

MAGAZINE

RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake – But to learn the truth for the good of our State! №3 (8) SEPTEMBER 2024



“ENSURING TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY IS AN UNCONDITIONAL PRIORITY IN THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT”

M.V. MISHUSTIN

A.V.TORKUNOV:
«IN BOTH DIPLOMACY AND INTELLIGENCE,
MAN WILL ALWAYS BE INDISPENSABLE»

A SPY AND AN ARTIST AND AN
ARTIST. 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HERO OF RUSSIYA.A.SHEVCHENKO

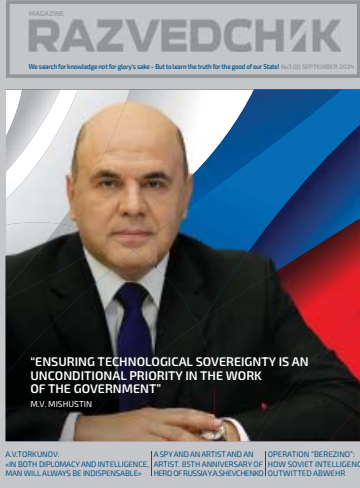
OPERATION “BEREZINO”:
HOW SOVIET INTELLIGENCE
OUTWITTED ABWEHR

IN OUR INFORMATION AGE,
KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRES SPECIAL VALUE.
ONLY AN EDUCATED, ERUDITE PERSON
CAN FIND A WORTHY PLACE IN LIFE
AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH
CONFIDENCE.

В.М.М.

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National Development Map

On the way to a technological leadership

Text: Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin,
Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation

Two and a half years after the start of the Special Military Operation, the Russian economy is growing steadily despite enormous external pressure. Our opponents have underestimated our capabilities. We have managed to find effective answers to many challenges, to develop effective response mechanisms. The new national projects, which the Government is preparing on a commission from the President, will allow our country to accelerate economic growth and to ensure technological sovereignty in the medium term.

Russia's adaptation to a new global role

This spring, the World Bank updated its estimates of the GDP of countries in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) – one of the key indicators of economic development. It has been confirmed that back in 2021, Russia became one of the world's top four economies and, despite all attempts to slow down our progress, continues to hold this position for several years.

Over the past decade, the illegitimate sanctions pressure on the Russian economy by the United States and its allies, which violates international law, has steadily intensified. With the start of the Special Military Operation, it has taken the form of direct and naked “economic aggression”. The West expected that the unprecedented sanctions restrictions would “tear to shreds” Russia's economic activity.

However, both the sustainability of our economy and the scale of the changes taking place in the world were underestimated. And they are crucial indeed: for the first time in many decades, if not centuries, new economic centers are forming outside the borders of the so-called “golden billion” (USA, EU, Japan). A striking example is the BRICS association, whose members (taking into account its expansion) generated a record 35.7% of global GDP (in terms of PPP) in 2023, which exceeds the GDP shares of the G7 countries (29%) and of all other countries in the world (over 35%). There is a major creative agenda in the Eurasian Economic Union, the CIS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Given that in the modern world new technologies are a key to sustainable economic development, and that the West is trying to limit access to key solutions by

« For the first time in many decades, if not centuries, new economic centers are forming outside the borders of the so-called "golden billion" (USA, EU, Japan). A striking example is the BRICS association.

imposing import bans, investment controls and other restrictions, Russia seeks to accumulate its own competencies in critically important areas. Moreover, within the framework of the Foreign Economic Activity Strategy developed on a commission from the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin, we are actively building partnership networks with new economic centers and friendly countries, with all those who share our views and values. I am convinced that this will allow us to increase our immunity to external pressure and to defend our rights and interests in foreign markets more effectively.

Russia's new economic reality

As we predicted, in 2024 our economy, having restructured trade and logistics, has largely completed its adaptation to the new reality of the confrontation with the West and has moved to a steady growth. According to the balance of last year, Russia's GDP grew by 3.6%, and in the first seven months of this year, according to preliminary estimates by the Ministry of Economic Development, the growth rate accelerated to 4.4%.

Many of the support measures for businesses, citizens and regions, which at the most difficult moment helped to withstand external challenges, have been put on a permanent basis. The impetus for the country's development, first of all, was given through the growth of investments, both public and private. A number of tools have been introduced for the re-equipment and construction of new factories. These include agreements on the protection and promotion of capital investments, special investment contracts, and infrastructure budget loans.

Special conditions apply in industrial and technology parks. In particular, an investment

cluster platform has been created, and a regional investment standard has been introduced.

Over the past two years, the National Welfare Fund has allocated more than 2.2 trillion rubles to implement projects in key sectors such as railroad and air transportation.

Secondly, as part of efforts to reorient foreign trade, much attention is being paid to supporting exporters who have gained access to different types of low-interest loans. In order to build up business ties of Russian trade companies, the network of representative offices of the JSC Russian Export Center has been expanded. Next year, the Made in Russia program will be launched, which involves the emergence of a national "umbrella" brand under which strong domestic manufacturers and trademarks will be promoted to promising markets of friendly countries and regions.

Thirdly, the reform of control (supervisory) activities has continued to further reduce the administrative burden on business. Today, in many cases inspections are replaced by preventive visits, a number of obligatory requirements have been revised, and a risk-based approach has been introduced. All of this has had a positive impact on the investment climate in the country, allowing domestic companies to focus on production processes. As a result, the volume of investment in fixed capital increased by 10.9% in the first half of this year. The production output of domestic facilities is expanding: in the first seven months of this year, the dynamics of industrial production accelerated to 4.8%, compared to the same period in 2023, and in manufacturing industries – to 8.6%.

Results of national development goals

Large-scale national projects, aimed at achieving the long-term development goals set by the President, are one of the key instruments of the Government's work. The system of goal-setting, management and monitoring built over the past years, which covers all levels of implementation with specific KPIs, deadlines and persons in charge, allows us to monitor, in real time, more than two and a half thousand key parameters, to



react promptly to any deviations, and to predict possible risks.

Such politics has resulted in high indicators of achieving the goals, which are close to 100% in most areas. And I would like to emphasize that this is despite the start of the Special Military Operation. That is to say, even under the conditions of the redistribution of resources for the needs of the Special Operation, we have managed to maintain a fairly high rate of socio-economic development of Russian regions and the country as a whole. After all, the focus of the national projects is, first of all, on improving the quality of people's life.

I will tell you just about some of the results that have been achieved since 2019. Thus, in the healthcare sector, thousands of medical facilities have been modernized: paramedical stations, outpatient clinics, polyclinics,

At the Made in Russia International Export Forum. Moscow. The Manège Central Exhibition Hall. October 19, 2023

« Given that in the modern world new technologies are the key to sustainable economic development, Russia seeks to accumulate its own competencies in critically important areas.

Meeting with the heads of delegations participating in the sessions of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS. FT Sirius. June 9, 2023



At the JSC
Dalenergomash plant.
Khabarovsk. July 23,
2024



central district hospitals, oncological and cardiovascular treatment departments and organizations. In the field of education, more than 1,300 general education schools for 800,000 pupils have been put into operation. Also, as part of the realization of the strategic initiative, 50 advanced engineering schools have been opened, where about 8,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students are already studying. The aim is to provide qualified personnel for high-tech and knowledge-intensive sectors of economy in such important areas as microelectronics and instrument engineering, artificial intelligence, nuclear energy and many others.

15 world-class scientific and educational centers are operating successfully, combining the potential of universities, scientific organizations and enterprises of the real sector of the economy. In the near future, their number will significantly increase. Seven unique megascience class facilities are under construction.

Housing construction is demonstrating high results. Over the past five years, almost 25 million Russian families have improved their housing conditions. About three million of them have done it with the help of low-interest mortgage programs. On July 1 of this year, the most popular of them – “Family Mortgage” – was extended until 2030. In addition, more than 720,000 families have been resettled from houses under the threat of collapse, 66,000 yards and public spaces have been equipped, and the modernization of more than 4,600 objects of infrastructure is under way or completed.

Russian small and medium-sized businesses are developing rapidly. The number of people employed in it has increased by almost six million people since 2019, exceeding 28 million.

I cannot help but note road construction, which also shows excellent results: in five and a half years, about 144,000 kilometers of roads have been built, reconstructed, and brought up to a standard condition. The construction of the 810-kilometer section of the M-12 Vostok highway from Moscow to Kazan has been completed in record time. As part of the Europe – Western China corridor, a bypass of the city of Togliatti has been opened. It is one of the largest road projects in our country, with a unique bridge over the Volga River almost four kilometers long. The construction of the M-11 Neva highway, with another bridge over the Volga at the bypass of Tver, has also been completed.

New strategic objectives and national projects

This year, the existing national projects are coming to an end. At the same time, the tasks facing the state not only haven't lost their relevance, but also require continued support from the Government. Moreover, in his Address to the Federal Assembly, the President outlined a number of new strategic goals, essentially formulating a long-term plan for the country's development for the next six years. All these goals are enshrined in the May Decree of the Head of State, and their specific parameters are currently being developed. The proposals prepared by the Government will be submitted to the Presidential Council for Strategic Development and National Projects, but we can already speak about them in general outline.

There is no doubt that the focus on improving the quality of life of Russian citizens will maintain. First of all, thanks to such new projects as “Family”, “Youth and Children”, “Long and Active Life”, “Infrastructure for Life”, which should combine measures aimed at supporting motherhood and childhood, modernizing healthcare and education systems, and developing infrastructure and transport. It is important that their results be visible and understandable to the people; that thousands of modern schools, preschools and sports facilities be opened, cultural and higher education facilities be renovated, housing and utilities be modernized, new safe roads and public transport appear.

I will focus on the last point separately. A new cycle of modernization of the transport

industry will be launched as part of the emerging national project “Efficient Transport System”. In particular, the launch of the Moscow – St. Petersburg high-speed railway, the construction of which was launched by the President in March of this year, and the comprehensive development – already as a national transportation link – of the Northern Sea Route are projected.

In addition, the head of state has set the goal to increase the intensity of domestic air traffic by half as much by 2030, for which over 30% of the airport network of Russia will be renovated. The government is also ready to support the reconstruction of the existing railway infrastructure, seaports and inland waterways, to assist in the digitalization of the industry and its provision with qualified personnel.

Updated industrial policy

No less attention will be paid to initiatives aimed at supporting the supply-side economy and creating modern industrial capacities and sectors, primarily around high-tech solutions. The proactive position of the Government in this sphere should contribute to the implementation of a number of systemic tasks. These include

At the S.A. Lavochkin
NPO (Research
and Production
Association). Khimki.
April 12, 2023



« A new cycle of modernization of the transport industry will be launched as part of the emerging national project “Efficient Transport System”.

« It is necessary to create scientific and technological reserves and to launch modern production based primarily on breakthrough technologies.

the formation of new markets in such areas as bioeconomy, food security, unmanned aircraft systems, production and automation facilities, transport mobility (including autonomous vehicles), the data economy and digital transformation, artificial intelligence, new materials and chemistry, promising space technologies and services, energy of the future, including nuclear energy.

Establishing a full cycle of domestic production – from research to mass production – is an integral part of this work. For this purpose, the government bill “On Technological Policy” provides a number of relevant mechanisms. We expect the industry to concretize the tasks for companies, researchers and developers. At

the same time, the key role will be assigned to a qualified customer who, on the one hand, will determine a set of requirements, and on the other, will ensure a long-term demand for the product.

By the end of this decade, it is important to create dozens of technological chains, more than one hundred and fifty modern factories, and to form entire ecosystems based on federal competence centers, which, in particular, will help to support the development of single-industry towns. And this is only in the area of new materials and chemistry.

The overall goal is to increase the share of domestic high-tech goods and services in the total volume of their consumption by half as much, and the revenue of small technology companies – at least seven times compared to last year.

According to the President’s instructions, by 2030 it is also necessary to increase the level of gross value added in the manufacturing industry by at least 40% compared to 2022. Another important task is to ensure the entry into the top ten countries in the world in terms of R&D spending which should increase to at least 2% of GDP, including by doubling the volume of private investment.

Achieving technological leadership

There is no doubt that the main condition for the implementation of Russia’s long-term development plans, as our President said, is the successful completion of the Special Military Operation.

We need to look ahead, including to form a sustainable economic foundation that will make it possible for us to move forward with confidence. To this end, it is necessary to create scientific and technological reserves and to launch modern production based primarily on breakthrough technologies. Only such an approach will ensure our country’s leadership for many decades.

A good example of this is the domestic nuclear industry, where a transition to a qualitatively new level is planned, which will be done by creating a two-component nuclear energy system with a closed fuel cycle. It is gratifying that it is Russia that has begun constructing the world’s first complex which will include a fast neutron reactor and a robotized spent fuel reprocessing plant.

In general, ensuring technological sovereignty and transforming the Russian economy are unconditional priorities in the work of the Government. Currently, a new national project is being developed in an area that can rightfully be called key for any modern production – machines, equipment and robotics. Without increasing our potential and our own competencies, long-term development will be difficult, especially in the context of ongoing external pressure on our country and restrictions on access to Western technologies.

The project is aimed at accelerating re-equipment of domestic machine-building factories– the main consumers of machine tool products, as well as at launching automatized production facilities using modern robots and high-tech machines. For its successful implementation, it is necessary to expand our own production of specialized equipment and product line, as well as to train personnel so that the process of updating and improving could be carried out largely at the expense of internal capabilities, and Russian companies could produce high-quality products with much greater localization, in demand both at home and abroad. And if necessary, they could quickly replace those foreign suppliers who have already left or are going to leave our market.

Importantly, the development of machine-tool construction and robotics will have a colossal multiplicative effect for the economy as a whole, support the dynamics in many related industries, including the production of modern domestic software, and also have a positive effect on labor productivity.



To sum up, I would like to note that there is a large-scale and intense work ahead which will require full dedication not only from members of the Government, but also from all those who are genuinely interested in the sovereign development of the country, strengthening its economic potential, and improving the quality of the citizens’ life. 🇷🇺

Visit to a railroad carrepair plant. Ulan-Ude. July 25, 2023

« Ensuring technological sovereignty and transforming the Russian economy are unconditional priorities in the work of the Government.

Working meeting in Kremlin. July 4, 2023



10
July
1934

The USSR Central Executive Committee adopted a decree “On the establishment of the All-Union People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD)” which, among other things, was entrusted with the function of ensuring state security and revolutionary order. A number of main directorates were formed within it, including the Main Directorate of State Security (GUGB). The Foreign Department of the OGPU (foreign intelligence agency) became the 5th Department of the NKVD GUGB. Its tasks included detection of conspiracies, subversive activities of foreign states, their intelligence services and general staffs, anti-Soviet political organizations; uncovering sabotage, terrorist and espionage activities on the territory of the USSR, as well as the management of foreign illegal stations.



27
July
1899

Stanislav Alekseevich Vaupshasov, an outstanding intelligence officer, was born in the village of Gruzdzhiai in the Kovno Province. In 1920–1925 commanded partisan movements along the line of the Red Army Intelligence Directorate in Belarus. In 1930, he was transferred to the state security organs. In 1937, sent to Spain to conduct reconnaissance and sabotage operations. In 1939–1940, he fought against the White Finns. Since September 1941, commanded a battalion of the OMSBON, participated in the defense of Moscow. For more than two years he led one of the largest partisan detachments in Belarus called “The Locals”. On November 5, 1944, for his skillful leadership of operations against the enemy and heroism shown while carrying out special missions in the enemy’s rear, he was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

30
July
1924

Gennady Petrovich Blyabin, a participant in the Great Patriotic War and an illegal intelligence officer, was born in Moscow. In 1941–1942, he studied at the Moscow Architectural College, and from July 1943 to November 1944 he served in the Red Army, participated in the battles near Orel, Bryansk, and Vitebsk. From 1944 to 1946, he served in the SMERSH counterintelligence service, carrying out special missions in the fight against espionage. In 1946, he was transferred to the security organs. In 1955, after graduating from the School No. 101, he was enrolled in the special reserve of the First Chief Directorate (foreign intelligence agency) of the USSR KGB. A year later, he and his wife went abroad, where for many years he successfully worked under special conditions. He was awarded the Order of the Red Star, the medals “For Battle Merit”, “For the Capture of Königsberg”, and “For the Victory over Germany”.



17
July
1944

The active part of Operation Monastery, one of the most successful operations of the whole period of Great Patriotic War, was completed. It was based on a radio game played by foreign intelligence with the Abwehr in the name of a mythical monarchist organization “The Throne” since the end of 1941. Its main achievements included misinforming the Wehrmacht about the direction of the main attack of the Soviet troops in the fall of 1942, which resulted in the defeat of the Nazis at Stalingrad. For their successful assistance to the Red Army, the head of the operation, Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov, and his deputy, Nahum Isaakovich Eitingon, were both awarded the Order of Suvorov — the only time in the history of state security organs. The main participant in the operation, Alexander Petrovich Demyanov (on the photo), who passed himself off as one of “The Throne” leaders and the German agent Heine, was awarded the Order of the Red Star.

18
August
1944

Intelligence Operation Berezino was launched which became a logical continuation of Operation Monastery. The idea was to spread to the enemy, by means of a radio game, a legend about the presence in the rear of the Red Army of a large German unit of up to two thousand soldiers and officers ready to provide armed resistance to the Soviet troops, with the aim of inducing the Wehrmacht to carry out rescue measures diverting significant material and human resources, which was fully realized. The future Soviet illegal intelligence officer William Genrikhovich Fisher, better known as Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, took an active part in the radio game.



18
August
1924

As a result of a brilliant operation of the Soviet Cheka officers, Syndicate-2, which lasted almost two years, the leader of one of the largest and most dangerous anti-Soviet White émigré organizations, the People’s Union for the Defense of Motherland and Freedom, terrorist Boris Savinkov, was lured into the territory of the USSR and arrested. At the same time, an extensive network of underground terrorist cells was liquidated. For active participation in the operation, the foreign intelligence officers Andrei Pavlovich Fedorov, Sergei Vasilyevich Puzitsky and Grigory Sergeevich Syroyezhkin were awarded the Order of the Red Banner (on the photo).



23
August
1909

One of the heads of Soviet illegal intelligence, Major General Arseny Vasilyevich Tishkov, was born in the city of Penza. He worked for the state security organs since 1935. In 1944, he was sent to Belgrade as a liaison officer at the General Staff of the Yugoslav People’s Liberation Army, and in 1946 he headed the foreign intelligence station in Budapest. In 1949, he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR in Hungary. From 1950 to 1954, Chief of the Illegal Intelligence Directorate. Then, until his retirement in 1967, he was Deputy Director and later Director of the Higher Intelligence School of the USSR KGB (now the Foreign Intelligence Academy). He was awarded the Order of the Red Star, two Orders of the Badge of Honor, the Order of the Partisan Star (Yugoslavia), and many medals.

29
August
1949

The first successful test of the Soviet nuclear bomb RDS-1 (a Special Jet Engine) was conducted at the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The working prototype was created in record time on the basis of top-secret information on the constructive features of the American nuclear bomb obtained by the Soviet foreign intelligence. As a result, material and, most importantly, time costs of creating the Soviet nuclear shield were significantly reduced, and aggressive plans for a US attack on the USSR with the use of nuclear weapons were nullified. In the 1990s, the intelligence officers V.B. Barkovsky, L.R. Kvasnikov, A.S. Feklisov, A.A. Yatskov, as well as the spouses Leontina and Morris Cohen, who participated in the extraction of nuclear secrets, were awarded the titles of Hero of Russia.



3
September
1909

Alexander Mikhailovich Sakharovsky, one of the heads of Foreign Intelligence Service, Colonel General, was born in the village of Bolshoe Ozhogino in the Kostroma province. He began his career at the age of 17 at the Baltic Shipyard. After serving in the army, he graduated from the evening communist school at the V.I. Lenin Military-Political Academy. In 1936, he was recommended for work in the security organs. During the war, he headed the First (intelligence) Department of the NKGB in Leningrad and the Leningrad region, prepared intelligence and sabotage groups for deployment in the Germans’ rear. After the Victory, he was transferred to the central intelligence apparatus, and repeatedly went on foreign missions to fulfill especially important tasks. From 1952, he was Deputy Director, and from 1956 to 1971, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service. He was awarded three Orders of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, the Badge of Honor, and many medal.

30
September
1914

Vitaly Grigorievich Pavlov, a Soviet intelligence officer, Lieutenant General, was born in Barnaul. In January 1938, before finishing his final year at the Siberian Automobile Engineering Institute in Omsk, he was assigned to work in the state security organs. After graduating from the Special Purpose School, he was enrolled in the North American Division of the 5th Department of the NKVD GUGB. During the war, he was the head of station in Ottawa. In 1947, he became the Chief of the North American Division of the illegal intelligence. He supervised the work of the illegal intelligence officer William Fisher (Rudolf Abel). In 1959, he became the Head of the Illegal Intelligence Directorate. From 1961 to 1966, he was Deputy Head of the First Chief Directorate of the USSR KGB. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st class, the Order of the Red Star, the breast badge “Honorary Employee of the State Security”, and other decorations.





Long Way Home

On August 1, 2024, at 22:21 Moscow time, a special flight landed at the Russian capital's Vnukovo Airport, carrying ten Russians who had been imprisoned in the West and released as a result of a large-scale exchange, and were finally returning to their Motherland. Among them were the Dultsevs, a married couple of illegal intelligence agents, with their children. Russian President Vladimir Putin met them on the red carpet strip at the plane's ramp.

We think that many people have seen these historical images, but we would like to tell how much work has been done to let this exchange take place.

On a commission from the Head of State, the main agencies that contacted Western partners regarding the prisoners' exchange were the Federal Security Service

and the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation. Substantive negotiations, which have continued over the past year and a half, have been held, among other officials, by the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia Sergei Yevgenievich Naryshkin and his deputies, who communicated with foreign colleagues on the territory of third countries. It is noteworthy that the initial list presented to the Russian side was different and included certain odious political figures who, for reasons which lay beyond our control, have not survived until the present time, which is why the exchange process has been greatly delayed.

Nevertheless, the mission succeeded: our citizens returned home. Not least due to the generally constructive and professional approach of our Western partners, who have shown high interest in achieving the result.

In the rank of the largest prisoner exchange since the Cold War, Russia handed over 16 people: 13 to Germany, and 3 to the USA. At the same time, 10 people were returned to their homeland from Germany, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and the United States: Vladislav Klyushin, Vadim Krasikov, Vadim Konoshchenok, Mikhail Mikushin, Pavel Rubtsov, Roman Seleznev and the Dultsevs – Artem and Anna, as well as their two children



It should be noted that the Dultsevs were detained by the Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency on December 5, 2022. They were soon indicted on a charge of espionage in favor of Russia. According to the case materials, the Dultsevs passed themselves off as Argentine citizens Ludwig Gisch and Maria Rosa Mayer Muñoz, who ran a small business in Slovenia. The trial was held behind closed doors. On July 31, 2024, that is, a day before the exchange, the Ljubljana District Court sentenced them to one year and seven months of imprisonment. The children, 11-year-old Sophie and 9-year-old Daniel, were staying in an orphanage after their parents' detention and also became part of the exchange deal, despite the attempts to take them to Buenos Aires. *"We felt that the Slovenian government was under*

enormous pressure from the secret services and authorities of other countries," recalls Anna Dultseva.

After a warm greeting at the airport, President V.V. Putin emphasized that Russia had not forgotten our compatriots for a minute. *"I would like to address those of you who are involved in military service. I would*

like to thank you for your loyalty to the oath, your duty and your Motherland," the head of state noted. He addressed Sophie and Daniel Dultsev in Spanish, since the children do not speak Russian, and they only found out to be Russians on board of the plane.

Anna Dultseva: *"When I saw the guard of honor from the plane's window, I started crying. When I was walking down the ramp, I had a feeling of enormous gratitude to our country and personally to Vladimir Vladimirovich. I cried because these two years have been very difficult for us."*

Artem Dultsev: *"We did not doubt for a single moment that our country was remembering us, that Russia and the Service were behind us, and that in the end everything would be fine, we would be home together."*

Illegal intelligence officers Artem and Anna Dultsev are unique people and true professionals in their field. They consciously made great sacrifices that are hard to understand for most people: living someone else's life far from their homeland, giving up their native language, communication with relatives for the sake of a higher goal – serving to the Fatherland.

"Razvedchik" will tell about the details of the Dultsevs' work abroad and their plans for the future in the next issue. 🚩



Ludwig Gish (Artem Dultsev), born in 1984, in 2012 came to Argentina, where he met Mexican citizen Maria Rosa Mayer-Muñoz (Anna Dultseva). In 2013, their daughter Sophie was born, after which the couple got married in Buenos Aires. In 2015, they gave birth to a second child, Daniel. In 2017, the couple moved to the suburbs of Ljubljana, where they lived under the guise of a head of IT startup and an owner of online art gallery.



Readings named after V.I. Trubnikov

On May 24 in Moscow, at the initiative of the Scientific and Research Institute for the Communications Development (NIIRC), the first Scientific Readings were held, dedicated to the memory of an outstanding statesman, diplomat and intelligence officer, Hero of Russia Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov.

The main goal of the event was to update scientific works and develop the ideas of V.I. Trubnikov in the field of foreign policy of the Russian Federation. The participants of the Readings were prominent scientists, public and political figures of Russia and neighboring countries.

The director of NIIRC, Vladislav Ivanovich Gasumyanov, addressed

the participants and guests of the Readings with a welcoming speech. *"Today's meeting is not only a tribute to the outstanding diplomat, famous Indologist, Hero of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov. We want his works, views, approaches and theoretical heritage to continue to live and multiply,"* he emphasized.

The Scientific and Research Institute for the Communications Development (NIIRC) has established a medal and a certificate named after Hero of Russia Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov. Every year at the Scientific Readings, awards for contribution to the development of multilateral dialogue and trust will be presented to people who have made a special contribution to the development of the Russian diplomacy.

State Secretary and Deputy Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, Sergei Nikolaevich Mikheev, spoke at the event and reminded the participants of the unique business and personal qualities of V.I. Trubnikov: *"Vyacheslav Ivanovich proved himself to be an experienced operative, a thoughtful analyst, a firm and caring commander. He spent his entire life fighting for the*

Motherland, even at the invisible front, and was always devoted to his professional and life guidelines. As a true intelligence officer, he did not strive for glory, but always did his job conscientiously well."

The guest of honor at the event was a high-ranking Indian diplomat, employee of the Embassy of India in Russia Das Subrata. In his address to the participants, he noted: *"We highly appreciate the initiative of the Scientific and Research Institute for the Communications Development to perpetuate the memory of Vyacheslav Trubnikov. Rightly called an outstanding statesman, as the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India, he played a major role in the creation of a special privileged strategic partnership between our countries, which is still in effect. His invaluable contribution to this process is well documented. It is gratifying to note that his work continues to inspire scientists and researchers."*

Other participants of the meeting also shared their memories of Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov, as well as of his contribution to the



development of theory and practice of international relations. During the discussion, representatives of the scientific community supported the NIIRC initiative to make the Trubnikov Readings a traditional event, in the frame of which it would be possible to comprehensively analyze scientific views on historical, political, cultural and social processes occurring in the world community, and to comprehend the prospects for promoting Russia's national interests.

According to the decision of the organizers, the scientific materials will be published in a special edition aimed to become a support for young scientists, international relations students, as well as for all those interested in modern politics, helping them to deepen their knowledge in the field of international relations and diplomatic activity. 🇷🇺

By the decision of the Organizing Committee, in the academic year 2024/2025, the registration of applications for participation in the All-Russian competition of student scientific and research works for the "Razvedchik" magazine award is extended until April 1, 2025. We remind you that the competition is held under the general theme "Interaction of civilizations".

Winners will be determined in three categories:

- best analytical work on current issues of the global economy and technological development;
- best analytical work in the field of regional conflicts and global security issues;
- best analytical work on issues of international relations and strategic forecasting.

Please note that only works made by student scientific societies or student teams of Russian institutes may take

part in the competition. Participation of individual researchers is not provided. Applications must be registered before April 1, 2025, in a special section at the RAS IMEMO website. **No more than three works** (one in each nomination), made by different teams, may be submitted from one institute.

According to the results of the competition, the following prizes will be awarded:

1st degree laureate – 150,000 rubles;
2nd degree laureate – 120,000 rubles;

3rd degree laureate – 90,000 rubles;
1st degree diploma winner – 70,000 rubles;
2nd degree diploma winner – 50,000 rubles.

By the decision of the Organizing Committee, special prizes may be awarded to participants of the competition. All finalists will be informed about the results of the competition, the date and venue of the award ceremony by the end of May 2025.

We wish all participants exciting research and well-deserved victories!

Best Competition Works for 2023





Together on service to the Fatherland

In June 2024, on the eve of Russia Day, a ceremony was held at the SVR headquarters to award the commemorative badge “Together on Service to the Fatherland”, which is given to the wives of foreign intelligence officers according to the results of their joint staying on foreign missions.

Opening the ceremonial part, the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation Sergei Yevgenievich Naryshkin noted: “By Decree of the President of Russia, 2024 has been declared the Year of the Family. Opening this year, Vladimir Vladimirovich emphasized that it is in the family where those values are formed that serve as moral guidelines and help us all to be responsible.

Responsible for ourselves, for our family and for our Fatherland. Today, for the first time in more than a century of the history of Russian foreign intelligence, the wives of our officers are being presented with a special, recently established award. This is a badge which bears a characteristic and proud name: “Together on Service to the Fatherland”. The badge, made in the shape of a forget-me-not flower which

is popularly considered a symbol of love and devotion, is a visible evidence of your great contribution and your invaluable services to our common cause – the cause of serving the interests of Russia.

Having accepted the proposal of marriage from your beloved, you chose a special path – the path of a wife of an officer of the Soviet, Russian intelligence. Only you know how much excitement, worries, sleepless nights and, perhaps, even tears there were along this path. But you overcame all the difficulties because you firmly knew that the interests of our country required it. Thank you for your choice. Thank you for your patience and fortitude. Thank you for the sacrifices that some of you may have had to make for the sake of the interests of our Fatherland. We make you a low bow!”

For obvious reasons, we will not reveal names, surnames and even the total number of people awarded.



However, we are perfectly sure that the ceremony has taken place in a very warm, one might even say, domestic atmosphere. Many women wished to express their gratitude in response, some even had written poems on such occasion. We offer you extracts from several such speeches.

“Dear Sergey Evgenievich! Dear friends! I would like to thank sincerely all those who have made today’s ceremonial event possible. It is backed by many, many glorious examples of family tandems bonded by mutual love, respect, support, loyalty, and self-sacrifice.”

“My heart is overflowing with pride that we are related to the Service, to this difficult, but so important work. We are truly proud of that we helped our husbands abroad. And to the young families who are just starting out on this path, I would like to wish that they understand how important the family support is.”

“When I saw this forget-me-not today, something very strongly

resonated in my heart – it is so feminine! Special thanks to the designer who has made it. And the greatest reward for me is our path that my husband and I have walked together in the Service: 42 years of bright events, wonderful meetings, and real deeds!”

“I really like this badge’s name – “Together on Service to the



The badge “Together on Service to the Fatherland” is designed in the form of a forget-me-not flower made of gold-colored metal. The central part carries the image of a heraldic sign – the emblem of the SVR of Russia. Petals of the flower are covered with blue enamel. The badge is worn on the left side of the chest, if there are other medals of the SVR of Russia, it is located above them. According to the Regulation, the badge is awarded to wives of officers of the SVR of Russia who have served at least for 20 years, have gone on one or more joint foreign missions and have been legally married for over 20 years.



