

MAGAZINE

# RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake — But to learn the truth for the good of our State! №3 (4) SEPTEMBER 2023

A portrait of a man in a dark blue military uniform with gold epaulettes and numerous medals. He is standing in front of a Russian flag. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

**«POLITICS MAY BE  
PRINCIPLED AND MAY BE  
UNPRINCIPLED. THAT'S WHERE  
THE MAIN DIFFERENCE LIES»**

V. I. Trubnikov

N.P. PATRUSHEV:  
«THE COLLAPSE OF  
PARASITIC EMPIRES»

THE LINITSKYS:  
A UNIQUE DYNASTY  
OF DEEP-COVER AGENTS

K.G. SHAKHNAZAROV:  
«THE IMPORTANCE OF INTELLIGENCE  
TODAY IS COLOSSAL!»

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*Р. Дзержинский*

МАГАЗИН

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# The Collapse of Parasitic Empires

Text: Nikolai Patrushev,  
Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation

**Humanity has entered a watershed, a new period of world history. It is not just about changing the world order, reformatting the system of international relations, and the evolution of the doctrines and values that underlie the world architecture. Today, profound and truly tectonic changes are taking place.**

Before our eyes the Western-centric colonial world order, that originated in the era of the Crusades and took shape during the Age of Exploration, is undergoing a final breakdown. It was then that the foundations of the Western civilization model, predatory in nature, were laid, the model that has existed with some changes to the present day.

Within this model, a narrow group of states built a pyramid, establishing themselves at the top and giving themselves exclusive powers. How this pyramid of parasitism is designed and to whom each of its floors is allocated is clear from the division of the world into developed countries, economies in transition and developing countries, accepted in modern Western practice. The essence of this system is simple: everyone who is on a lower tier must meekly and practically free of charge transfer upward part of their own resources - material, financial, intellectual, human. As a matter of fact, we are dealing with a multi-level parasitic superstructure on a global scale.

The word “parasite” is translated from Greek as “freeloader.” In Ancient Greece, this was the name given to swindlers who wormed their way into wealthy fellow citizens’ confidence and, with the help of cunning and often force, seized control of their homes. It was in this manner that the Western powers acted,

ensuring their dominance and not shunning the most cruel and inhumane methods.

History is replete with such examples. The European conquest of the New World was accompanied by genocide of the indigenous population. As a result of its division and plunder more than 15 million slaves were taken from Africa to America, primarily to the USA. We remember the large-scale draining South and Southeast Asia’s states of their resources, the “opium wars” in China and other similar operations.

At the same time colonial and imperialistic projects were planned and implemented primarily by private capital: merchants, entrepreneurs, joint-stock companies and corporations, which were more powerful than many states and had their own armies and navies.

Today East India companies and colonial administrations have been replaced by transnational corporations, whose resources exceed the potential of most countries in the world. Politics in Western countries is formed not by government bodies elected by citizens, but by the same big capital. American arms concerns have long felt like masters of the Pentagon, and their colleagues from such information giants like Google, Meta, Apple,

**NATO's duplicity cannot be hidden under any pretext. For years, NATO members have been verbally proclaiming their commitment to peace, while fighting or threatening war with any country that does not agree with US policy.**

Microsoft and Amazon do not even try to hide the use of technologies for collecting personal data and social control around the world for their own purposes.

The conglomerate of private banks known as the US Federal Reserve is a creditor to the US government, which in turn has made the rest of the world dependent on dollar. Albeit forcedly Washington continues consciously to increase the national debt, which has already exceeded \$32.5 trillion. Successive Fed chairmen have boasted that the United States is able to repay any loan it takes because it can print banknotes indefinitely.

To maintain global dominance, the West uses direct military influence, threats of force, "privatization" of elites, "color revolutions" and encourages terrorism and extremism.

