engage young people, who, as a promising personnel reserve, immediately drew attention of the OGPU, including foreign intelligence. So, by 1928, the central defender of Dynamo football players and the future leader of Dynamo ice hockey, Pavel Mikhailovich Korotkov, brought his younger brother Alexander and his friend Alexei Nikolaevich Prudnikov to the youth team. And although both juniors never made it into the Dynamo teams, Alexey Prudnikov in 1938,

Founders and activists of the Moscow proletarian sports society «Dynamo» (April-May 1923): 1.S. L. Loyevsky; 2. Belevsky; 3. V. A. Kaveshnikov; 4. L. N. Kalinin; 5. A. V. Bukharov; 6. Steinbrig; 7. K. I. Weiss; 8. P. S. Uralets; 9. I. S. Unshlikht; 10. K.V. Pauker; 11. F. P. Fokin; 12. F. D. Medved; 13. Goldesheim; 14. K. I. Kuzmin; 15. Mironov; 16. S. K. Fivevsky; 17. N. E. Chibisov; 18. A. A. Smirnsky; 19. V. A. Spiridonov; 20. Liechtenstein; 21. S. N. Zhilin; 22. N. M. Buligin; 23. S. Petrov



Youth football team «Dynamo». First on the right in the second row is the future head of the Soviet illegal intelligence, Alexander Korotkov. To his left is the future prominent Soviet intelligence officer Alexey Prudnikov. Moscow, Dynamo stadium. 1928

after completing a seven-year school and an automotive technical school, was accepted into intelligence, where for more than 30 years, until retiring with the rank of colonel, he ensured the maintenance of ties with illegal intelligence officers.

In his turn, Alexander Korotkov joined foreign intelligence already in 1931 and soon became one of its outstanding officers. It was Alexander Mikhailovich who managed to transfer the radio and codes to Soviet assistants from the Red Chapel on June 22, 1941 in Berlin, and in May 1945 he was personally present at the signing of the German Instrument of Surrender. In the difficult year of 1953, A. M. Korotkov was the head of Soviet intelligence for several months, and from 1957 until his death in 1961, he headed the KGB mission in the GDR. For services to the Fatherland, Major General A.M. Korotkov was awarded the Order of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Star, six Orders of the Red Banner - no security officer had such a number either before or after him!

He was also an excellent tennis player, which helped him make and maintain useful connections in all countries of his stay. It was in memory of A. M. Korotkov that the writer Yulian Semenov made the hero of his novel

“Seventeen Moments of Spring” the Berlin tennis champion.

Being a talented teacher, A. M. Korotkov also had a hand in the creation of the “Young Dynamovets” organization to “educate physically healthy, hardy, dexterous and strong-willed patriots, ready for work and defense of the Motherland, through physical education and sports.” The first young Dynamo players were students from secondary school No. 50 on Kropotkinskaya Street, among whom there were many children of security officers.

For example, the future intelligence officer Zoya Zarubina, who at the age of 18 became the champion of Moscow and Master of Sports of the USSR in athletics: her father Vasily Mikhailovich worked in intelligence, rising to the position of deputy head of the INO and the rank of major general, as well as her stepfather Naum Eitingon, Pavel Sudoplatov’s deputy for the 4th reconnaissance and sabotage directorate of the NKVD of the USSR. Zoya Vasilievna herself served in the central office in 1941–1951, translating classified information at conferences of leaders of countries that were members of the anti-Hitler coalition in Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam. Afterwards she worked with the nuclear project materials received from the UK and the USA.

On June 22, 1941, a sports festival was held at the Dynamo stadium in Moscow under the motto “Masters of Sports for Children,” at the height of which participants and spectators learned about the German attack. On June 27, at the same stadium, the formation of troops of the Special Group of the NKVD of the USSR began, intended to carry out special reconnaissance and sabotage missions behind enemy lines (the future OMSBON). After the initial selection, which was carried out by intelligence veterans P. A. Sudoplatov, N. I. Eitingon and others, the volunteers were sent to a training center located at the Dynamo shooting range in Mytishchi.

Among the first to go to the front were the famous Dynamo athletes - champions of the USSR: Nikolay Shatov (weightlifting), Leonid Yegorov, Grigory Pylnov and Shalva Chikhladze

(wrestling), Leonid Mitropolsky and Ali Isayev (athletics). All of them, like most other Dynamo students, operated behind the front line as part of reconnaissance detachments. Many of them did not return, but there was not a single case of cowardice or betrayal among the Dynamo fighters. In memory of their exploits, a memorial plaque was installed on the northern stand of the central Dynamo stadium as a symbol of the continuity of many generations of Dynamo members - athletes and intelligence officers - defenders of the Fatherland.

In the post-war period, mass physical culture and sports work at Dynamo was built on the basis of GTO (“Ready for labour and defence”) training programs at all levels, and then the Military Sports Training Complex. At the same time, new ways of introducing service-applied sports into teams were sought. Particular attention was paid to obligatory physical training, training in hand-to-hand combat, unarmed self-defense and shooting sports.

Today Dynamo is the only all-Russian sports organization represented throughout Russia. About 30 professional teams of the top division

compete under the auspices of the society. As independent groups, it includes 19 ministries, departments and government agencies, including the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, the FSB, the FSO, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief, the National Guard of the Russian Federation and even Rosatom.

Dynamo members - foreign intelligence officers are faithful to the traditions of their predecessors. Regular physical exercise, sports, participation in competitions allow them to maintain good physical shape and combat training, improve other skills in order to effectively defend the interests of the Fatherland and contribute to its successful development in the next 100 years as well.🇷🇺



A. M. Korotkov



Sports festival of the Dynamo society. Moscow, Red Square. 1936

My Uncle Fyodor Chulkov

Text: Mikhail Pogudin

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Dynamo I would like to tell the readers of Razvedchik about my uncle - Fyodor Fyodorovich Chulkov, Uncle Fedya, as we called him in the family, one of the pioneers of FC Dynamo Moscow, the founder of the school of Dynamo goalkeepers.

Uncle Fedya was born in Ryazan. At the time of his childhood, Ryazan inhabitants did not yet play football, so he only got acquainted with this great game after the family moved to Moscow. In 1907 he entered the third Moscow gymnasium, where he shared a desk with Kazimir Malakhov - a famous entertainer and an avid footballer later in life. The family spent their summers at a dacha near the Udelnaya station, where, at the dawn of Moscow football, matches of the first leather ball masters of that time - Leonid Smirnov, Lev Favorsky, Dmitry Matrin - were held. Fyodor began to kick

the ball in the 'wild' teenage teams, he was distinguished among the boys by his height and high speed. He played well, and adults began to invite him. One day the goalkeeper of one of the teams did not turn up for a game, so its coach L.S. Smirnov asked Fyodor to keep the goal, and he agreed. After the game Smirnov predicted him a brilliant future as a goalkeeper.

In 1916 F. Chulkov got into the reserve team of the famous Moscow club 'Union'. In 1918 he was drafted into a guard battalion. In 1919, after the demobilisation, he was invited to join

the Sokolniki Football Club (KFS). At that time he was fascinated by revolutionary events and decided to join VChK (All-Russian Extraordinary Commission). In 1921, as a member of a special forces squadron he was sent to fight Antonov's rebel peasant 'army' in Tambov province and took part in the battles.

In 1921-1922, Uncle Fedya was already playing in the main squad of the KFS, without leaving his work in the security service. The most important milestone in his career was 1923, when Fyodor and his elder brother Vasily - my grandfather on my mother's side and also a Chekist - were asked by the Council of the Proletarian Sports Society to form the first Dynamo football team. Their interlocutor, as my uncle later recalled, was F. E. Dzerzhinsky's personal secretary, the chairman of the Dynamo football section, V. A. Gerson.