Fatherland". It was together with my husband that we have walked through our forty-year-long path: from a cadet to a general, from romance to harsh everyday life, from the Middle East to Western Europe

Forget-me-not is a symbol of love, constancy and fidelity. To present a forget-me-not means to show a true love. Despite its modest size and weak scent, the flower has been praised in poems and songs, depicted on canvases, and described in legends. One of such legends says that forget-me-not helps to restore memory to those who have forgotten their relatives and their home.



and back. And I would like to share this award with my girls whom I met on my path. I would especially like to mention my first staying abroad on a mission. It was there that our life universities began. It was there that we learned to love and to serve, understood how difficult and responsible our husbands' work was. Now we are mature, experienced women, but then we were young girls who came with small children to a Muslim country. Having meekly put on headscarves and hijabs, we firmly endured all the hardships: a stronger earthquake, an attack on the embassy, a taking of hostages... Together with our husbands, we rejoiced at our first successes and results. And it is to those girls to whom I want to dedicate this poem by Konstantin Simonov:

*In the most distant garrisons,
Our wives helped us to build
Walls of fire and fences of steel –
Not by chance they knew that old word!
We let no quarrels in our families,
And in the firm concrete of our borders
There are small bits of their faded youth,
Brought as a gift. There are in the foundation,*

*Besides tons of cement and quintals of sand,
Their desires unfulfilled and vacations unused.*

*Worn less than once in a year,
Since there was no occasion for them,
Dresses that have gone out of fashion,
Sewed for the wedding when we were twenty,
And other sacrifices, also very great,
That not only before her thirties,
But even at forty are very hard to be
Made by a woman without cursing fate."*

Given the uniqueness of the event, it is not surprising that many women were excited, some were moved to tears and had difficulty with finding the words. As always, those who were nearby – their husbands – helped: *"Our wives are glowing with happiness! Many thanks to the leadership of the Service for the decision to establish such an award. This is a sign of recognition of the invaluable contribution of our wives to the common cause. On this day, many remember their first missions, difficult moments in work, successes and failures. And always, at all stages, our wives were the first to rejoice with us, to worry and to support us. Today they have received their well-deserved awards."*

At the end of the ceremony, a small festive concert was held, at which favorite songs of intelligence officers and their wives were performed, accompanied by the orchestra of the SVR of Russia. In addition, for the awardees, most of whom found themselves on the territory of the Service for the first time, a tour in the Hall of Foreign Intelligence History was organized. The event ended with the laying of flowers to the bottom of the monument to F.E. Dzerzhinsky unveiled a year ago, and to the sculptural composition "Fatherland, Valor, Honor" erected for the 100-th anniversary of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia.

We would like to conclude our report with the words of one of the awardees: *"Officer's wife is a very honorable title that still needs to be earned. I wish for future generations to serve just as honestly and selflessly to our Fatherland as we did."* ▮

Dedicated to the officers' wives

*All the warmth there was in life,
I shared all of it with my wife.
So many misfortunes I have gone through,
But she always was by my side.
There are too many places to count,
Officer's service is here and there,
But she managed not to get tired
And set off on her journey with me.*

Refrain:

*An officer's wife is hope and faith,
Support and strength in a loved face.
An officer's wife is worthy of a career,
Because she serves Russia as the officer himself.*

*Sometimes an anxious sadness
Didn't let her be quiet and sleep.
When I could not come home on time,
She was patiently waiting for me.
She's always found the right words
To support me in difficult times,
And she served a reliable rear,
When there was nowhere to retreat.*

Refrain

*And probably not without reasons
She had to become adult too soon.
The gray color is slowly conquering
Rough curls of her young dark hair.*

*This is really the most honored work,
And she need not any other fate.
Let them call it a real profession –
To be an officer's wife!*

Refrain

Alexander Filipenko

*Transfers, stations, and platforms,
Lights flicker outside the glass.
Your wives have become so accustomed,
As the days are quickly flying by.
You just have settled down in a town,
But now go pack your luggage again.
The mission set, and the road is waiting,
The order is given, and it is time to leave...
The work sometimes was hard to be found,
And, throwing our diplomas away,
We got lost in the household duties,
And our "houses" slowly turned into homes.
Yes, we often received the apartments
Without comfort, not very equipped,
But the family happiness reigned there!
We waited, we loved, and we met...
Once more transfers, stations, and platforms.
It happened, and it will happen again.
And now, believe me, your brave wives
Carry out the orders with you...*

Natalia Gross

BRICS: per aspera ad astra

Text: Victoria Vladimirovna Panova, Vice-Rector of the National Research University "Higher School of Economics",
Head of the BRICS Think Tank Council, Russia's Sherpa in the Women's Twenty

The halfway point of Russia's BRICS presidency has already been passed, and although the main summit will take place at the end of October, it is possible to draw the first conclusions regarding the group's work in its new, expanded composition, and to outline the prospects for further development.

Since January 1, 2024, we are dealing with a completely different BRICS, and again, as in 2009, it is Russia that presides at the association, taking responsibility for determining the vector of subsequent movement. Now that the euphoria of accepting new members has passed, the bloc members will have to solve a number of difficult tasks. The key one is the rapid and full inclusion of newcomers in all previously agreed projects and working mechanisms while maintaining high efficiency and density of interaction within the group. However, questions of criteria and limits of further expansion, as well as of formats of partnership within BRICS+, also remain on the agenda.

Despite the fact that the new round of expansion was, let's say, not very smooth – we saw Argentina's sharp change of course and

Saudi Arabia's cautious position – BRICS has not lost its popularity among the majority of the world's countries, and requests to join the bloc have continued to arrive this year. And this is in the context of the West's incessant pressure on both old members and newcomers to the "club" and its prospective partners. At the same time, Western hostility towards BRICS has proven difficult to be entirely ignored, as many countries of the Global South still depend heavily on their former metropolises. Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev recently cited some disappointing statistics in this regard, noting that the debt interest payments of 45 developing countries exceed their annual health care costs. It is clear that in such conditions, breaking out of a vicious circle of dependence, where the "help" of the West is much lower than the economic

benefit they derive, is practically impossible. Nevertheless, the decline in the global dominance of the United States and other Western countries is irreversible, and the role of BRICS here is difficult to be overestimated.

So, what can we write down as an "asset", and what areas should we pay special attention to? Firstly, as it has been said above, one of the key issues is the integration of newcomers. It is clear that, despite the applications submitted, it is unlikely that the new members fully understood what they were entering, and what exactly the membership in BRICS would give them, in addition to increased prestige. For many of them, it was not easy to quickly join all areas of the group's work, given that the official agenda of the Russian presidency includes more than 250 events, and a number of



formats require the appointment of individual national coordinators in addition to the Sherpa. In some cases, such a broad field of interaction has created confusion in terms of departmental subordination.

Secondly, in connection with such a significant expansion of the group, the issue of institutionalizing the association and creating a permanent BRICS secretariat has arisen with renewed vigor, although not everything is clear here either. On the one hand, in the context of dynamic development, there is a need for centralization and more precise coordination of all processes; and on the other hand, the absence of bureaucratic structures that sooner or later begin to live their own life, allows the association to maintain a certain flexibility.

Several years ago, the author of these words put forward the idea of creating a virtual BRICS secretariat, which would systematize interaction within the group and significantly facilitate the integration of new members. At that time, this initiative was not developed due to a number of reasons, including the high cost of launching such a system and the difficulties in ensuring the security of electronic communications.

Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Economic Development and Foreign Trade.
Moscow. July 26, 2024

Nevertheless, assessing the problems that have arisen during the current expansion, and taking into account modern technological capabilities, I believe it is time to return to this issue. In particular, the creation of a common multi-purpose platform that would function on the basis of a distributed registry

The bloc members will have to solve a number of difficult tasks. The key one is the rapid and full inclusion of newcomers to all previously agreed projects and work mechanisms while maintaining high efficiency and density of interaction within the group.



Meeting of V.V. Putin with the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum. July 11, 2024

and the ownership of its own segment by each of the member countries may be of interest. This would make it possible to combine resources and to form a single information and analytical depository of BRICS, as well as to ensure the operation of a common discussion platform. The levels of access to various segments of such

a platform may vary depending on the categories of users and the scale of the tasks facing them. In fact, we may be talking about the emergence of a single architecture of interaction within BRICS: both the official diplomatic track and the other, thematic and expert, "paths".

The next issue, which is directly related to ensuring regular interaction and providing a single documentation depository and access to BRICS analytics, is the assessment of the work and progress of the association's common

projects. It is no coincidence that during its previous chairmanship in 2020, at the BRICS Think Tank Council Russia agreed with other members on a list of indicators for monitoring development. The main point of the work is to present an objective picture and to analyze the necessary further steps for all three pillars* of BRICS activities. In May of this year at the Academic Forum, the group members agreed on an interim report, and the final version of such monitoring on the selected indicators is being prepared for the leaders' summit in Kazan.

Everything mentioned above, together with the projects already being implemented and

* Politics, security and global management; economics and finance; humanitarian cooperation.

Western hostility towards BRICS has proven difficult to be entirely ignored, as many countries of the Global South still depend heavily on their former metropolises.

the previously created BRICS Think Tank Council and BRICS Business Council, can become a reliable foundation for forming the BRICS International Centre for Monitoring, Analysis and Standards. Basic functions of such a Centre are essentially close to the OECD, but the work will be carried out in the interests of BRICS and the rest of the world majority countries. Currently, the documents of the Group of Twenty and other Western-controlled international structures usually contain references to standards and goals developed by the OECD, that is, without the participation of the BRICS countries, but with an attempt to scale them up to the entire world. It is obvious that without developing uniform rules and standards for BRICS, without conducting independent analysis and monitoring of the work done, the members of the association, like other countries on the planet, will be doomed to only catch-up development.

Another significant point is the order of rotation of the chairmanship. Yes, BRICS has common principles, a common understanding of the need to ensure the continuity of the group's work, but national specifics of the designated priorities, economic and intellectual integrity of the projects being implemented, and issues of sovereignty are no less important. It should also be understood that not all member countries of the association (due to various reasons, from financial problems to domestic political instability) are capable of organizing a large number of high-level international events themselves, as required by the BRICS calendar. Moreover, not all are resistant to pressure, and sometimes even real blackmail from the United States to form an

From the point of view of the evolution of the group, it is important to understand the image of a single future for all. And this in turn implies the immersion into philosophy and value guidelines for all members and potential partners, the search for common denominators, including in the context of preserving global diversity in contrast to total globalization.

independent agenda. In this regard, we can recall the "experience" of a similar dialogue mechanism – the "Group of Twenty", where the substantive and intellectual content of the presidency of a number of non-Western countries was often produced by such "very Western" consulting firms as McKinsey & Company.

Everything mentioned above concerns organizational issues which, although produce a noticeable impact on the work of the group, do not determine it. In the year of the Russian presidency, the slogan of the association is: "Strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security", and both the problems already discussed which require additional decisions, and new areas where we have accumulated advanced experience that we are ready to share with the partners, have been put up for discussion.

One of the key issues is the formation of a fair system of international relations. It is clear that it is long-term in nature and its solution will require huge efforts. But what is important not to miss right now in order to create a reliable foundation for continuing this important work, is not only to quickly integrate BRICS newcomers into the common mechanisms,

which has been largely done, but also to work out formats for interaction with countries that have applied for accession or otherwise expressed their interest in carrying on a dialogue with the group.

The criteria for accession proposed last year, in my opinion, are too general and rather characterized as "for everything good and against everything bad", although the factor of non-confrontation in relation to any of the BRICS members seems strategic. Of course, the peculiarity of such informal clubs as BRICS lies precisely in their flexibility, including in matters of changing their composition, so one should not expect any precise formulas, like the Copenhagen criteria for joining the EU. Nevertheless, from the point of view of the evolution of the group, it is important to understand the image of a single future for all. And this in turn implies the immersion into philosophy and value guidelines for all members and potential partners, the search for common denominators, including in the context of preserving global diversity in contrast to total globalization. Civilization and culture, traditional values, human rights, society and state, democracy and sovereignty, multipolarity, the right to development, single and indivisible security – what do all

An equally complex and important task, without the solution of which it's impossible even to speak of the emergence of a new, fair world order, is the formation of alternative to the Western one and truly independent global financial and economic architecture.

these concepts mean for each BRICS member? Whom do they see themselves in the new system of international relations? Not only without mutual respect, but also without a deep understanding of each other, it is impossible to build a solid foundation for the future world, the core and basis of stability of which BRICS will be.

An equally complex and important task, without the solution of which it's impossible even to speak of the emergence of a new, fair world order, is the formation of alternative to the Western one and truly independent global financial and economic architecture. It is no coincidence that the reform of global finances and, particularly, the IMF quota system was one of the key issues even at the first BRICS summits. In 2009, the active work of the group members, including within the framework of the G20 meetings, led to a revision of IMF quotas in favor of developing countries, which allowed BRICS members to collectively approach the blocking stake. But, despite the commitment to continue this process "in accordance with the current realities", it did not go further due to the opposition of the United States, which did not want to lose their privileges. Even if new decisions are made next fall, this does not mean that the task of reforming the global economy will be solved and problems in

this area can be pushed into the background.

If at the initial stage of BRICS's work it was enough to agree on a common mechanism for using the pool of currency reserves and to adopt a framework agreement on national currencies, today more specific decisions are needed. I should say at once that there is no talk of creating a common currency for the BRICS countries yet. Nevertheless, the permanent threats of sanctions, including secondary ones, the risks of disconnection from the SWIFT system and other habitual financial instruments that have effectively become a weapon in Washington's hands, make not only the leaders of countries that have friction in relations with the United States, but also national leaders who are quite loyal to the West, think about their leveling.

The next test to BRICS's ability to respond to the identified challenges will be the launch of an alternative instrument of payment for the group, which the parties intend to agree on within the framework of the Russian chairmanship. An important element in maintaining the stability of such an instrument could be its provision with mineral and other resources of the BRICS member countries. Moreover, now, after the admission of new

members, this is about 30% of the world's gold mining, the entire range of rare earth metals, about 80% of aluminum production, 45% of global oil reserves and 50% of wheat and rice production. And the dollar, which de facto serves as the world's unit of account, has not been backed by anything since the early 1970s. Moreover, today the United States is a country living in debt to the rest of the world. Let me remind you that this summer, the American national debt has broken another psychological barrier of 35 trillion, which already exceeds 100 thousand dollars per capita!

In these conditions, the task of ensuring stability and predictability in the sphere of trade and investment, both within the group and on the outer contour, which faces BRICS members seems to be quite achievable despite certain difficulties. Its relevance is caused by both the sanctions policy of the West towards a number of the group's member countries and the objective need to ensure independent financial, trade and economic development, not controlled by US organs. One of the options for working in this area could undoubtedly be digital means of payment.

However, it should be understood that an alternative currency and financial system will not cover all risks. Today, global transport logistics and related insurance services are controlled by the same West. That is why the BRICS countries need to develop their own container transportation companies and to think about creating common insurance companies. Initiatives in the field of food security are also in this line, including Russia's proposal to open a BRICS grain exchange, which



will permit to reformat the global grain market in favor of the group's members. And this is fair, given that grain production and consumption in the BRICS countries accounts for 44% of the global ones, while prices for them are formed on European or North American exchanges. And in many areas, a similar situation is observed.

Finally, we must not forget that independent development concerns not only politics and economics, but also humanitarian issues: preserving the native language and culture, creating a single educational and scientific space, working with youth. Here it is important to talk not only about synchronizing national standards, but also about creating our own ratings and quality assessment systems.

In general, there is a lot of work ahead, and the interests and approaches of the BRICS member countries coincide not every time and not in everything. The geopolitical situation does not make things any easier, considering that the West, primarily represented by the United States, will continue to try to split the group using the usual carrot and stick approaches. The temptation to choose an easy way will be very great. At the same time, the

ability to cast aside immediate benefits and to go through rough ways to the stars (per aspera ad astra) for the sake of a fair and stable common future will ensure the birth of that very new universe of prosperity. Is everyone in BRICS ready for this? Time will show. But there is no other way, and there will not be any. 🚀

Not only without mutual respect, but also without a deep understanding of each other, it is impossible to build a solid foundation for the future world, the core and basis of stability in which BRICS will be.

New reality and the development of China

Text by Aleksey Aleksandrovich Maslov, professor, doctor of historical sciences,
director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University

October 1 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Today China undoubtedly plays a key role in global politics and economics. No serious decision in the world is made without its participation, or at least without an answer to the question: "How will Beijing react to this?" At the same time, both the West and the countries of the Global South are closely monitoring the dynamics of China's development, aware of the significance of its role in shaping the concept of a new world order. For Russia, constructive dialogue and strengthening of strategic partnership with its closest neighbor are of the utmost importance.

Over the past 40 years, since the beginning of Deng Xiaoping's policy of openness and reform, China has been developing in generally comfortable international conditions. In addition to economic success, it also enjoyed the sympathy of a certain part of the Western public, who admired its rapid rise. The path taken by the PRC can be roughly divided into several stages. The first stage (early 1980s – late 2000s) created the prerequisites for sustainable growth. The model proposed by Deng Xiaoping was effective and quite simple: relying on cheap labor and foreign technology, to provide benefits to foreign businesses, which made it possible to create a sustainable export-oriented economy attractive to investors in record time.

The next stage (late 2000s – mid-2010s) launched the transition

to building a comfortable macroeconomic region. This period is characterized by large-scale export of capital and penetration into the markets of other countries, and this time not in terms of export of goods, but in terms of investments in foreign raw-materials and technology industries, purchases of entire enterprises and global brands. It was then that the PRC's state and private companies came to Asia, America, Africa and Europe.

Then China, within the framework of "Going Out" policy, initiated the third stage – achieving global scientific and technological superiority. Government support programs for innovative entrepreneurship "Made in China 2025", "Chinese Standard 2035" and many others have been adopted. The country began to export not only products, but also concepts, technologies, narratives. Such global giants as Huawei,

ZTE, Lenovo, Tencent appeared and began to displace the former Western grandees from Western markets. In 2013, the Chairman of the PRC Xi Jinping launched a large-scale project "Belt and Road Initiative" which has already attracted over a trillion dollars of investments to different countries and regions.

Today, China is moving to the fourth stage – the formation of a new world order which it calls a "community of common destiny", offering other countries new cooperation formats and security concepts. However, it is hardly possible that this process would be painless: Washington has already launched an aggressive campaign against Beijing, seeking to crush a potentially strong competitor. Moreover, the conflict is of existential nature and is connected with the fact that China, for the first time after the Second World War and



the collapse of the socialist system, offered an adequate economic and political alternative to the American model. That is, this is an inevitable confrontation between an aging leader and a young one, and today we are witnessing only the beginning of it.

It is noteworthy that many Western analysts, understanding the Chinese word "reform" incorrectly, expected a slightly different trajectory of China's development: a decrease in the role of the state in the economy and an increase in the share of the market and the private sector. It was assumed that this would be followed either by the liberalization of domestic policy, or a political crisis and the collapse of the autocratic model. China, however, not only developed the private sector which makes up to 60% of GDP, but also used the "dual track" method, when the

state controls all command sectors and cash flows, and competition occurs only at the level of small and medium-sized businesses. Such a model is not a market one in the usual sense of the word. Unlike the West, bankruptcy of companies in China is a very rare occurrence and it concerns only private firms, while almost none of about 150 thousand state-owned enterprises has gone bankrupt, some were simply declared "planned to be unprofitable". As the growth rate of China's GDP has been

decelerating, the scale of reforms in the country has also slowed down, and the internal decision-making system has become more rigid and vertically oriented. China will certainly continue the transformations, but in accordance with its own understanding of their goals and objectives. And these primarily include fine-tuning the system of monetary management and capital movement, creating tax and other incentives for business in order to support economic growth and accelerate the pace of

Today, China is moving to the fourth stage – the formation of a new world order, which it calls a "community of common destiny", offering other countries new cooperation formats and security concepts.



technological change. The focus is not on further liberalization of the market, but on achieving technological leadership.

Thus, the decisions of the Third Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, held this July, seem paradoxical at first sight. On the one hand, it is noted that the market will still play a decisive role in the distribution of resources, i.e. market reforms will continue. On the other hand, it is postulated that the state will retain the “commanding heights” in the field of economy. Thus, over the past 40 years, Beijing’s political and economic strategy

which represents a combination of market elements and strict state control has remained practically unchanged. Moreover, the country’s authorities apparently consider it to be the only correct one, since it allows to maintain a balance of power between different groups of influence.

It is important to understand that China is a classic trading power for which the expansion of its economic presence is a necessary and natural form of existence. Healthy market pragmatism runs in the blood of the Chinese who filled the countries and peoples along the Silk Road with their goods for 1,500 years (from the 3rd to the

17th centuries). Territorial disputes and military conflicts break this model, making it vulnerable, so Beijing, despite the full-scale modernization of its armed forces, is least interested in instability, not to mention military action, along its own borders.

Meanwhile, China remains tightly integrated into the global trading system built by the West within which it skillfully uses Western instruments and mechanisms: from banking and payment systems to appraisal and insurance companies. However, with the course of time it becomes more obvious that further development in the old paradigm is impossible, and the only solution is to challenge the hegemony of the United States. For now, however, China does not intend to break the game, to “overturn” the global situation or to break off relations with Washington, the trade with which brings it profit. It is also not currently seeking to leave the dollar zone, given that it is in this zone that China has learned to work effectively. At the same time, it takes an active part in the formation of alternative global structures and economic blocs, such as BRICS and SCO, promotes its currency, introduces the digital yuan, concludes currency swap agreements to facilitate trade transactions.

According to forecasts, by 2030, i.e. in five years, China may overtake the US, becoming the world’s largest economy by nominal GDP (in terms of purchasing power parity, China took first place back in 2022). However, there are many challenges on the way to further development. In particular, there is a high risk of falling into the so-called middle income trap, which Japan, South Korea and other developed countries once

found themselves in: achieving the peak of working efficiency with a reduction in the labor force and a sharp increase in the number of the middle class. In China, working efficiency and labor force quantity indexes peaked in 2015-2017 and now are steadily declining, while the middle class already includes over 450 million people, i.e. about 30% of the population. In theory, the solution could be the wide introduction of new technologies that can help to increase productivity, but here, too, given the opposition of the US which is trying to “cut off” the Chinese from advanced technologies, everything is not that simple.

The problem of population aging is no less acute. The number of the Chinese over 60 years old already amounts to 297 million people, or 21% of the total population, and by 2050 these figures may reach 520 million and 38%, respectively. At the same time, the PRC has a low birth rate of 1.2, due to which the total population has been declining for the third year in a row.

In these conditions, overcoming structural imbalances in the economy is becoming a difficult task: how not to violate social agreements and not to lose the political and, just as important, reputational confrontation with the United States? The Taiwan issue is indicative in this regard: China needs to resolve it in such a way as to show the world the wisdom and flexibility that underlie the new model of global regulation promoted by it. A direct armed attack on Taiwan would mean abandoning the declared principles and the positive image of the “great peaceful leader”, while indecision will definitely be perceived as weakness and political incompetence.

Beijing, despite the full-scale modernization of its armed forces, is least interested in instability, not to mention military action, along its own borders.

So far, China’s leadership is being patient, as time is on its side. The recent re-election of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in Taiwan has changed the previous “8–8–8” scheme of power rotation, when no political force has ever won three consecutive terms. And now, the DPP lost its majority in parliament, and support of Beijing among its members decreased from 57% to 40%. At the same time, the issue of internal “break” is becoming increasingly acute: many Taiwanese, especially young people, like residents of Hong Kong and Macau, do not have a “mainland” identity, i.e. they do not consider themselves “Chinese”

(Zhongguoren). In addition, due to the blocking of Western Internet resources in the PRC, Taiwan exists in a different information space from the mainland, which undoubtedly affects the mentality of the local population.

Under the current circumstances, the Chinese authorities are consistently tightening the traditional soft power trying to achieve the results they need in any, even unfavorable, situation. Having a thousand years of experience, the Chinese are convinced of the effectiveness of such an approach – tackling the problem gradually but persistently.



Over the past 40 years, Beijing’s political and economic strategy which represents a combination of market elements and strict control has remained practically unchanged. Moreover, the country’s authorities apparently consider it to be the only correct one.



But today this method almost doesn't work any longer: China's popularity as a country (not as an investor!) is low. I should also note that Beijing has not managed to resolve any serious issue via soft power, including territorial conflicts with India, Japan, and the countries of Southeast Asia.

The new reality determines the search for a new format of relations with our country which have a multi-layered nature and many nuances that do not allow them to be described with any standard definition, including today's formula of "strategic partnership in the new era". This is really a special type of long-term interaction between two states – unique civilizations striving for economic sovereignty and global political influence. I should emphasize that in the case of Ukraine, China, despite strong pressure from the United States, has made a difficult but

fundamental decision to stick to a position of "pro-Russian neutrality".

It is also important to understand the peculiar Chinese narrative, which is not always accurately perceived by the non-Chinese. For example, when the PRC, including at the highest level, talks about friendship with Russia, this essentially means a special and, of course, privileged format of communication, but does not allow an automatic resolution of business issues and does not provide preferences in the Chinese market. For us, Russians, "friendship" is a psychological concept that requires self-sacrifice and unconditional support for a partner. As for China, it perceives friendship from a pragmatic point of view, and this pragmatism will always prevail. This, in particular, explains difficulties in servicing financial flows between two countries and problems with the

supply of high-tech products to Russia.

At the same time, Moscow is in effect the only major military and political ally of Beijing that supports it on almost all strategic issues, and the Russian position in this sphere has not changed for decades, unlike wild swings in the dialogue with the US and the EU. Moreover, today Russia stably supplies China not only with raw materials, but also with food: according to the results of last year, the turnover of agricultural products exceeded 10 billion dollars, more than seven of which accounted for the export. In terms of general trade, the volume of which approached 240 billion dollars (Russian agencies give the figure of 227 billion), agricultural production may not seem the most significant line of work, but in all non-resource exports, it has a leading position.

Meeting of V.V. Putin and Xi Jinping
on the sidelines of the SCO summit.
Astana, July 3, 2024

There is no doubt that the economies of Russia and China are incomparable. Nevertheless, in the last three years alone, Russia's share in the Chinese foreign trade turnover has increased from 1.9% to almost 4%. Though the structure of our trade still remains at the level of the 1990s: we supply to China raw materials, primarily hydrocarbons and timber, purchasing high-tech and other finished products in return. On the one hand, this creates a trade surplus in our favor (Russia is the largest holder of yuan outside China), on the other hand, it results in a strong dependence.

The volume of mutual investments also does not correspond to the level of political partnership: despite the creation of joint high-tech zones, there has not yet been a mass influx of Chinese investors into Russian Advanced Development Zones, as well as Russian investors have not come to Chinese Special Economic Zones. At the same time, there is a good basis for joint scientific research: a university, founded by Moscow State University together with the Beijing Institute of Technology, has been developing for several years now in Shenzhen, China, where about three thousand people are already studying.

In general, the beginning of Russia's turn to Asia has led to interesting phenomena. First of all, a shortage of specialists in various fields has been revealed: from law and economic analysis to modern business communications. It is important to understand that in the coming years, both Russia



and China will see a change in generations of experts in the field of bilateral relations, that is why it is very important today to include in the training of new personnel the theses that will allow us to understand each other's mentality well and to maintain smooth relations for decades. To be fair, we should note that in the PRC, the study of Russia is noticeably lagging behind the tectonic shifts that are taking place in our country. At the same time, "deep" China treats Russians well, seeing our determination as an example to follow, and closely monitors what is happening here since the beginning of the Special Military Operation: not only in

terms of applying modern military technologies, but in terms of surviving under the pressure of sanctions.

It is evident that Russian-Chinese relations have long gone beyond trade and economic ties. Today, we are talking about narratives and specific areas of joint development in the long term. At the same time, it is obvious that further deepening of our cooperation will take a lot of time. [↗](#)

The new reality determines the search for a new format of relations with our country. This is a special type of long-term interaction between two states – unique civilizations striving for economic sovereignty and global political influence.

Anatoly Torkunov:
«In both diplomacy and intelligence, man will always be indispensable»

On the occasion of the start of a new academic year and on the eve of the 80th anniversary of MGIMO, Razvedchik talked about the past, present and future of the legendary university with its rector, Anatoly Torkunov.

Anatoly Vasilyevich, what achievements in the development of the university over the past years do you consider to be the most significant, and what tasks do you set for yourself and your team for the future?

Since the foundation of MGIMO, outstanding scientists, practitioners, and diplomats have worked here, and the youth came to study at our institute straight from the front. We are very proud that our first students were five Heroes of the Soviet Union. War veterans made up more than a half of the students, continuing to enter the institute until the early 1950s.

And it was they who created such an amazing student fraternity, which we then cultivated, and now, as the older generation, we are trying to implant it in the youth. And I must say, we are succeeding, because this, as they say, "MGIMO corporation" really exists: even being dispersed after graduating, the boys retain a strong desire to communicate, many of them then help and support each other.

But, of course, you can't live in the past. Remembering the past, feeding on its roots is very important, but we live in the present and the future. First of all, our institute has become a university. If 30 years ago we had four faculties, today we have fourteen, if in the past there were four basic specialties studied, today their number exceeds two

dozen. Secondly, the institute has expanded physically. Our campus is developing, a new dormitory for one and a half thousand students has been built which has all the conditions for living, studying and resting, for creative activity. Thirdly, there is an incessant update. We are constantly improving programs, courses, including language studies, because today, when machine translation exists, students need to be given such competencies that they can outshine any computer. For example, today in MGIMO for the studies of foreign languages, cognitive technologies and virtual reality are used. For us, who were students in the 1970s, this is fantastic!

The variety of professions chosen by our graduates is also impressive. You can meet them in almost any structure: state, social, or private. This shows that the education we provide here is versatile. It allows students to freely change their career path, to choose any field and sphere of application of their knowledge and abilities. I believe that with a versatile education, a person is better adapted to life, he can flexibly respond to the needs of the labor market, to the demands of society and the state. And this is what, as it seems to me, is the foundation of our university.

At the same time, we understand very well that today the social and humanitarian education, for which MGIMO has always

Anatoly Vasilyevich Torkunov

Born on August 26, 1950 in Moscow. In 1972, he graduated from the Faculty of International Relations (IR) of MGIMO, and took the post-graduate course the same year. In 1974, he was appointed Rector's assistant. In 1977–1983, he held the positions of senior lecturer, associate professor of the faculty, Dean for work with foreign students, Vice-rector for international relations. In 1983–1986, he was in diplomatic service. In 1986, he was elected Dean of the Faculty of IR. In 1989, he was appointed First Vice-rector. In 1992 he was elected Rector of MGIMO. He has the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Member of the Board of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Political Sciences, professor.

« I believe that with a versatile education, a person is better adapted to life, he can flexibly respond to the needs of the labor market, to the demands of society and the state.

been famous, requires the acquisition of new competencies, the study of new technologies. And we also try to implement this in the educational process. I believe that the future lies in the unity of humanitarian, natural and technical sciences. Given the current geopolitical situation, we pay more attention to solving economic problems in our country: a unique education program in specialties in the field of territorial development has been launched in the Odintsovo branch of MGIMO. There is also a special program for veterans of the Special Military Operation.