Thus, the continuous expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance actually provides the United States with the opportunity to absorb states and deprive them of their independence when defending their national interests. NATO's duplicity cannot be hidden under any pretext. For years NATO members have been verbally proclaiming their commitment to peace, while fighting or threatening war with any country that does not agree with US policy. NATO's military power is used to maintain Western hegemony, economic enslavement, and political pressure on states that do not pose a military threat to the alliance. For over seven decades NATO members have been involved in more than 200 military conflicts around the world.

It is noteworthy that in practice NATO armies are also colonial for America. If necessary Washington will easily send troops of other alliance member countries for slaughter without risking the lives of representatives of the "exceptional" American people.

International terrorism, which in its current form is a direct tool for promoting the influence of the Atlanticists, stands in the same line. Almost all modern large terrorist groups were created, supplied and financed by Western intelligence services, carrying out the decisions of the political leadership of their countries.

The main reason for modern migration crises is also the conflicts provoked by Westerners and their centuries-long predatory policy towards the states of the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The schemes by which transnational organized crime operates today aren't new either. United Kingdom, France, Spain, Portugal and the USA have never hesitated to use services of pirates and other bandits to achieve their political and economic goals. And all the loot, one way or another, ended up in the West.

An effective non-military method of strengthening Western dominance was psychological influence on residents of other countries and continents. For centuries,

professional propagandists from the Old World built an argument according to which they not only bring good to other peoples, but also supposedly do this in the form of charity, almost to their own detriment. Everyone remembers Rudyard Kipling's lines about "the white man's burden," that, according to him, is to send his "best sons into the service of sullen tribes." However, it is not so widely known that some English colonies, for example Australia, were initially used only to cleanse the mother country of criminals and outcasts.

The conceptual justification of colonialism was embodied in the so-called scientific racism, created at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries in the UK and the USA. By using arguments about the physical and intellectual inequality of human races its theorists explained the need for guardianship of "superior" races over "lower" ones.

The ideology of one's own superiority over other peoples and civilizations has been cultivated in Western societies for centuries, and it is still close to their mentality.

It is from this position that the West looks at Russia. Fearing its greatness and power, thirsting after its riches, Westerners have always sought to weaken our country and seize its resources. Therefore, the fact that with the start of the special military operation in Ukraine a wave of russophobia has swept the West is not at all surprising.

There is another aspect. Russia is perceived by the West as a constant threat. After all, the dismantling of the colonial system began after the World War II under the direct impact of the achievements and victories of the Soviet Union. It was then that the Western metropolises lost direct control over their possessions, and dozens of states around the world gained independence. As a result, the colonialists had to switch to mechanisms and methods of indirect coercion: drawing new countries into political and military blocs, bribing local elites, economic and technological enslavement, exploiting other people's resources according to hidden schemes. The losses were enormous, and it

did not add to the love for our country in the West.

Today the whole bag of tricks available to opponents is used against Russia. These are not only threats or sanctions, but also thousands of information resources under their control, and a multi-level system for processing public opinion, which rely on an extensive network of foreign PR agencies designed to create reasons for unleashing frenzied information campaigns around the world.

In this regard we should remember that military potential alone, even advanced nuclear missiles, is not enough to protect against Western geopolitical aggression. It is important to resist it in an organized way in a large-scale battle for minds and hearts.

The collapse of the USSR led to a shift in the balance of power, and fighters for dominance hastened to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen their dictatorship over the rest of the world. Today, the United States and Europe are spending enormous resources on searching for and educating so-called young democratic leaders in specialized educational centers, who will then be used to organize coups d'état in order to form Western-dependent regimes in previously independent states. It has become commonplace that "leaders" trained this way turn out to be ordinary puppets, receiving money and instructions from the CIA, MI6 and other Western intelligence agencies.

Westerners gain additional leverage by involving in training promising managers and representatives of security forces, who then

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Secretary  
of the Security Council  
of the Russian  
Federation  
N.P. Patrushev  
and Chairman  
of the State Duma  
of the Russian  
Federation  
S.E. Naryshkin.  
Novo-Ogaryovo. 2016



## Relying on inhumane, openly misanthropic ideas has long become the distinguishing feature of Western European and American elites.

become conductors of harmful ideas to the detriment of their national interests. In recent years, hundreds of employees of foreign intelligence services, as well as other persons involved in organizing intelligence and subversive activities against our country and our strategic partners, have been identified and neutralized.