From the memoirs of F. Chulkov:

«At the beginning of May, I informed the leadership of the society that the first Dynamo club team had been created. «Well done!» - approved the Council of the society. But, as it turned out, the organization was still far from being

The first team of FC Dynamo (F. Chulkov is sitting in the centre with the ball). 1924



Fyodor Chulkov (on the left) and Lev Yashin. 1965

After the end of his football career, Fyodor Chulkov continued to play for Dynamo volleyball team. He worked for more than thirty years in VChK-OGPU-NKVD, and finished his service in the rank of major. After retirement he was an active member of the RSFSR Football Federation and the Moscow organization of the Dynamo society. He maintained friendly relations with many famous Dynamo players, including Lev Yashin.

in order. We had neither a uniform nor our own field. Four players were dressed in full uniform, the rest were wearing whatever: boots, slippers, or even barefoot. Someone found a cluttered wasteland behind the children's hospital in Orlovo-Davydkovsky Lane. It was hard work to adapt it for a football field. In the evenings we worked until dark. However, the field was without grass, and there were no benches. We still had to earn money for everything...».

In June of 1923, the first official match took place. 'Dynamo played against one of the strongest teams in the city - Krasnaya Presnya. The meeting, which many experts considered routine for the favourites, suddenly turned out to be extremely tense. The novice team was not inferior in anything to the recognized masters and for a long time fought on equal terms. The biased refereeing decided everything - an «undeserved» penalty brought a 3:2 victory to Krasnaya Presnya. The last goal was scored into the empty net of Dynamo. Outraged Chulkov left the field even before the strike. He had quite a temper: he did not tolerate injustice either on the football field or outside it. A year later, in 1924, F. Chulkov was invited to the team

of Moscow, then the national team of the USSR, with which he traveled half of Europe.

From the memoirs of F. Chulkov:

«In 1925, we were invited by the French Workers' Football League to Paris. I could not believe it. Actually, our country was surrounded by a ring of hatred, the Western press demanded not to maintain relations with Soviet Russia. However, the workers of Paris met us very warmly. The stadium was full. The Moscow team entered the field to thunderous applause... And what happened after the game in Berlin! Thousands of workers came to see us off with banners. The whole railway station square was flooded with people. The time was up, the train was scheduled to leave, but the Germans, who are famous for their punctuality, delayed it this time, chanting: «Glory to Moscow!» How can we forget such a thing?»

Fyodor Fyodorovich Chulkov
17 February 1898 - 21 September 1971

A bright representative of Russian football of the first half of the twentieth century, the founder and the first goalkeeper of FC Dynamo, a member of the USSR national team, three-time champion of Moscow, the USSR champion, a winner of the All-Union Spartakiade. For his outstanding sports achievements he was awarded the title «Honoured Master of Sports of the USSR». He was a participant of the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War, a holder of the Order of Lenin and two Orders of the Red Banner.

It's been more than half a century since Uncle Fedya passed away. But I still keep his image in my memory: tall, stately, grey-haired, always with a charming smile, the soul of the company. In the flat in Furmanny Lane near the Garden Ring, where our family lived, Dynamo players, correspondents of sports newspapers, representatives of the Football Federation and the sports community were frequent guests. My uncle often took me to matches. And of course, there were endless talks about football.... How could I escape to become an avid fan?!

On the 100th anniversary of the Dynamo Society, the memory of my uncle Fedya is especially precious to me.👍

Afghan zugzwang

Text: Igor Morozov, veteran of foreign intelligence

Illustrations: Boris Klementyev

Continuation.

Adviser and his apprentice

Malinin had long been planning a fundamental meeting with Akbari, at which he could win his favour and make him share all the information, including the data closed from the Soviet side. In fact, Malinin, as an adviser, had a stable, trusting relationship with Asadullah, but it was clear that he was engaged in a whole range of tasks that he did not disclose to his Soviet comrade. Step by step, Oleg psychologically moved the Afghan towards closer relationship, using neurolinguistic programming techniques obtained at the Red Banner alma mater, or, in the KGB environment, simply KI (Red Banner Institute of the KGB of the USSR). Akbari had already admitted that Amin was angry that he and his team were shooting too few people. According to Hafizullah Amin, the head of the security service, Sarvari, had already executed more than ten thousand enemies, while he had executed only five thousand.

“Amin’s words are not just a reminder to the leadership of the special services about their devotion to the spirit and cause of the revolution. This is a serious warning that he personally controls all executions, and one can very easily move from the status of organizer of executions to the exactly opposite one,” Asadullah admitted with tension in his voice. “I have long wished I could go to the Soviet Union and work there in the interests of our peoples,” Akbari expressed his almost impossible dream. “You will see that Afghans appreciate the selfless help of Soviet people, the education that you give us, and are ready to pay with their loyalty and deep respect.”

Oleg Malinin wanted to use this delicate revelation as the basis for the further development of their relationship, understanding that as an adviser he did not have the right to recruit his apprentice, but receiving secret information in the interests of the Motherland was his direct duty. He considered that his main operational task was obtaining information from Akbari about



the work of the Inter-Services intelligence of Pakistan and the special services of Iran against the Soviet embassy and the KGB office. Only by understanding the full scope of subversive work against Soviet institutions in Afghanistan, a system of counterintelligence and active measures could be built against the real enemy. Besides, Malinin, remembering the boss’s instructions, believed that it was necessary to take control of the work of Western intelligence services in Kabul, primarily the CIA, in order to develop adequate counteraction by the KGB PGU station and the KGB office with a transition to the offensive in all azimuths of operational art. For this, Akbari

himself and his entire operational staff with the agent network in the diplomatic corps of Western and Asian embassies were needed.

That is why Oleg Malinin was seriously preparing for a meeting with the head of the Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Asadulla Akbari.

They met, as usual, in his office, which was a small room fit out with wooden furniture with beautiful oriental ornaments requisitioned from Daoud’s palace. In the bookcase, on shelves separate from folders with documents, there were tea bowls painted in Asian style. Portraits of Taraki and Amin in rather roughly glued wooden frames hung on the wall. Asadullah invited his adviser to a small table with two deep armchairs beside it.

“It’s time to eat pilaf, and we haven’t had tea yet,” he joked. “Sit down, dear Oleg, my head is spinning from all the events in Afghanistan. There are only enemies of the Saur revolution around us: according to our data, a conspiracy is brewing in the army against Taraki and the PDPA, the conspirators have support in the government, the provinces are restless, tribes are smuggling weapons from Pakistan to Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Jalalabad and arming their fellow tribesmen. The situation can explode any day now.”

“Do you have information about who organizes and pays for all this?”—Malinin asked in turn.

“We received information from an agent who returned from Pakistan two days ago. Thus, he claims that camps have been created in Peshawar to train militants, and they receive weapons and money from the Pakistanis. They are trained by instructors from the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence and the American CIA,” Akbari said. “At the same time, the agent personally participated in the unloading of an American transport plane in Peshawar and says that it was loaded not only with mines and ammunition boxes for the M-16, but there were sniper rifles with optics and Soviet AK-47.”

“I think that you urgently need to create an offensive system of counterintelligence

measures against the embassies of the United States, Pakistan, Iran, and China, which operate in Kabul. In this case, we will be able to control the work of the staff of the stations of these countries, and most importantly, their contacts with Afghan politicians, government officials and the military. To do this, it is necessary to use operational equipment, external surveillance and agents from among the Afghans working in these embassies as translators, gardeners and drivers,” Malinin instructed his apprentice, withholding for the moment the more important part of his plan.