A year ago, a separate joint program was opened with Moscow State University, within the framework of which MGIMO students will study psychological characteristics of international activities, including negotiation practices. Of course, our professors have previously given to students the knowledge in this field. But now, the education has reached a new level, it is based on the latest scientific achievements.

MGIMO

Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) – MGIMO – was founded on October 14, 1944, on the basis of the International Faculty of Moscow State University opened a year earlier, and received the status of a university in 1994. It is a subordinate educational institution of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Today, MGIMO includes 14 faculties, which implement more than 100 programs in 18 specialties. 55 foreign languages (a world record) are studied in the university. MGIMO's main campus is located in Moscow, and there are also branches in Odintsovo near Moscow and in Tashkent. The number of students exceeds 10 thousand people.

In general, network interaction with Russian universities has expanded significantly. We are implementing a number of programs with Kuban and Stavropol Agrarian Universities, Moscow Institute for Physics and Technology (MIPT), Gubkin University, Novosibirsk State University of Economics and Management (former Institute of National Economy, “Narhoz”), the Marine University in Vladivostok. Moreover, this is already a widespread practice, we are talking about combining the competencies of different universities to educate specialists in various fields. On the one hand, we are trying to respond to external requests, on the other – to actively interact with government and business structures. In general, this is a two-way street. Not without difficulties, of course, but overall, I believe that we succeed in everything.

How did the start of the Special Military Operation affect the university's activities and, in particular, international cooperation projects? In your opinion, with which countries are such projects currently the most promising?

As I have already said, our institute continues to develop dynamically, despite the fact that we, like all Russian universities, have encountered some difficulties after the imposition of sanctions. Our numerous partners – we had 35 joint Master's programs with countries that today are considered unfriendly – have closed these programs. Moreover, the decisions to close programs were made at the state level, the universities were ready to continue cooperation, we know this.

At the same time, our partnership projects in other regions are progressing extremely well. For example, for five years now – since September 2019 – the MGIMO branch in Tashkent has been successfully operating. The opening of a branch in Kazakhstan is currently being worked on. New joint programs have been launched with universities in India, Iran, China, Pakistan. In general, of course, the geography has changed. Now more students come to us from Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. I think

it is good, we are trying to make education accessible to them.

MGIMO is also actively working on the platform of network universities of the CIS, SCO, BRICS, but there are some nuances here. If, for example, we talk about the students' exchange with Brazil, then, of course, it is expensive and difficult. Yes, there is online education, and we are also promoting it. But I personally believe that, just as a pile of books can't replace a good teacher, online education can't replace the vibe of personal communication between a professor and a student.

Two years ago, Russia withdrew from the Bologna system, which was believed to have provoked an outflow of qualified personnel from the country. Now, at the initiative of the President, a reform of the higher education system has begun. In your opinion, was participation in the Bologna process a mistake, and what do you see as an optimal model of higher education in Russia?

Frankly speaking, I don't really understand the point in fighting against “bachelors” and “masters”, because it wasn't the Bologna system that came up with such names. In Russia, both bachelors and masters have always existed, including in the pre-revolutionary period. Today, they exist in China and India, in Africa and Latin America.

At the same time, serious difficulties arise with foreign students, whom we have enrolled and will continue to enroll, including in accordance with the Decree of our President who ordered to increase the number of foreign students in Russian universities to at least 500 thousand by 2030. Now foreigners ask us: what degree will I receive upon graduation, what will be written in my certificate? They don't know what a “specialist” is, and then they need to seek employment in their native country...

Yes, I agree that the transition to a two-stage model, for example, in engineering universities have not produced a significant

effect. But the goal of reforms, in my opinion, should not be to bring everyone under a common denominator, but to make Russian education the most modern and advanced. For example, at MGIMO, most bachelors continue their studies in a master's program, and this education is often combined with practical work. We even make the schedule in such a way that students can devote part of their time to work, acquiring the necessary skills, and the master's program serves as a kind of “superstructure”.

In addition, we have now introduced a very interesting, absolutely innovative program – a master's program combined with a post-graduate course. That is, we offer two years of study in a research master's program, and then a one-year-long post-graduate course with the defense of a thesis. Today, there are about fifteen people in this program. Perhaps, we will expand it in the future, but for now, we need to look at the results: will the students be able to defend their master's theses at a stated time? This is also necessary for the renewal of the academic staff. Of course, we appreciate our veterans very much and try to support them in every possible way. Nevertheless, rejuvenation of personnel is a task of a state level.

At the opening of the MGIMO branch in Tashkent. December 9, 2019



As for the “brain drain” from Russia, it seems to me that this does not currently exist. On the contrary, I see a different process. I would call it “a reversed relocation”. Many parents who previously pondered over sending their children to study abroad, today strongly recommend them not to leave, but rather to take root here, on Russian land. Moreover, this concerns not only students, but also businesses. And this is an absolutely positive moment.

Last year, you co-authored with V.R. Medinsky a new Russian history textbook for high school students; by the beginning of this school year, similar textbooks were also published for grades 6–9. Tell us what makes them special.

A large group of authors worked on the textbooks; Vladimir Rostislavovich and I acted as co-authors and editors. I will immediately note that they have already been criticized, but mainly not by teachers or students, but by those who, in principle, do not like the proposed approach to covering events, which is absolutely objective, in my opinion, but, naturally, from a patriotic position, since the

school should cultivate in children a love for the Fatherland. If you take, for example, two volumes for grades 10–11, you will see that nothing is missed there, everything is said: about the repressions – pre-war and post-war, and about the mistakes of the leadership at the initial stage of the war, and about the hard life of our peasantry in the late 1940s – early 1950s.

At the beginning of the summer, the Minister of Education, S.S. Kravtsov, presented at the SPIEF the cover of a new textbook for the 6th grade, decorated with the painting “Three Bogatyrs” by V.M. Vasnetsov. Criticism also immediately followed: what do bogatyrs have to do with it, it’s a history textbook... The country’s past should be studied simultaneously with the history of national artistic culture, which is why all the volumes are decorated in this style. For example, the cover of the textbook for the 7th grade, dedicated to the 16th–17th centuries, contains the picture of the Pereiaslav Agreement; on that for the 8th grade (18th – early 19th century), there is a portrait of Peter the Great by V.A. Serov. That is, from the very beginning we visually introduce students to this or that epoch. Moreover, I am sure that any discipline, including the exact sciences, should be studied in conjunction with its creative side – this contributes to the harmonious development of an individual.

And how perceptive are today’s youth to lessons of patriotism?

I can’t speak for all the young people, but at our institute, we have a very active student union and student organizations, which certainly cannot but make me happy. It is often our students who initiate patriotic projects. First of all, I am talking about volunteering. In recent years, not a single major international event in our country, be it the SPIEF, the Eastern Economic Forum or the World Youth Festival in Sochi, has taken place without the participation of MGIMO’s volunteers, who act as translators, attendants, and organizers. So today, this is also a very important part of our work. And it seems to me that we are generally succeeding.

I think it is no secret that MGIMO is a source of manpower not only for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but also for the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation. Many graduates of the university successfully serve in intelligence, achieving significant results. Do you think that today’s students are ready for such difficult work?

I would like to make it clear right away: we are certainly not talking about that our programs are aimed at specially educating someone for the future work in intelligence. Where to continue their life and professional path, what special education to get for this – this is a personal choice of our students. But in general, the patriotic mood among MGIMO students is very high. It is no coincidence that today some of our students have taken sabbatical leaves and gone to the SVO zone, considering it necessary and important for them to personally participate in the struggle for the fate of the Motherland.

For some of our students, of course, the prospect of serving in intelligence seems very tempting – from a professional point of view, or from a sense of patriotism and a desire to serve for the good of our Fatherland in this difficult, but very interesting field. But I want to emphasize once again: our university does not specially educate anyone for secret services.

At the same time, MGIMO regularly hosts performances by veterans of intelligence service, which always attract a lot of attention. Last academic year, with the assistance of the Council of Veterans and the SVR History Hall, two thematic exhibitions were organized which had an undeniable success. We hope that this kind of interaction will continue. In my opinion, this is very important, including in the context of patriotic and professional education. I would like to remind you that at one time, the Director of the SVR of Russia, Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov, opened at our institute a lecture course, “Intelligence in the Modern World”, and we continued this tradition for many years. I believe that it is very important for students to listen to, and even to look at, people with a heroic past.



And how could new technologies, and in particular artificial intelligence, affect the work of future diplomats and intelligence officers?

Before the General Meeting of the Russian Historical Society. June 20, 2022

I am deeply convinced that no artificial intelligence or computer technology will replace the professions of an intelligence officer and a diplomat. As for diplomacy, I am sure that “face-to-face” diplomatic activity will always play a big role, because people can only agree by communicating with each other. What is called human “vibe” is very important, and in the future, nothing will change in this regard.

Likewise, artificial intelligence will never replace human intuition. My friend, Dean of the Faculty of Economics of the Moscow

« For some of our students, of course, the prospect of serving in intelligence seems very tempting – from a professional point of view, or from a sense of patriotism and a desire to serve for the good of our Fatherland.

At a meeting with MGIMO students and professors on Knowledge Day. September 1, 2023



« I am deeply convinced that no artificial intelligence or computer technology will replace the professions of an intelligence officer and a diplomat. As for diplomacy, I am sure that “face-to-face” diplomatic activity will always play a big role.



Video version
of the interview

Interviewed
by Mikhail Pogudin
and Vladislav Ilyin

State University A.A. Auzan, during the expert discussions about the role that artificial intelligence will play in our lives, often gives the following example: “Biologists are sure that a fox is smarter than a hare. Why then are the hares still alive and the foxes have not caught them all? Because a hare runs along a complex, confusing trajectory. And does a hare know in advance the trajectory it will run along? No, it does not know, its intuition tells it. That is why a fox cannot catch a hare – this animal has an intuition!” The same situation is in diplomacy and in intelligence: the human factor, the factor of intuition will always be decisive, and the person himself will always be indispensable.

In conclusion, may I venture to ask you a personal question: what is MGIMO for you?

Of course, for me MGIMO is my whole life, I say this without any pathos or exaggeration. I have been here for many years, I have gone through all the stages: while being a student, I worked as a secretary of the Komsomol Committee, then I became Rector’s assistant, Dean, Vice-rector. Then I went abroad, came back again, was again elected Dean of the main faculty – Faculty of International Relations. Then I was elected First Vice-rector. Finally, in 1992 I was elected Rector. So, I know the institute, as they say, from the inside.

And if the things had turned out in a way that in the 50 years passed after graduation, you would never have had a chance to visit your native university, would you recognize it today?

Yes, I would recognize it, I surely would! Though it is hard for me to judge, because I am here all the time, but our institute is regularly visited by veterans who walk along the corridors, and they all say unanimously: the old spirit is preserved, the spirit of MGIMO which the Russian Foreign Minister S.V. Lavrov has described in the anthem as a student fraternity. And I believe that preserving this spirit is perhaps my greatest personal achievement as a rector. 🇷🇺



MGIMO Graduates
of 2024



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СВР РОССИИ
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО
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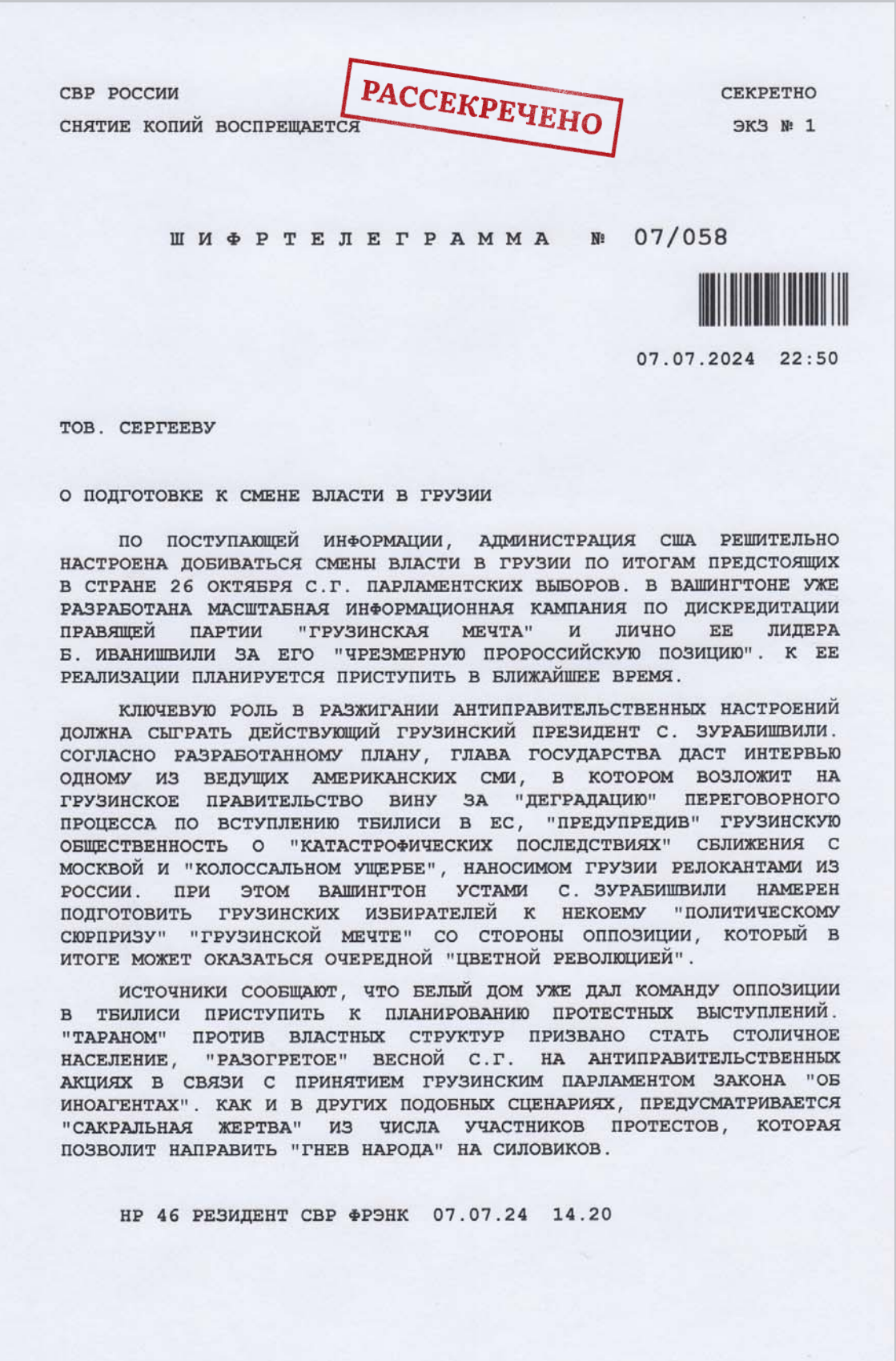
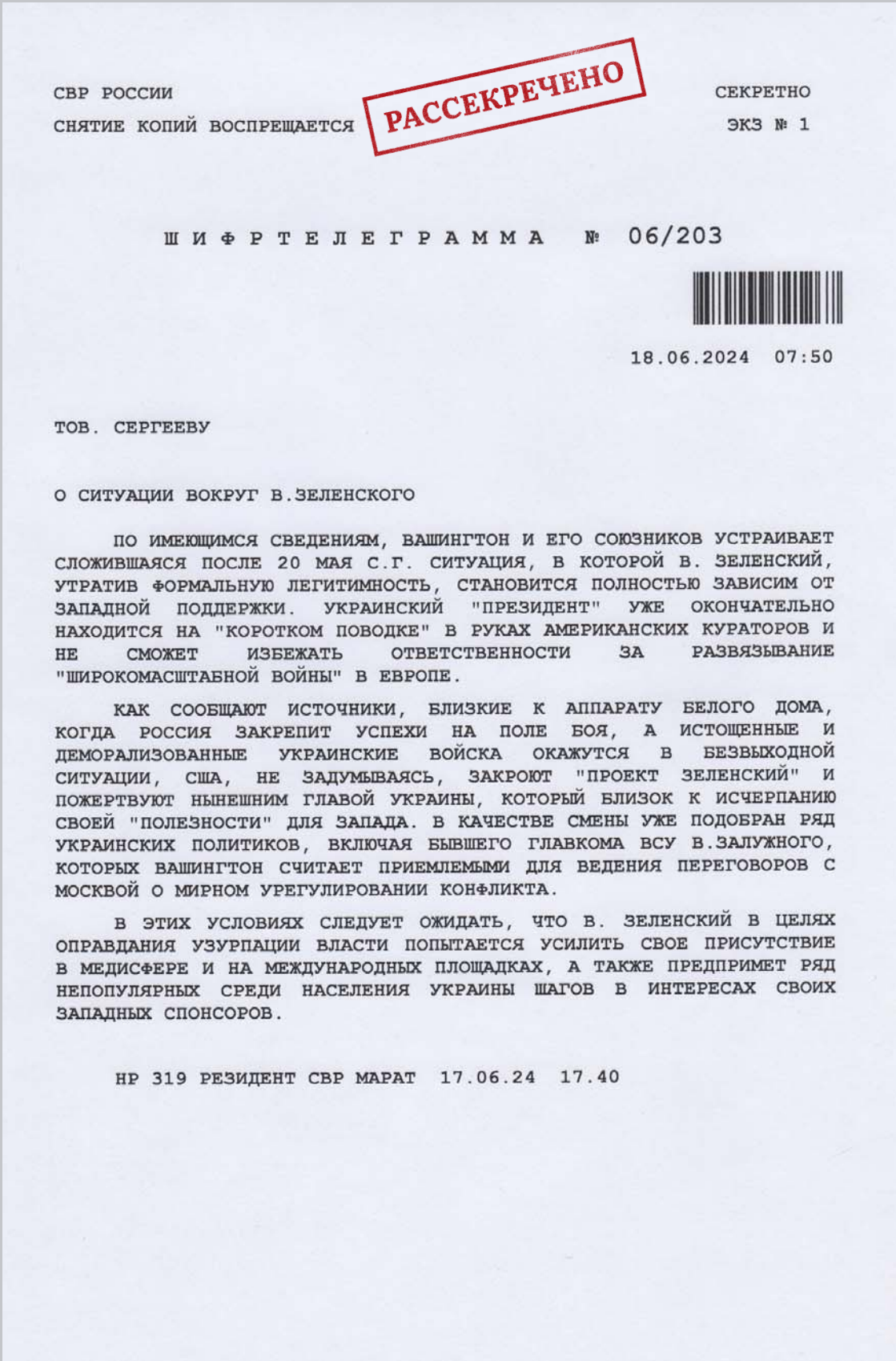
О ЗАПУГИВАНИИ ЖИТЕЛЕЙ СТРАН ЕВРОПЫ «РОССИЙСКОЙ УГРОЗОЙ»

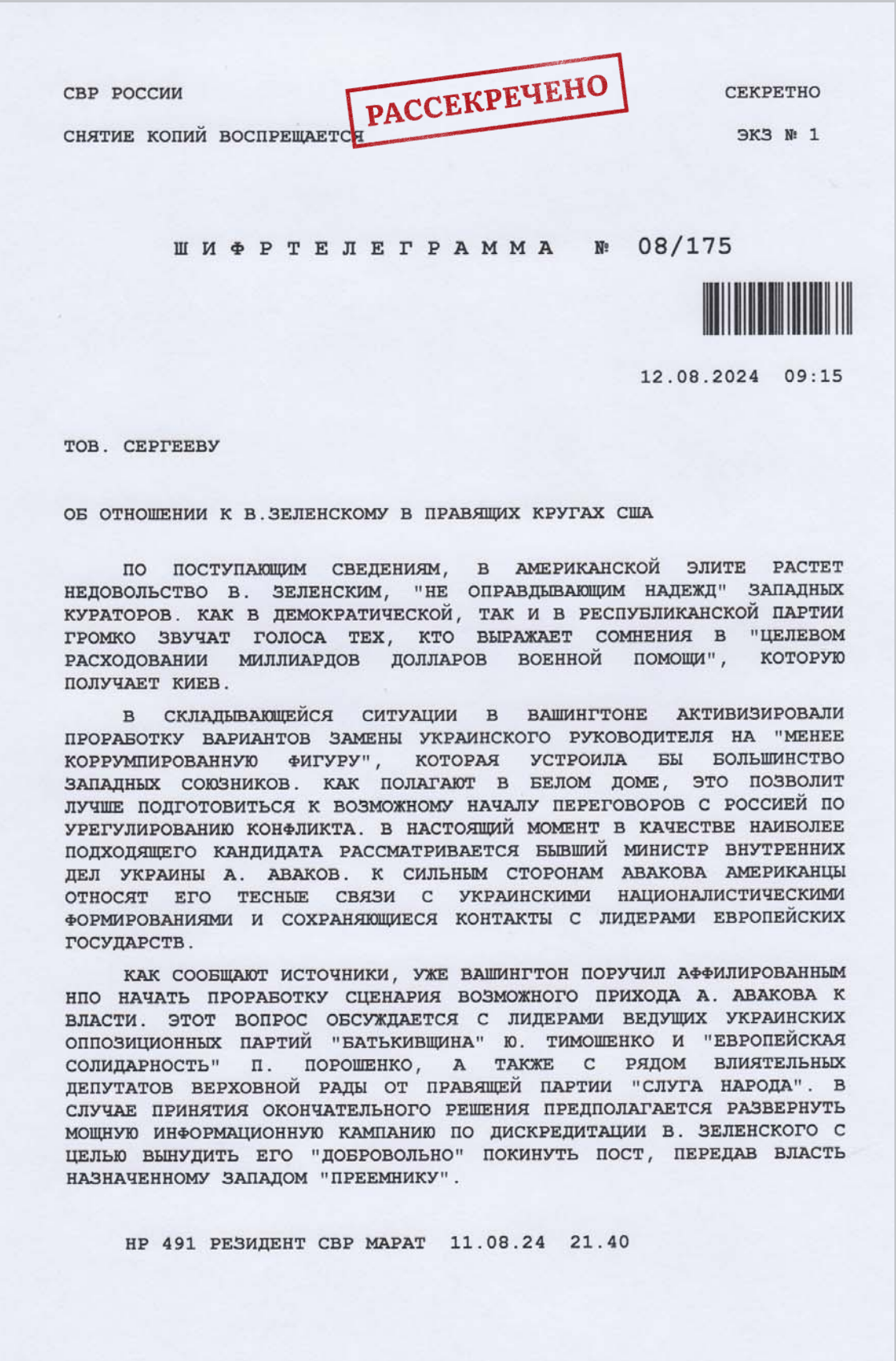
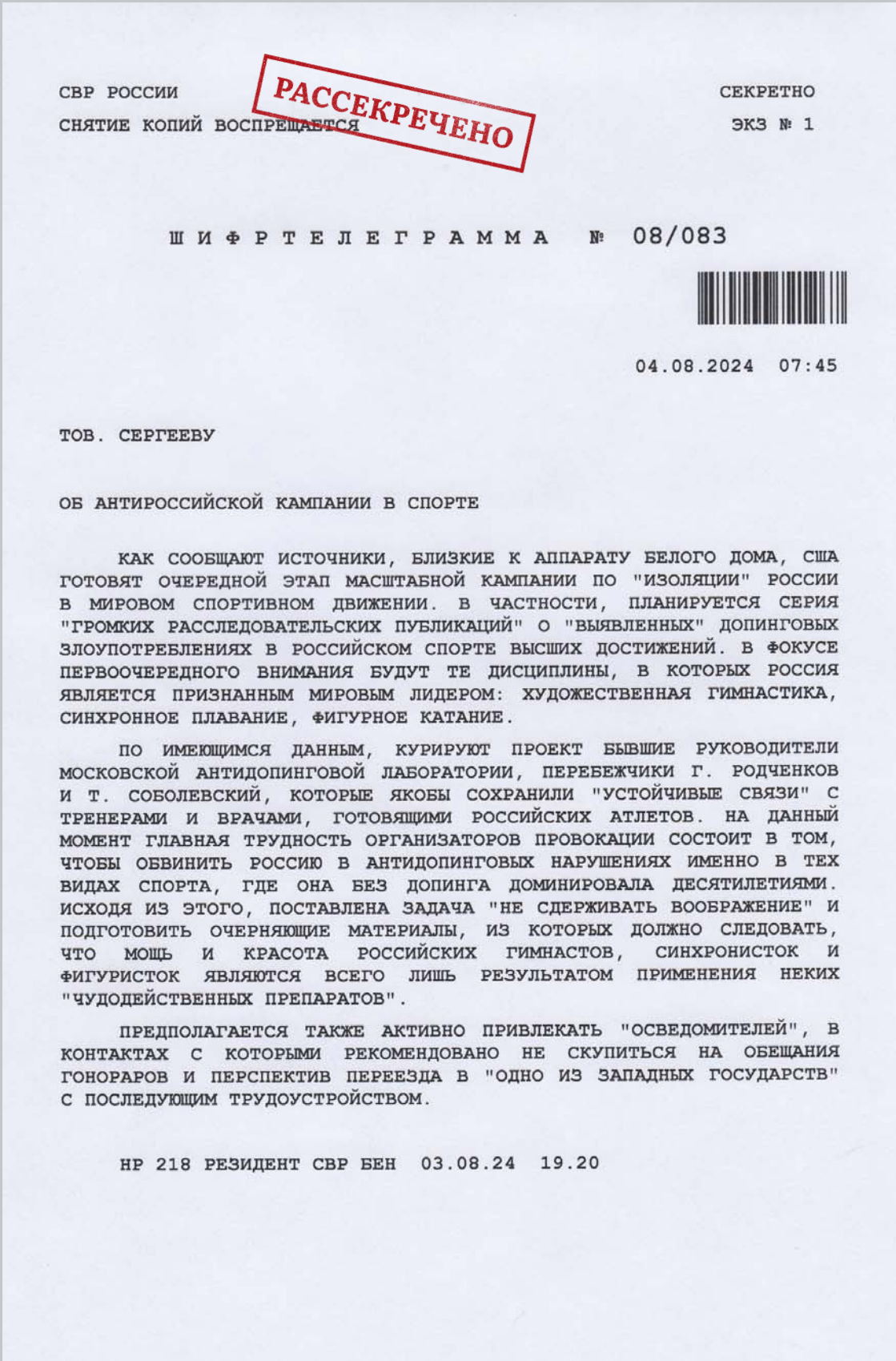
ПОСТУПАЮЩИЕ ДАННЫЕ СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВУЮТ ОБ АКТИВНОЙ ПОДГОТОВКЕ ГОСДЕПАРТАМЕНТОМ США МАССИРОВАННОЙ ПРОПАГАНДИСТСКОЙ КАМПАНИИ, НАПРАВЛЕННОЙ НА УСИЛЕНИЕ В ЕВРОПЕ СТРАХА ПЕРЕД "РОССИЙСКОЙ ВОЕННОЙ УГРОЗОЙ". ДЛЯ ЭТОГО В ПОПУЛЯРНЫХ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СОЦСЕТЯХ И МЕССЕНДЖЕРАХ ПЛАНИРУЕТСЯ РАЗМЕСТИТЬ СЕРИЮ АДАПТИРОВАННЫХ ДЛЯ РАЗЛИЧНОЙ АУДИТОРИИ ТЕКСТОВЫХ СООБЩЕНИЙ И ВИДЕОРОЛИКОВ, ПРИЗВАННЫХ ПРОДЕМОНСТРИРОВАТЬ "СЕРЬЕЗНОСТЬ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНЫХ АППЕТИТОВ МОСКВЫ" В ОТНОШЕНИИ СТРАН ЕВРОПЫ. БЛИЖАЙШАЯ ЦЕЛЬ ЭТИХ УСИЛИЙ СОСТОИТ В ТОМ, ЧТОБЫ РАЗВЕЯТЬ НАРАСТАЮЩИЕ У ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СОЮЗНИКОВ СОМНЕНИЯ В ЦЕЛЕСООБРАЗНОСТИ "ВЕЧНОЙ" ПОДДЕРЖКИ УКРАИНЫ И ПОБУДИТЬ ИХ К ПРОДОЛЖЕНИЮ ФИНАНСОВОЙ И ВОЕННОЙ ПОМОЩИ КИЕВСКОМУ РЕЖИМУ.

ЦЕЛЕВОЙ АУДИТОРИЕЙ ПРОЕКТА ИЗБРАНЫ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ КРУГИ И НАСЕЛЕНИЕ ШВЕЦИИ И ФИНЛЯНДИИ, КОТОРЫМ НЕОБХОДИМО ПРОЧНО ВНЕДРИТЬ "ВСЕЛЕНСКИЙ УЖАС" ПЕРЕД "АГРЕССИВНЫМИ НАМЕРЕНИЯМИ РУССКИХ", ЧТОБЫ ЗАКРЕПИТЬ ИХ ЧЛЕНСТВО В НАТО. В СВЯЗИ С ЭТИМ В КАМПАНИЮ БУДУТ ВОВЛЕЧЕНЫ ВЫСОКОПОСТАВЛЕННЫЕ ПОЛИТИКИ И ВОЕННЫЕ ДВУХ СЕВЕРОЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ ГОСУДАРСТВ. В ЧАСТНОСТИ, ГЛАВНОКОМАНДУЮЩИЙ ВС ШВЕЦИИ ГЕНЕРАЛ М. БЮДЕН ДОЛЖЕН УБЕЖДАТЬ ШВЕДОВ В ТОМ, ЧТО РОССИЯ ПРЕТЕНДУЕТ НА ШВЕДСКИЙ ОСТРОВ ГОТЛАНД, КОТОРЫЙ ЯВЛЯЕТСЯ "КЛЮЧОМ К УСТАНОВЛЕНИЮ КОНТРОЛЯ НАД БАЛТИЙСКИМ МОРЕМ". В ФИНЛЯНДИИ ВАЖНАЯ РОЛЬ ОТВОДИТСЯ ПРЕЗИДЕНТУ А. СТУББУ, КОТОРЫЙ ДОЛЖЕН ПЕРЕД ЛИЦОМ "РОССИЙСКОЙ УГРОЗЫ" ПРИЗВАТЬ ЕВРОПЕЦЕВ "ПРОЛОЖИТЬ ПУТЬ К МИРУ ЧЕРЕЗ ПОЛЕ БИТВЫ".

ПРОПАГАНДИСТСКИЙ ПРОЕКТ ГОСДЕПАРТАМЕНТА БУДЕТ ПОДАВАТЬСЯ КАК САМОСТОЯТЕЛЬНАЯ ИНИЦИАТИВА КОМАНДЫ НЕЗАВИСИМЫХ ЖУРНАЛИСТОВ И ЭКСПЕРТОВ, СТРЕМЯЩИХСЯ ВСКРЫТЬ "ОПАСНЫЕ ЗАМЫСЛЫ МОСКВЫ". В ЦЕЛОМ РЕЗИДЕНТУРА ФИКСИРУЕТ АКТИВИЗАЦИЮ ПОПЫТОК АДМИНИСТРАЦИИ США НАСТРОИТЬ МИРОВУЮ ОБЩЕСТВЕННОСТЬ ПРОТИВ РОССИИ, НЕ ОБРАЩАЯ ВНИМАНИЕ НА ИСКУССТВЕННОСТЬ И НАДУМАННОСТЬ ИСПОЛЪЗУЕМОЙ ПРИ ЭТОМ АРГУМЕНТАЦИИ.