Having met a rebuff, the United States and its allies switched to tactics of destroying the world security architecture that had developed over the years. They are striving to replace international law with a “rules-based order” that they themselves define, ignoring the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. According to its neocolonial aspirations the West is trying to destroy the most important and independent integration associations: ASEAN, SCO, BRICS, CIS, EAEU and others, pursuing the long-term goal of turning independent states into their vassals.

US policy-making circles have convinced themselves of America’s having supposedly special messianic destiny - to rule the world through a strong foreign policy, without recognizing anyone’s interests. They actively interfere in internal processes throughout Latin America, Africa and Asia and build new alliances for themselves. Among them there are the AUKUS trilateral partnership with the UK and Australia, the US-Japan-South Korea triangle that are aimed at China, Russia, North Korea and other countries in the region that do not obey the will of Washington. The White House is obsessed with creating in the Asia-Pacific region a networked security structure in which Tokyo plays a significant role. Plans are being nurtured to create a NATO branch in the Asia-Pacific region. The cooperation between USA and Great Britain

is intensifying in order to use its intelligence services capabilities, technological advances and to integrate its armed forces into current American operations. Washington cannot either give up the idea of having a “branch” of a pocket NATO in the Middle East.

The US war machine’s expansion is accompanied by a forced reformatting of the mentality and spirituality of the population in all countries where the Anglo-Saxons intend to expand their influence. False ideas and values designed to consolidate the neocolonial claims of the West are systematically and obsessively implanted into the public consciousness there.

First of all, these are the ideas of globalism - the exact opposite of patriotism – that do not recognize the diversity of cultures and ways of life and are designed to forcefully drive all countries and peoples under the banner of Western consumer civilization.

In addition, this is a pestering propaganda of false theories of gender diversity with the invention of dozens of genders and the ability to change a person’s biological parameters at a whim or even under duress.

Finally, this is the development and imposition of insane pseudo-ecological doctrines designed, under the slogans of nature protection, to justify the need for a radical reduction in the human population.

According to the pseudoscientific concept of transhumanism that is being cultivated, all mankind is declared an intermediate link in biological and social development, which entails a requirement for his “improvement,” almost forced, through genetic modification and fusion with technological systems. At the same time, various technocratic theories that justify human dependence on new technologies and allow control over them by artificial intelligence are being palmed off onto people.

Relying on inhumane, openly misanthropic ideas has long become the distinguishing feature of Western European and American elites. The proposed doctrines are, in essence,

an attempt by the West to preserve its former benefits and privileges. Accordingly, all states and peoples who do not want to follow these vicious ideas, but profess and defend their path, sanctified by thousands of years of experience and traditions of their ancestors, are automatically declared enemies, subject to “re-education” by any methods, including force.

That is why it is important for the majority of humanity, who do not agree with the role assigned to them as the “fodder base” for the West, to unite and put an end to neocolonial hegemony, to finally remove their political, economic, social and cultural systems from the influence of Western – so to say – civilization.

We are witnessing how the center of economic activity has shifted from the global West to countries that until now were commonly called developing countries. In terms of the volume of products produced, the scale of investment, the pace of technological progress and the growth in the quality of life of the population, they have already surpassed both the United States and Europe.

It is no surprise that at the beginning of the 21st century, when resources became much more difficult to extract, American, British and European globalists found themselves in a difficult situation, and the pyramid of parasitism began to stagger. Centers of struggle for freedom have emerged in different regions of the world. Independent states no longer tolerate systematic robbery. Several centers of power have formed in the world that no longer want to submit to the hegemony of the Anglo-Saxons. A considerable part of Eurasia, China, India, Southeast Asia as well as Latin America, Africa, the Arab world - all these are the poles of the future world order. Against the backdrop of a tough confrontation – its “hot” phase was the special operation in Ukraine - between Russia and the collective West, the process of its formation has accelerated significantly. The refusal of most states of the world to join anti-Russian sanctions is persuasive testimony to this.