“If you help me to write an action plan, then I am ready to immediately report it to Minister Vatanjar,” Akbari quickly responded to Malinin’s proposal. “However, the US Embassy will have to be crossed out from this list.”

“And why is that?” Oleg asked with interest.

“The fact is that the American direction is personally supervised by Hafizullah Amin,” answered Akbari. “And it’s clear why. He studied in the USA for four years, has experience in working with Americans, and therefore it is not for us to teach him”.

Malinin thought for a moment and said:

“I wonder if he himself says so: experience in working with Americans - or is this how you interpret his communication with Americans?”

“No, he said so himself. I personally heard him warn Watanjar several times when we were cultivating an American who came from Tehran to recruit a Soviet specialist,” Asadullah said frankly.

Malinin knew the story of the failed recruitment of a Soviet citizen by the Americans in Kabul, but he realized that today’s conversation could end there, and the implementation of his plan could be divided into two stages. However, Oleg’s inherent maximalism pushed him towards adventurism, bordering on the risk of falling under the wrath of both Amin and Bogdanov, and therefore, before leaving, he

nevertheless asked Akbari not to strike the US Embassy from the plan of counterintelligence measures, which he promised to bring in two days.

In the depths of his subconscious, Malinin could imagine beforehand Amin’s reaction during the report of the Minister of Internal Affairs Vatanjar, but wanted to check his version about the possible unofficial relations of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Hafizullah Amin with the American embassy.

January 1979, Kabul. US Ambassador’s Residence

Ambassador Adolph Dubs was waiting for CIA station chief Michael Mitchell in his office. He thoughtfully analyzed the situation in recent months in Afghanistan, and he was clearly missing a few pieces of the jigsaw in order to put together a complete picture of Brzezinski’s future scenario.

Before leaving for Kabul, having already been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, he was at his briefing that significantly differed from what he had been used to and observed for many years, especially during his work as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East and South Asia Affairs. Even when Dubs had gone on a long business trip to Moscow as a charge d’affaires, the briefing had been more restrained, calm and rather formal in nature. Brzezinski surprised him primarily with his aggressive behavior when setting tasks that were understandable in their essence. Firstly, Minister for Foreign Affairs with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin was a person loyal to America. That was good. Secondly, the CIA station chief worked with him under a special program. Well, this was not the best option for an ambassador to work with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the host country, who carried out assignments in the field of special operations. As a matter of fact, if they were in the interests of America, then this was still acceptable, and, more often, even favored. But for one of the country’s leaders to consciously unleash and support terror against its population, wreak havoc,

carrying out destructive economic and social reforms, it somehow didn’t fit in Dubs’ head.

His logic was very simple: after all, if Amin was a CIA agent, then with his capabilities it was possible to easily reorient the country’s foreign policy away from the Soviet Union towards the United States. In this case, America received a base for strengthening strategic influence in Asia. The United States had strong positions in Pakistan and Iran, although the pro-American Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had been unable to calm the Islamic opposition for five months now. Afghanistan could strengthen the political situation in the region and join the CENTO military alliance, which was controlled by the United States and Great Britain. However, Brzezinski emphasized that work with Amin should be carried out at two levels: secretly through the CIA and openly through the diplomatic channel. At the same time, the ambassador should prepare a number of agreements on trade and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and the United States. These agreements, according to the national security assistant, should provoke a sharp reaction from Moscow, which should be developed in the controlled Afghan media.

The main task of the embassy and diplomats was not to allow Taraki to bend Afghanistan under Soviet influence, and to do this, at the first stage, it was necessary to shake up the political situation in the country, without bringing it to a revolution or coup d’etat. This, as Brzezinski concluded, was the next phase of the global operation. Its tasks and details of the activities had already been developed and approved by President Carter, but taking into account the secrecy, they would be brought to the notice of the ambassador and station chief after the completion of the first stage.

Six months passed after the meeting with Brzezinski. Dubs quickly adapted to the difficult Afghan environment, met the ambassadors of Western European countries, and even, together with his wife, was invited to dinner with Ambassador Puzanov, who at that time was the dean of the diplomatic corps in Kabul.

He understood the balance of political forces in the capital and provinces. Information about the armed opposition in Pakistan came to him in the form of State Department reviews from Washington. He established a working relationship with Afghan Minister for Foreign Affairs Hafizullah Amin and, mindful of the White House briefing, openly discussed with him an agreement on mutual trade and most favorable regime for the DRA in the United States. He repeatedly emphasized that the new government of the country had to remember the privileges of the West that Afghanistan can receive in case of “correctly” built interstate relations. The ambassador noted with satisfaction how positively Amin perceived his arguments and how readily he responded to his proposals. All American ambassadors built their relations with the leaders of Asian countries approximately in such form of communication, forcing them to follow the lead of American policy.

Experienced Dubs also saw Amin’s psychological readiness to develop personal contact with him, but decided not to rush yet and wait for the second, most important phase of the global operation, which Brzezinski only hinted to him in the White House. Adolf was an excellent analyst and gradually began to put together the jigsaw puzzle of political events in Afghanistan: the presence of Soviet military specialists increasingly arriving in the country, an increase in the supply of Soviet military equipment, the growth of the activity of the armed Afghan opposition and its support from Pakistan, Iran and the United States... Thus, it turned out that at the direction of the CIA, a top-level agent wreaks havoc and terror in his own country, causing a flood of refugees to Iran and Pakistan. Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence and the CIA would be arming and training these people, while at the same time the American ambassador would lure Amin with a beautiful candy wrapper of the future prosperity of Afghanistan. It was easy to guess against whom the created military machine with an eastern mentality in Pakistan would be directed, but the question was whether it was planned to have a braking system: after all, the Soviet Union was a nuclear power, not Honduras.

This is what Adolph Dubs wanted to talk about informally with the CIA station chief Michael Mitchell, inviting him to lunch at his residence.

The station chief, as always, was punctual. At exactly two in the afternoon he entered the ambassador's residence, where he was warmly greeted by his wife Martha Dubs. She escorted the station chief to the ambassador's office and went into the living room to check on the cook preparing lunch and the maid setting the table for the ambassador and his guest.

"Good afternoon, Michael," the ambassador greeted the guest in a friendly manner, "today is Juma (Friday), and Afghans are relaxing with their families, visiting the mosque, and praying to Allah. And you and I have a great opportunity to discuss the current plans in a relaxed atmosphere, exchange opinions and drink a little whiskey."

"Thank you, sir," the station chief responded just as kindly, shaking the ambassador's hand. "I've been staying in Kabul for three years and therefore I'm already used to the Afghan work regime. There's only one thing I can't get used to: the loud voice of the muezzin at five o'clock in the morning. According to my biorhythm, I am a night owl, I work until late at night, and wake up closer to eight. Five o'clock in the morning every day is like psychological torture for me," Michael shared his secret, laughing. "But we are in an Islamic country, therefore we have to reckon with the muezzin as something obligatory in our lives."

"What whiskey do you prefer: Jim Beam, Jack Daniel's Tennessee or something Scottish?" — Dubs offered questioningly as a host.

"I love eighteen-year-old Chivas Regal with campfire smoke from Scottish oak. My family roots are from those very places; my grandfather moved from Scotland to America at the beginning of the twentieth century and settled in Chicago," Michael Mitchell shared his ancestry. "And my parents later moved to Kentucky, where I was born."