НР 154 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ДЖОН 27.05.24 19.15





Ministry of State Security of the PRC: 40 years of guarding the country's interests



The Ministry of State Security of the People's Republic of China (MSS of the PRC), whose functions include conducting intelligence activities abroad and counterintelligence activities within the country, is the leading government organ responsible for stability and sustainability of the government system and for the provision of intelligence information to China's top leadership. The MSS of the PRC was established on July 1, 1983, and for more than 40 years has been guarding the interests of the state according to the motto: **"Serve the people firmly and purely, reassure the Party, be ready to make your contribution, and be able to fight hard and to win."**

The predecessor of the MSS is considered to be the Special Department of the Central Committee, the main intelligence agency of the Communist Party of China which carried out successful intelligence operations during the civil war and the fight against the Japanese occupation. After the formation of the PRC in 1949, party intelligence was reorganized, some officers were transferred to the intelligence agencies of the PLA,

the rest – to the Ministry of Public Security of China (MPS, analog to Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs). In 1955, the Central Committee of the CPC again established its own intelligence service – the Research Department responsible for collecting political information, including abroad. In 1983, when the Research Department merged with the counterintelligence units of the MPS, the MSS of the PRC was formed.

Currently, the tasks of the MSS of the PRC are:

- to implement counterintelligence functions on the territory of the country, prevent and suppress subversive activities of foreign intelligence services;
- to obtain intelligence information regarding China's potential adversaries;
- to ensure state interests in foreign policy, business and trade;
- to gain advanced foreign technologies in all sectors, including military and military-technical;
- to participate in the fight against international terrorism, internal separatism, religious extremism;
- to ensure the security of China's overseas institutions, as well as major overseas projects of China implemented within the framework of the "One Belt, One Road" Initiative.

The organizational structure of the MSS of the PRC is strictly classified and consists of intelligence, counterintelligence, operational



Chen Yixin was born on September 1, 1959 in Taishun County (Zhejiang Province). He graduated from Lishui Teacher's College (now Lishui University) with a degree in physics. He worked in Zhejiang Party Committee of the CPC, and in 2013, he headed the Party Committee in Wenzhou. In 2017, he was appointed Secretary of the CPC Committee in Wuhan. In March 2018, he became Chief of Staff of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee. On October 30, 2022, he was appointed head of the MSS by a decision of parliament.

and technical units, and support units. Officers are recruited mainly from large law, technical and linguistic universities, as well as from police academies. Service in the MSS is considered very prestigious in China. The department is headed by a minister with the rank of the Police Commissioner General. Since October 30, 2022, this position has been held by Chen Yixin. His predecessor, Chen Wenqing, became the head of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee and a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, which reflects the strengthening of the MSS position in the security bloc of China and the increasing role of intelligence in ensuring state security.

Historically, China's main adversaries are intelligence agencies of the United States, Great Britain, Japan and Taiwan, with whom the PRC special services have been waging a fierce struggle for decades. And it should be noted, they do it quite successfully, which primarily refers to the confrontation between the MSS of the PRC and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States. The Americans have never admitted this in public, but according to media leaks, in the early 2010s the CIA lost most of its agents in China, as a result of which it practically "went blind".



The MSS of the PRC has an active presence in the Internet and local social networks (the department's account in the largest messenger WeChat appeared on July 1, 2023), where various kinds of explanatory and propaganda materials are published, including comics designed to attract the attention of the young.



The Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee is a supervisory and coordinating body responsible for implementing the administrative, political and legal guidelines of the party leadership. It oversees the work of special services and law enforcement agencies, the judicial and penitentiary systems. The Commission's branches operate in all provinces and major cities of the PRC at the level of provincial party committees. Since October 28, 2022, the head of the Commission – Secretary – is Chen Wenqing (on the photo).

And in many ways, this is the merit of the MSS of the PRC.

Considering that the global confrontation between China and Western countries does not weaken, Chinese intelligence services continue to improve measures to counter subversive aspirations from outside. Thus, in 2021, new regulations in the field of combating espionage were put into effect, placing the main responsibility for preventing espionage activities within state-owned companies, party and government structures, non-profit and public organizations on their leadership. At the same time, the Law on National Intelligence was adopted in the PRC in 2017, Articles 7 and 14 of which directly require all citizens to assist the work of the intelligence services. This means that almost one and a half billion residents

of China plus tens of millions of their compatriots dispersed around the world are potential voluntary assistants to the MSS of the PRC.

Washington and London also make no secret of the fact that China is their main adversary. This is directly stated in the new US National Intelligence Strategy published in August 2023. Statements on this matter were also made by MI6 Chief Richard Moore and CIA Director William Burns. The latter, in particular, noted that over the past three years, budget resources allocated for intelligence activities in the PRC have more than doubled. In addition, a separate China Mission Center has been created within the department, aimed at coordinating the efforts of all CIA units in the Chinese direction.

In contrast to the tough confrontation between the MSS of the PRC and the American CIA and the British MI6, the Chinese and Russian intelligence services, as the Director of the SVR of Russia Sergei Yevgenievich Naryshkin emphasized, have *"a large volume of interaction, a large volume of exchange of intelligence, operational, signal information"*. It can be expected that in modern conditions, the scale of such interaction which benefits the peoples of both countries, will only increase. 🚀

Fraternal heart

Today, everyone who cares about the destiny of the country must unite for the sake of a common goal – a speedy victory. And for this, it is not obligatory to go to front, it is enough to ask yourself a simple question: ‘What can I do for the Victory?’ and then to give an answer – by deeds. The author of this essay, **Irina Zorina, an officer of the SVR of Russia**, devotes all her free time to voluntary work, taking care of the wounded at the Nikolai Burdenko Main Military Clinical Hospital.

Dedicated to Olga Ezhova, Svetlana Mikhailova, Natalia Solovieva, Ilyas and all those people who help others



It's Friday. I am habitually waiting for an answer about the shift, looking at the phone – what will be the requests of the soldiers for tomorrow? I can't get to the hospital on weekdays because of my work, but I am lucky – they have put me on duty on Saturdays.

There are different kinds of requests: recently Georgy from the fifth ward, the rightmost bed, said with a chuckle: ‘I'd like some liver with onions, fried, please.’ No problem, brother. I passed it on to the next shift. On Monday, the girls brought this dish and gave it to Georgy and his ward mates. So the whole week they brought him liver with onions – he kept asking for it, he couldn't get enough of it.

And one day I ask: ‘What can I bring you, guys? What do you wish?’ ‘Bring me a leg, sister, my left one’, says a soldier. And his bedmate adds: ‘Bring me the right one.’ My heart clenches. I feel a lump in my throat. My eyes sting. I would not show it to them: they don't cry, so we don't have a right to it either. I jokingly wave my hands: ‘We're out of legs for now, guys. They're out of stock.’

They're laughing. They find the courage and smile at me. They understand. And I understand...

The long-awaited shift report has arrived at last. Among the usual requests, Lyudmila reports: ‘A fighter in the 30th ward has a birthday tomorrow. We were talking, and I asked him what he would like. He said – a flag. His name is Vladimir. Girls, maybe, we will manage to bring him a flag tomorrow?’ I look at my watch: 19:30. Where to go? I remember: there is a military store in Medvedkovo. I rush there, I'd better be in time.

I rush in like a madwoman. The shop assistant who has a tired look stares at me. I say: ‘What flags do you have?’ She points behind her back – there is a big choice: Air Force, Airborne Troops, Ground Forces... Suddenly it dawns upon me: ‘Do you have a Victory Banner?’ She gets up reluctantly, and leaves. I'm waiting. She returns with

a package and unwraps it. That's it! She looks at me a little bit surprised. I say: ‘It is for the hospital – a wounded soldier wants a banner, it's his birthday tomorrow.’ She gets somewhat excited and fussed: ‘I'll give you a good discount.’ She really has brightened up. And I brighten up, too.

That evening, I carried the flag on the bus like a shrine, holding the package to myself, and I felt a sharp desire to tell everyone that a wounded soldier is lying in bed, and he could have ordered a lot of things for his birthday, but he dreams of a flag.

I enter the ward. ‘Who is the newborn here?’ A young man on the left answers in surprise and even lifts himself up on the bed: ‘I am.’ ‘Congratulations from the bottom of our hearts!’ I say solemnly and present him the Victory Banner.

The fighter hasn't expected it. His eyes become round and childlike. What begins here! All people around have livened up, they smile, congratulate him, and he immediately starts giving his relatives a video call.

I look, and a guy in the corner looks sad. Well, that's okay. I've got a present for him too. As if I felt something, I bought a T-shirt at the military store, a “berezka”. And now he, too, has started to smile...

I stood on the third floor of the building and waited for the elevator. Near me, some nurses were waiting for a goods lift – they were transporting a wounded man after a surgery. Still under anesthetic, he was lying with his eyes closed, and he was not moving. I noticed that one of the nurses, a small, dove-like blonde with a short haircut, was stroking the wounded man's head. With such warmth, one would touch only one's relatives: a son, a brother... It struck me deeply at the time.

Later I got to know that woman. Her name is Natasha, she has a medical degree and works at the Institute of Radiology. When the Special Military Operation began, and the medical staff from the institute started to go to the combat zone, Natasha took an additional course of patronage. ‘I couldn't stay aside,’ she says. That's how she found herself in the Burdenko Hospital.

‘Don't write about me,’ she asks. ‘Write about our Elena, she has a pedagogical education, holds a high position, and she comes here on weekends – she washes and shaves the guys. And there is Yevgeny – write about him!’

About Yevgeny, I was sure he was a doctor on duty: he always is here, no matter at what time I arrived. A tall, handsome man in his fifties, wearing a medical suit. It turned out he is a volunteer, too. In the “world” he is the deputy head of a large state company. ‘My wife came here, and so I followed her,’ he says. Yevgeny was sent by God: he helps, walks with the wounded. The guys weigh a lot, and the staff is practically all girls.

Natasha works together with Svetlana. She wears a sister of mercy's kerchief with a red cross and “wings” on the sides. She is light as a breeze, smiling, always ready to touch and to stroke, and what else does a person tired of pain and operations need? When

the Special Military Operation began, Sveta took a course of the care for the wounded at Saint Alexis Hospital. ‘Lord, if I am not going there, why do I live at all? This thought didn't leave me.’ I immediately called her Angel, and so “Angel Sveta” (Angel of Light) appeared in my phonebook.

Then there was a palliative care unit with heavy bedridden patients. On her holiday, the certified junior nurse went to Mariupol. An ordinary person looks for a better place, and a volunteer looks for a place where he is needed most. In a dilapidated eight-storey hospital, without electricity, water or elevators, Svetlana helped homeless, frostbitten and wounded people. “Rescue hangars” were being built in the city, and there were ruins, pull-action mines, and a smell of corpses around.

They lived on the temple's territory, in a building with broken windows. They slept on the floor and cooked on a generator. After the working day, Sveta and another volunteer, Feodor, prepared some meals and went to feed the homeless who lived in the basement of the hospital and on the 8th dilapidated floor. Feodor is a volunteer from Moscow who works for the Federal Tax Service.

‘In general, when blood is flowing, I couldn't look at it,’ Sveta says, ‘but here I looked at the limbs torn off, and I got really angry! They are suffering, and will I get afraid and faint?! And I keep looking...’

And she also says that feeling of pity should be expressed in actions: ‘Everyone should do what he or she can. Can you peel a tangerine? Peel it! It is difficult for them to do that too.’

One day I read my essay to a priest at the hospital, and he said: ‘Be sure to write about patronage, about the sisters of mercy,’ and he blessed me. I began to think about the title of the essay. And

then I had the luck to meet a man. He's a member of a retrieval team. His name is Ilyas, and his soldier name is “Mrak” (Dark). Half Russian, half Kyrgyz. Despite a serious wound and a period of rehabilitation, he continues his rides “beyond the ribbon”.

‘When they started shooting at ambulances, almost no drivers stayed. And I, though I can't lift heavy weights yet (the stitches on my liver will come apart), I can drive...’

‘Why Mrak?’ I ask.

‘I can see well in the dark, I don't need an escort, I don't use a torch.’

He is very serious, this Mrak, even when he jokes.

‘I've always been like this,’ he says, ‘I don't know why. But I know how to be glad: for my children, for my wife, for my relatives. I will be glad about the Victory.’

Ilyas told me that once they couldn't manage to take injured soldiers away for several days – the hospital was under heavy fire. At last, he took the soldiers out under fire. Only two of eight had survived by that time. One of them still sends his regards through the commander.

‘He calls me Fraternal Heart,’ says Ilyas. And I wonder: would I call someone by this nickname? And I realize that I would address it to everyone who helps others, to people with big hearts. This is the director Madlena, our employee Olga who is always ready to help everyone; this is Elena from the site Medtekhnik who, without even seeing me, immediately left me her personal phone number so that even at night I could write her what I needed; this is the taxi driver Zaur who did not take money when he learnt that my daughter and I were carrying humanitarian aid for the hospital. And many, many other People. 🇷🇺

Fighting with the stress: Chinese acupuncture

Text: Irina Mirova

If a problem has a solution, there is no need to worry, and if there is no solution, worrying will not help.

Dalai Lama

We have already mentioned that the profession of an intelligence officer is associated with high psycho-emotional tension and stress. This is due to the nature of the work: long-term stay in a hostile environment, the highest level of responsibility, multitasking, intensive communication in a foreign language, the need to make quick decisions and be prepared for any scenario.

To maintain high performance, a number of proven and effective techniques are used, including breathing exercises which we talked about in one of the previous publications. Of course, this is far from all. Intelligence is extended all over the world, and its officers often borrow from the culture and medicine of the host countries specific stress management techniques which they successfully use both in missions and at home. Naturally, we will not reveal all the secrets, but we are ready to share some with you.

Today, we offer you to learn biologically active points (BAP) which have been used for thousands of years in traditional Chinese medicine, including for relieving stress, reducing anxiety and raising mood.

Intelligence officers, current and future, should perfectly master effective self-regulation techniques. Moreover, for each person such a set is strictly individual, since there are no universal ways to relieve stress. Everyone copes with stress on his/her own and finds the best methods individually. And to help you choose what suits you, we will continue to tell you about different techniques in new publications.

Some people confuse BAP with acupuncture, but their stimulation is acupuncture without needles.

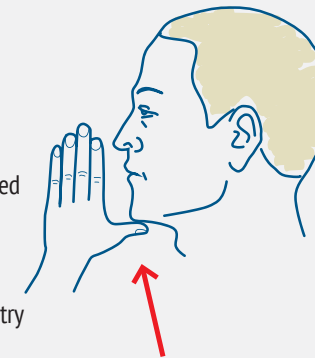
The purpose of acupressure is to restore health and balance of forces in the body, to regulate the flow of vital energy yin and yang. Many practitioners are convinced that acupressure heals not only the body, but also the mind, emotions and spirit.

Attention! When pressing on the points, as a rule, there is a feeling of aches, numbness, burning or even pain, which is absent when pressing on other parts of the body. The appearance of such sensations serves as a criterion for the correctness of the point location.

It is important! Points should be found with the greatest accuracy, as this will guarantee the best and long-lasting effect.

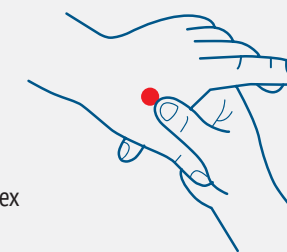
Anti-stress point

To reduce emotional tension, press smoothly and evenly on the point located under the chin for three seconds. When massaging it, you will feel a slight ache and burning. While working with the point, relax, imagine a state of languor, try to evoke pleasant images.



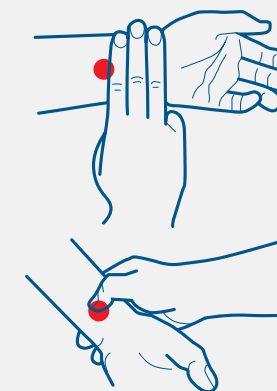
He Gu point

The point of health, or the point of emergency aid. It is used, among other things, to reduce emotional stress. It is located on the back of the hand, between the first and the second metacarpal bones. If you move the first finger to the side, it is found on the intersection of lines drawn from the tops of the first finger and the index finger. In simple words, He Gu is the top of the triangle on the hand between the first finger and the index finger. Massaging this point tones, improves general state, reduces stress, relieves anxiety and internal tension. Stimulation is possible on both hands. While performing it, you press this point with your finger and move it, as if you were screwing it into the point, for 5-6 seconds, which causes a feeling of warmth and burning in this place. You should do the massage gradually, first clockwise, then, after a pause, counterclockwise. Keep pressing for several minutes.



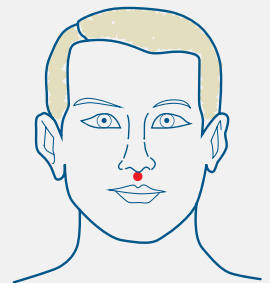
Nei Guan point

This point is responsible for normalizing sleep, relieving anxiety and worry. It is easy to be found: you joint the index finger, the ring finger and the middle finger on one hand (for men, it can be two fingers) and put them on the wrist crease of the other hand. The point between the tendons above these three fingers is Nei Guan.



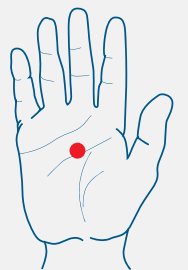
Shui Gou point

The point of energy rise. Its massage provides a quick surge of strength, helps in critical situations. It is located almost in the middle of the nasolabial fold, a little closer to the nose.



Lao Gong point

Also helps with insomnia and anxiety. It is located in the middle of the palm, between the middle finger and the ring finger. Clench your hand into a fist, and the tip of the middle finger will show to this point.



Shao Ze Point

Helps in case of severe fatigue and loss of strength. It is located on the outer side of the little finger, slightly outside the corner of the nail. Press it from both sides and massage gently.



Tai Yuan point

Its massage helps relieve headaches caused by tension. To do this, place the pads of your index finger and middle finger on the temples. Rub the point in a circular motion, slowly breathing in and out, in total make ten deep breaths. Then place your fingers on the centers of your temples, hold the point for two more deep breaths, and then slowly take the fingers away.



This technique is easy to be learnt and applied in everyday life, devoting to it only a few minutes a day. This method does not require special skills or specific conditions. After a short time, you will already notice that you have become much calmer in reacting to endless stressful situations and twists and turns of life.

«An artist begins with fearlessness...»

On the 85th anniversary of the birth of Hero of Russia Yuri Anatolyevich Shevchenko

Text: Pavel Smelov



85 years ago, on June 28, 1939, the outstanding deep cover intelligence officer, Hero of Russia Yuri Anatolyevich Shevchenko was born. By an amazing coincidence, it was on this June day, albeit in the distant 1922, that the domestic illegal intelligence service “came into being”. As Yuri Anatolyevich himself admitted, he had never dreamed of such an unusual profession; in childhood, all his thoughts were devoted to the work of an architect. However, his appearance in intelligence cannot be called accidental either: without suspecting it, he purposefully went towards this, cultivating precisely those qualities that allowed him to become whom he became – one of the most effective and successful Russian intelligence officers.

His real name became known to the general public quite recently: in January 2020, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the SVR of Russia, the Director of the Service, Sergei Yevgenievich Naryshkin, introduced Yuri Anatolyevich to journalists along with six other deep cover intelligence officers. Unfortunately, the fate decreed that in November of the same year, our hero passed away. But even during the short time when Yuri Anatolyevich could openly communicate with the press, many people, including those who know little about intelligence, managed to fall in love with him, appreciating his open smile, charm, subtle humor and exceptional modesty.

Our hero managed to tell some things about his amazing and incredibly successful work abroad personally, in various interviews, so we decided to embellish the article about him with stories told by Yuri Anatolyevich. For example, this is how he explained his decision to become an architect: *“My grandmother and I were heading to a village in Kuban. When we were passing through Stalingrad, I looked around: the station was in ruins, and shattered cars all around. The steppes were*

all scorched and black. The train was passing by a small village, and one image remained in my memory: a garden with a scarecrow in it, wearing a kind of shirt, and with a human skull instead of a head. This struck me, a boy, so much that I decided: so that this never happens again, I should build. I would draw buildings and cities, I would become an architect. Well, and if I have decided something, it must be put into practice.”

Nature generously gifted Yuri Shevchenko. In addition to many talents, he was distinguished by an outwardly docile, non-confrontational and at first glance even too soft character. But in fact, he was far from “fluffy”, but stubborn, passionate, sometimes tough and captious, strong-willed person. He never stopped at what he had achieved. He did not look for easy ways, but went through life moving only forward and upward, conquering one peak after another. Only to this kind of people, capable of giving a dare, the fate would subject.

The future intelligence officer conquered his first steep “peak” in his youth, having passed a huge competition to enter the prestigious

Yuri Anatolyevich Shevchenko

Born in Moscow on June 28, 1939. In 1963, after graduating from the Moscow Architectural Institute, he entered the intelligence service. Since 1967, he worked under special conditions on four continents, receiving information on priority issues, a part of which had classification COSMIC – top secret according to NATO's classification. In 2001, he returned to Moscow, where he continued to work as a mentor, passing on his invaluable experience to young intelligence officers. In 2017, by the Decree of the President, he was awarded the title Hero of Russia.



Madrid. 1972

Paintings by
Y.A. Shevchenko:
Rome. Arch of Titus.
1973;
Fishermen. Vietnam.
1977;
Praying Chinese
Woman.
Singapore. 1978

MARCHI, and with this he started the path to achieving his long-held dream. Moreover, a truly brilliant career awaited him in the architecture: all professors were delighted with him, noting that such students are born once in 100 years.

But in the end, he chose intelligence, or rather, it chose him. Let Yuri Anatolyevich tell us himself how this happened: *“During my last year at the institute, a diplomat, an employee of the USSR Embassy in Berlin who looked after me and*

other students during our year-long internship in Germany, at the Weimar Higher Technical School, approached me. He said: “How are you doing with your assignment? Are you staying at the institute? I have a better offer for you.” I told him: “I am not interested in anything, this is my favorite profession.” Then he said point-blank (it was probably the shortest recruitment in history): “We want to offer you a study at the Higher Intelligence School of the Soviet Union.” I then asked the only correct question: “Can’t intelligence do without architects?” He said good words: “Intelligence doesn’t need architects. The Motherland needs you. And only you.”

The future Hero of Russia pondered the answer for exactly three days and gave his consent which, as he was later saying, he did not regret in the least. In 1965, he successfully graduated from the two-year faculty of the intelligence school, after which he was unexpectedly offered to enter illegal intelligence service. Naturally, he enthusiastically agreed, but noted that he had always dreamed of working in this field with his wife. Leaping ahead, we should say that the spouses Yuri and Galina Shevchenko successfully completed special training and several times went abroad together as a couple of agents. But then, due to a number of circumstances, Galina Vasilyevna

had to leave the thorny path of a deep cover agent, and Yuri Anatolyevich worked in special conditions without her.

For over 30 years (from 1969 to 2001), our hero regularly traveled abroad under false names, having traveled through approximately 90 countries – practically the whole world. He used as cover stories the professions of artist and architect which were very close to him and allowed him to penetrate into high society. Shevchenko preferred to present his paintings and drawings to useful connections, and no one doubted the great talent of their author. To strengthen the legend, he regularly visited archives, libraries, museums, photographed and sketched architectural monuments, and even published in the West several art history books. And once he was invited to paint a portrait of the prime minister’s wife, which he did brilliantly, having earned even greater authority in the host country.

Meanwhile, Yuri Anatolyevich was not just a deep cover agent but an illegal officer of the Center, that is, Moscow set him specific tasks which were, as a rule, extremely difficult and perhaps impossible to be carried out by most of his fellow intelligence officers, but our hero invariably completed them with his characteristic ease and grace.



“I set a goal for myself: I will live my life in vain if I do not receive at least one authentic document with the highest NATO’s secrecy classification – COSMIC. So that this document would be in my hands and so that it would lie on the desks of the chiefs of the illegal intelligence. If I do not do this – my life will be lived in vain.”

From an interview with Y.A. Shevchenko

Unfortunately, even now, when decades have passed, we still cannot reveal the details of his work “in the field”, since its results have not lost their relevance to this day. We will limit ourselves to what Yuri Anatolyevich himself considered possible to tell publicly. Let’s again listen to him: *“A task comes from the Center: “Inform us about the future of the NATO base in the suburbs of one European capital. Will the lease be extended, and under what conditions?” And at that time, all media wrote that the head of state opposed to its staying. A difficult task. An artist, of course, had nothing to do with a NATO base. At first, I rushed at least to take a look at it: it was well guarded, only the tails of American military planes were*

Mule driver at sunset.
Sri Lanka. 1977;
Women in a rice field.
Nepal. 1978





Yuri and Galina
Shevchenko.
April 1961

Paintings by
Y.A. Shevchenko:
Portrait of Daughter
Katya with a Parrot.
1972;
Street in Paris, 1971;
Notre Dame, 1971

seen behind a high fence. And I needed to get there! The task was set, but how to carry it out?

The Americans went on leave on weekends. I followed their path and decided: I will stand on the road with an easel. And so I did. As soon as the Americans saw the paintings, they immediately asked: "How much?" I named an exorbitant price. They: "Why is this so expensive?" Then I told them my signature joke: "My friend Picasso does not allow me to

sell my works cheaper." Then: "Okay, guys, if you like it, take it as a gift." They were so happy: "Listen, join us, let's go to a pub and celebrate." And I already knew exactly where they would go to and what they would be treated to there. So, we spent a time and got to know each other. And I thought to myself: well, guys, now you won't get rid of me in any way...

We made friends, started communicating regularly, drove down together. I told them about the local architecture, the history of art. Not a word about the base, as if I were not interested. I thought the day would come when they themselves would offer me: "Why not to come to ours? You always share something with us, and we have nothing to show you except how we live." And that's what happened! Although I understood that I would be scolded by the Center: a deep cover agent is not allowed to enter military facilities...

I asked the Americans if I needed to take my passport with me, to write an application requesting access. "Nonsense," one of them answered. "John and I are let in with our license plates, we drive back and forth every day. When we get to the barrier, I'll cover you with my coat and that's it." I said to them: "Guys, maybe we should not? What if I'm a spy?" They burst into laughter: "Where have

you seen such spies?! Come on, let's go!" I started again: "Why ever come to you? You can just describe me how you live." But they objected: "How much have you just paid for a bottle of whisky? 8 dollars? At our base, a bottle like that costs 80 cents..." I said: "Why didn't you tell me at once?! Let's hurry!"

So, we really did go to their place, they showed me everything: the pool, the tennis courts, the apartments... Then we went to the bar and got that very whisky. And then I said to them: "Well, guys, of course, it's great here at yours, but your life here ends..." "Where did you get that from?" "Well, the newspapers write about it." "They're all lying! By the way, Alexander Haig (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) was here recently, he held a meeting about the future of the base." "Can you give me more details? What did you discuss?" "This, this and this." And they told me the most secret information: conditions and terms of the lease, its cost, etc."

As you can see, our hero acted decisively and boldly, one might even say daringly, he easily established useful contacts practically everywhere: from political and creative elite to the military and intelligence officers. He never missed an opportunity. And although he was sometimes criticized for excessive risk,

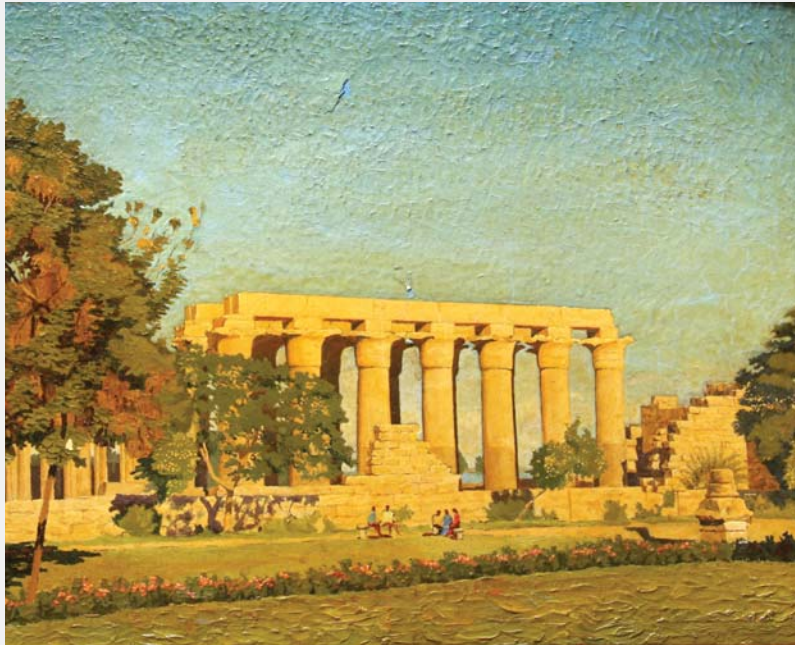


With daughter
Ekaterina. 1965

in the end he always received well-deserved rewards, because success is never blamed.

The period from 1975 to 1979 can rightfully be considered Yuri Anatolyevich's "starry hour". He was in touch with a valuable source from whom he received, practically "at first hand", large volumes of extremely important data concerning the plans of the US and NATO leadership. In Moscow, such information was in the highest demand and it was used in

Egypt. Luxor. Temple
of Amun. 1971;
Singapore. Beach.
1976





Baltiysk. 2016

forming the foreign policy course. According to estimates from the relevant units of the Service, Shevchenko's messages made up to 30% of the information received from all Soviet deep cover agents throughout the world.

In the early 1980s, a series of unusual events happened to Yuri Shevchenko. Thus, in one of the North African states, not far from the spot where the signal was placed, he was attacked by a robber with a knife. Moreover, at that very moment the intelligence officer was bearing a huge sum in cash which, according to the instructions from the Center, he had withdrawn from a bank account in another state. But Yuri Anatolyevich was lucky to know self-defense techniques and to have a quick reaction, as he was an experienced athlete. Despite his apparently delicate constitution, he was stringy and strong. He knocked the knife out of the attacker's hands, gave him a direct kick in the stomach with his foot and managed to escape while the stranger was wallowing in the ditch. Fortunately, he was also a fast runner.

Another time, already in Moscow, during his vacation, Yuri Anatolyevich was driving to his parents' house when suddenly, in one of the narrow streets of the capital, a brick fell on the windscreen. Thank God, everything turned out well! This time again, his reaction saved him: he managed to turn the steering wheel, and

the stone together with shards of glass flew into the car without harming the intelligence officer.

Meanwhile, in various parts of the world, a series of failures occurred among our intelligence officers, and Yuri Anatolyevich, just in case, decided to change his image: *"All the counterintelligence agencies in the world were hunting me,"* he said in an interview. Our hero cut his hair short, grew a moustache, started wearing glasses, gave up his favorite jeans and cowboy shirts, and switched to a classic wardrobe. From a tall and slender informal artist with long hair which Shevchenko was until the early 1990s, he turned into a stately and noble gentleman with a military bearing. He left only one detail from the past – his unchanging beret.

"A sociable Frenchman in his eternal beret," this is how the famous journalist Nikolay Dolgoplov described Yuri Anatolyevich. Yes, Shevchenko wore a beret since his student years. No other headdress suited so well his elongated face with a specifically shaped nose and a moustache. Of course, he had more than one beret, during his long life abroad he accumulated quite a few. One of the last – a French Basque beret which was sent to our hero from Paris as a gift – Galina Vasilyevna kindly donated to the Intelligence History Hall.