Russia has become a center of gravity for everyone who is ready to resist Western parasitizing, since we offer an alternative path. Its main parameters are reflected in the new edition of the Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation. We are open to cooperation with all constructively minded countries, social and political forces who want to move together along the path of development, laying the foundations of a new, truly democratic multipolar world order.

Most states are ready to work together in this direction. The XI international meeting of high representatives in charge of security issues held in Russia on the 23–25 May of 2023 became the direct evidence of this. The forum was attended by delegations from 101 countries and six international organizations.

The conference took place in a difficult international situation, under conditions of unmasked pressure, when the ambassadors of the United States, United Kingdom and France tried to force its participants to refuse to travel to Russia. Such hostile actions came as no surprise to anyone. The West does not recognize formats organized without its leading role, as well as bilateral and multilateral interaction based on equality and international law.

In their speeches, the participants emphasized that the turbulence of processes in the modern world is a direct consequence of the desire of the collective West and global transnational corporations to reverse the process of restoring balance and justice. The keynote is the thesis that mutual

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Meeting of high representatives of the BRICS member countries who are in charge of security issues. Johannesburg. July 27, 2023



respect and unconditional recognition of the right of others to choose their own path of development, their own social, political and economic structure must be the most important principles of international relations.

Another example. On June 23, 2023, the first meeting of secretaries of the security councils of Russia and Central Asian countries was held in Almaty. It was mainly about how to jointly combat the consequences of the West's neocolonial adventure in Afghanistan, which the Anglo-Saxons, with the direct participation of NATO, had been turning

into a breeding ground for terrorism, drug trafficking, crime and extremist ideologies for 20 years.

The experience of holding such forums shows that most countries of the world realize how destructive the global policy of the United States and its satellites has become and how suicidal the mindless submission to the West is today. In our partners' public speeches, at bilateral negotiations, and in behind-the-scenes conversations, the recurring keynote sounds: the development of humanity directly depends on the strengthening of a multipolar world and the preservation of traditional moral values.

We should not forget that the UN still remains the main mechanism for states' dialogue and coordination on issues requiring joint action, and the Organization's Charter already lays down the principle of multipolarity based on regional representation. In this context, the issue of expanding the UN Security Council to include countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America is getting increasingly urgent.

The most important resource in countering the plans of modern colonialists is historical memory, that Westerners, despite their efforts, could not erase.

Nowadays it is obvious that due to the deep socio-economic and political crisis of the Western world and the rapid development of non-Western societies, the objective prerequisites for the transition to this type of world order have been formed. There are also subjective reasons, expressed in the desire of a number of players to build a new type of global architecture, in which there will be no place for dividing countries and peoples into classes, types and varieties.

The most important resource in countering the plans of modern colonialists is historical memory, which Westerners, despite their efforts, could not erase. Peoples in all regions of the world remember centuries of brutal oppression, and no fable about the "civilizing mission of the white man" can erase from them the horrors of English slavery, the atrocities of Hitlerite Nazis and their henchmen. They will not forget the Belgians, who cut off the limbs of the Congo inhabitants as punishment for insufficient results in collecting rubber, and the French and Americans, who, over two centuries of inhuman robberies, turned the flourishing island of Haiti into a giant slum.

It is common knowledge that the destruction of Libya, two Iraqi campaigns and a wave of Arab "color revolutions" were a direct consequence of Washington's attempt to keep African countries and energy-rich states of the Middle East from going out of Western control.

Europe, which has recently been agitated by the desire for sovereignty (also called "strategic autonomy"), poses an increasing threat to US hegemony, too. The conflict in Ukraine was organized by Washington and London not only with the aim of inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia, but also to weaken Europe, where Germany had previously played the "first fiddle".