"Amazing!" — the ambassador exclaimed. "It's a small world! And my parents are from the Volga region of the Russian Empire. They emigrated to the United States in 1913 and also settled in Chicago. There I was born, as well as my sister, graduated from high school and college, and received a bachelor's degree in political science. So, I propose to go to the first names and drink to Chicago, the city that unites us, as well as the mission that we are carrying out in Afghanistan."

He poured Chivas Regal for the guest, poured himself the usual bourbon and, raising his glass, said:

"I was in college at the time when Nazism was rising in Germany. To avoid calling me by the name Adolph, which was then associated only with Hitler, my friends gave me the nickname Spike. It has been going with me through life for many years, and I have already gotten used to it, like a native name. So, you can call me Spike," Dubs suggested, bowing his head somewhat familiarly.

"Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, sorry, Spike," the station chief quickly corrected himself and also reintroduced himself: "Michael. I am glad that we have finally met informally and can frankly discuss our common goals. The more I become absorbed in them, the more questions I have, to which I don't always find answers even for myself. My employees face the same problems. We see and analyze how your relationship with Amin is developing, how he is deepening relations with the Soviets: with Ambassador Puzanov, KGB representative Bogdanov, with the chief military adviser Gorelov - and I, as a station chief, begin to doubt his sincerity in carrying out orders from the CIA. The station gets the impression that he is playing his own rather subtle game and is trying to take from each side what he needs, and give only what he, in principle, does not need. Afghan nationalism is increasingly awakening in him, and he seeks to tie it to the implementation of CIA assignments. How do you assess this person?" — Michael Mitchell asked the Ambassador with interest.

"You see, Michael, when developing relations with contacts, I always base on the tasks that confront me as an American diplomat, ambassador. The leadership of Afghanistan, no matter how biased it may be by the Soviets, should be inclined to cooperate with the United States, and I am not interested in how Taraki and Amin will motivate their diplomatic, political or economic intentions or practical actions to Puzanov or Bogdanov. My task at the first stage is precisely to prevent complete Soviet influence in this country. Since I had more than ten meetings with Amin in six months, I completely understand this man. His readiness to cooperate with us is absolute, and I think this is also your merit. We prepared and coordinated in

Washington an agreement on trade and economic cooperation with most-favored-nation treatment. Already now, preparations can be made for the Minister of Economy to visit Kabul to sign the agreement. However, there is one thing... and you also take it into account. Before leaving for Afghanistan, I had a conversation with National Security Assistant Brzezinski. He gave me clear recommendations for working with Amin, they will hold after the completion of the first phase of some extremely secret geopolitical operation. According to Brzezinski, it was developed in detail by the National Security Council and approved by Jimmy Carter. In my diplomatic practice, for the first time I am faced with the fact that the presidential administration and the State Department do not even fully bring to the ambassador's notice the information on which he must work systematically. Besides, Brzezinski emphasized that the CIA is working in parallel with Amin on a special program. You can inform me what you have done over the past six months so that we can together analyze the current situation and better understand the probable plan of the White House in order to get ready for it in advance," Dubs finished his monologue.

The CIA station chief listened carefully to the ambassador, because he had been waiting for this straight talk for a long time. Giving instructions to Amin to arrest the country's leading politicians oriented towards the Soviet Union, carry out open terror against the opposition in the army and the feudal nobility, and implement destructive reforms, Michael Mitchell carefully monitored the reaction of the Soviet embassy and the KGB office. American agents in the DRA government and armed forces reported the negative attitude of Soviet military advisers and civilian specialists towards the arrests of professional engineers, career military personnel and tribal nobility.

Recent arrests of Parchamite ministers Laek and Keshtmand caused the remaining wing of the party to flee abroad. Not long ago, at a regular meeting, Amin told Mitchell about the arrival of Ponomarev, a candidate member of the Politburo, head of the International

Department of the CPSU Central Committee. A very large political figure in the Soviet leadership, dealing with issues of the international communist movement. His arrival was a complete surprise for Taraki and Amin, especially since he harshly criticized both of them for repression in the party and government. According to the agent, Ponomarev conveyed to them the Kremlin's serious concern regarding the growth of the armed opposition in Pakistan and the transfer of its activities to the provinces of Afghanistan, to which Nur Mohammed Taraki requested military assistance in the form of the entry of Soviet army units into Afghanistan as it had been planned.

Therefore, Michael Mitchell understood the main plan of Zbigniew Brzezinski - to drag the Soviet Union into hostilities in Afghanistan - and CIA agent Hafizullah Amin should play a major role in this scenario. He openly shared his thoughts with Ambassador Dubs, not realizing that his agent would soon radically change this scenario and the American intelligence station chief will make every effort to put an end to Amin's life at the second stage of the operation.

Cryptogram of the PGU KGB station in the DRA. Kabul
Secret

On February, 14, at 9 a.m., United States Ambassador Adolph Dubs was taken hostage near the American Information and Cultural Center. The ambassador's kidnappers were allegedly members of the Maoist group Settam-e-Melli (National Oppression), who transported the hostage to the Kabul Hotel and demanded the release of all political prisoners close to them from prison, including the leader of the Afghan Maoists Tahir Bakdashi. The terms put forward by the terrorists were not accepted by the leadership of the operational headquarters created by the Afghan special services, in which our advisers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs participated. Hafizullah Amin, who personally led the operation to free the American ambassador, insistently demanded an "immediate solution of the problem," and in fact an assault. Taking into

account the extreme danger to the lives of Soviet specialists living in the hotel, the embassy security officer and the adviser to the representative office through the Ninth Directorate evacuated all citizens without loss or damage to their health.

As a result of the assault by the Afghan special forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, two terrorists were eliminated, the third one escaped. Seriously wounded, Dubs died on the way to the hospital.

On the instructions of A. Sarwari, a convicted prisoner was brought from the Pul-e-Charkhi prison, then was eliminated and placed next to two other terrorists in order to present the trio to the arriving diplomats of the American Embassy.

I would like to draw attention to the claims of the American side regarding the participation of the advisers to the representative office of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs in the operation to free the US Ambassador. A note of protest was received, which emphasized the seriousness of the consequences of the ambassador's death for the further development of American-Soviet relations. I consider the decision made by the representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the participation of his advisers, who had no experience in anti-terrorism activities, in the operational headquarters, politically and professionally short-sighted.

Resident Sedov

**February 15, 1979,
Langley, CIA headquarters**

Director of the Central Intelligence Stansfield Turner gathered all the leaders of the American intelligence community to discuss a plan for special operations in Asia, primarily in Pakistan and Afghanistan, in response to the assassination of American Ambassador Adolph Dubs. That was an extraordinary event in the history of American diplomacy, and the intelligence agencies had to respond to it in the most severe manner so that it served as a lesson for all other countries. In addition, and that was doubly unpleasant, it followed



from the station chief's telegram that the operation to free the American ambassador was led by well-known to the CIA Hafizullah Amin, and it was he who gave the command for the assault without the consent of the CIA station chief, with whom he was in operational contact. Being Minister of Foreign Affairs and curator of the intelligence services, he did not even inform the American embassy about the practically unprepared operation, carried out in haste, "on the fly"! How can we understand this, doesn't he respect the CIA and the American State Department at all?! Or has he completely gotten out of control and is working personally for himself, or, as the station chief wrote in a telegram, for the ephemeral great Afghanistan he

himself imagined?! Turner simply did not admit that Amin could do this in the interests of the Russians... "Although," he thought more deeply, "why did the Afghans involve advisors from the KGB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and even the deputy station chief for security of the Soviet embassy, in the operation, and not CIA station chief and American embassy? No, something is wrong here! Whatever the hell, let Mitchell look into it to the end and present a detailed report on the death of Ambassador Dubs. Professionals from the FBI should be urgently sent to Kabul, where they should look into everything in detail and understand what really happened on that day and how some Maoists in the center of the Afghan capital could stop the American ambassador and kidnap him in front of everyone. God forbid, this might appeal to Trotskyists in Latin America or Islamic extremists in the Middle East, who will start to kidnap and kill American ambassadors around the world. What chaos will begin then! And where is the greatness of the United States, its international prestige and "superpower" status?! No, the murder of Dubs cannot be simply forgiven, it is necessary in the future, after the USSR is drawn into Afghanistan and as soon as Amin completes his main task, to eliminate him and at the same time disseminate information to all terrorist organizations and extremist groups with which the CIA and the DIA maintain contact, that this is a sentence for him, the traitorous agent, for the death of the American ambassador. Only then will the status quo of America be restored, and the States will demonstrate their invisible, but global power and fair retribution - punishment for traitors!"