In 2001, Yuri Anatolyevich finally returned to his homeland, where for another ten years he trained and educated new generations of deep cover intelligence agents. He believed that nothing is impossible for the intelligence, and he advised his students to find their own unique style in their work. He was always saying about his good fortune with a smile: *"I was very lucky, I didn't have to look for a cover profession, because an artist is an artist, even in Africa."*

In 2017, by the Decree of the President, Yuri Anatolyevich Shevchenko was awarded the title Hero of Russia. When the Gold Star started to shine on the lapel of his jacket, he did not change at all, remaining as open and modest, charming and witty as he used to be, until his last days. We are sure that the key to his success in intelligence was his inherent

talent as a psychologist, his innate artistry, and his developed skills of a deep analyst which allowed him to take reasonable and justified risks, calculating every step in advance. Yuri Anatolyevich said: *"The main thing is to set a super goal for yourself, to work on a super task. Then luck comes."*

He passed away unexpectedly: on the night of October 1, 2020, he felt unwell, he was urgently hospitalized, underwent surgery, but after 37 days in the hospital, his heart stopped. He was in his 82d year... In the morning of November 11, at the farewell ceremony at the Troekurovskoye Cemetery in Moscow, the Director of the SVR of Russia Sergei Yevgenievich Naryshkin, noting the outstanding qualities of Yuri Shevchenko and his invaluable contribution to ensuring state security, said: *"It is difficult to convey in words how much Yuri Anatolyevich was loved and respected in the Service, how we valued his highest professionalism, richest experience, dedication to service and his desire to devote*

himself entirely to the cause of protecting the interests of the Fatherland".

And we would like to finish our story with a poem which Galina Vasilyevna wrote shortly before her husband's death and which he liked very much:

*An artist begins with fearlessness,
An artist begins with a struggle.
His palette is colored by time,
The wise call of Destiny is read by his heart.*

*Through labyrinths beckoning with gold,
Where anger and struggle knock you down,
Through threatening shouts of hurricanes
The unsinkable boat is floating.*

*The sail of fearlessness is the most noticeable,
Above it, the sun rays forth their light,
It bears marks of blows so passionate,
It keeps the flame of stars in the gloom of nights. ▽*



Film "Seven Lives of Colonel Shevchenko"

At the Star of Hero award ceremony. Moscow, Kremlin. 2017





Galina and Marianna Shevchenko: «Our Yura was the happiest man in the world»

On the occasion of the 85th birthday of the outstanding deep cover intelligence officer, Hero of Russia Yuri Anatolyevich Shevchenko, 'Razvedchik' decided to talk to his wife Galina Vasilyevna and youngest daughter Marianna Shevchenko.

Galina Vasilyevna, tell us how fate brought you together with Yuri Anatolyevich?

When we met in an art studio, I was 16 and he was 17. Then, as it turned out, we entered the same course at Moscow Architectural Institute (MARCHI). But it all started as student friendship, just a liking, since we lived close to each other and went to classes together. Often, when we urgently needed to make some project, I invited him to my house: Yura lived in rather cramped conditions and could not settle in with our huge works at his place, and at mine, we had a little more space. My mother always welcomed him also, she considered him to be positive, cheerful and very hardworking.

And suddenly, when we were in one of our final years, during a walk he proposed to me. He just said all of a sudden: "Come on, Galyusha, let's get married!" Thus began a new stage in our lives.

How did you perceive his intention to serve in intelligence, and did you have any doubts about yourself?

I must say that Yura had very good prospects after graduating from the institute, and becoming an architect was his long-standing dream. Therefore, when he was offered to enter on the intelligence service, it both shocked and inspired him. We discussed everything with him, and I supported his decision, since I believed that if his heart called him to intelligence, then that was the way it should be. Yura was a patriot, completely selfless, always in leadership roles. Since childhood, the slogan "Everything for the country, everything for the Motherland!" had been ringing in his head.

As for my doubts about whether I could cope or not... You know, I have always been a perfectionist in life, an excellent student, my inner slogan is "Nothing is impossible for me!" But at first, of course, I thought that Yura's idea of serving together in intelligence was something from the fantasyland.

It happened that I went on my first operative mission alone. Yura, I think, was somewhere in Africa, and I was supposed to go to Europe. The first days I felt like a kitten abandoned in the middle of the ocean: you pull through it on your own. I had to find a job, a place to live... But to begin with, I would like to point out the benefits of the language and regional studies classes that we had during our special training, because very soon it was no problem for me to "take in hand" any new acquaintance.

In addition, absolutely all the skills I had ever acquired in my life resulted handy for me while staying abroad: musical education, the ability to do handicrafts, endurance. Regarding the latter: since my childhood I had taught myself to give my energy completely and not to get distracted by anything that could prevent me from reaching my goal. For example, I could do without eating or sleeping for a long time.

Can you tell us in which countries you have managed to work?

I can't reveal you much yet, I'll only tell you about Germany and Austria, where I started. By the way, it was quite easy to work in Germany, primarily due to the character of the Germans. They are straightforward and responsible people. If you arrange for something with them, they will do everything and never let



"I set only one condition: if I was going to be a "foreigner", then only with my wife. And we started preparing. She became a "Finnish woman", a blonde, learned Finnish, English, German, French. As for me, at first they wanted to turn me into a "German", but then they decided that I would be a "Frenchman".

From an interview with Y.A. Shevchenko

you down. I was really fascinated by their self-discipline, I strove to become the same. But when Yura and I arrived in Austria, I felt more warmth in people, communication became much more sincere.

Later, however, by the decision of the Center, Yura was unexpectedly redirected to another country, where a difficult political situation was developing at that time, and I stayed in Austria alone. But since the people there are different, more open, I quickly made a number of useful contacts, including at the Vienna School of Fine Arts, where I easily managed to enter.

Communicating with artists, architects and other representatives of the creative elite, I received valuable information and immediately reported it to the Center. I would like to note that this was not easy. I had to receive and to send radiograms in a rented apartment, and I was afraid that the owner could enter the room at any moment. Of course, I locked the bedroom door with a key, and in general it is not customary for the Germans and the Austrians to enter without knocking, but nevertheless... Yura and I had everything thought out for any situation, including hiding places. He gave me some valuable advice: how to check if someone visited the apartment in my absence, whether they touched my things. Therefore, despite the seeming disorder, I always clearly knew where this or that thing should be kept, and this habit remained with me for the rest of my life.

Later, while working in a southern country, I made friends with the owner of the apartment where I rented a room. She often came to me for no particular reason, just to chat, we had heart-to-heart women's conversations. I understood that she could interfere, especially during radio communication sessions, so when I returned to my room, I tried to put on clothes worn about the house: like I'm resting, don't come in. And then I sat down at the radio. As a rule, it worked. But one day, hardly had I received a radiogram when I felt that the landlady was already at home! But I needed to get rid of the paper somehow, to destroy it. What should I do?! I quickly burned everything in the ashtray, sat down on the bed and pretended to be grieving, almost crying. The landlady smelled the smoke, came in and started asking me what had happened. I told her that I was trying to write a letter to my fiancé, with whom I had quarreled, but it didn't work, and I was burning the drafts. The landlady was very touched, she helped me to write the letter and didn't suspect anything. And I bailed out of a difficult situation.

And did Yuri Anatolyevich experience similar acute situations?

Of course, he had his share of difficulties, which is inevitable in intelligence. But Yura is a very positive person by nature and is never taken up with troubles. And he never had any serious failures either – he is a chess player, he always thought through all his actions carefully. At some point, he was sent on such difficult missions that many at the Center doubted his success, but he never let them down.

And unforeseen situations are hard to avoid. Once, in a foreign country, Yura met an artist with whom he had studied together in the GDR early in his life. The man hailed him in Russian in the street. Yura later told how, for the first time in his life, he felt that his heart sank. Of course, he did not lose his head, he said that he was late for the train and did not have time to talk. And he really knew the schedule, so everything was plausible. After that he spent three hours checking, but, thank God, everything turned out to be clean.

At work in the studio.
1956



How difficult was it to raise children alone in Moscow, since Yuri Anatolyevich was away on missions for long periods of time?

I don't want to complain, but it happened that our daughters didn't see their father for a year, two, or even more. However, we overcame everything, we coped with everything. In addition, I had a great assistant – Yura's mother.

I would also like to emphasize that I tried to organize all the arrivals and departures of my husband as a holiday. Always. I believed that a person should leave on a mission in a good mood. There were no feminine sentiments with tears and lamentations. Although, like any woman, I, of course, worried, sometimes very much, but I did not show it outwardly.

Marianna Yuryevna, at what age did you find out that your parents were intelligence officers?

It was in high school. My mom and dad decided to talk to me and told me frankly about their work. I remember that it wasn't a big surprise for me, just finally all the dots were connected. It became clear why my dad traveled abroad several times a year... I felt very proud of him then, although I had always been proud of him anyway, because he was absolutely extraordinary.

As for you, have you ever thought about entering on the intelligence service?

I don't think I would have been suited to serve in intelligence due to my character. I'm an overly absent-minded person, I don't have a system in my head (laughs). In this sense, I'm completely opposite to my mother, who remembers everything and always has everything in its place.

Deep cover intelligence officer Galina Vasilyevna Shevchenko was born in Moscow in 1939. She graduated from the MARCHI with a degree in architecture. Together with her husband, Hero of Russia Y.A. Shevchenko, she underwent special training and successfully worked abroad for several years in special conditions. Both of Shevchenko's daughters are MARCHI's graduates. The elder, Ekaterina, born in 1962, heads a group of architects in a large Russian construction company. The younger, Marianna, born in 1979, is a professor in the Department of History of Architecture and Urban Development at the MARCHI and a Doctor of Architecture.



In the family circle.
January 1, 1985

When my parents noticed my talent for drawing, my path was basically set. From the start they oriented me towards architecture, and I'm very grateful to them, because now I feel that I really am in my place. Through me, my dad in some sense made his dream come true: after all, he himself wanted to become an architect. This thought mobilized me, I decided to defend my candidate's thesis, and then my doctoral thesis, for his sake. And my dad was so happy that he felt like he got the second pair of wings: before that, he already lived as if he was flying on wings, because his own work and its results inspired him greatly.

So, your father was a happy man?

Of course. Dad always said that he was the happiest man in the world. He knew that he had lived an honest life, had managed to fulfill himself entirely and to do good to the country. In addition, he had a wife who loved him and always supported him, he felt that he had a strong back. I think that all this in general gave him a feeling of complete happiness. 🚀

Interviewed by
Vladislav Ilyin
and Anna Michurina

Video version
of the interview



From «Monastery» to «Berezino»

Pavel Sudoplatov versus Otto Skorzeny

Text: Andrey Kudrin
Photo: Central Archive of the FSB of Russia



It was the anxious pre-war year of 1940. State security organs received information about the expansion of recruitment aspirations of German intelligence, including among people who had suffered under the Soviet regime. The leadership of the NKVD decided to provide the Abwehr "assistance" in selecting candidates by organizing the introduction of our secret agents into its field of view.

One of such "victims" was Alexander Petrovich Demyanov, who came from a noble Cossack family. As a child, he experienced all the horrors of the revolution and the Civil War, but remained in the USSR with his mother. In the 1920s, he entered the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute, but was expelled as a "socially alien element" and worked as an electrician. Later, he was arrested for possession of weapons and anti-Soviet propaganda. He agreed to cooperate with Cheka officers (the operational pseudonym "Heine") and was introduced into the intelligentsia (circles of intellectuals) to identify people who were maintaining contacts with the White emigration.

In the 1930s, on the initiative of the NKVD, A.P. Demyanov moved to Moscow and got a job in the Glavkinoprokat (Chief Directorate of Cinematic Industry) to expand his connections in the artistic circles. Carrying out the orders of Cheka

officers, Heine led, as we would say now, a "bohemian" life: he appeared at parties, attended the races and even had his own horse in the Manège (purchased with funds received from the NKVD), which allowed him to establish useful contacts, including among foreigners. Soon, German intelligence also showed their interest in him: at one of social events, an intelligence officer, who worked under the "shelter" of German trade mission, conveyed greetings to Alexander from emigrants who had known the Demyanov family since pre-revolutionary times.

It became clear that the Abwehr which have studied the genealogy and political views of A.P. Demyanov, "rose to the bait", believing that the legend, invented by Cheka officers, about his involvement in the activities of a non-existent underground anti-Soviet monarchist organization "Prestol" (Throne). Thus, the preconditions were created for the beginning of two of the largest and

most successful radio games during the Great Patriotic War – Operations "Monastery" and "Berezino".

Operation Monastery

Initially, "Monastery" was conceived as a counterintelligence operation. When in February 1942 A.P. Demyanov crossed the front line on skis, narrowly escaping death in a minefield, and surrendered, the Germans did not believe him: he was subjected to a rigorous check which involved a physical violence, and even a mock execution. And only when a confirmation came from Berlin that the Abwehr card catalogue really listed a target for recruiting nicknamed "Max", the attitude to him changed radically. In March 1942, after undergoing a thorough special training, Demyanov was sent back to the USSR as a resident of German intelligence. With his help, the NKVD managed to identify and arrest many agents and saboteurs



Alexander Petrovich Demyanov (Heine)

He was born on October 19, 1910, into a noble family. His great-grandfather, Anton Golovaty, was the first Ataman of the Kuban Cossack Army. His father, Petr Demyanov, an officer of the tsarist army, participated in World War I, and died of wounds in 1915. His paternal uncle fought in the Civil War on the side of the White Guards. His mother, Maria, née Kulneva, a graduate of the Bestuzhev Courses, was widely known in the noble circles of St. Petersburg in her time. A.P. Demyanov was married to Tatyana Borisovna Berezantseva, the daughter of a prominent professor of medicine.

of the enemy (only in 1942, more than 20 of them were found).

However, later “The Monastery” transformed into a strategic radio game. The thing was that A.P. Demyanov, who “worked” as a communications officer and “had access” to information from the High Command Headquarters, became one of the most valuable sources for the Nazis (copies of Max’s telegrams were kept in the safe of the SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler under the letter A – “of special importance”). In reality, the disinformation “leaked” to the Germans was prepared in the Chief Operative Directorate of the General Staff and transferred to the NKVD for its future implementation. Thus, on November 4, 1942, Max reported that the Red Army would strike on November 15 near the city

of Rzhev and in the North Caucasus. When the Wehrmacht received this information, they prepared to repulse the attacks, and the breakthrough at Stalingrad and the encirclement of Field Marshal Paulus’s forces that followed soon after this were a complete surprise to the Nazis.

In the summer of 1943, Max reported to Berlin about the presence of significant reserves of the Soviet command to the south and to the east of Kursk, and about the planning of a military operation on the Southern Front, in connection with which the German offensive on the Kursk Bulge was repeatedly postponed. In general, in 1942-1943, many maneuvers of the Red Army actually took place where Max “had predicted”, but they, as a rule, had a distracting or auxiliary value, allowing the Soviet troops to seize

the initiative and to assume the offensive.

By mid-1944, taking into account the liberation of Belarus and the massive retreat of the Nazis, it became possible to continue misinforming the Abwehr by creating the impression that the remnants of the German detachments surrounded in the Belarusian forests were capable of conducting independent combat operations in the enemy’s rear, causing damage to manpower, destroying communications and lines of supply. According to Cheka officers’ plan, the Wehrmacht should be forced to direct significant resources for supporting the “encircled” and ensuring their “breakthrough” behind the front line.

The Beginning of “Berezino”

On August 18, 1944, A.P. Demyanov went on air and transmitted information on a military group of about two thousand people headed by Lieutenant Colonel Heinrich Scherhorn which had been “encircled” near the Berezina river (100 km to the west of Mogilev). The German detachment which had lost contact with the command, allegedly needed food, medicine and ammunition, and its further advance was hampered by a large number of wounded. Thus, a new radio game began.

Its main players were the head of the 4th Directorate of the NKGB Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov, who was entrusted with overall leadership, his deputy Nahum Isaakovich Eitingon (by the way, a native of the Mogilev region), the head of the 3rd Department of the 4th Directorate of the NKGB Mikhail Borisovich Maklyarsky (later co-author of the

NKVD task force in ambush



Members of the NKVD task force in German uniform

script for the film “Secret Agent” (“The Scout’s Exploit”) and the future deep cover intelligence officer William Genrikhovich Fischer (better known as Rudolf Abel), who was responsible for organizing radio communications.

To make the operation more plausible, German prisoners of war who agreed to cooperate with Cheka officers were recruited for the operation. However, for playing the role of the “encircled” group’s commander, a real Wehrmacht officer was required, and of a rather high rank, whose ability to unite people and to organize combat operations in the rear would not raise doubts in Berlin. At the same time, this had to be a person who had consciously decided to help and, no less importantly, who was able not to crack in case of an inspection. After a long search, the required candidate was found in Krasnogorsk, in the Central camp for prisoners of war No. 27/1.



Heinrich Scherhorn was placed into a single confinement cell of the Lubyanka prison, where P.A. Sudoplatov personally met with him several times. After giving a consent to cooperate (under the pseudonym of “Shubin”), the German was approved for the role of commander of a non-existent

detachment, and the radio game was launched.

After receiving the cipher from A.P. Demyanov, Berlin remained silent for a whole week, probably checking his pertaining to the Wehrmacht personnel and studying his service record. Finally, on August 25, 1944,



Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov

Lieutenant General of state security organs, Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov was born on June 29 (July 12), 1907 in Melitopol (Ukraine). At the age of 12 he joined the Red Army, became “a son of the regiment”, and took part in military operations. From the age of 14 he worked as a telephone operator and encoder in the Special Department of the Infantry Division. From 1925 he was an officer of the Melitopol and then Kharkov District Department of the GPU. In 1933, he was transferred to the Foreign Department (foreign intelligence) of the OGPU, specialized in Ukrainian nationalists, and personally liquidated one of the OUN leaders, E.M. Konovalets. In the late 1930s, he served as acting head of the Foreign Department of the NKVD. In February 1942, he headed the 4th Directorate of the NKVD (intelligence and sabotage operations in the enemy’s rear), coordinated the activity of the agent network in Germany, and initiated and organized the radio games “Monastery” and “Berezino”. After the

end of World War II, as the head of one of the units, he organized collection and summarization of intelligence information on the atomic project. In August 1953, he was arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison. After his release in 1968, he took up literary work and authored several books. In 1992, he was fully rehabilitated. Died on September 24, 1996. Buried at the Donskoye Cemetery in Moscow. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of Suvorov, 2nd class, the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st class, two Orders of the Red Star, and many medals.

a response came: *“Thank you for your messages. Please contact the specified German detachment. We intend to drop various cargo for them. We would also send a radio operator who could contact the local authorities from there. To do this, we need to know the location of this detachment, so that the radio operator could find it, and a suitable place to drop off the baggage. This detachment must be informed of the arrival of the radio operator so that he is not detained, since the radio operator will arrive in a Red Army uniform. The password will be ‘Hannover’. Goodbye.”*

To organize the reception of the “guests” and cargo, a group of security officers urgently flew to the place of the supposed deployment of the “encircled” detachment (the village of Glukhoye, Minsk region). The “Scherhorn’s headquarters” was set up at one of the former partisan bases in the area of Lake Pesochnoye. Nearby was an airfield suitable for landing aircraft. Members of the task force, dressed in German uniforms and supplied with captured food and personal items, settled in hastily erected dugouts and tents. The operation area was cordoned off by patrols, and anti-aircraft and machine gun crews were secretly positioned along the perimeter.



Heinrich Gerhard Scherhorn

Born in 1897, native of Apelern (District of Schaumburg, Lower Saxony). Lieutenant Colonel. Commander of the 36th Regiment of the 286th Rear Guard Division. Member of the NSDAP since 1933. Captured on July 9, 1944, near Minsk. Pessimistic, convinced of Germany’s imminent defeat. (Extract from an archive document).

On September 7, the Germans were given the coordinates of the site and the confirmation of the password: “Hannover”. However, as often happens, the operation almost failed as soon as it began: the head of the NKGB of Belarus, Lavrenty Tsanava, received a report from vigilant fellow citizens about the appearance of saboteurs near Pesochnoye. Fortunately, the People’s Commissar did not rush to eliminate them, but asked Moscow. He received a response with an unexpected instruction to provide assistance to the discovered persons in connection with a special operation.

On the night of September 15/16, three radio operators parachuted into the designated area. They were brought to Scherhorn. The group leader Kurt Kibert reported that Hitler and Goering had been personally

informed about the operation and had promised to do everything to save the encircled people. A decision had also been made to send to Berezino a doctor and a pilot officer who was to prepare the site for receiving aircraft which should evacuate the wounded, deliver food, weapons and ammunition.

At the same time, the arriving radio operators reported that they had a separate task: on the second day after the landing, each one of them had to confirm the existence of Scherhorn’s detachment and his exact presence in it by radio, using a conventional code. Since Cheka officers managed to quickly re-recruit Kibert and his assistant Friedrich Schmete, they both joined the radio game. And about the third radio operator (who refused to cooperate), they had to report that he had been injured during the landing and was unconscious.

After receiving confirmation that Scherhorn and his detachment really existed, the Abwehr began preparing to drop off people and to transport cargo. In this regard, Cheka officers were given a number of additional tasks. In particular, they had to make the German command open one



Documents of German paratroopers Kurt Kibert and Harry Wild

of the front lines, allegedly for the passage of the “encircled”, in order to bring a Red Army unit, equipped as if they were the Germans, to the enemy’s rear. Besides, they had to lure several more reconnaissance and sabotage groups to our territory, re-recruit them and then organize a series of new radio games with the German command.

On October 27, two more paratroopers landed in the Berezino area: Doctor Jeschke and Unteroffizier of aviation Harry Wild. Apparently, the Wehrmacht continued to check Scherhorn: in the radiogram each of them had to report on their safe arrival in conventional phrases. And if there were no problems with Wild – he agreed to cooperate, but as for Jeschke, they had to report that he crashed upon landing (he turned out to be a fanatic, was arrested, but managed to escape after killing a sentry. Subsequently, realizing the hopelessness of the situation, he shot himself).

In the meantime, the Germans continued to drop cargo with medicines, food and other equipment onto a false airfield. The chocolate, biscuits, canned foods and glucose from the parcels were tested in laboratories and then transferred to hospitals and medical centers. We should note that glucose, used to treat the seriously wounded, was of particular value at the time. In September-October 1944 alone, Wehrmacht aircraft made 17 flights to the Berezino area, dropping 16 paratroopers, 10 machine guns with ammunition, 200 sets of winter equipment, 120 kg of sugar and chocolate, 20 thousand cigarettes

German transport aircraft Arado Ar-232, designed for the delivery of saboteurs
Aircraft container for dropping ammunition and provisions

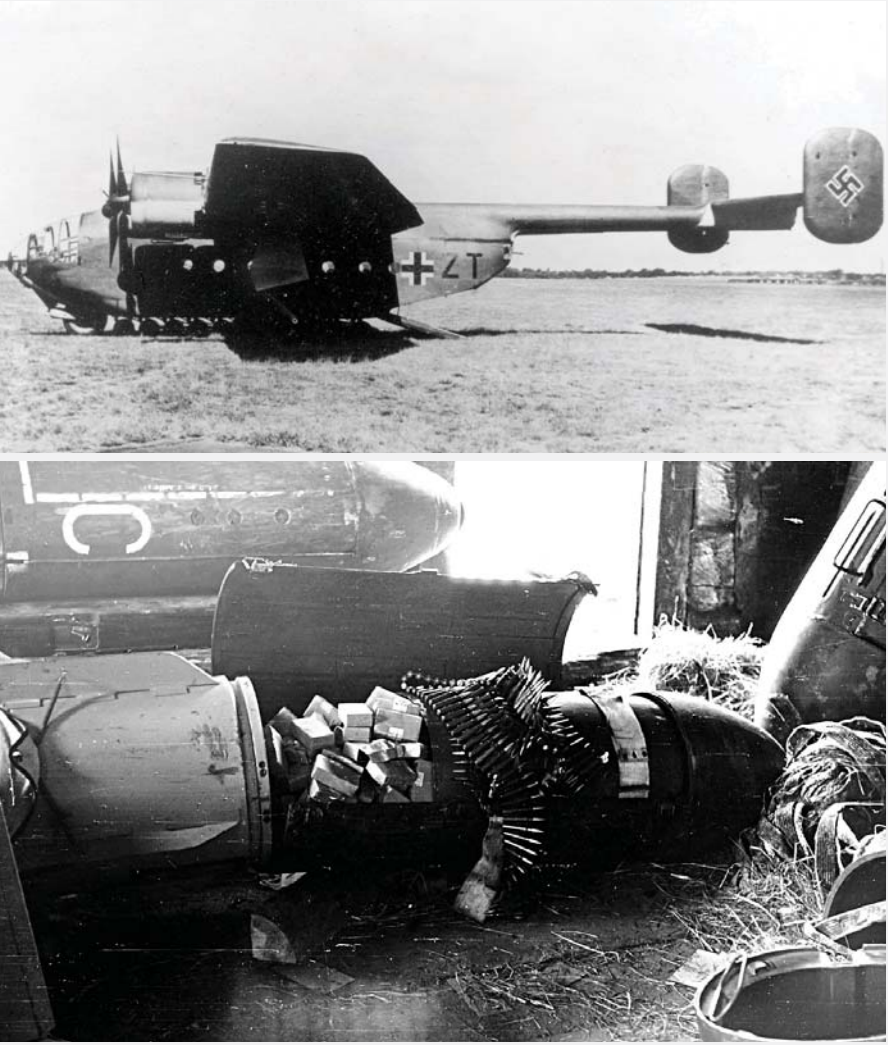
and 500 kg of medicine, as well as topographic maps of Belarus.

At the same time, the German command persistently demanded that Scherhorn prepare a site suitable for transport landing in order to evacuate the wounded. Protecting the radio game from failure, Cheka officers wriggled out as best as they could, reporting that receiving aircraft was “not yet possible” due to the frequent change of detachment’s locations.

Throughout the autumn of 1944, Scherhorn’s group stubbornly “pushed its way” to the west, trying to “catch up” with the front line that

was moving away from it. On their way they repeatedly “engaged in combat” with Soviet rear units, “carried out” acts of sabotage, “took” prisoners, and collected “valuable” intelligence information. All of this obviously required colossal work of Cheka officers to organize events that indirectly confirmed the launched legend: publications in local newspapers “On the liquidation of bandit formations”, orders to rear units to increase vigilance, the transmission of radio messages from German agents who worked under the control of the NKVD.

By December, on the orders of the German command, Scherhorn’s





expanded detachment was divided into three parts, so the Nazis had to look after three groups at once. The Abwehr radio interception service constantly recorded the conversations between the groups, listening to the “tearful” requests for help: these were our radio operators who worked hard under the leadership of Fischer-Abel. The reception of goods and agents continued, and upon reaching the

borders of Poland, some Poles began to be thrown into the detachment.

As it was revealed after the war, the Wehrmacht was indeed preparing a rescue operation, the development of which was entrusted to Hitler’s favorite, the “saboteur No. 1” of the Third Reich, SS Obersturmbannführer Otto Skorzeny. A special unit was formed from the fighters of the 502nd Jaeger Battalion led by him, which



Re-recruited German radio operators at work

was supposed to penetrate the designated area and at first, confirm the very existence of Scherhorn’s detachment (through the efforts of Sudoplatov’s group, all eight saboteurs landed were discovered and either arrested or re-recruited). After that, they planned to lead the “encircled” through the front line under the guise of prisoners of war.

In his book “Secret Missions of the RSHA”, O. Skorzeny describes these events in detail: *“There were bloody clashes with the Russians, the number of dead and wounded grew every day, and naturally, the pace of advance lowered. But even this*

was not our main concern. With each passing week, the amount of fuel was reducing, and despite Scherhorn’s desperate requests, the number of supply flights had to be lessened. After that, the content of radio messages became sheer torture for me. By the end of February, they stopped supplying us with fuel, I was overcome with rage. Sometimes their desperate pleas reached us. Then, after May 8, nothing more broke the silence on the air. Scherhorn did not answer. Operation Poacher ended without result.”

All this became known much later. In the meantime, the Wehrmacht command highly appreciated the courage of the fighters of Scherhorn’s group: the steadfastness of the “encircled” was reported in the press, they were held up as an example to others. In one of the dropped containers, iron crosses with unfilled award sheets for presentation to distinguished persons were found. Scherhorn himself was promoted to Colonel by order of the Führer on March 16, 1945, and was awarded the Knight’s Iron Cross on March 23.

But since the Red Army, rapidly advancing west, had already entered German territory, Scherhorn’s columns could not “catch up” with them in no way. On May 1, 1945, the Abwehr informed the “encircled” about Hitler’s death, and on May 5, the following message was transmitted over all radio stations involved in Operation Berezino: *“The superiority of enemy’s forces has overcome Germany. The supplies ready for shipment cannot be delivered by aircraft. With a heavy heart, we are forced to stop providing you with assistance. Due to the current situation, we are also*

Money and false documents of German saboteurs

unable to maintain radio contact with you. Whatever the future brings us, our thoughts will always be with you who, at such a difficult moment, have to be disappointed in your hopes.”

Thus ended one of the largest and most successful radio games of the Great Patriotic War, during which Soviet Cheka officers brilliantly outplayed the Abwehr. Brief results of the operation were summed up in the report of the NKGB leadership to the USSR State Defense Committee on April 30, 1945: “Since September 1944, the Germans carried out 67 aircraft flights to the territory of the legend detachment and dropped 25 German spies (all of them were arrested); 13 radio stations, 7 of which were involved in the game with the Germans; 644 pieces of various cargo, including 615 sets of winter uniforms; 20 MG-42 machine guns, 100 rifles and submachine guns, 35 pistols, 2,000 grenades, 142,000 cartridges, more than 2.5 tons of meat products, 370 kg of chocolate, 4 tons of bread, 400 kg of sugar, 100 bottles of wine, etc. In addition, 2,258,330 rubles were sent.”

It is noteworthy that the main participants in the operation not only

survived the war, but also reached an old age. Thus, in the 1950s, Heinrich Scherhorn, along with other prisoners of war, was repatriated to Germany, where he got married and had a son. After the war, A.P. Demyanov remained in Moscow and got a job at a research institute, continuing to maintain contacts in the circles of intelligentsia. He did not abandon his passion for horses either. In the 1950s, he and his wife were again sent abroad on an operational mission, this time to Paris, but we will talk about it another time.