In an attempt to maintain dominance, the West itself destroyed the tools that worked to its benefit better than the war machine. We are talking about freedom of goods and services' flow, transport and logistics corridors, a unified payment system, global

Like the entire financial system of the West the "printing press" strategy is viable exactly as long as the United States and its satellites wage new colonial wars.

division of labor and value chains. As a result, Westerners are fencing themselves off from the rest of the world at an accelerated pace. The US share of global GDP is falling rapidly. The current decade will pass under the slogans of import substitution and the abandonment of the dollar.

Like the entire financial system of the West, the "printing press" strategy is viable exactly as long as the United States and its satellites wage new colonial wars. However, there are no financial pyramids that last forever. This is an immutable law of economics.

It is obvious that in the foreseeable future the United States will have to come to terms with the role of one of the poles of a multipolar world, and Europe, which has agreed to become an American vassal, will still have to work hard to gain geopolitical independence.



## In memory of Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov

On June 19, 2023, in Moscow, in Khamovniki district, on the building of the National Research Institute for the Development of Communications (NII RK), a memorial plaque was solemnly unveiled to the Hero of Russia, General Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov – an outstanding intelligence officer, diplomat, and scientist.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of federal and capital authorities, mass media, public organizations, colleagues and relatives. The memorial plaque was created by sculptor Andrey Zabaluyev and architect Igor Voskresensky. The memorial meeting was led by People's Artist of the USSR Anna Shatilova.

The honor of opening the memorial plaque was given to the director

of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, Sergei Yevgenievich Naryshkin, Trubnikov's wife, Natalya Dmitriyevna, and his daughter, Maria Vyacheslavovna.

Colleagues who knew V.I. Trubnikov closely noted that he was an exceptionally talented person, he managed to do everything he set out to do. After joining the intelligence service in 1967, he immediately proved himself to be an excellent

specialist on India, and worked for many years on operational work in this country. His colleagues admired his truly encyclopedic knowledge of Indian history and culture. He easily established relationships of trust at the highest levels.

An old friend of V.I. Trubnikov, retired Ambassador of the Russian Federation Anvar Azimov, recalled that former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who knew

Vyacheslav Ivanovich well, compared India's trust in the Soviet Union with personal trust in V.I. Trubnikov, "who had repeatedly proven his love for India and solidarity with the Indian people." Indeed, all the gates of India were open for Vyacheslav Ivanovich. He made a great personal contribution to the development of bilateral relations with this great Asian power, which has become a privileged strategic partner of Russia. The high level of trust between our countries established by his efforts has been maintained to this day.

In his "first" life, in the intelligence service, Vyacheslav Ivanovich rose from an operative to the director of the service. It should be noted that he became the first deputy director in 1992 at the age of 48, and already in 1998 he was given the rank general. In 1999, V.I. Trubnikov was awarded the title of Hero of Russia. "A firm and caring commander," his comrades spoke of him. These were difficult years of formation of new Russia, but Vyacheslav Ivanovich firmly held the "steering wheel" of the important state machine.

In his "second" life, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Ivanovich, as the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, was in charge of relations with post-Soviet states, then spent five years in the responsible post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India.

In autumn of 2009, after completing his ambassadorial duties, Vyacheslav Ivanovich joined the National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO RAS) on the advice of his old comrade and friend

Yevgeniy Maksimovich Primakov. He gladly accepted this offer. Neither his modest salary nor the lack of an academic degree stopped him. His "third" life began, which lasted 12 years. "All his life and operational experience, skills and talents as an intelligence officer, analyst and diplomat allowed Vyacheslav Ivanovich to organically join the new team," recalls IMEMO President, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences A. A. Dynkin. Vyacheslav Ivanovich quickly won his colleagues' professional respect and favour. Director of NIIRK V. Gasumyanov also recalled the role of Trubnikov as a scientist at the opening of the memorial plaque. It was with this institute that Vyacheslav Ivanovich collaborated in recent years.

"Vyacheslav Ivanovich has come a long and bright way from a student at the Yuri Andropov Red Banner Institute and an operational officer of the First Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR to the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation. He proved himself to be an experienced operative, a thoughtful analyst, a true patriot of our country, a firm and caring commander. He trained a whole galaxy of Russian foreign intelligence officers and instilled his own inherent qualities in them - dedication to the profession and deep love for the Motherland. The opening of a memorial plaque in his honor is a visible recognition of Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov's highest merits before the intelligence service, the diplomatic service, and our great Fatherland," - SVR Director S.E. Naryshkin emphasized during the ceremony.



**Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov**

Born on April 25, 1944 in Irkutsk into a working class family. In 1967 he graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations with a diploma of expert on Eastern countries. In the same year he was recruited into the Foreign Intelligence Service. In 1971–1977 and 1984–1990 he was on long-term assignment to India and Bangladesh. In 1990, he headed one of the divisions of the central office. In January 1992, he was appointed first deputy director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. From January 1996 to May 2000 - director of the service.

In June 2000, V.I. Trubnikov was appointed to the post of First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and special representative (with the rank of federal minister) of the President of the Russian Federation in the CIS countries. From 2004 to 2009, he served as Russian Ambassador to India. V.I. Trubnikov is the first director of the SVR to be awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation. In December 2022, his name was included on the memorial plaque of the Foreign Intelligence Service. He was also awarded two Orders of the Red Star, the Order "For Merit to the Fatherland", IV class, the Belarusian Order of Francysk Skaryna, more than twenty Soviet, Russian and foreign medals and badges of honor. He passed away on April 18, 2022, and was buried at Troyekurovskoye Cemetery.

## Intelligence officer, diplomat, researcher

Text: Alexander Dynkin,  
President of IMEMO, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**A year ago, in April 2022, General Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov, Hero of the Russian Federation, passed away. Vyacheslav Ivanovich lived a dignified and extraordinarily rich life, devoted entirely to serving the interests of Russia's security.**

Fate led the professional Indologist to the intelligence service in his youth. The key to the success of his operational work was a deep knowledge of the history of India, immersion in its culture and, on this basis, an understanding of the mentality of the Indian people, at the level of both the elite and ordinary

people. When we travelled there together, I saw more than once how much he loves and appreciates India and the Indians. And they reciprocated.

In the spring of 2010, when V.I. Trubnikov returned from another business trip and completed his

diplomatic service, I invited him to work at IMEMO on the advice of Yevgeniy Maksimovich Primakov. It turned out that Vyacheslav Ivanovich was quite familiar with the work of the institute, regularly read and subscribed to our magazine "World Economy and International Relations". Soon after he joined us, I invited him to become a member of the Directorate. In this position, he became organically involved in the formulation of scientific policy, the structure of the institute, and personnel decisions. His recommendations were usually accurate, and his vision of the changing world order was unmistakable. We constantly exchanged assessments. I am grateful to him for the much advice he gave, both personal and professional.

Vyacheslav Ivanovich made a significant contribution to the formation of the IMEMO Center

First business trip.  
India. 1973



for Situational Analysis. Selection of topics, preparation of a work plan, recommendations for inviting experts, concluding mixing and editing of final documents - often it was he who took the initiative both in posing problems and in the "technological process". The results of IMEMO situational analysis often received recognition and gratitude from interested government agencies.

He was always interested in the future. Vyacheslav Ivanovich, like Yevgeniy Maksimovich, was, I'm not afraid to say, a first-class visionary. Therefore, he fully supported the work of IMEMO on long-term forecasting. He was the ideologist of structure and content, the author and the invaluable editor of our forecasts of world development. Thanks to his persistence, Indology began to develop actively at the Institute. Today, the IMEMO School of Indology is one of the strongest in the country. On its basis the department of South Asia was created at the institute.

Hero of Russia General V.I. Trubnikov was taking the crisis in relations with Ukraine keenly. Since 2014, he made great efforts to find ways to resolve it through the "Track two" diplomacy. In general, his participation in the "Track two" diplomacy was almost indispensable. His experience and skills as a negotiator of the highest class were on full display here. Such meetings were a kind of master classes for Russian participants. At the most critical moments of the discussion, when it seemed that a compromise was impossible, Vyacheslav Ivanovich took the floor. Sharpness of thought, diplomatic charm and charisma had a magnetic effect on partners and led to mutually acceptable results.