Due to this course of imaginary events, Stansfield Turner's mood improved a little, and he headed to the eavesdropping-proof room to hold a meeting with the leaders of the US intelligence community. However, before he could begin with a report on the events that had taken place in Kabul and a moment of silence in remembrance of Adolph Dubs, the assistant called via a direct communication channel and said that President Carter was urgently summoning him to the White House.

White House, the President's Oval Office

Director of the Central Intelligence Turner entered the Oval Office when State Department Secretary Cyrus Vance and National Security Assistant Zbigniew Brzezinski were already there. They emotionally, interrupting each other, reported to Jimmy Carter about the death of Dubs and the associated image losses for the United States in Asia and the Middle East. Seeing Turner enter, they, as if on command, fell silent and looked at the president. Carter, in turn, looked at the CIA director and said gloomily:

“Central Intelligence may not fully understand the foreign policy of the United States in Asia, but I am sure that Admiral Turner must know what I want to do for the American people in Asia and how we can ensure American power in this region. Weakening the influence of the Soviets and the communist ideology in Islamic countries that still sympathize with the USSR and, even worse, equip their armies with Soviet weapons, undermining the market for the American military-industrial complex, is the main task of the CIA.

“You are a professional military man, Stansfield, and you must understand that the American economy is developing successfully when there is one major war and two or three regional conflicts in the world. The Vietnam epic is over, and, thank God, there are no regional conflicts in the Middle East, so we need a war in Afghanistan more than ever. We must involve the USSR in the big Afghan campaign so that the American military-industrial complex works day and night in the interests of American citizens. This is the American production of weapons and military equipment that the sponsors of this liberation war will buy from us. Believe me, we will quickly find them or identify them from among our Asian and Middle Eastern friends. These are new technologies in the field of portable missile weapons and guidance systems, this is the stock market and the increase in shares of leading American companies, after all...



“This and much more we can develop for the American army and then test the samples in Afghanistan. And at the most important and crucial moment in the development of the geostrategic operation, some local terrorists eliminate our key player. And whom? Ambassador of the United States of America! Do you have any idea how we should work off the tragic death of Dubs?! You can consider his death the sacred sacrifice of the American people for the global supremacy of the United States for many decades.”

Jimmy Carter ended his emotional speech by emphasizing: “America formulates international rules for all other nations, and

the Soviet Union, unfortunately, constantly tries to break them. We need to make it listen to the US, or America will destroy it like a sand castle on the ocean.”

Stansfield Turner listened to the president's tirade without interruption and tried to formulate his conclusion:

“Mr. President, the US intelligence community mourns the death of a worthy son of America, Adolph Dubs. The punishing hand of American justice in the person of the CIA special forces will inflict penalty on the masterminds of this crime, and you can be sure of that. But we know the main objectives of our work in Afghanistan, and therefore intelligence has already planned what further steps need to be taken so that the Soviets find themselves in the Afghan trap as quickly as possible. We have come to the end of the first stage of the operation to destabilize the political situation in Afghanistan. In a state that is supported by the Soviet Union, chaos and terror prevail, a large flow of refugees is being transformed by us in Pakistan into the armed opposition and returning to the border provinces of the country. We control a significant part of the territory of Afghanistan, army command staff in Herat, Jalalabad and Kandahar. However, the main task - to draw the USSR into Afghanistan - requires more subtle work. In this regard, the CIA is using high-level agents to misinform the leadership of the KGB and the GRU in order to force the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee to make a decision on the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan. We have serious agents of influence in these services and are ready to actively involve them, while we understand that if this work is intensified, their failure is possible. But I made a decision...

“Sorry, Stan,” Carter interrupted Turner. “We, all present here, must equally understand that the victory in the centuries-old confrontation between the West and the East is at stake. Zbigniew already has an entire strategy for the further destruction of the Soviets, which he, together with Henry Kissinger and experts at the Council on Foreign Relations, has been developing for five months. Now I would like to ask everyone to speak out. Let's start with you, Cyrus.”

The Secretary of the State Department was brief. He reported that his main public duty at the moment was to organize a solemn funeral for Dubs at Arlington Cemetery, as a hero who gave his life in field conditions of the impending war for America's strategic interests. Then, to demonstratively lower the level of diplomatic presence in Afghanistan to the level of charge d'affaires, despite the position of the CIA in the country's top leadership. It would be possible to reduce the staff of the embassy, but taking into account the important upcoming tasks, it will be better to leave everything as it is for now. Then, to limit the number of Peace Corps volunteers to those needed to cover CIA activities and cultural exchange programs. And currently explanations are expected from the Afghan side, since no clear answer has been received from either the head of state or the Minister of Foreign Affairs...

At this point of the report, Carter looked questioningly at Turner, and the latter immediately responded: “A group of the CIA and the FBI employees will fly to Kabul in the near future to look into all the issues that arise today for completely understandable reasons.”

“And lastly,” Vance continued, “since the Islamic revolution took place in Iran and Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi flew to the United States, it is urgent to strengthen the security of the embassy in Tehran. Religious fanatics led by Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, and it is not yet clear to us how the new Iranian diplomacy will behave towards the United States. But, as the ambassador reports, there are very strong anti-American sentiments in society, and we need to take them into account when further working in this country.

“Zbigniew, what is your opinion on the subject?” the president asked Brzezinski.

“If you mean the Iranian situation, then we need to forget the phrase “Shah's Iran” for many years,” Brzezinski began without enthusiasm. “When Khomeini was in exile in France, he repeatedly published books with his vision of Shiite Islamic rule in Iran: total fundamentalist radicalism. A sadder prospect for this country cannot be envisaged, at least

from the point of view of American interests. In a few years, instead of modern society, we will see the Middle Ages... It seems to me that in the foreseeable future Iran will be a hostile state for us, and when you talk about regional wars, we now need to improve relations with Iraq in order to have a foothold in this important for us oil region. And a regional war between Iran and Iraq is just around the corner, it just needs a little push. In accordance with the law on the development of systems, it is necessary to know the trigger point, which in conflictology means the intensification of controversial territorial, ethnic and other problems. Under certain circumstances they can be sharply activated. Here you have a regional conflict or, as you've noted, a regional war, which is so necessary for the growth of the American economy," Brzezinski concluded. "Well, now to the situation in Kabul."

"We have already begun to discuss this topic," Carter returned attention of those present to the main question, "so there is no need to talk about image losses for the United States. They are obvious. Everyone understands as it is that if a CIA agent involves not American specialists, but Russian advisers, to free the American ambassador, then this is a cardinal failure of the CIA, and not the State Department. And, Stansfield, I want you to know my opinion regarding the work of the service entrusted to you in Afghanistan. I have already told you more than once about the need for reforms in the CIA. Carry on, Zbigniew."