The work of Cheka officers was duly appreciated. For their participation in the strategic Operation Berezino, 32 NKVD officers and 255 soldiers of the internal troops were nominated for state awards. Moreover, the leaders of the operation, Pavel Sudoplatov and Nahum Eitingon, “for outstanding achievements in commanding troops and organizing combat operations” received the Order of Suvorov – the only case in the history of domestic state security agencies. And new difficult trials awaited our colleagues ahead, because the “invisible” war never ends... 🚩

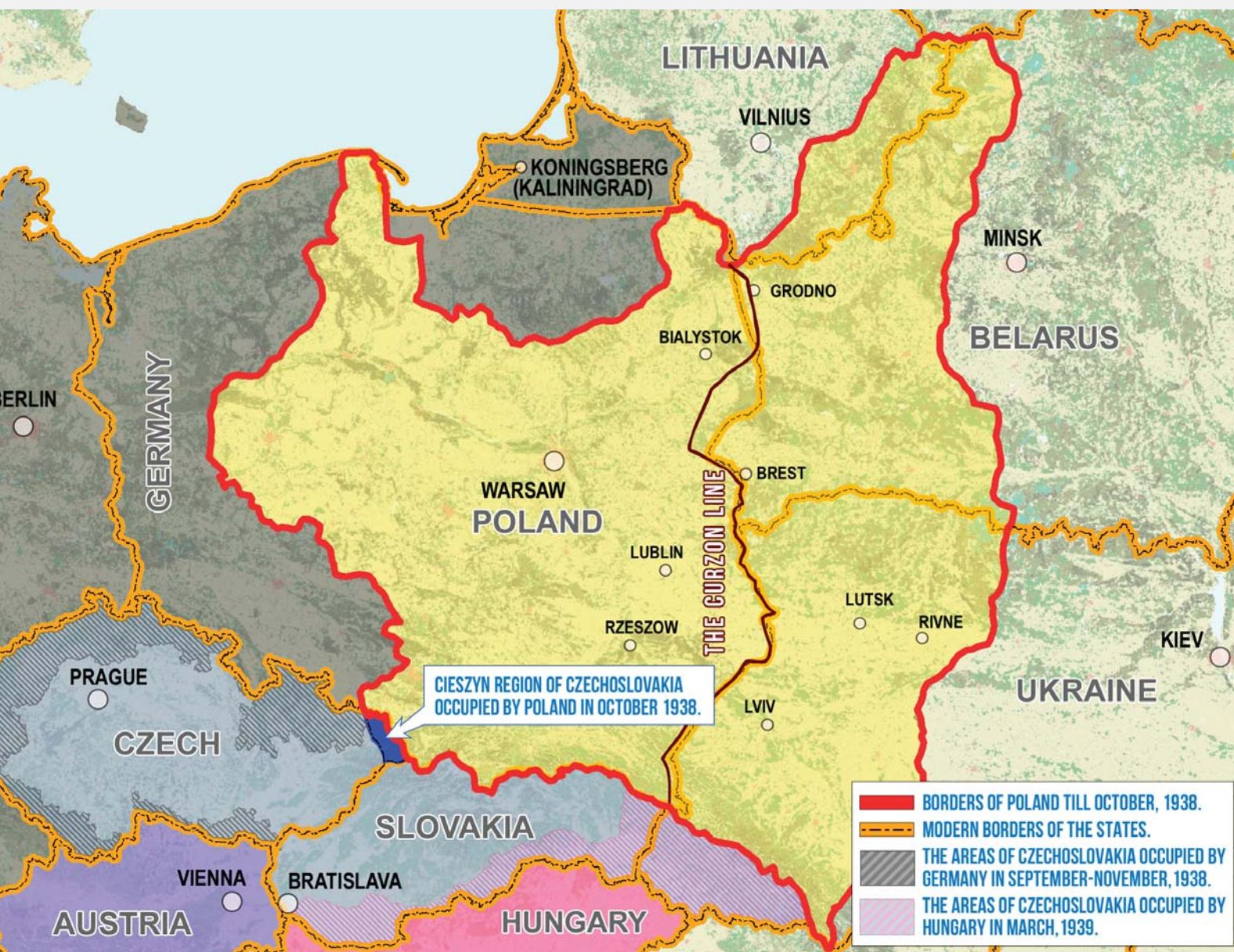


Nahum Isaakovich Eitingon

Born on December 6, 1899 in the city of Shklov (Mogilev region). From the age of 18 he worked at a cement plant, in 1920 he entered to the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission, participated in the liquidation of bandit groups organized by the terrorist B. Savinkov, and was wounded. In 1924, after graduating from the Red Army Military Academy, he was enrolled in the Foreign Department (foreign intelligence) of the OGPU, and traveled to China and Turkey. In 1936–1938, he worked in Spain, led international brigades, and participated in sabotage operations. With the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War, he created the first special forces units for deployment in the enemy’s rear. After May 1945, he was involved in the liquidation of the nationalist underground in Lithuania and Western Belarus, and the OUN-UPA gangs in Ukraine. In 1951, he was arrested. After the death of J. Stalin, he was released. In August

1953 he was arrested again and sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment. He was released in 1964, worked as a translator and editor at the publishing house “International Book”. He died on May 3, 1981, and was buried at the Donskoye Cemetery in Moscow. In 1992, he was fully rehabilitated. He was awarded two Orders of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of Suvorov, 2nd class, the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st class, two Orders of the Red Star, and many medals.





The Cambridge Polonaise

The Cambridge Five's reports and the Polish question

Text: Dmitry Sergeevich Bunevich, Candidate of Historical Sciences

During the Second World War, the “Polish question” repeatedly became a stumbling stone between the leaders of the “Big Three”. In Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam, the leaders of Great Britain, the USSR and the USA spent hours discussing the fate of Poland; compromises were being found with difficulty. The legendary “Cambridge Five” played a significant role in the ultimate prevailing of the Soviet point of view, as they reported to Moscow valuable information about the plans of the Poles, including the provocative policy of the Polish government in exile based in London, as well as about all changes in the positions of the Western allies.

In recent years, the Polish authorities and other Western countries have been diligently “demonizing” the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of 1939, trying to shift the responsibility for the outbreak of war in Europe onto the USSR. In fact, Warsaw was one of the first countries to conclude an agreement with Hitler back in 1934, after which the two regimes began to come closer rapidly. Polish Foreign Minister Józef Beck stroke up a close friendship with the Nazis and, in particular, regularly invited Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, with whom he established particularly confidential relations, to go hunting together. At the same time, the Poles not only blocked

plans to create a collective security system in Europe, but also played along with the Germans in every possible way, hoping to “fish in troubled waters”.

An opportunity arose in 1938, during the so-called Sudeten Crisis, when Hitler decided to put pressure on Czechoslovakia so that Prague would cede the German-populated Sudetenland to Germany. Moscow immediately declared its support for the Czechoslovaks, hoping that Paris, bound by the 1935 Mutual Assistance Treaty, would show solidarity with it. However, France was slow in opposing the aggressor. The situation was further complicated by the fact that

the USSR did not have a common border with Czechoslovakia, and in case of a conflict, much depended on Poland and Romania which had to decide whether or not to give to the USSR forces a right of passage through their territories in order to help Prague.

Thanks to the intensive work of the Cambridge Five – the Soviet agent network in London – Moscow knew in advance that the Poles would rather side with the Nazis than let the Soviet troops through. The London residency promptly sent to the Centre copies of the reports of the British Ambassador in Warsaw, Howard Kennard, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United



The Cambridge Five

A group of Soviet agents consisting of Kim Philby (1912–1988), Donald Maclean (1913–1983), Guy Burgess (1911–1963), Anthony Blunt (1907–1983), and John Cairncross (1913–1995), who held prominent positions in the Foreign Office, MI6, and other government agencies in Great Britain. They were recruited by Soviet foreign intelligence on anti-fascist ideological basis in the early 1930s, while studying at Cambridge. Over the years of successful work, including during World War II, they passed to Moscow tens of thousands of pieces of classified information.

Kingdom, Lord Halifax. Thus, on May 18, 1938, H. Kennard informed his boss that “Poland could accelerate the onset of the crisis”, not ruling out Warsaw’s “open demonstration of hostility” toward Prague (*See this and other documents on the website of the SVR of Russia, in the rubric “Aggression. Declassified documents of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation. 1939–1941.”*).

This hostility was caused by the fact that since 1920, the Poles had been laying claim to the Teschen Silesia – a small but strategically important region in Silesia with a mixed Czech-Polish population. After signing the treaty with the Germans in 1934, the Polish secret services, namely the 2nd Department of the General Staff of the Polish Army, began to carry out destabilization activities there which included training of terrorist groups, in order to obtain a pretext for an occupation of the region.

Moscow knew in advance that Warsaw would team up with Hitler, and it was aware of the risks of Poland’s and Romania’s

joint opposition to the Soviet aid to Prague. According to a report by H. Kennard dated June 3, 1938, a copy of which the Soviet authorities had, the day before, the Chief of the General Staff of the Romanian Armed Forces visited Warsaw and discussed with his Polish colleagues “the coordination of measures in case if the USSR begins military action”. The Kremlin was also informed of the detailed elaboration of mechanisms for cooperation in a “campaign directed against the Soviets” which was made by Warsaw and Bucharest.

From the reports of the Five Moscow knew that Paris would not insist on supporting Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, the USSR expressed its readiness to provide assistance to the Czechoslovak people and even attempted to use the protective mechanisms of the League of Nations, but the British and French blocked the Kremlin’s initiatives.

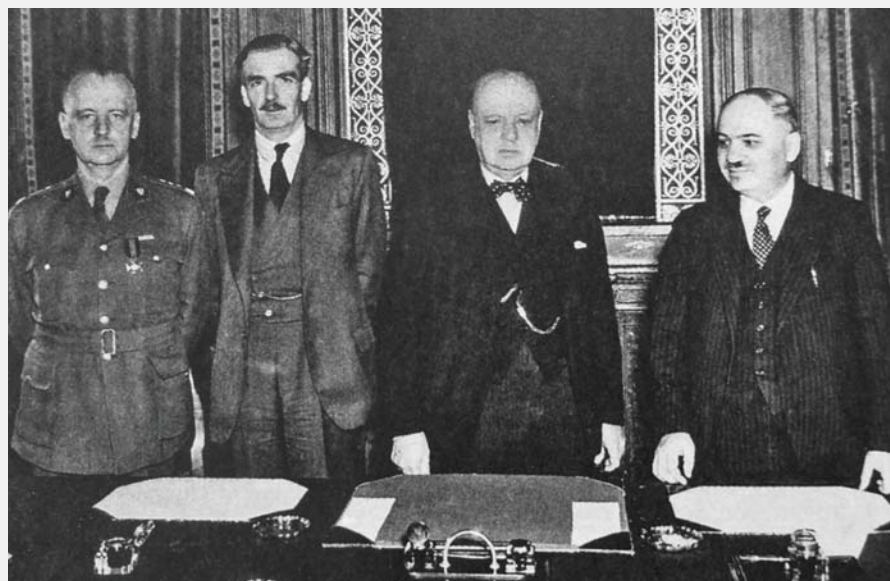
The tragic events of the autumn of 1938, known as the Munich Betrayal, confirmed the veracity

of the intelligence information provided by the Five: England and France had actually betrayed the Czechoslovaks, forcing them to yield to the Third Reich dictate. Poland, that had treacherously occupied the Teschen region, not only refused to allow the Red Army to pass through for aiding to Prague, but also threatened to shoot down Soviet aircraft and started large-scale maneuvers on the Soviet-Polish border.

The collaborationist policy of the Polish authorities predetermined the failure of the negotiations between Britain, France and the USSR which were held in Moscow in the summer of 1939. Finally convinced of the dishonesty of the Western powers and the open hostility of Warsaw, Moscow was forced to conclude with Berlin the Non-Aggression Pact that provided the opportunity to win almost two years of peace to prepare for repelling the Third Reich’s aggression. And Poland, confused in its own plans and claims, collapsed in September 1939, a few weeks after Hitler’s attack. Polish leaders fled to Paris, then to London, where they formed a government in exile. This body of dubious legitimacy was a source of squabbles and scandals throughout the war, complicating the already difficult relations within the anti-Hitler coalition.

At first, Moscow even expressed a willingness to cooperate with the London Poles, apparently hoping that the tragic events of 1939 had sobered them up. In July 1941, the USSR Ambassador to Great Britain Ivan Maisky and the head of the Polish government in exile

From left to right: W. Sikorski, A. Eden, W. Churchill and I. Maisky before signing the agreement. London, July 30, 1941



Polish Foreign Minister J. Beck has arrived to a meeting with Hitler. January 5, 1939

1943, where the “Polish question” became one of the key issues. As a result, it was decided that after the war, the Curzon Line would be the eastern border of Poland, that is, the West agreed de facto to recognize the borders of the USSR formed after the annexation of Western Ukraine and Western Belarus to the Soviet Union in 1939. As a compensation, the leaders of the Big Three decided to pass a part of Eastern Germany, along the Oder–Neisse line, to the Poles. Churchill even noted in this regard that the industrially developed German lands were “much more valuable than the Pinsk Marshes.”

However, Stalin and his counterparts understood well that such a reasonable and historically justified decision would hardly find understanding among the Polish emigrants, who continued dreaming of Poland “from sea to sea”. Given the unconstructive position of the government in exile, the allies decided to conceal the agreements on the “Polish question” from the public for a while. By the way, Roosevelt was insisting on it, fearing that the Poles would make a noise, and on the eve of the 1944 presidential elections, he did not want to lose the votes of the multi-million Polish diaspora.

And this was not surprising, as the London Poles demonstrated a complete intransigence not only towards the USSR, but also towards Great Britain and the USA. In April 1943, W. Sikorski, for example, actively joined Goebbels in promoting the story of the Katyn

W. Sikorski



Władysław Sikorski, in the presence of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, signed an agreement to resume diplomatic relations. But all the efforts ended in nothing. While the Red Army was desperately fighting fascism, remaining the only force capable of liberating Polish lands from Hitler’s occupation, the London Poles were constantly intriguing against Moscow, trying to incline the British and personally Winston Churchill in their favor. The increase of their activity became especially noticeable in 1943, after the German defeat near Stalingrad, when it became clear that the strategic initiative had passed to the USSR.

In February 1943, the Cambridge Five reported on the growing fears of the London Poles regarding the steady advance of the Red Army (*see Document 1 in the column “Declassified Archives”*). According to the intelligence reports, the government in exile did not want the USSR to liberate the Polish lands, hoping to organize an uprising there and to seize power before the Red Army arrived. Moscow, therefore, understood in advance that as soon as our troops approached Poland, the London Poles, instead of helping, would try to start their own game. It was this

adventurous plan that was carried out in the summer of 1944, when, against the backdrop of the Soviet offensive, the Polish government in exile ordered to start the Warsaw Uprising. Poorly prepared, it failed, having taken the lives of thousands of Polish patriots in vain. Thanks to intelligence, the Soviet authorities were aware in advance of the intentions of the London Poles, as well as of the fact that they “appealed to the British with a request to deliver weapons to Poland by plane, but were refused.”

The intelligence information obtained by The Five was also useful to Stalin during the negotiations in Tehran in November



Marshal H. Goering (center) listens to reports from Wehrmacht officers

massacre, while Churchill strongly objected to it, not desiring to quarrel with Moscow about “some dead Poles”. Despite warnings, the Polish leader addressed the International Committee of the Red Cross with a request to send a delegation to Katyn to participate in the “investigation” organized by the fascists. The USSR expectedly responded by breaking off relations with the Sikorski government.

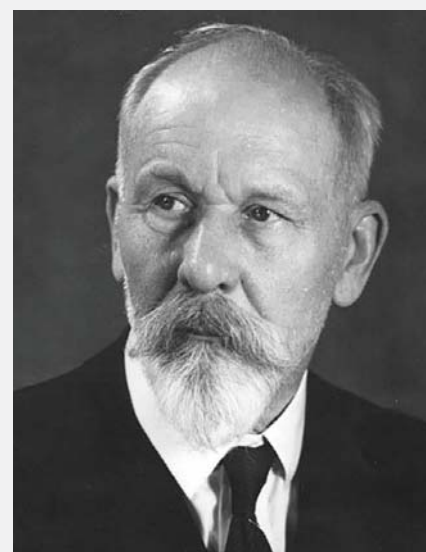
In July of the same year, the obstinate General Sikorski died in a mysterious plane crash in British Gibraltar. His post as the head of the exile government was taken by Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, who in January 1944 declared his categorical non-recognition of the Tehran Conference decisions on Polish borders. The USSR, after the successful ending of the Lvov–Sandomierz offensive operation and Red Army’s entering into the Polish territory, initiated the creation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN) from among the Poles loyal to Moscow. It was this body that the Kremlin began to regard as a mouthpiece for the will of the entire Polish nation.



Under the circumstances, the Soviet leadership was increasingly inclining to cooperate exclusively with the PKWN. This was largely facilitated by the information coming from The Five about the attitude to Mikolajczyk and his “ministers” expressed by the Western allies who were also beginning to get tired of the Poles’ arrogance. Thus, in November 1944, the intelligence reported to Moscow about the growing tension between the British and the Polish emigrants: Churchill, irritated by the Polish willfulness, pressed Mikolajczyk, forcing him to accept the Curzon Line and pushing him to start a dialogue with the PKWN.

However, the Poles, despite British calls for a common sense, could not come to a common opinion on the issue of recognizing the eastern borders. And even those who were generally ready to agree with the new borders, set conditions that looked completely detached from reality. For example, they demanded that Moscow pay compensation for Belarusian and Ukrainian lands, as well as guarantee that after the end of the war, the Red Army “would not linger in Poland”. Churchill, as intelligence reported, directly told Mikolajczyk that London “will not give them any guarantees”, and proposed to go to the USSR in order to resolve the border issue. Roosevelt’s reaction to the steep Polish demands was the same, and The Five also promptly informed Moscow of it ([see Documents 2 and 3](#)).

S. Mikolajczyk



T. Arciszewski

of the political system of Poland sparked a heated debate as well. Thus, the British Prime Minister tried to defend the interests of the London emigrants, although not out of sympathy for them, but in order to prevent the formation of a pro-Soviet government in Warsaw. It is significant that the head of the White House did not support his view actively, obviously realizing that it was the PKWN that represented the real force in Poland.

Thanks to intelligence, the Kremlin knew that Washington and London were advising Mikolajczyk and his associates not to cherish great-power illusions, but to concentrate on the distribution of posts in the future Polish government. The USSR leadership clearly understood that all the Polish claims were nothing more than castles in the air, and they did not enjoy any serious support from the Western allies.

All this valuable information was certainly taken into account when forming the Soviet position at the Yalta Conference in January 1945. On the eve of a new meeting of the Big Three, significant progress had occurred in Polish affairs: in London, Mikolajczyk was replaced by Tomasz Arciszewski, a convinced opponent of compromises with the USSR, whereupon the PKWN declared itself the only Polish Provisional Government and was recognized as such by Moscow.

In Crimea, Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt came to an understanding on the general configuration of the post-war Polish borders, having agreed that their final version would be cleared after Hitler’s defeat. The issue

and democratic Poland”. In fact, Moscow managed to implement its plan: Western allies did not prevent the emergence of the Provisional Government of National Unity in Warsaw, based on the PKWN, which de facto meant the bankruptcy of the political claims of the London Poles. And although the same Mikolajczyk managed to join the first post-war Polish cabinet (he took the post of Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms), neither he nor other anti-Soviet forces had much influence on Warsaw’s policies afterwards.

The debates in Crimea were really heated. Stalin insisted that for the USSR, the “Polish question” directly concerned state security, since over the centuries Poland had repeatedly been used as a springboard for aggression. *“The Polish corridor cannot be closed mechanically from the outside, only by Russian forces. It can be closed reliably only from the inside, by Poland’s own forces. For this, Poland must be strong. That is why the Soviet Union is interested in creating a powerful, free and independent Poland,”* the Soviet leader emphasized.

As a result, in Yalta, the “Troika” declared their desire to create a “strong, free, independent

The USSR, for many years after the Victory, unilaterally invested significant funds in restoring the Polish economy destroyed by the Germans – the fact which the current Polish authorities prefer not to recall. They also don’t like to talk about the fact that for the last 80 years, the Poles have been living in peace and prosperity within the very borders that were determined for them in Yalta and Potsdam by the victorious powers. It is obvious that not everyone learns the lessons of history. And now Polish leaders, repeating the mistakes of their predecessors, are once again dreaming of a revision of the borders, the “Eastern Borderlands” and Poland “from sea to sea”.²

The “Polish Question” is just an episode in the kaleidoscope of important world events from the 1930s to the 1950s, in covering of which, the Soviet foreign intelligence and its valuable assistants from the Cambridge Five played a major role. This fall, the book “Kim Philby and The Cambridge Five. Key Documents and Testimonies” comes out, revealing new details of their secret work and offering a large array of previously inaccessible declassified documents.



Document 1.
Telegram from
London, February 23,
1943

ТС- 53
СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО
ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА ВХ. № 1507
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

Из ЛОНДОНА -
Получена 23 " П- 1943 г. 02 " ч. 45 " м. Расшифр. 23 " П- 1943 г. 13 " ч. 10 " м.

Для резолюций и пометок

Куда, кому

В связи быстрым продвижением Красной Армии на запад, местные поляки проявляют беспокойство. Они очень боятся занятия Польши советскими войсками. В целях предупреждения такой возможности, в польском штабе обсуждается вопрос об организации восстания на польской территории с тем, чтобы захватить там власть в свои руки до прихода Красной Армии. Силы для этого у них имеются, недостает только оружия. Поляки как будто обращались к англичанам с просьбой о доставке оружия в Польшу на самолетах, но получили отказ. Недостаток оружия на местах и неуверенность в успехах восстания вызывают у них колебание.-

2. Американский военный атташе при правительстве "Бога" (фамилию его сообщу дополнительно) в беседе с едва скрывае мой тревогой спрашивал, где же немцы остановят наступление Красной Армии и скоро ли они сами перейдут в наступление против Красной Армии. Интересовался также может ли продержаться СССР

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается

Отп. экз. экз. № 1 экз. № 2 экз. № 3

Подлежит возврату через 48 часов в 13-е отделение

13-е отделение

М. Восточный
В Загреб (Винко)
С. Савин
24/II-43
К. Савин
1258
23/II-43
13-е

Document 1.
Telegram from
London, February
23, 1943

- 2 -

до осени. Кроме того, высказал мнение, что как бы молодые советские генералы не возомнили себя наполеонами и вздумали бы организовать поход на Берлин, Париж и другие столицы мира.

Ответ о том, что германская армия вряд ли сможет перейти теперь в наступление и что Красная Армия и СССР являются более крепкими чем раньше и так далее, обескуражило американца. Высказывание этого американца сказало , что какие настроения существуют еще среди американских военных кругов.-

Касаясь последней неудачи американских войск в Тунисе, атташе жаловался на плохое моральное состояние французских войск там и на подвохи со стороны первой английской армии, которая якобы оказала слабое сопротивление в каких то пунктах. американцы, сваливая свою вину на других, стараются оправдать слабую подготовку своих войск и непригодность комсостава.-

3. По сведениям начальником главной квартиры Гитлера назначен Манштейн.-

22. II-43 г. №-85 ДЖОН.-

Отп. 1 экз. - Адресату.-
6-Отделение.-

М. Восточный
4. Савин

ек-1

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СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вх. № 15586

Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

Из ЛОНДОНА

Получена 12/ХІ 194 г. 18 ч. 00 м. Расшифр. 14/ХІ 194 г. 13 ч. 20 м.

Для резолюций
и пометок

Кому адресована: ВИКТОРУ

1/

Черчилль в беседе с

Миколайчиком 3 ноября настаивал на том, чтобы Миколайчик и его правительство согласились на линию Керзона и на ускорение отъезда М. в Люблин для формирования там об'единенного правительства. М. заявил Черчиллю, что поставит предложение Черчилля на рассмотрение совета министров. Черчилль якобы требовал от М. в случае необходимости единоличного решения этого вопроса. В конце беседы Черчилль потребовал от М. ответа к воскресенью 5 ноября.

2/ Предложение Черчилля М. поставил на рассмотрение правительства. Вопрос предварительно обсуждался "Комитетом четырех партий". Правительство и "Комитет четырех партий" приняли следующее решение:

а/ Польское правительство согласится на линию Керзона, но требует чтобы Англия, США и СССР одновременно гарантировали западные границы Польши не дожидаясь мирной конференции.

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается

см. на об.

Экз.

Экз. № 1

Экз. № 2

Экз. № 3

Подлежит возврату через 6 суток
в 5-ое отделение

5-ое отделение:

17/ХІ

18/ХІ

2.

б/ СССР должен уплатить Польше убытки в результате отхода к СССР Западной Украины и Белоруссии.

в/ Великие державы должны дать гарантии Польше, что Красная Армия не будет задерживаться на территории Польши по окончании военных операций.

г/ Великие державы должны коллективно дать гарантии Польше в том, что Польше будет предоставлено полное право решать свои внутренние дела без всякого вмешательства с чьей-либо стороны.

3/ Это решение польского правительства 5 ноября было передано Ромером Кадогану. 6 ноября Кадоган ответил Ромеру от имени Черчилля, что английское правительство сейчас не может дать гарантий по этому вопросу и что затронутые проблемы будут благоприятно рассмотрены союзными державами в будущем.

4/ Кадоган заявил кроме того Ромеру, что Черчилль считает необходимым от "езд М. в СССР в самое ближайшее время и что английское правительство считает, что решение по вопросу границ и слияния с комитетом национального освобождения польское правительство может принять без согласования с "представительством польского правительства в Польше", поскольку это "представительство" фактически более не существует.

5/ При обсуждении вопроса о границах польское правительство разделилось на два лагеря. За принятие линии Керзона и за соглашение с Люблином высказались Миколайчик, Попель, Бегачик, Сейда и Кома, рницкий. Руководство ППС высказалось категорически против как по вопросу о границах так и по вопросу о соглашении с национальным комитетом. Станчик не поддержал М..

Примечание Игоря:

1/ Вопрос о принятии линии Керзона польским правительством решен положительно. Условия выставленные польским правительством

для принятия линии Керзона большого значения иметь не будут и сами поляки этим условиям большого значения не придают. Отъезд М. в Москву задерживается в связи с тем, что М. хочет получить ответ на его послание Рузвельту о гарантии со стороны США западных границ Польши / по Одер/. СССР и Англия по словам М. согласны дать Польше такую гарантию. Рузвельт ответил М., что он сообщит о позиции США по этому вопросу после выборов. Поляки и англичане придают сейчас наибольшее значение вопросу распределению министерских портфелей в будущем об"единенном правительстве и числе мест, которые они могут получить в этом правительстве для лондонского правительства. М. будет добиваться в течение дальнейших переговоров получения для лондонского правительства наиболее важных министерских портфелей и не менее 50% мест в будущем правительстве. Предложенные ему в Москве 25% мест он не собирается принять и в этом вопросе он надеется на полную поддержку англичан.

№ 1738 ИГОРЬ 11/X1-44г.

отп.1 экз. - Виктору

5 отделение:

B
 18/11; 44. inches
 B 2000

Document 2.
Telegram from
London. November
12, 1944

ОВ

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СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА ВР. № 18692 СЕКРЕТНО*

Служба внешней разведки № 10

Из ВАШИНГТОНА

Получена „ 13 „ X1 1944 г. „ 01 „ 00 „ м. Расшифр. „ 13 „ X1 1944 г. „ 23 „ 00 „ м.

Для резолюций
и пометок

Кому адресована: ВИКТОРУ.

8 отдел.

3 и 4 ноября с.г. " " сообщил Гали-

факу для передачи американскому правительству, что британское правительство на днях рекомендовало "правительству" МИКОЛАЧИКА согласиться на принятие линии Керзона, в качестве восточных границ Польши. После некоторой задержки "МИКОЛАЧИК" информировал что перед принятием какого-либо решения по данному вопросу, его кабинет хотел бы знать:

1. Согласно ли британское правительство сейчас заявить какие именно районы на западе будут переданы Польше, взамен территории на востоке которые они должны будут отдать СССР.

2. Согласно ли британское правительство сейчас дать определенные гарантии независимости новой Польши.

Этот последний вопрос рассматривался на заседании британского военного кабинета, который принял следующие решения:

Опять копии катого... не распространяются

Экз. № 1
Экз. № 2
Экз. № 3

Возврату...
В 6-ом отделении

Свое решение:

В 3 депо
14/11/44

Document 3.
Telegram from
Washington.
November 13, 1944

Document 3.
Telegram from
Washington.
November 13, 1944

1. Британское правительство обязуется на мирной кон-
ференции оказать поддержку Польше в вопросе расширения
ее границ на западе.

2. Британское правительство гарантирует существование
Польши в новых границах, впредь до окончательного решения этого
вопроса на будущей международной организации безопасности.
Данный ответ британского правительства был вручен ЧЕРЧИЛЛЕМ
лично М.. При этом ЧЕРЧИЛЛЬ заявил, что если поляки в Лон-
доне сейчас согласятся на принятие линии Керзона, они могут
рассчитывать на поддержку англичан в деле получения соответ-
ствующего количества мест в новом польском правительстве,
создаваемом совместно с Комитетом Национального Освобождения.
После совещания со своими "министрами" М. заявил, что на
принятие линии Керзона они согласиться не могут. Одновременно
с этим М. обратился к американскому правительству с просьбой
сообщить их точку зрения.

№ 219 ВАДИМ 11/X1.

отп. 2 экз.
№ 1-2 Виктору.

экз. № 1

5 отделение: *Виктор*

330
СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА В.Р. № 10347 ПОСЛАНА 1944 г. 11/13

Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

Из ВАШИНГТОНА

Получена 18/УП 194 г. 09 ч. 00 "м. Расшифр. 18/УП 194 г. 17 ч. 00 "м.

Для резолюций и пометок

Кому адресована: 8 ОТДЕЛ.

о положении в Европе.

2/ американцы представляют себе европейскую перспективу в более розовом свете. Как кажется, они считают, что после войны урегулирование несколь-ких выдающихся проблем, Европе можно будет предоставить самой себе и что она быстро ста-нет на путь мирного и спокойного развития.

наоборот, если мы все не будем усиленно работать, положение в Европе будет быстро и опасно ухудшаться. Ввиду предстоящего совещания, крайне важ-ным внушить нашу точку зрения правительству США. В нижеследующих заметках излагается

СМ. на об.

Отп. _____ экз. _____

Экз. № _____

Экз. № 1 _____

Экз. № 2 _____

Экз. № 3 _____

Подлежит возврату через 6 суток в 5-ое отделение

5-ое отделение:

Document 4.
Telegram from
Washington. July 18,
1945

2.
оценка экономического положения и обстановки в наиболее важных странах.

Экономическое положение.

3/ Продовольствия нехватает и уровень потребления крайне низок. Районы Восточной и юго-восточной Европы, обычно имеющие излишки, в этом году лишь только снабдят самих себя и положение в дефицитных районах, и без того тяжелое, ввиду этого еще больше ухудшится. Потребуется ввезти большое количество продовольствия, что повлечет за собой громадные финансовые тяготы. Даже, если можно было бы получить пароходы, - внутренний транспорт разрушен; налицо острый недостаток подвижного состава, внутреннего состава, внутреннего речного транспорта и грузовиков. Сырья нехватает, производство - на очень низком уровне и масса рабочей силы продуктивно не используется. Кроме всего этого, вполне ясно, что в эту зиму будет иметь место острый недостаток угля, что повлияет на всю экономическую структуру Европы. Даже если бы можно было снабдить сырьем и достать транспорт, отсутствие угля затормозит производство и распределение и усилит безработицу. Эти условия наблюдаются по всей Европе, и в освобожденных районах угрожают прочности правительств. В Германии и Австрии положение сильно ухудшится, благодаря повсеместной разрухе, неизбежной ввиду наложения необходимых мер экономического разоружения и набора рабочей силы по репарациям. Предстоит также разрешение проблемы содержания и размещения большого контингента перепатрируемого насильственно-эвакуированного населения. При этих обстоятельствах,

Document 4.
Telegram from
Washington, July 18,
1945

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3. 116
контроль над Германией на четырех сторонней базе представит сам по себе труднейшую задачу.