**«I was afraid of losing my dad's trust and not living up to his expectations more than anything in my life. From childhood, dad instilled in us a sense of increased responsibility for our actions and deeds. All my conscious life I've been thinking about how he would have acted in this or that situation, how he would have evaluated my decision, would he be satisfied with me?»**

Maria Vyacheslavovna Trubnikova

V.I.Trubnikov was one of the initiators of the creation of the Center for Post-Soviet Studies at IMEMO, which is now in great demand. Its formation was based on the knowledge and practical experience of V.I.Trubnikov at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a special representative of the President of Russia in the CIS countries.

We can talk about Vyacheslav Ivanovich endlessly. He was a very

gifted person: he graduated from school with a gold medal, excelled at MGIMO, but he did not allow himself to be complimented during his lifetime. He was notable for exceptional modesty and extreme decency. His intelligence was combined with firm convictions and principles, spiritual generosity, kindness, and absolute devotion to the flag.

In the embassy  
office



## Faithful friend and devoted comrade

Text: Anvar Azimov,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, retired

**Russia has always been rich in talented and bright personalities. A special place among these natural geniuses is undoubtedly occupied by our legendary intelligence officer and wise diplomat, the highest professional and simply a sincere person with outstanding moral qualities - Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov.**

Our Slava! This is exactly how his devoted friends addressed him. Among them there were many statespersons and social and political figures of India who appreciated him as a reliable and sincere comrade. They greeted the appointment of Vyacheslav Ivanovich to the post of Ambassador in New Delhi with undisguised satisfaction, pinning

great hopes on him in terms of further strengthening of bilateral cooperation. And he fully lived up to their expectations, making a great personal contribution to the development of Russian-Indian relations.

It must be said that Slava was very fortunate with good mentors, including brilliant professionals –

intelligence officers Yakov Prokofiyeovich Medyanik and Leonid Vladimirovich Shebarshin. His high analytical skills and excellent knowledge of Indian realities were highly appreciated by the USSR Ambassadors to India V.F. Maltsev and Y.M. Vorontsov, who advised all diplomats and indologists to learn from Trubnikov. At meetings at the embassy, Vyacheslav Ivanovich would always deliver such a skillful analysis of India's domestic and foreign policy that he would impress all his colleagues with his erudition. Each of his speeches was a ready-made draft for a telegram to Moscow, and all the ideas he expressed were immediately taken into account by the rest of the diplomatic mission staff. When Vyacheslav Ivanovich came to India as a Russian ambassador, everyone in the Foreign Ministry, without exception, was happy to work under him.

As First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Ivanovich was responsible for the CIS area. It should be noted that he got one of the most difficult and tense sections. He devoted much time and effort to developing close ties



**«Dad was a very honest and straightforward person. He never played any roles, he was just the way he was with everyone. At the same time, dad had a good understanding of people and was able to set the right accents. With his personal example and exceptionally honest attitude to life, to work, and to himself, he had a very positive impact on those around him. Perhaps this is his main legacy, his greatest achievement that one can be proud of - he raised the right people around him.»**

Maria Vyacheslavovna Trubnikova

with the member countries of the Commonwealth and searching for ways to resolve the Transnistrian and Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts. As a direct participant in regular meetings led by V.I. Trubnikov, I can say that his comments and instructions at the planning meetings were specific, aimed at achieving the results our country needed. Everyone at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs admired his foresight and ability to set specific tasks. The leadership of the ministry and personally Sergei Viktorovich Lavrov highly appreciated the extremely useful work that Vyacheslav Ivanovich did for the benefit of the Fatherland.

In the fall of 2009, V. I. Trubnikov retired, but did not stop working - he was accepted as a senior researcher at the IMEMO RAS, where he worked for the last 12 years of his life. At the same time, he continued to visit India on special assignments.