"In accordance with the general plan of actions, the State Department must condemn the actions of the Kabul regime for internal terror and the murder of the US ambassador in the UN Security Council. We must respond to the Islamic revolution in Iran because it also raises our concerns. Our diplomats in Vienna should continue negotiations with the Soviet delegation on the preparation of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty so as not to arouse any suspicion in the Kremlin.

"The CIA needs to step up the creation of centers for training of militants, or, as they

call themselves, "fighters for the faith" - the Mujahideen, and continue to equip them with small arms for now. I believe that in the near future we will have to ask Congress for additional funding for classified items of expenses specifically for the CIA."

"It won't be easy," Turner interposed. "I recently spoke in front of the Senate Intelligence Committee and told senators about CIA reform and the reduction of personnel from the operational department by eight hundred people. They know this position, approved by the president, and agreed that in our time information is largely obtained from open sources and technical means of communication. In this regard, it will not be easy to convince congressmen to allocate additional money for operational work, especially under classified items."

"Develop a special operation to strengthen the armed opposition in Afghanistan under the pretext of the Soviet Union's intentions to capture this country," suggested Brzezinski.

"But we do not yet have verified information about Moscow's intentions to send its troops to Afghanistan," Cyrus Vance intervened in the discussion. "And if the Politburo in the Kremlin does not make such a decision at all, won't Turner and I have to answer in Congress for disinformation and deception at some commission created on this occasion by the Republican Party? They will be happy to do this in order to undermine the authority of the presidential administration before the elections."

"Cyrus, you surprise me," Brzezinski attacked him. "You don't understand that we simply have to drag the Soviet Union into Afghanistan. And this is only a part of the global operation against the world communist system. The main stage will begin a little later. Now the best economists at the Council on Foreign Relations are working day and night in New York on this topic. They have already calculated the entire model of the Soviet economy, and are currently determining the directions of the main

attacks on it from the standpoint of Anglo-Saxon capabilities and global finance."

"Let's get closer to the topic," Carter intervened again. "So, let's sum it up: we continue the strategic offensive against the Soviets. The victory in this global operation, even at its first stage, could bring us undeniable political dividends in the upcoming elections. For this, the CIA is developing a special program to support the Mujahideen, let's call it "Cyclone", and through its sources in Moscow is pushing information about the need for the Kremlin to support the Kabul regime, and therefore to bring Soviet troops into Afghanistan. The State Department provides foreign policy cover for the CIA's covert work and continues negotiations on SALT II with the Moscow delegation in Vienna. Thank you for the fruitful discussion of important issues."

Having detained Stansfield Turner in his office, Jimmy Carter said quietly, looking into his eyes: "Stan, I ask you, do not forget that Adolph Dubs, in addition to being an excellent diplomat, fought bravely as a naval officer in the Pacific fleet during the war, like you and me. Therefore, deal with your agent when he completes the mission assigned to him..."

"And one more important note. We are Anglo-Saxons and in the merciless civilizational struggle of history we have repeatedly proven our superiority to the French and Germans, although now they are our main NATO allies. We should understand that the Soviet system is of a temporary historical nature. The chaotic and contradictory world, torn apart by the confrontation between two "superpowers," will be replaced by a new world order. And the future of the free world depends on how successfully we can carry out the operation against the Soviets in Afghanistan. This is our historical mission. I ask you to mobilize as much as possible the full potential of the Central Intelligence for the successful implementation of Operation Cyclone. Our team has a chance to once again prove to the whole world and American voters the exclusivity and superiority of the

United States as an Anglo-Saxon empire, and then a victory in the elections will be guaranteed!"

Thus, the war in Afghanistan was predetermined in the Oval Office of the White House. All subsequent steps of Moscow and Washington followed the Great Game on the Brzezinski's world chessboard. ♘



Igor Nikolaevich Morozov

Russian politician, participant in combat operations in Afghanistan, retired colonel of the SVR.

Born on December 10, 1956, graduated from the Moscow Suvorov Military School and the Moscow Higher Combined Arms School of Supreme Council of the RSFSR.

Served in the foreign intelligence, worked in Europe and the Middle East. Speaks English, German and Persian. Holder of state and departmental awards.

Deputy of the State Duma (2003–2007), member of the Federation Council (2001–2003, 2012–2022) from the Ryazan region. Candidate of Economic Sciences, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, author of a number of scientific works.

The magazine "Razvedchik" thanks Igor Nikolaevich for providing our readers with the opportunity to get acquainted with the first part of his documentary-fiction novel "The World Chess Game. Afghan Zugzwang" and is looking forward to the continuation.



«Son of the Regiment»: poet Ivan Grishanov

Text: Vladimir Golobokov, administrative director of the club of the author's military songs "Wind of Victory"
Photo: archive of the club "Wind of Victory"

On the eve of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Kursk, "Wind of Victory" spoke with one of our regular participants - a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, front-line poet Ivan Ivanovich Grishanov, who at the age of 13 marched from Bryansk to Vienna and at the age of 90 became a member of the Writers' Union of Russia.



Ivan Ivanovich, when the war began, you were only nine years old. I understand that the most difficult memories and losses are associated with that time, but I would still like to ask you to tell us about how it was, how the war changed your life.

The war changed everything greatly: the collapse of the collective farm, flows of refugees and wounded Red Army soldiers, occupation, executions of Soviet activists and the beginning of partisanship... In November 1942, almost my entire family died, as a result of a German air raid on our village of Shepelyovo, only me and my elder brother Nikolay survived. We were sheltered by relatives. In March 1943, when the Kursk salient had already begun to take shape, our village found itself on the front line. 16-year-old Kolya went to the front, and I joined a partisan detachment, where I was assigned the role of a liaison and an observer. They called me by my adult name - Ivan Ivanovich.

I remember how the fascist ring began to narrow rapidly near my village, the partisans tried to break through to the regular units, but bad weather and a lack of weapons hampered them. Many people died, including our commander Fyodor. The Germans drove the rest of the detachment into a large ravine, then lined up along the edges, shot several magazines at exhausted but still living people, threw several grenades down, got into cars and drove off. Only six people got out from under the pile of dead bodies, I was among them. Despite the injuries, I managed to bring the rest of the survivors to our people, and we were immediately sent to the hospital.

What was it like for you, a ten-year-old boy, to go behind the front line, because you had to have the skills of a professional intelligence officer, to know the basics of military art?

War does not recognize age, and the understanding of its cruel essence teaches you harshly but quickly. After I was discharged from the hospital, they wanted to send me to an orphanage, but this prospect frightened me much more than being at the front again. In the hospital I met a soldier who helped to enroll me in the Separate anti-tank fighter division as a reconnaissance observer and a fire adjuster. There they taught me some basics, how to read topographic maps, as well as mathematics and writing. As «sons of the regiment» we were engaged in reconnaissance, artillery aiming, surveying routes, identifying the boundaries of minefields and committing sabotage behind enemy lines. The work was like that of adults - on the verge of death.

In August 1943, I went behind the front line on another mission. At this time fierce battles began at the location of our division - the Oryol operation, which became part of the epoch-making Battle of Kursk. The entire division died, every single person... I cried then probably for the first time during the war. Afterwards I wandered, starved, begged until I met a sergeant major from my former partisan detachment in Bryansk. He persuaded the commander to temporarily shelter me in their military unit. It was with this unit - the 15th Separate motorized rifle brigade of the 19th artillery division - that I went my entire combat route.

You celebrated victory in St. Pölten, in Austria. Do you remember how it was?