Германия.

4/ Здесь наши проблемы только что начинают появляться.

Контрольная комиссия еще не создана и никто не может уверенно сказать когда она будет работать. Мы приложим все усилия к тому, чтобы она работала и чтобы избежать той губительной альтернативы, при которой каждый главнокомандующий управлял бы в своей зоне, не обращая внимания на политику проводимую в других зонах. Но мы не можем быть уверены в успехе.

На данный момент нет достаточной договоренности о политике по отношению к Германии. Несмотря на то, что британская и американская делегации представили в европейскую консультативную комиссию большое количество политических директив, ни одна из них еще не согласована. Мы все еще не имеем единого мнения ни о том, какой мы хотим видеть новую Германию, ни о границах Германии, ни о будущем немецкого населения за пределами границ, ни о составе немецкого правительства. Только тогда, когда эти и подобные им вопросы будут в принципе решены, мы сможем начать конструктивно думать. Отрицательные аспекты нашей политики, на которых мы до сего момента сосредотачивались, ясно недостаточны.

Западная Европа.

5/ Мы надеемся, что после ноябрьских выборов во Франции появится достаточно сильное и умеренное правительство, с которым будет легче иметь дело чем с теперешним правительством. Мы должны поддержать это правительство и помочь ему

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10/18

Document 4.
Telegram from
Washington, July 18,
1945



More documents on the
SVR of Russia website

4.

восстановить Францию, однако будущее его будет зависеть во многом от его успехов в разрешении экономических проблем. Этой зимой будет испытываться острый недостаток мяса, угля, средств транспорта и вытекающие из этого затруднения могут вызвать серьезные внутренние потрясения.

Чтобы предотвратить это, США и Великобритании необходимо сделать все, что в их силах, чтобы помочь французам получить из-за границы снабжение, особенно уголь и мясо.

Провал этого мероприятия может повлечь не только падение нового французского правительства, но и длительные недоброжелательные отношения между Францией и США и Соединенным Королевством. Франции нужна будет материальная помощь, а не ласковые слова.

6/ Положение в Голландии и Бельгии аналогично положению во Франции. Правительства их нуждаются в экономической помощи извне, чтобы удержаться и сохранить доверие своим народам.

7/ Италия.

Создано новое, многообещающее правительство, которому нужно оказать всемерную помощь. Его нужно побуждать к скорейшему проведению выборов, а также к реформе и децентрализации правительственного аппарата. Но, что более важно, итальянскому правительству необходимо оказать достаточную экономическую поддержку, чтобы ему прожить в критический зимний период без слишком большой безработицы и лишений. Иначе Италия круто повернет влево. Уголь в Италии является наиболее узким местом, но ей также нужно помочь продовольствием и сырьем /в этом должна оказать помощь ОНРРА/.

Document 4. Telegram
from Washington. July
18, 1945

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5.

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Итальянскому правительству необходимо дать возможность снарядить и содержать армию, достаточную для обеспечения внутреннего порядка и сопротивления местной агрессии. В этом заинтересованы, однако, и США и Великобритания. Они совместно освободили Италию. У них общая обязанность и заинтересованность в том, чтобы Италия была восстановлена как жизнеспособный демократический организм. Но достигнуть этого можно только при условии предоставления Италии широкой материальной помощи. Хороших речей будет недостаточно.

Польша

8/ Сформирование польского временного правительства национального единства является лишь первым шагом к восстановлению в Польше нормальных условий. Несмотря на то, что правительство это пользуется признанием главных союзных держав, оно ни в коем случае не представляет всех течений польской политической жизни. Наиболее влиятельными фигурами в правительстве являются коммунисты и попутчики, которые рассчитывают на поддержку русских в проведении своей политики. Пока нельзя предвидеть когда советские войска будут отведены; пока они там, большинство поляков будет рассматривать настоящий порядок вещей с некоторым сомнением. Вытекающая отсюда непрочность может породить беспорядки и гражданский конфликт, если только западные державы воспользуются всем своим влиянием в целях умеренности и оказать свою поддержку в восстановлении устойчивых условий.

требования без предварительного уведомления своих союзников. Вытекающий из этого кризис, если он не будет вскоре разрешен, станет едва ли менее серьезным, чем польский вопрос, который так испортил международные отношения за последние годы".

№ 968 ВАДИМ 17/УП-45г.

отп. 2 экз. экз. В1, 2-апр.

19/12/45
15
19/12/45

5 отделение: *Вушинский*



**Grand master Sergey Karjakin:
«Chess, like intelligence,
is for strong-minded people»**

Sergey Alexandrovich, at the age of 12 you became the youngest grand master in history, and this record lasted for almost 20 years. Tell me, what is the secret of your success?

I think the main secret is my enormous capacity for work. I studied 7-8 hours a day, and if I hadn't fallen in a real, sincere love with chess, if I hadn't treated the game with cordial warmth, nothing would have worked out. Of course, I should note that it was also a team work. My parents supported me a lot — my dad taught me to play, my mom took me to a chess school. By the way, at first they didn't want to admit me, saying I was too young, but then the coach saw how I played and accepted me.

The next key moment was when I had my first successes: first I became the champion of Ukraine in the category under 10, then the champion of Europe. I was offered to move to the Donetsk region, to the city of Kramatorsk, there was a strong chess school at that time. Here I would like to emphasize again the role of my parents, who decided to change jobs for me and move to another city, not knowing what was awaiting them there. Everything seems simple when you are a child, and only now I understand how stressful it was for them. But life showed that all of it was not in vain, because in just three years of studying at the Kramatorsk school I became the youngest grand master. I really studied a lot there. Now looking back, it seems to me

that between the ages of 6 and 12 I did not have a single day off.

Today, chess is getting younger all over the world, the average age of grand masters is 12-13. What do you think is the reason for it?

I think the role of computer training has grown very much. Now there are databases that include tens of millions of chess games, and you can analyze them using special programs. If in the past, powerful expensive computers were necessary, now it is enough to connect to the cloud and to rent the required capacity, so today almost anyone can get the most advanced opportunities for a development.

In the same Kramatorsk school, in order to find information about some chess variation or opening position that interested me, I had to sift through a huge number of books, then analyze it with my coach. Now everything is available literally without leaving home.

Speaking of computer technologies, what prospects do you think chess has here? Will artificial intelligence soon replace the ordinary person?

I think that human play will definitely remain. I can say for myself, even when I, as a spectator, watch chess tournaments, I understand that it is much more interesting for me to watch how real people play. Computers have higher mathematics, flawless moves. But do we

Sergey Alexandrovich Karjakin

Born in Simferopol on January 12, 1990. His father is an honored chess coach of Ukraine, his mother is a programmer and mathematician. He started playing chess at the Simferopol Palace of Pioneers. In 1999, he became the champion of Ukraine and Europe. In 2000, he moved with his family to Kramatorsk, where he studied at the A.V. Momot Donetsk Regional Chess Club. In 2002, he became the youngest grand master in the history of chess. In 2009, he took Russian citizenship. Grand master (2011), world rapid chess champion (2012), world blitz champion (2016), two-time winner of the world team championship as a member of the Russian national team (2013, 2019). In 2016, he fought for the title of world champion with Magnus Carlsen, but lost to the Norwegian in a tie-break. In February 2022, he wrote an open letter in support of the Special Military Operation, which led to his disqualification by FIDE for six months. After refusing to compete under a neutral flag, he was excluded from the FIDE ratings.



At the opening
of Sergey Karjakin's chess
club in Voronezh.
July 11, 2024

need such chess? We want to see the players' vivid emotions, to see how they come up with something, take risks, make mistakes...

You haven't played at the international level for over two years due to sanctions. How do you manage to keep your shape?

Of course, now it is no longer possible to train like before, 7-8 hours a day. In general, the ideal training for a grand master is when you have a sparring partner, also a grand master, who may be slightly inferior to you, but feels you well, sees your mistakes from the outside. In chess, it often happens that you win a game, but during the game you make some wrong moves, and afterwards you must analyze them in order not to make them again. In addition, chess today is a lot

« Computers have higher mathematics, flawless moves. But do we need such chess? We want to see the players' vivid emotions, to see how they come up with something, take risks, make mistakes...

of technical work, because a huge number of tournaments are taken place in the world which you need to follow in real time so that you don't miss new ideas and combinations.

As a rule, we are talking about innovations in the opening of the game, that is, in the debut. After all, what is the main task of a chess player? To seize the initiative, to gain an advantage. It is no wonder they say that surprise means winning. In chess, the work of this principle is especially evident. If you play the same opening all the time, you won't have a success. For example, you came up with a new combination, used it at a tournament – and everyone has seen it and is already preparing for it, next time it most likely won't work. That's why I look for and come up with a new opening every time, and at the same time study other people's openings so that no one could catch me off guard. That is, it's a very big, monotonous, purely technical job, but you can't do without it.

In recent years, the presence of Indian and Chinese chess players in world rankings has increased significantly. What is the reason for that?

Firstly, they are just more numerous! (Laughs.) Secondly, the authorities of both countries have taken serious measures to popularize chess. For example, chess is a compulsory sport discipline in Indian schools, and only this gives us hundreds of millions of players. In addition, if you have reached a certain level in chess, not necessarily a championship, and you work for a company, no matter private or state-owned, the employer is obliged not only to provide you with a vacation to participate in tournaments, but also to pay for your trips abroad.

The Soviet chess school used to be considered the strongest in the world, but during the years of the Perestroika we lost ground. In your opinion, is Russia still a chess power today?

Of course, Russia remains a chess power. Our country loves chess, many people practice it. It is gratifying that many parents who are looking for a place to send their children to

for their development, are happy to take them to chess clubs which they themselves attended as children. Yes, in the 1990s we lost our leading positions, partly due to the difficult economic situation, and partly – to increased competition against the backdrop of the widespread use of computers.

I believe that the most important thing now is to support children. If we want to raise champions, we should involve the widest possible circle of people in chess, and for this, it is desirable to introduce chess into preschool education. The fact is that there is a huge difference, literally an abyss, between children who started playing at 4-5 and at 7-8. It is difficult to make up for such a lag. Therefore, my team and I, with the support of the leadership of my native Crimea, are also doing this and, in particular, we are going to open chess clubs in kindergartens in Yalta and Simferopol.

It is also important to focus on supporting young talents. This year, within the framework of the Moscow Region Chess Federation, we launched such a project – a personal scholarship of Sergey Karjakin, which we expect to award to promising juniors. I hope that the project will develop, I consider it to be my personal contribution to the chess future of our country.

You are not only a grand master, but also a well-known popularizer of chess: you actively travel to different cities, open chess schools. Tell us more about this: what have you managed to do, and what plans do you have for the future?

We are developing in two directions at the same time. The first is what we are doing within the Moscow Region Chess Federation, which I took over a year ago. During this time, a significant work has been done: we have opened several new chess schools, began to hold tournaments with large prize funds, which were not even thought of before. Recently, for example, we sent several joint teams from the Moscow Region to the Russian Championship in Sochi. This is a lot of work, and it requires serious expenses, but we are trying to carry it out, to attract

« I believe that the most important thing now is to support children. If we want to raise champions, we should involve the widest possible circle of people in chess.

partners and sponsors. In some places, I participate with my own money, in others, my friends help...

The second direction is the opening of Sergey Karjakin chess clubs in the headquarters of public support of the party "United Russia". Since such headquarters are located all over the country, we are very grateful to the party's leadership for providing this infrastructure for the development of chess. We are striving to ensure that at least one chess club appears in each subject of the Russian Federation. Today, there are more than 50 of them, but the project is in full swing, and I hope that by the end of the year we will really be present in all regions.

Taking into account your background, it is obvious that you have a special interest in Novorossiya. How often do you visit

At Sergey Karjakin's chess
club in Simferopol.
July 23, 2024



this land, and what plans do you have for developing chess in the new regions?

I travel to the new territories once or twice a month on average. Indeed, in addition to helping the military, a lot of work is being done there to establish peaceful life, to develop sports infrastructure, including chess. In the spring of this year, I met with [the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation] Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin, who entrusted me with this, let's say, honorable duty of developing chess in the liberated territories. Now we are actively searching and repairing locations there in order to open chess schools. In the very near future, Sergey Karjakin's Clubs should appear in Donetsk, Mariupol and Lugansk. I consider this as my duty, since I lived in the Donetsk region for three years and, in fact, thanks to the groundwork that I created then together with my coach and parents, I had a success.

Since February 2022, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) has taken a discriminatory position towards you and other Russian athletes who openly support the Special Military Operation. Hasn't the time come to create alternative chess structures, for example, within the framework of BRICS or SCO?

I fully support this idea, moreover, I already put it forward two years ago. Immediately after my disqualification by FIDE, I said that I wanted to create an alternative federation. Another thing is that at that time, not everyone supported me. Someone, apparently, expected that everything would soon settle down and be as before. Now, it is obvious to everyone that it will definitely not be as before. In any case, I believe that an alternative to FIDE is needed, and an international format within the BRICS framework suggests itself: Russia and China have the strongest chess schools in the world, and India is the founder of chess.

There is already a chess tournament within the BRICS Games...

Yes, there is such a tournament, but it is not held as often as we would like. We need a full-fledged sports structure that would provide chess players with a schedule for the whole year. So far, such projects are implemented only on a private basis. A great example is the Moscow tournament "Chess Stars", where leading chess players from Russia and friendly countries compete. Moreover, a children's chess festival is also held at the same time. And they all sit in one place: leading chess players – on the stage, and children – in the hall. They see how we play, and after the games they can come up to us and talk. For them, this is a very powerful impulse, a strong motivation for further development! There was definitely nothing like this in my childhood.

And how friendly is the world chess family? Do you communicate with foreign grand masters now?

I still correspond regularly with many of European chess players whom I got to know, and we communicate quite closely. But the situation is that they cannot publicly support me, because they will immediately lose all invitations to tournaments.

As for my Ukrainian colleagues, contacts with them have been completely cut off. For example, there is a world champion in Ukraine – Ruslan Ponomarev, we studied

together at a chess school in Kramatorsk. And we haven't communicated since 2014. Unfortunately, many chess players have left Russia during this time. Some of them didn't accept the Special Military Operation, others were simply scared, and some people, perhaps, decided that they would have more opportunities in the West. It's bad, of course, that we lost several strong guys, but our country is rich in talent, and I'm sure that we will find worthy replacements!

You have decided to go into politics: you have been nominated for the Federation Council from the Republic of Crimea. Aren't you afraid of being compared with Garry Kasparov?

I think Kasparov's way is tragic. On the one hand, he is truly the greatest chess player, who has done a lot for the development and popularization of chess in the world. On the other hand, for some reason he disliked his own country, where he grew up, achieved success, and which gave him so much. I will never be able to understand this.

And I am not afraid of any comparison with Kasparov. I am focused only on creation, on the development of chess, the popularization of sports and a healthy lifestyle in general. I have a great desire to support my country and my native Crimea, to which I am very grateful. And I really want to do something useful personally.

Here is a chess set with history. It belonged to an intelligence officer, Hero of Russia Alexey Botyan, who loved this game very much. In your opinion, are chess and intelligence somewhere near to each other?

I think there are many parallels between chess and intelligence: in both cases you should calculate your actions for many moves ahead, trust your intuition, not be afraid to make bold and sometimes risky decisions that can ultimately lead you to victory. And you should believe in success, you can't do without it either.

I also think that intelligence officers and sportsmen, not only chess players but all

« I think there are many parallels between chess and intelligence: in both cases you should calculate your actions for many moves ahead, trust your intuition, and not be afraid to make bold and sometimes risky decisions.



those involved in high-performance sports, have a lot in common. Only a strong person is capable of choosing a profession of intelligence officer and achieving results in it. The same is true for sports: only a strong person has a world success. Therefore, both chess and intelligence are, of course, for strong-minded people.

And finally, what advice would you give to our young readers?

I would advise that chess take a worthy place in their lives. No one says that everyone should become champions, there is no such task. It is just that chess is very useful for developing logic, intuition, strategic thinking. And the more intellectual our nation is, the more victories we'll have on various fronts. ♠

Meeting in Yasevno.
July 3, 2024

Interviewed
by Vladislav Ilyin



Video version
of the interview

In the SVR History Hall.
July 3, 2024



Take a hero as an example!

Razvedchik spoke to Irina Grishina, the head of the Yasenevo municipal district, about the unique experience of the cooperation between the intelligence service and the residents of one of Moscow's districts.



Irina Vladimirovna, for more than half a century – since June 20, 1972 – the Headquarters of the Foreign Intelligence Service has been adjacent to the Moscow district of Yasenevo. You have been working here for 12 years: first as a municipal deputy, and since 2013, as the head of the district. What do you think of this neighborhood, and how does it impact the district's life?

My acquaintance with the Service began much earlier, in 2000, when we started publishing the magazine “Military Brotherhood”. And almost immediately, the editorial staff began cooperating with the Press Bureau of the SVR of Russia. Over the years, more than twenty interviews with veterans of the Service have been made, and several special issues have been published, including an issue for the 90th anniversary of Russian foreign intelligence.

Since 2013, when I became head of the district, I left the journalism. But of course, my knowledge and experience have come in handy, as well as my close contacts with the Service. And we are certainly proud of such a neighborhood. It has an exclusively positive impact on the district's life.

What joint projects have you managed to realize during this time?

We have realized quite a lot. For example, new names related to intelligence have appeared on the district map: in 2018, an unnamed square near the Yasenevo metro station received the name of the legendary Soviet intelligence officer Kim Philby, and in 2020, a street at the entrance to the district from the

Moscow Ring Road was named after Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin, the head of Russian foreign intelligence during the war. I think that there are still many prospects in this direction.

In September 2022, on your initiative, school No. 1694 was named after Pavel Fitin. What changes have taken place in the pupils' lives? Because, as they say, the name obliges...

Nothing happens by chance! After the appearance of Pavel Fitin Street on the district map, the question arose: how to make this name alive and close to the residents? School No. 1694, where I have been a member of the governing council for more than ten years, holds an annual project called “Heroes of the Invisible Front”. One of its results was the joint initiative of the Press Bureau, the SVR Veterans Council and the Council of Deputies of the municipal district to name our school after the legendary head of foreign intelligence.

At the same time, it is important that the naming is not an end in itself. After all, through the personality of Pavel Mikhailovich, the children study the bygone era, realize how much effort was applied and what price was paid for the Great Victory, and study biographies of other legendary intelligence officers whose names have already been made public today.

Among the results of such work was the play “Light Cavalry” staged by the school theatre studio last academic year. It is dedicated to the role of intelligence in preventing an attempt on the leaders of the Big Three during the Tehran Conference in 1943. At the request of the Centre



Irina Vladimirovna Grishina

Born in Moscow on March 26, 1964. Graduated from V.I. Lenin Tashkent State University with a qualification “master of history, teacher of history”. For many years she has been engaged in public and charitable activities, patriotic education projects. In 2012, she was for the first time elected as a deputy of the Yasenevo Municipal District of the South-West Administrative District of Moscow. In 2013, she became the Head of the Yasenevo Municipal District, and was reelected in 2017 and 2022. Member of the Presidium of the Council of Municipalities of Moscow. Veteran of Labor.



The Immortal Regiment
in Yasenevo.
May 9, 2020

for Educational Practices of the Department of Education and Science of Moscow, the play was shown in other educational complexes in Yasenevo, as well as in Patriot Park.

Museum pedagogy occupies a special place in work with pupils. The Pavel Fitin Museum that opened at the school is a space that, in my deep conviction, should be in a state of continuous development, especially with the help of children.

It is gratifying that veterans of the SVR of Russia, who are living examples of true service, take part in many school events, not only in those related to intelligence. The opportunity of direct communication with them is an essential element in the education of pupils, who, I am sure, will grow up to be worthy sons and daughters of Russia. The name of Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin, who raised the Russian foreign intelligence service to the highest level of professionalism, obliges both pupils and the teaching staff of the school to be in line with him.

« Young people should grow up with the understanding that the protection of the state determines their future as well, and the more stable and confident the country's development is, the better the next generations will live.

Имя Павла Михайловича Фитина, поднявшего отечественную внешнюю разведку на высочайший уровень профессионализма, обязывает и учеников школы, и педагогический коллектив ему соответствовать.

As a specialist in history by education, you pay great attention to the issues of patriotic education and preservation of historical memory. What activities in this sphere are carried out at the district level?

Three years ago, the program "Patriotic education of citizens living in the district for 2021-2024" was adopted in Yasenevo. Now, we are actively preparing a new five-year program, which will be aimed at strengthening residents' sense of belonging to the great history and culture of our country and ensuring the continuity of generations. As part of this program, creative, cultural, sporting and other mass events are being organized to commemorate important dates of Russian history. These events include exhibitions, forums, conferences, lectures and seminars for children, teenagers, people of retirement age and people with disabilities – residents of Yasenevo. In addition, we promote the creation of new military-patriotic, sports and technical clubs and associations in the district and support the existing ones. Young people should grow up with the understanding that the protection of the state determines their future as well, and the more stable and confident the country's development is, the better the next generations will live.

There are also interesting projects realized with the assistance of the Service. For example, last April the Cultural Centre "Vdokhnovlenie" hosted a concert called "Spirit Aristocrat" and dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the release of the film "Seventeen Moments of Spring" and the 95th anniversary of Vyacheslav Tikhonov, in which his daughter Anna Vyacheslavovna participated. I would also like to thank the Russian SVR orchestra under the direction of honored artists of the Russian Federation Boris Bukatkin and Igor Rybenko for their regular performances at the district concerts. For the residents of our district, the arrival of a team of such a level is always a holiday.

An integral part of our work is meeting with veterans and providing targeted assistance to

them. Today we have twenty participants of the Great Patriotic War and more than 650 home front workers who reside on our territory. These are unique people! Take, for example, Nadezhda Mikhailovna Kryuchkova, an honored resident of Yasenevo: at the front from the first day, at the age of 20, as a paramedic, she helped the wounded under the bursts of mines and aerial bombs, without sparing herself. She was heavily wounded, realized two escapes from a prisoner-of-war camp, and took part in the partisan movement in Belarus. Nadezhda Mikhailovna has been living in Yasenevo since 1979, and all these years she has been actively involved in patriotic education, communicating with young people, sharing her memories...

But as soon as we have a very interesting history developing in Yasenevo with the perpetuation of the memory of domestic intelligence officers, their enormous contribution to the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, I think that on the eve of the celebration of the 80th anniversary of this most important event, it is necessary to lay the foundation for new traditions. We are preparing...

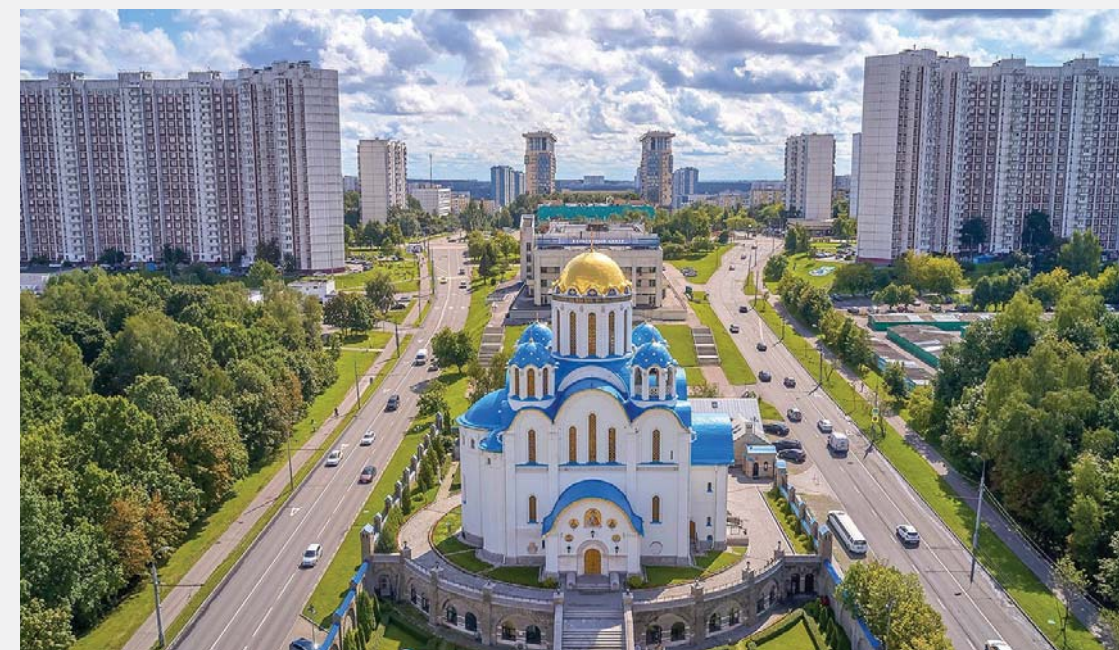
And finally. A significant part of our magazine's audience is made up of high school pupils and students facing the choice of their future profession. What would you wish them?



Presentation with the medal "For Interaction".
May 14, 2024

To learn to dream big. To set and to achieve big goals. To look for purpose and reference points in the history of our country, in the destinies of our great ancestors, not looking for easy ways and not wasting time on trifles. Choosing a profession is the most important decision in every person's life, and it should be approached responsibly.

"Take a hero of ancient times as an example, observe him, follow him, catch up with him and overtake him – glory to you!" – said our Generalissimo Alexander Vasilyevich Suvorov. I think he is worth listening to. 🚩



Yasenevo district

Interviewed
by Mikhail Pogudin

Back in Paris

Text by W.G. Fisher (R.I. Abel), Soviet deep cover intelligence officer
Drawings by Sergey Dorozhenko

CONTINUATION

After meeting with Edmonds, Max decided to go to Paris and meet the Doctor again. He went to a stationery store, bought the agreed-upon postcard, and sent it to the assigned address.

On his way to Agafya, Max made sure that he wasn't being followed, and bought flowers, some snacks, and wine along the way. He had a letter from Agafya's parents in his pocket.

Agafya was very happy to see Max.

"Good heavens!" she exclaimed. "I thought that something happened to you!"

"Don't say that!" Max answered, giving her his hand. "How could anything happen to me! I needed to meet a man. It was very important, and now I'll stay in Paris for a day or two."

"I'm very pleased! Are you staying with me?"

"If you don't mind. By the way, here are some flowers for you."

"You shouldn't have! Why did you spend so much money? I'm glad to see you anyway."

"And so am I, but I was told that I should always present flowers to a lady. Especially if she is as pretty as you are."

"I see," answered Agafya, "You know how to pay compliments! Thank you very, very much! Take a seat, I'll put them in a vase and make some tea."

"I've brought you some treat. Let's have a meal together."

Agafya began to bustle about the house. When the table was set, and she went to prepare the tea, Max took out her father's letter and put it next to her cup. She put the tray on the table, sat down and... noticed the letter.

Agafya immediately recognized her father's handwriting. She turned pale, pressed her left hand to her heart and carefully took the envelope with the other hand.

"Have you brought a letter from my father?" she whispered.

"Yes, I have. Read it!"

Agafya opened the envelope and began to read the letter. Max could notice her excitement. She was reading slowly, sometimes rereading the lines. She often wiped away tears.

Finally, she put the letter down, took a deep breath and said quietly:

"You can't imagine the joy you've brought me! How can I thank you?"

"Don't think about it."

"Father writes that you'll need help with something. I'm willing to do it anyway, and my father's request only strengthens my will."

"Maybe we should eat now and talk later?" suggested Max.

"Oh dear! And the kettle has gone cold!"

Agafya ran to the kitchen. Max followed. He put his hand on her shoulder. She turned around, hugged him, pulled his head to hers and kissed him.

"Don't say anything," she whispered, "I must tell you that I love you. I've been thinking about you for a long time, all the time you were gone. I told you back then that you weren't like the Russians here. Now I know, my heart tells me why."

Max, somewhat taken aback by her confession, thought to himself: what a good girl, she confessed it.

There was not a shadow of coquetry or falsehood in Agafya's words or movements. Max, who, in his turn, had a fancy for her, put hands on her shoulders and said, looking her in the eyes:

"You have to understand that my job is not a trifle. It's dangerous and demanding. It doesn't bring wealth."

"And I don't need it. I'm not used to living in wealth and I don't want it. I just want to feel that someone needs me, that I lead a useful life, and until now I didn't feel this, and without you I wouldn't have found it here."



“You’ll have to stay here,” Max told her.

“With you I’ll be anywhere!”

“But maybe I’ll have to leave. Then how?”

“But you will come back, won’t you?”

“Certainly!”

“Then there is nothing to talk about... Oh my! The kettle has boiled over! Let’s go to eat.”

When Agafya poured the tea and sat down at the table, she said, smiling:

“Everyone here thinks – many have heard about you, – that you are a real fighter for the White cause! I was the only one who thought the opposite – that you are a real Russian from today’s Russia. You are not like our locals! They all make me sick, but in you I felt something different, something new, something they couldn’t have had...”

“Please,” Max interrupted her. “I’m not that kind of knight in golden armor.”

“That’s not the point,” Agafya protested. “I’m sure that you can be both cruel and harsh, but this cruelty will be honest and fair, not because you’re fond of being like that, but because you can’t act otherwise at the moment. And when it passes, you’ll be kind and gentle, and warm-hearted. It’s true! I’m sure.”

Max was embarrassed, but didn’t object, because Agafya managed to express in words what he, frankly speaking, had never thought about before.

“Don’t make an idol of me,” he said, “maybe in a week or two you will think differently.”

“No,” she answered seriously, “May be I’m not so smart, but my intuition tells me that this won’t happen. And I’m sure you will always be the same.”

Max laughed.

“It’s like you’re giving a sermon.”

“Don’t joke about it! Better tell me: did your friend tell you anything else about my father and mother?”

Max told her what the Doctor had said. Agafya thought for a moment and then spoke:

“I was sure that he would be exactly like that. He didn’t like his job very much, he read a lot, did all sorts of experiments in the garden. He was very much loved. His sermons weren’t very well understood... But people came to him to receive some advice on all sorts of everyday matters. A good man... And my mother, well, she followed him. She studied at midwife courses. She doesn’t behave like a priest’s wife, does she?”

“Indeed! This probably caused objections from the church authorities?”

“They grumbled at my father, but when he explained the situation that there was neither a doctor nor a midwife in the parish, they reluctantly agreed. They considered my father a freethinker and shoved him into a poor parish. Oh, I want to see him so badly!”

“Just wait a little, and you’ll probably be able to... Now, let’s talk about serious matters! You need to move out of here. Get to it. Quit your job of a concierge.”

“I’m here only temporarily. Louise will be back tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.”

“Very good. Look for a small apartment, inexpensive one, but away from these living corpses. Let it be in the working class neighborhood, it doesn’t matter. I have to leave again for a few days, no more than a week. Then it would be good to move to a new place.”

“What should I tell Louise?”

“Hmm... Tell her that you’ve found an idol and you’ll live with him, and when your husband comes back, you’ll get a divorce. It’s no use making things up. She won’t think anything bad, I hope...”

“No, she advised me many times that I leave Kraskov. No! I don’t think she’ll reproach me!”

“Well, that’s good. And also, you should think about what you want to do.”

“What do you mean?” Agafya asked somewhat surprised.

“It’s very simple! You should find a job, not because we need money, but because I want you to be able to become independent. If something happens to me, and it’s always possible, then you won’t find yourself in a dire situation. And besides, I think you will be pleased to know that you, too, can do something and earn your own bread.”

“I don’t mind. I’d like to study... But I don’t want to burden you. After all, it’s a costly affair!”

“Okay. Think about it, and then, when I get back, we’ll talk. And now, maybe Louise has recovered? It would be nice to go out!”

Louise couldn’t work yet, and Max and Agafya stayed at home...

A day later, Max went to Berlin, where he met with the Doctor.

When they got into the car, the Doctor asked Max:

“How are you? You’ve become a frequent visitor lately.”

Max told him in detail about his conversation with Edmonds. The Doctor kept silence for a few minutes.

“I,” he began, “wrote about these business cards to the Old Man. He approved of your coming to me and agreed with my opinion that it might be better for you to maintain contact through me. I’ll give you an address for letters and assign a liaison. He’s a smart guy, quick-witted and industrious. You understand, it won’t always be possible for me to meet you.

“As for Edmonds’s offer... It’s a tempting deal. Maybe he really wants to make you his liaison, but I think this is only a test for now.

He is not a fool, to say nothing of his superiors. Of course, he won’t show his hand right away. No! This is a test! We won’t find out right now what his real interest is. And these people who you need to contact, they seem to be of little interest to the British, but they can serve as a communications test. You should agree – just try to bargain with him. Don’t lower the price too much. And we’ll arrange the sending. It’ll be possible to do it with comfort. You will even, perhaps, take Agafya with you.”

“It’ll probably be difficult,” noted Max.

“We’ll see...”

The Doctor thought for a while.

“It may be better if you don’t tell Edmonds what your group is. In general, behave independently with him. He came to you. He needs you. So strike a pose, but don’t go too far! I don’t think that the British intelligence service is so poor that you are desperately needed. In general, keep your eyes open. As for Agafya, start training her. You’ll see what she can really do. How do you plan to spend the next few days?”

“I promised Edmonds to give him an answer in two weeks, but I believe I can find him earlier. So I could return to Paris in a day and then call him. I have nothing to do in Berlin, except maybe visiting museums.”

“Splendid! There are many good and interesting things in the museums here; I would like to visit them too, but, unfortunately, I’m too busy... In the meantime, I will coordinate the final version of the trip with Moscow and let you know. Now, in detail: you stay here for two days. On the morning of the third day, you’ll be in Paris. That will be the twenty-first. Call your Edmonds through the jeweler, it’ll be faster, and bargain with him. Keep mum about how you will go, when and with what documents! Put on an air of mystery! Take the secret addresses and the advance from him. On the twenty-fifth, a liaison will come, I hope to have instructions for you. I’ll send them with him. Depending on the Center’s decision, you’ll leave one way or another. I have several options and I think I can recommend them for you.”

Max didn't object and gave a meeting place for the liaison in the Louvre, near the "Mona Lisa". He stipulated additional signs, backup dates for the meeting in case the liaison was late. Lastly, Max gave the Doctor Agafya's letters to her parents, and they parted.

Max returned to Paris as it had been agreed. Agafya, already free from her work as a concierge, after a joyful meeting told Max that she had found two addresses where there might be vacant apartments. She was in a hurry to settle in at a new place. She didn't ask about the trip. They had breakfast and then went to look at the apartments. One was near the Saint-Louis hospital, at the very top of an old house, built, apparently, about two hundred years ago. It resembled an artist's studio with windows in the roof. Max didn't like it very much, and Agafya said that it would be cold there in winter. The other one was on the left bank of the Seine, in Montparnasse, near the Place Denfert-Rochereau. This place was more suitable: two rooms on the third floor, a kitchen. The landlady praised the house, the tenants, the surroundings. She mentioned that there were many good shops, churches and cemeteries nearby.



Max who had never rented an apartment from a private owner before – he received his place in Moscow by order of the housing department of the Dzerzhinsky district council – found it amusing. He was especially entertained by the zeal of both parties – Agafya and the landlady. If the landlady said the apartment was dry, Agafya would point to the peeling wallpaper and ask sarcastically:

"What do you think, madam, did this wallpaper come off on its own?"

"That's not the case!" the owner was indignant. "This is poor work, the painters are to blame. Oh! Those Italians! Those marauders! These spags come, they don't know how to speak properly, to say nothing of the work, but demand so much money. No, no, madam, I assure you, you won't find a drier apartment on the entire street!"

Agafya complained about the dark stairs, and the landlady praised the windows looking south.

"There is so much sunlight! Madam, you will enjoy the light, and you don't live on the stairs, do you?"

The bargaining continued. It reached its peak when Agafya delicately asked about cockroaches and other living creatures.

Here the landlady remembered all the residents in the entire house over all the years of her work as a housekeeper, and described them in detail not only in terms of their cleanliness and hostility to any multilegged creatures, but also in terms of their moral principles. It was a very lively and colorful story.

"But, madam," the landlady said, finishing her story, "over all the years of my life here, only one mistake has been made! Ah! That Norman! That Marie-Louis Lesgon! He lived here only a month with his wife and seven children, but what a noise, what a mess! God save us from such savages! How much we suffered afterwards! But now there is nothing, absolutely nothing left!"

The landlady, exhausted, sat down on the windowsill. Having measured their strength, like two gladiators, both women, now peacefully, agreed on the rent and the services the tenant could expect from the owner of the house.

They had to buy cheap furniture, the money was scarce; some pieces were found at auctions. Agafya was very pleased with one particular purchase – a sewing machine, so she made bedspreads and curtains using different scraps, and that way she gave the plain furniture a more attractive appearance.

Of course, furnishing the apartment was mostly Agafya's responsibility. She bought things, placed them, argued with the drivers and loaders, and tried to save money in every possible way. While she was busy with it, Max established a contact with Edmonds.

On the twenty-third they met at the jeweler's, who told Max that he had found a buyer for the snuffbox. Max promised to bring it to him for examination, and then he and Edmonds went to a cafe on the boulevard.

"So, what can you tell me?" the Englishman turned to Max after they sat down and ordered lunch.

"I can only give you a conditional consent for now," answered Max.

"What does it mean?" asked Edmonds.

"Your offer... Perhaps, I will be able to accept it. But I need some additional information, some guarantees and, lastly, more money."

"I see you have a big appetite," Edmonds answered indignantly. "Do you doubt my honesty?"

"Mr. Edmonds," Max calmly objected, "I haven't yet had the opportunity to judge your honesty or dishonesty. But I think it wouldn't be superfluous to remind you that the colonel and Kraskov in Riga once changed the plan for crossing the border, as I managed to find out, because an Englishman – not necessarily you personally – in Riga recommended them to do so. You probably know that these good gentlemen wanted to hand me and my comrades over to the Latvians? That's one thing. The second one is that you, as I understand it, want me to do some intelligence work for you."

"I never said that," Edmonds broke in.

"I'm not so naive, Mr. Edmonds, as to say that the letters of your Russian acquaintances will concern ordinary things of their personal lives! The third circumstance that I'd like to remind you of, is that it was you who was looking for me, because you needed me."

"That's all true," the Englishman said, calming down a little, "but don't forget that I'm the representative of very influential British circles. I won't hide the fact that we can arrange your life here, but we can provide you a lot of trouble as well..."

"In short," Max interrupted him, "you show me the bait, and then you pull out a stick from behind your back! Thank you for your frankness! Now you see, sir, what it is to deal with you! Speaking of guarantees, I mean, for example, taking my fee before the departure. After all, you can refuse to pay. Besides, let's suppose that I go there and don't find your people. Let's assume for one

minute that they are arrested; it's always possible, isn't it?"

Edmonds nodded.

"Therefore, it wouldn't be my fault that I didn't complete the mission in terms of communications. But I would still bring you important information, about these people's arrests. Isn't that right?"

Edmonds tacitly agreed again.

"Doesn't it cost money? Furthermore, I'm not so naive as to think that you are now entrusting me with a very responsible and important task. After all, it's only the first one. I'm sure that you consider it a test. In any case, if I were you, I would do it differently, and I'm only a rookie in intelligence. But you have wide experience. You are old foxes! Therefore, I believe that the task itself may imply certain risk and danger. All these arguments are in favor of higher pay and greater frankness from your side."

"It's too early to talk about frankness," objected Edmonds. "When we agree, then I'll give you the details. As for money, we can also talk about it later. Taking into account your reservation and doubt, could you give me an affirmative answer now?"

"Using your words, I can answer," Max told him, smiling, "that, taking into account my reservation and doubt and your promises, I give you my consent."

"Good! We have a preliminary agreement," continued Edmonds. "And how do you plan to carry out our task?"

"Very simple!" answered Max. "I go there, meet, talk, and come back! That's all."

"Yes, yes! But how will you go? Where will you cross the border, what documents will you use, with whom..."

"Wait, Mr. Edmonds," Max interrupted him. "It's none of your business how, with whom, by what means, and so on. This is my personal thing. I don't intend to share such matters with anyone, and especially with you. I burnt my

fingers once. Repeating the mistake is not in my nature. Don't ask me!"

"But I must know," the Englishman protested strongly.

"You don't need to know anything," grumbled Max. "Enough! I burnt my fingers once..."

"But I need to know in order to report to my..."

"Invent something for your masters. You know better what kind of stories they like."

Edmonds thought for a second.

"Let it be so. How many people do you have?"

"Again, it's none of your business," grumbled Max.

"How much money do you need?"

"The amount that you had originally offered – in advance, and upon arrival, regardless of the outcome, another fifty percent."

"And what guarantees do I have that you will actually go and meet my people? After all, you can hide for a month or two, and then show up and say that you didn't find anyone, everyone was arrested!"

"This is a problem, of course," answered Max. "But you know what? It's your problem, not mine. You can give me at least one address, about which you know for sure that your man hasn't been betrayed or arrested, don't tell me which one, and if I don't bring you anything from the addressee, don't pay!"

"This is not enough!" Edmonds apparently didn't like the proposal.

"Okay! I'll make one more concession," said Max. "Let's do it this way. Before my departure, you and I will go to the jeweler's. In his presence, you will hand me a half of the amount, and we will put the other half and another fifty percent in an envelope on which you will write: 'To be handed to Mr. Tarutin upon arrival', and you will sign it. If I don't bring you anything, I'll take the envelope and

immediately – you will come with me – give it you!"

Edmonds thought for a while.

"Okay, so be it! Tell me when you'll be leaving."

"I can't tell you that right now," answered Max. "I haven't yet finalized arrangements with my companions."

"Ah, so you have companions," Edmonds picked up.

"Of course! How could I do without them?"

"Who are they?" the Englishman tried to elicit.

"You are a persistent person," noted Max. "Their names are Pushkin and Griboyedov."

The Englishman wrote down the names.

"And who are they?" he continued to elicit.

"Writers," Max answered him concisely.

The Englishman was about to write down their professions, but at that moment he realized that Max was playing a joke on him.

"Okay!" he said, crossing out the names. "If you don't want to, I won't ask anymore!"

They agreed to meet at the end of the month for final negotiations.

Max was to meet with the Doctor's liaison, and so he had to make sure that nobody was following him.

Max took into account that the Englishman could put him under surveillance. In fact, Edmonds knew nothing about Max, and it was to be expected that he would try to fill this gap.

Entering the house where the new apartment was, Max met the landlady.

"Ah! Bonjour, bonjour. Is everything all right?" she asked.

"Yes, it is! Thank you, madam," answered Max.



“You’ve brought me luck,” continued the landlady. “Today I rented out the apartment above the yours. The house is already full!”

“Nice to hear that! I hope the new tenant won’t be noisy.”

“You shouldn’t worry. My house is very well built, and no sounds pass through the floor. Besides, she is a very nice lady, an Englishwoman, a student at the Sorbonne, she is writing a book. Very well-read, well educated.”

“You have reassured me, madam,” answered Max. He took his leave and went upstairs to his apartment.

Agafya was standing at the entrance.

“Good evening!” said Max.

“You know, someone has moved into the apartment upstairs, and there’s such a noise today. They’re knocking and banging.”

“Really? Madam Julien (that was the landlady’s name) has assured me that the house is built so solidly that nothing can be heard... Don’t worry, everything will settle down and it will be quiet.”

Saying it, Max raised his hand to his mouth, letting Agafya know that she should speak more quietly.

“Let’s have some tea,” said Max, “and then we’ll go to the cinema. Okay?”

“I agree!”

On the way to the cinema – they decided to go to the city center to see Charlie Chaplin’s new film – Max revealed to Agafya his suspicions that the new lodger could be sent by Edmonds to keep an eye on them.

“Of course,” he said, “I can’t say for sure, but... let’s be careful! Only household talk at home!”

“But, Max, it’ll be very difficult! And to think all the time that someone is listening to

you, day and night. Can they really hear everything?”

“Nowadays there are devices like radio receivers, but with microphones, as the telephone ones. By the way, have you seen this Englishwoman?”

“No, I haven’t. I wanted to go upstairs to ask them to knock less, but I was ashamed.”

“If there is noise tomorrow, go! Be polite, of course.”

They got off at the Porte Saint-Denis and walked along the boulevards towards the Opera House. After the cinema, Max and Agafya went home.

The light in the Englishwoman’s apartment was visible from the street...

At dinner, Max started talking about their future life, mentioning his plans for the money he would earn from Edmonds.

In the kitchen, where they went to wash the dishes, Max said to Agafya to the sound of water pouring from the tap:

“If you need to tell me something that you don’t want to be heard upstairs, call me here, turn on the water, and then say it in my ear. No one will hear such a conversation. But don’t do it too often!”

In the morning of the twenty-fifth, Max went to the city center. The meeting with the courier was scheduled for half past two, but Max wanted to check whether he was really being followed, and to find a way and a place to get rid of his “tail”.

Max began his check immediately after leaving the house. Instead of going straight to the metro, he turned onto the Rue Dareau in the direction of the Rue des Hallé. There were several side streets in this district, and Max hoped that his “tail” would have to come closer and thus to make himself known. Max went into a store and bought several envelopes and a notebook. Leaving the store, he looked at his watch and walked quickly

towards the “Mouton-Duvernet” metro station. A woman followed him. Without looking back or around, Max walked up the hill at a very quick pace, reached the station and then went down to the entrance hall, where he bought a ticket. Heading for the stairs of the platform, he saw a breathless woman at the ticket office.

Max reached the “Montparnasse” station, transferred to line 12 and took a train to the “Madeleine” station. On the Boulevard Carussin, he went into a café and again saw his “companion” entering behind him. “I’ll check you once more,” thought Max, “and then I’ll leave. Enough!”

Max ordered a lunch. The woman, seeing that he was eating slowly, decided to eat too. The waiter brought her a roast. At that moment, Max stood up, called the waiter, paid and left. When Max was passing her table, it seemed to him that the stranger looked at him reproachfully. However, she didn’t even try to get up, that would be too obvious.

For a moment Max was happy about his success, but then a thought occurred to him: maybe the woman was just a cover for the real chaser? He wouldn’t say that she had shown great skill, although in the conditions created by Max, it was difficult for her not to give herself away. But still!

Psychologically, it would be right for him to calm down now. The “tail” had fallen off. Nevertheless, it seemed to Max that he had won too easily...

There were several taxis parked in the street. Max got into the first one and muttered to the driver: “Luxembourg Garden”.

Through the back window he saw a tall figure in a cloak getting into a neighboring taxi. When Max reached the garden, he paid the driver. Another taxi with the lanky man in a cloak stopped at the corner. Max leisurely entered the park and headed towards the museum. Quickly passing through the halls, he came out to the main entrance, where, to his great pleasure, he saw the lanky man. In fact, Max was somewhat disappointed, as he

expected to see Edmonds, but instead there was another, no less authentic Englishman.

Max saw a taxi on the corner. He quickly walked towards it and said to the driver:

“Les Invalides!”

The Englishman’s car was no longer pursuing him. There were no more taxis in the parking lot.

From Rue des Invalides, Max took the train to the meeting place. Since he had a few minutes, he got off one stop before the meeting place and walked the rest of the way.

The Doctor reported that he had agreed with Moscow on the transfer for Max and Agafya. They were to arrive in Berlin and establish contact with the Doctor’s apparatus which would provide the transfer.

Max told the courier that he had held preliminary negotiations with the Englishman and would be able to leave in about 7-10 days. He also informed him of Edmonds’s actions of checking Max and keeping him under surveillance.

The conversation lasted only a quarter of an hour.

* * *

Max checked again that there were no followers, made sure that he was “clean”, and then headed to the jeweler. There he left the snuffbox and asked the jeweler to tell Edmonds that he would like to meet with him tomorrow.

Edmonds was punctual and, after greeting him, immediately suggested moving to a restaurant. Along the way, he asked about Paris, the French, and restaurants. It seemed to Max that Edmonds was trying to find out whether Max had noticed a “tail” behind him.

“You seem very interested in my life here,” noted Max. “To tell you the truth, the city is

very nice, and its inhabitants seem to mind their own business and not to be interested in what other Parisians are doing. Some foreigners, however, are distinguished by their curiosity. I hope they have honestly confessed their failures to you, Mr. Edmonds!”

The Englishman coughed embarrassedly.

“Yes, they have! They told me how you duped them, but they thought you didn’t notice them and got away due to a series of unfortunate events.”

“Dissuade them,” muttered Max.

“I hope you understand why I needed to follow you?” Edmonds said in a conciliatory tone.

“Everything is clear,” answered Max.

They entered the restaurant and sat down at the table.

“It is also clear to me that you won’t give up your attempts...”

The waiter came over and they ordered a lunch.

Over coffee, Max asked Edmonds in a quiet, serious voice:

“Do you have the advance payment with you?”

“Yes! Are you ready to leave?”

“I’ll go in a few days.”

“How are you going to carry out your plan?”

“I was told,” Max replied smiling, “that there is a good proverb in English, which sounds something like this in Russian: he who abstains from asking questions will not hear a lie.”

Edmonds laughed.

“That’s right, there is such a saying!”

“Let’s end our conversation here.”

Max stood up.

“Let’s go to the jeweler’s and settle our affairs there!”

“Let’s go,” the Englishman agreed.

* * *

When Edmonds went out, leaving the envelope with the money at the jeweler’s, the latter turned to Max:

“Do you agree to sell the snuffbox for five thousand dollars?”

“Do you think it’s very expensive?” Max asked him in response.

“You see, if you had the origin of this thing, you could ask more for it. It does have value, but its history, the name of the master who made it, are also valuable.”

“Fine,” said Max after some thought. “I agree with the proposed amount. When can you give me the money?”

“Come to see me around five o’clock today, and I’ll give it to you.”

“We’d better agree to meet in the morning,” suggested Max.

He didn’t want to keep such a sum of money with him, especially since he wouldn’t be able to hand it over in the evening.

“Okay. It doesn’t matter! Can I ask you... Will you have more of these things?”

“I’m very afraid to promise you anything,” answered Max. “The sources are dwindling, and this kind of goods are scarce: everything has been sold or confiscated. You understand!”

“It’s a pity,” lamented the jeweler. “These are good things!”

* * *

On his way home, Max didn’t notice any surveillance. But nevertheless, he was sure that Edmonds wouldn’t leave him alone. In Max’s pocket was a small package with the addresses of Edmonds’s four “agents” and four small things, one for each addressee, as a proof of the messenger’s trustworthiness. Two addresses in Moscow, two in Leningrad. Four notes on cigarette paper.

The next day Max took Agafya with him and went to the jeweler’s. After greeting them, the jeweler looked at Max questioningly.

“I want to put this money in the bank in the name of Agafya Kraskova. Can you give me a recommendation?”

“With pleasure!”

The jeweler picked up the phone and dialed the number. He introduced himself and started a conversation about opening an account. Apparently, the answer was positive. He called his assistant and told him that he was going to the bank.

The three of them walked around the corner and entered the branch office of the Rothschild bank. The necessary formalities were completed very quickly. Agafya signed the card and the cash book and received the bank book in which the amount of five thousand dollars was recorded. They said goodbye to the head of the branch office and to the jeweler and went home by taxi.

On their way, Max told Agafya that they would go together to Berlin, and from there – to Soviet Russia. She started crying with joy. When she calmed down, she asked him:

“Will I see my parents?”

“Of course!”

“How long will we be there?”

“Probably three or four weeks.”

“And then we’ll come back to Paris?”

“I think so.”

“Oh, I don’t want to!”

“We won’t talk about the trip at home,” Max warned her.

“But we need to get ready! To buy clothes, gifts! We can’t go with empty hands!”

“All this is true, but we’ll do the shopping in Berlin, and from here we’ll take only the most needed things.”

Agafya was somewhat discouraged, but she still agreed.

When they came home, Agafya started to prepare the dinner, and Max opened Edmonds’s package and began to study the names and addresses.

A day later, they received visas and went to Berlin. They told the landlady that they were going to the south for a month, and asked her to look after their belongings.

In Berlin, they settled in a small guest house, and Max contacted a member of the Doctor’s residency. He instructed Agafya to make a list of everything needed for a month’s trip, as well as of gifts.

“With this, it will be easier to buy them!” explained Max.

The Doctor came to the meeting personally.

“Everything is ready!” he said after the greetings.

TO BE CONTINUED ↗

Poetry of veterans

Semyon Kaufman

Ballet dancer

In memory of Y.A. Shevchenko

He is very unremarkable in appearance,
Hard to be noticed in a crowd.
He is near, but he stays unnoticed,
Sociable, but not like everyone else.

He easily speaks several languages,
Sometimes he behaves like an artist.
He doesn't seek for everyone's attention,
But, as an artist, he is used to the public.

Used to hiding emotions and feelings,
Used to listening without saying a word.
His profession resembles an art:
To immerge himself into someone else's life.

No, he is not the Superman from the movie,
No Stierlitz and certainly no James Bond.
But if it is needed, he'll put on a silk hat
And take an ancient cane in his hands.

If it's needed, he'll take brush and palette,
If it's needed, he'll play on the piano.
And he'll paint you a picture in oil,
And exhibit it at the Palais Royal.

He is very multifaceted and diverse.
He is both an analyst and a philosopher.
He's handsome and has a well-built figure.
With all this, he is not a poser at all.

And only in his private circle,
You can distinguish him by several features:
His intellect and the style of presentation,
The ability to listen, and his expressive eyes.

He is alone in the "field" – a quiet warrior.
Alone, but he must surely win.
He bears a proud name – Razvedchik.
His calling is to serve his Motherland.

Galina Shevchenko

Deep cover intelligence officer

Our life is a very sad place,
A series of risings and falls.
One moment it is full of hopes,
The next, full of tears and ruined dreams.

Our life is a very happy place,
With the imperishable flowers of love
That colorfully bloom at all times,
Making sins and troubles go down.

Our life is a very beautiful place,
An eternal breath of God's grace,
And it flows like a music in the air,
Forming lines of inspiring immortal words.

Our life is a pack of invisible cards,
Distributed by the universal wheel.
And today you're standing on your mark,
Ready to rule over life and death.

An artist begins with fearlessness,
An artist begins with a struggle.
His palette is colored by time,
The wise call of Destiny is read by his heart.

Through labyrinths beckoning with gold,
Where anger and struggle knock you down,
Through threatening shouts of hurricanes,
The unsinkable boat is floating.

The sail of fearlessness is the most noticeable,
Above it, the sun rays forth their light,
It bears marks of blows so passionate,
It keeps the flame of stars in the gloom of nights.

Anatoly Kopnov

SVR's veteran

Sculptural composition

"Motherland, Valor, Honor"

The maestro has captured the step:
A couple enters into big life.
They are to storm their Reichstag,
To go to their own front line.

There will be some fights in the silence,
And their nerves will be at the edge.
Two separate lives will merge into one,
But the main things are hidden in the first one.

There is no occasion for boasting in it,
Big words don't suit it at all.
A secret world of struggle reigns within it.
In that life there is no right for glory.

And not for everyone – Geneva, London.
Some will be met by rains and heat...
But it's important to be proud
That Moscow stays behind them!

Their feeling is high, and their step is firm.
And even in a half-whisper, at half strength,
Their lips are never tired of repeating:
"We have the honor to serve Russia!"

About romance

Romance goes in intelligence
Hand in hand with the most routine work.
People often take note here:
To work one's fingers to the bone.

To overcome one's own desires,
To capture the task at a glance,
To drive away a charming dream.
It's new to you? For us, not new at all.

We know how to pass all the tests here
Without groaning or whining.
Having completed the hard path of daring,
To give thanks to our destiny.

There is also a code in intelligence,
And this phrase is not an idle one:
From your earliest years, keep your honor,
It grows into your liver and your blood.

And only of those will be a success story,
Peace of mind and a sense of delight,
Who surpasses everyone else in patience,
Who correctly understands the word "must".

Gennady Ivanov

Poet, writer

In the hospital

A wounded warrior strives to return to his comrades.
In the trenches he has discovered a worthy brotherhood.
Yes, at the front there is death, blood and fire,
But he relies on his boys with his soul there.

He speaks about his boys without any pathos,
And there is not a drop of doubt in his eyes.
I see that his soul is stretching out like a sail
To his boys, the best men of the generation.

To the pilots of the Special Military Operation

Someone has venal figs in their pockets,
Someone sleeps in this life, buried in pillows...
And I watch the beautiful MiGs to take off!
I watch the beautiful SUs to take off!

Our technics is a wonder! They are magic birds!
And the rockets are beautiful under their plumage!
And the pilots have unfettered, bright faces!
My heart responds to them with a joyful sing.

The Black Sea is near, but you have no time:
Flight after flight, landing after landing...
I wish you all just one thing, guys –
To hit, and hit, and hit the bull's eye!

Elizaveta Haplanova

Poetess, granddaughter of a war veteran

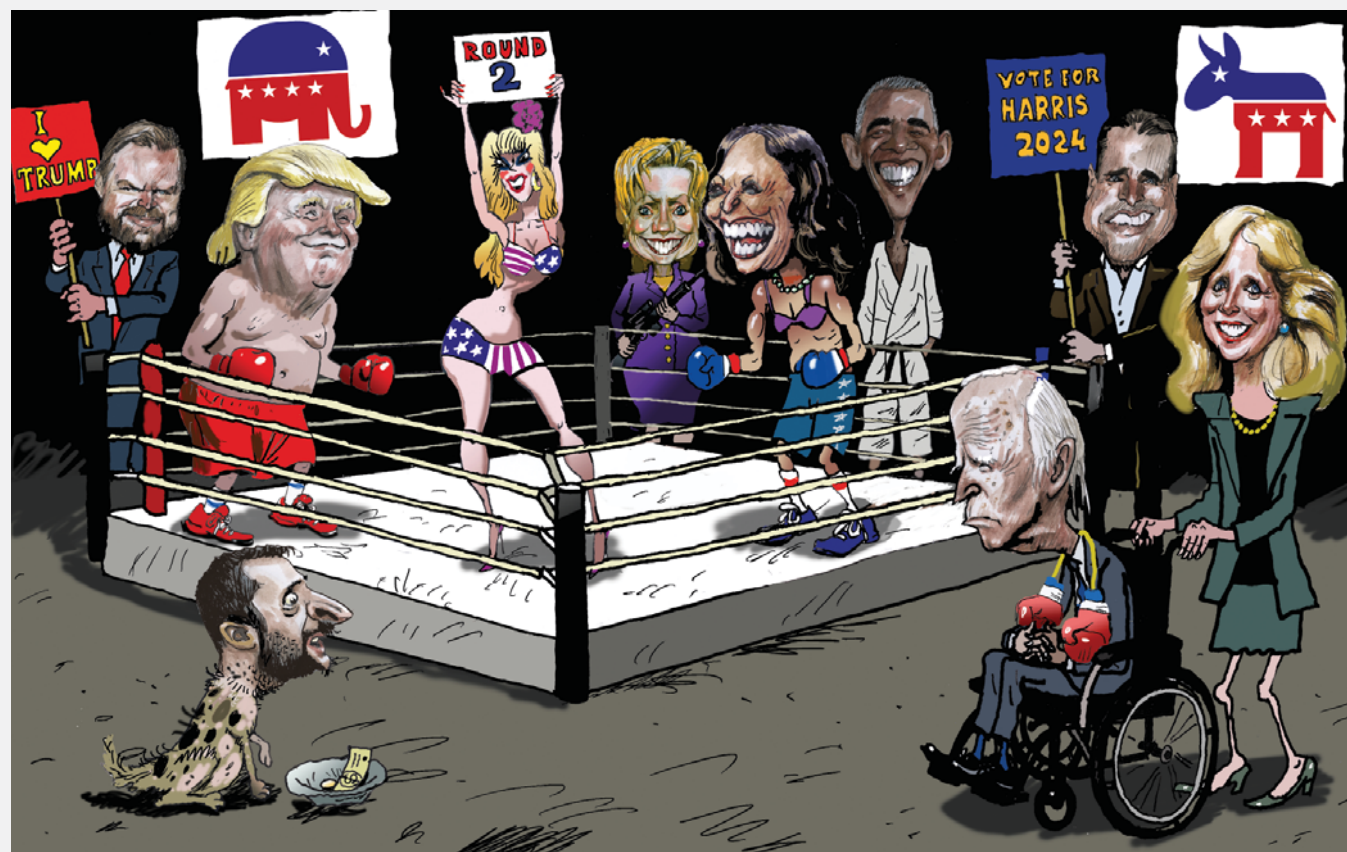
I'm near

In your eyes I see not death, but Life.
No, it's not me, but you who tells me: "Hold on!"
Your strength flows through my veins into my destiny.
I am a subtle echo, a string... I sing to you!

And, like a thread, I pull out your melancholy.
And the thread before your eyes – look! – I melt into a line.
And you, like transparent air, suddenly brighten!
I am near, my brother... I am near, my blood friend.

I am the Fire that you open in response.
A bullet from your cartridge, flying to the point...
I am your every nerve, the rage in your chest.
Go, my Russian Ivanhoe, just go ahead!

Forward and upward, that it be for sure.
Let the Slavic spirit rise up to the clouds!
I am WE, there are thousands of us behind you,
Praying for your life, our Russian Hero!



Despite obvious physical weakness, poor sight and other health problems, the object stubbornly continues to assure the operative that he has a black belt in karate.

Drawing
by Vladimir Mochalov

Selected moments of operational correspondence

As the agent reports, his source, Zhivchik (Die-hard), the other day suddenly died.

The object is politically inactive: he does not see any difference between the Republicans and the Democrats.

“T” introduced himself as deaf-and-dumb and did not take part in the conversation, pleading his poor knowledge of Russian.

Despite all the efforts of the operative, the object was unable to say anything bad about himself.

The Americans did not carry out any open provocations against us, but there were cases of surveillance and wiretapping. They persistently and methodically tried to touch our weak points, and sometimes they succeeded.

“X” is quite consciously collaborating with us: the foreigner’s right mind and sober judgment can’t be denied.

Oddly enough, but this is the American reality.

In the next issue:

The head of InfoWatch Natalya Kaspersky:

«We still don’t even realize many of the digitalization risks»

The deep cover intelligence officers Dultsevs:

«The most important thing for us is the family, and the family is the country»

Hero of Russia, intelligence officer Alexei Kozlov:

«I was exchanged at a rate of 1 to 11»

Truth and Lies about the Winter War

Declassified Foreign Intelligence Archives on the Soviet-Finnish Confrontation of 1939-1940



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