Ivan Ivanovich Grishanov

He was born on August 28, 1932 in the village of Shepelyovo, Kromsky district, Oryol region. He is a veteran of the Great Patriotic War. In November 1942, after the death of his relatives, he joined a partisan detachment. As a «son of the regiment» of the 15th Separate motorized rifle brigade of the 19th artillery division, he fought on the 3rd Ukrainian Front. He participated in the battles for the liberation of Austria, Hungary, Romania, got wounded. He met the end of the war in Austria. He was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, II degree, the medals "For Military Merit", "For Victory over Germany", "For the Capture of Budapest", "For the Capture of Vienna" and other awards.

Of course! For me, Victory Day happened at night: the reconnaissance group did not return from the mission, then suddenly the random shooting was heard. I was assigned to find out what happened. What I saw shocked me: in the center of the city on the square in front of the church there was a table, an iron bucket tank was on it, from the bottom of which the news was heard about the end of the war (there was a radio station there). There stood both Germans without weapons and our reconnaissance officers, all well.

pumped up with wine... Then for a couple of weeks there were clashes with the Germans trying to break into the allied zone. It was a very chaotic time until we were transferred to the Bulgarian-Turkish border in the city of Varna, where the question arose about my further studies.

You graduated from the Suvorov Military School in Kursk, then from the Military School in Odessa. What prevented you from furthering your career in the army?

Our army commander, Marshal Sergey Semyonovich Biryuzov, showed great concern in my fate: by his decision I lived and studied in a boarding house at our military mission in Bulgaria for two years, then I was sent to the Suvorov School in Kursk. After the hell of the war the studying seemed to me like fussing with children. I hid the pain from the wound and studied well. I graduated from the Suvorov school with honors, from the Infantry school in Odessa with honors too, and at first the officer service went well. Only later the contusion and the wound began to catch up with me, and as a result I was demobilized for health reasons.



After that you entered the Polytechnic Institute in Kishinev and learnt a peaceful profession. For many years you worked as a research scientist at the Kishinev Research Institute of Electrical Instrumentation. You have over 50 inventions.

I even received the title “Honored Inventor”. The main theme of my work is ultra-thin cast microwires in glass insulation for small-base, high-temperature strain gauges. All this was very interesting for me: it was a

kind of technical poetry, where the requirements for both words and deeds are very high.

You had been writing wonderful poems-memoirs about everyday life in the war for a long time, but you published your first collection of poetry only in 2019 at the age of 86. How come?

I started writing poetry, or rather ditties, when I still wasn't very literate. Of course, later I wrote competently, but in a too free-thinking way. And I was advised to «slow down» so as not to end up in places, as they say, not so distant. To tell the truth, I never stopped writing. Our orphan brotherhood after the war really wanted holidays, which had to be celebrated on something. Therefore, I continued my literary activity under fictitious names as an earner of royalties from publications. Keeping a record of everything you've written is like leaving footprints, it's useless. Then I wrote a lot for myself. And in 2019, my first book of poems “I say goodbye to war!” was published with the assistance of the poet A. G. Pshenichny. 📖

«Ivan Ivanovich came to the Russian literature like to a military registration and enlistment office, reaching the military age, when he decided himself that he was ready. During this time many of his peers, who did not «sniff» the war or saw it from the Urals and Tashkent, became not just members of the Writers' Union of Russia, but also laureates and order-bearers. Grishanov was in no hurry to fame. This is his dignity, the dignity of a Russian soldier. Military glory is one thing, but poetic glory is as God willing... Everything here is in the Russian way: modest and strong. Forever!»

The citation from Grishanov recommendation for the obtaining of a membership card of the Writers' Union of Russia

Poems by members of the military song club “Victory Wind” and veterans of the Foreign Intelligence Service



Ivan Grishanov

I grew into the cruelty of war
Like a weed into the ground,
Knowing no kindness from it,
And the deception of silence,
My home is a freight car,
And lamentations for loved ones
and the fallen.

That is all I knew,
Unwanted and angry,
Lonely... There were thousands like me.
Hunger drove me to the steppe.
There under the snow flap
A killed horse was luxurious food.

I was not the only one
Who felt hungry in the cold...
There were bullets in the field
from posts and convoys.
It was not my fault
That both the front and the rear were here,
And the two who died in the search.

I reached the horse,
I cut off as much as I could
And hid from the bullets
under the horse's belly.
And how they were waiting for me!
And how I loved everyone
Parting with the saving load.

I have grown into the soul of war,
And the war is all in me...
The Country has thousands like me.
Does the Country need it?

This damn ravine
Is separated with a trifling hill
From good trenches...
Hopelessness and fear:
Throats of twisted necks
Are scratched with Morshansk tobacco .

The container is good
To rush through fire.
A sniper lies ready somewhere...
The runner trembles,
Burns up in a second,
Collapsing to the ground
on a swear word.

To calculate this moment –
To the trenches and then
Until the sniper is ready for battle,
I grasped this moment
Here, on the first one, on him
Who checked the calculations
with himself.

Well, who will follow him
To take a volley?
The rest dash all at once.
I, protected by the Almighty,
Crushing the earth while running, ,
Conquer this disastrous path.

And not once, not twice:
A rush after a rush
For friends who stand on the defensive.
The head is gray,
A bullet hits straight to the temple...
There'll be a line about the losses...

Aleksandr Bobrov

Battle

*The beast is enormous, disgusting,
hundred-mawed and barking...
Epigraph to the book by A. Radishchev*

Ursula von der Leyen
At first glance is fragile
But barks with a hundred maws –
There's even fire on her tongue.

The message is extremely harsh:
Drive Russia into the grave!
But Ursula's ancestor is
Muscovite German named Knopp.

He had a good grip,
Lived a free and easy life in Moscow,
Met the tsar on multiple occasions,
Was friends with Morozov.

He was quite successful
In importing cars,
And the mansion in Kolpachny Lane
Was built by Knopp's son.

Building an elegant castle,
He couldn't imagine
That Komsomol member Zoya
Would go into battle from there.

Time has not fallen asleep there,
And in the battle for it
They've met again – Zoya and Ursula!
We'll see who will win...

Dmitry Darin

Parson
*Dedicated to the Orthodox priests
at the war*

Since biblical times, since the times of the Flood,
The dried out world has become stale –
Here the evil is clearer from the trenches,
The good is more evident in the sight.

The parson says a prayer,
And somewhere in the sky which is not empty
Christ looks on the battlefield,
Where a bullet meets a cross.

And soldiers, crossing themselves at an icon,
Repeat: “Lord, have mercy...”
And death circles like a vulture
Aslant from the icon.

There are no unchristened before a battle,
It will live forever – the soul of those,
Who, having received communion from the shrapnel,
Were able to give up their souls for te sake of others.

A spiritual force is fighting here,
Who else but us, who other but us...
And the stifling shackles of fear
Confuse wise psalms.

The parson’s voice is hoarse,
But the truth of God is an eternal toll,
And in some place where the evil is more cunning,
A cartridge is put into the barrel.

Here, under the chilly blue sky,
This hoarseness is understandable,
Grace flows from the ancient rite
Like water of life on the hearts.

And from this song the heart feels
More calm to live and die,
But the sniper aims at the pectoral cross,
And the Holy Army waits silently.

Neither honor, nor faith, nor country
Can break the vow,
That’s why the orders on the cassock
Burn with a special light.

Vera Klimkovich

**The OCU (Orthodox Church of Ukraine)
of Judah**

Blackened crosses on the laura
Got covered in the parishioners’ shame and grief.
And those who have lost their mind
Climb into the holes of man-made emptiness.

They, like the devil from holy water,
Cringe at the beautiful Russian speech.
In Bankova street the doped up hypocrite
Straightens his shoulders in his imagination.

But the voices of the parishioners are not silent,
Praying God to bring the scoundrel to reason.
The heavens will hear and subvert
Not the kiss, but the OCU of Judah!

Andrey Kudrin

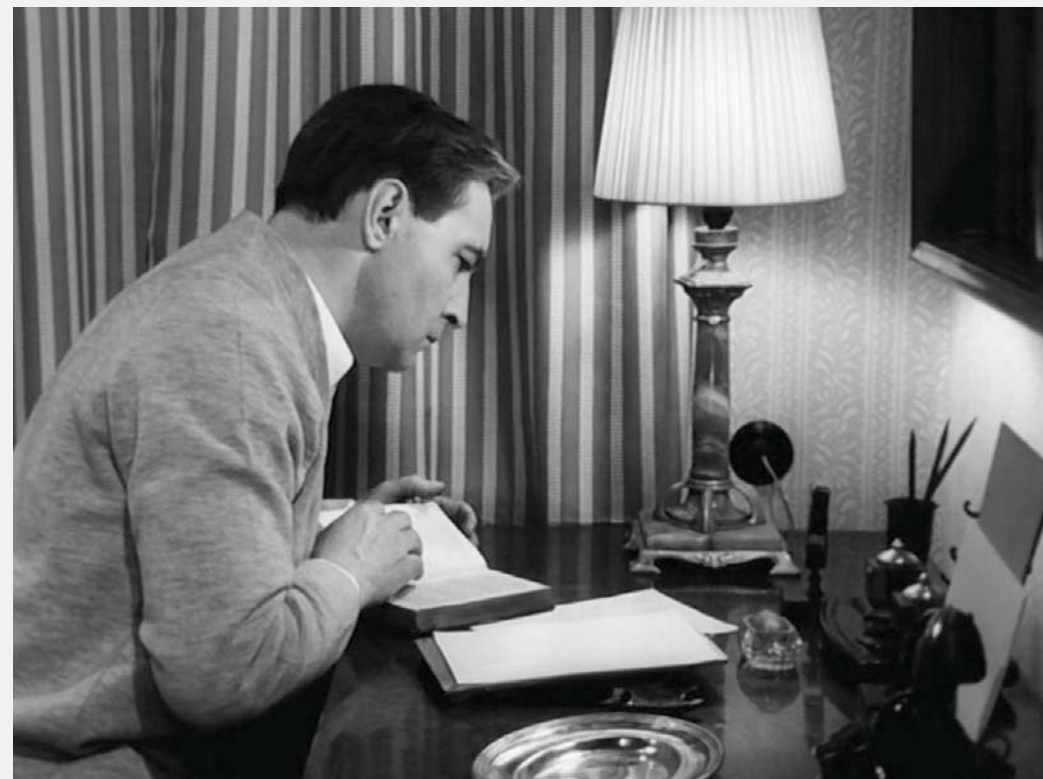
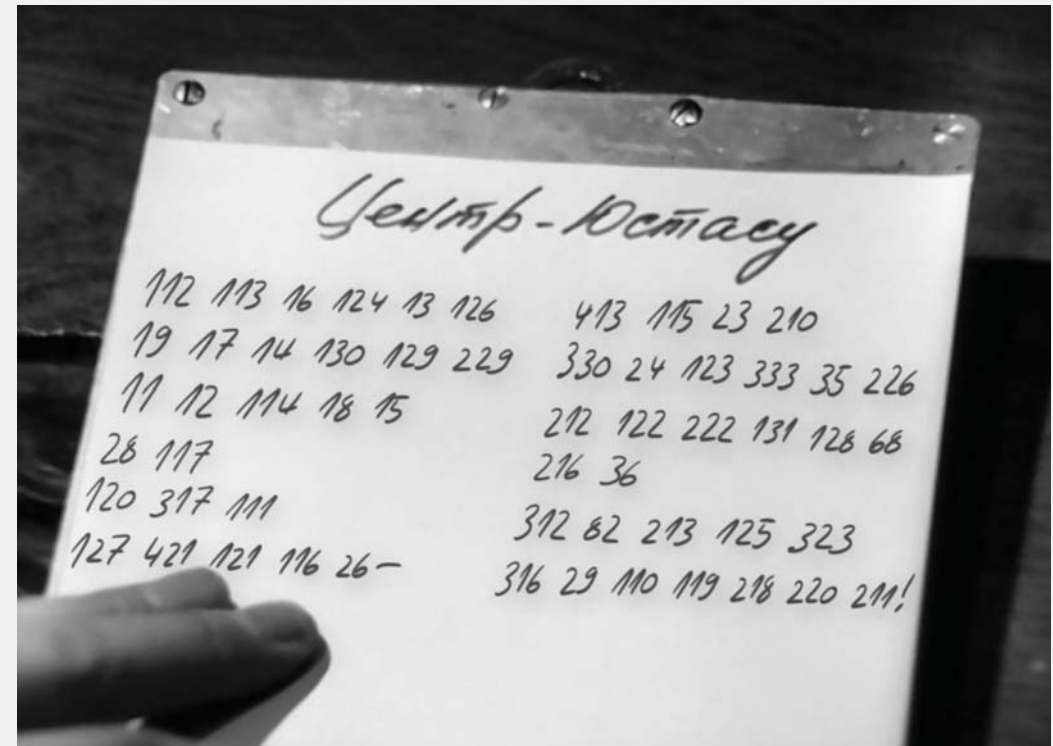
Lyrical (illegal)

The truth has been confirmed for centuries and not in vain:
“There are no easy ways in intelligence service!”
Your country has chosen you for an important special
mission
From hundreds and thousands of ordinary people...
And so, defying the laws of mechanics,
Trying not to go crazy from stress,
Eternal wanderers roam under the alien sky,
You won’t find cloaks and daggers with them!
As if in the colorful bustle of a carnival
Costumes and masks are going round...
And only after breaking out of the Looking Glass,
Suddenly they find their identities again.
Trying not to close the door of reality,
They will try on someone else’s fate...
Only one thing is scary: what if the heart
Will give a SOS signal and end the fight?
Many miles have been traveled through towns and
villages –
You’ll have a hard time remembering them years later...

Will the Motherland ever tell the world
About those who go far across the border?

Radiogram

Decipher
the radiogram
using lines from
A. Kudrin's poem
“Lyrical (illegal)”
as a key.



If you complete
the task in ten
minutes, your
place is in the
intelligence
service...



Drawing by
Vladimir Mochalov

After drinking alcohol, the foreigner, as a rule, does not engage in antisocial behavior. At the same time, his inclination to loud singing and joking should be noted.

Selected moments of operational correspondence

The foreigner confessed to the operative that he made an honest living by speculating in stocks.

The source said that M. gave the impression of a person loyal to us, though not quite sober.

To treat his depression, T. always resorts to an effective “folk” method – his beloved and productive work.

On Saturdays, the foreigner goes to the theater, where he lets off the “steam” accumulated during the week.

The neutral tone of the conversation in the restaurant even disappointed me. I was preparing for a fight, not with just anybody, but with the FBI itself! And there was just some “blah-blah”.

The foreigner loves treats and willingly accepts gifts, but avoids conversations on topics that interest us.

With his red face, the subject made it clear that the event was coming to an end.

In the next issue of the magazine:

Head of the “Sirius” Center Elena Vladimirovna Shmeleva:
“Upbringing of professionals must start at school level”

The Linitskys
A unique dynasty of illegal intelligence officers

Operation “Citadel”
Declassified archives

Unknown Fisher (Abel)
120th anniversary



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