Time did not change Vyacheslav Ivanovich. Whatever positions he held, he remained amazingly modest and sincere in his communication, and his amazing inner charm always attracted people. The interlocutors felt his uncommonness, exceptional decency and talent. In numerous

informal conversations - Slava and I met almost monthly in the company of like-minded people - he always reasoned as an advocate of an integrate, solid and strong state, most of all he was interested in ways to increase the authority and weight of our country on the international scene, he was always emotionally involved with that.

Vyacheslav Ivanovich never lost his dignity. Until the end of his days, he was distinguished by wisdom and goodwill. He was a sensitive mentor and a true Chekist - with a cool

head and a warm heart. In my firm conviction, Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov is a unique phenomenon in domestic intelligence service and diplomacy. His life is a vivid example of service to the Fatherland, his name is inscribed with golden letters in the chronicle of great Russians.

Slava left the kindest and brightest memory, which, I have no doubt, will live for a very long time among his numerous friends and like-minded people, and most importantly, will be carefully preserved by his family: his beautiful and devoted wife, Natalya Dmitriyevna, sister, granddaughter and beautiful daughter, Maria Vyacheslavovna. We are truly lucky to have had the opportunity to touch this amazingly gifted person. We will always remember you, dear Slava, and be proud to have been close to such a large-scale, unique and extraordinary personality! You are truly the treasure of our great country! You continue to live in our minds and hearts! 🇷🇺



## Dear friends!

The Decade of Science and Technology proclaimed in our country offers a wide prospect for popularizing reliable scientific knowledge, attracting talented young people to science and understanding the historical experience of the greatest domestic scientific and technological breakthroughs. The genius of Lomonosov and Mendeleev, Tsiolkovsky and Korolev, Kurchatov and Aleksandrov, and thousands of other outstanding scientists has made Russia a great scientific power, a world leader in a number of high-tech industries. In turn, the transition to a new domestic model of higher education, based on national tradition, outlined by the Decree of the President of Russia V.V. Putin, allows us to expect that in the foreseeable future our science will be able to maintain the highest bar, contribute to the development of the country and increase our citizens' well-being.

There is much in common between science and foreign intelligence. Both intelligence service and serious work in science are professional choices available to few people. It requires high intellectual abilities, firm moral qualities, loyalty to ideals and sincere desire to serve the Motherland. Scientists and intelligence officers often work hand in hand to prevent threats to national security and vindicate and protect our sovereignty. A striking example of this is the Soviet atomic project, carried out under the leadership of Academician I.V. Kurchatov in cooperation with the author of the "Enormoz" covert operation G.B. Ovakimyan. It is gratifying that the editors of Razvedchik magazine paid attention to this landmark episode in the March issue.

I want to add that from the 1st of September, with the update of the content of the Russian history course, students at all higher education institutions in the country will learn about these heroic pages of our past, regardless of their chosen field of study. Future Orientalists, financiers, and programmers will also be involved in the great process of historical education; some of them, perhaps, will subsequently find their calling in service to our country in the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service.

I am confident that our cooperation is the key to success in the struggle for the historical future of the country. I wish you new achievements and all the best!

Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation,  
Co-Chairman of the Russian Historical Society  
K. I. Mogilevsky

Building of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation  
(Tverskaya St., 11)



**4**  
July  
1913

Elizaveta Aleksandrovna Parshina, a Soviet intelligence officer, was born in the town of Kushva, Yekaterinburg district, Perm province. In 1935 she graduated from the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages. In 1936 she went to Spain where she fought in the intelligence department of the Republican Army. On return, she studied at the M.V. Frunze Military Academy. Before the Great Patriotic War, she was enrolled in the GUGB of the NKVD of the USSR. Since 1943 - SMERSH officer on the North Caucasus Front. After the war she was directed to Czechoslovakia to do undercover work. She was awarded the Order of the Red Banner and the Red Star.



**5**  
July  
1943

The Battle of Kursk began, which ended on August 23 with the long-awaited liberation of Kharkov. Operation Citadel, prepared by the Wehrmacht to defeat the large Red Army forces, failed; the Germans finally lost the strategic initiative, and the whole world became confident that victory would be on the side of the anti-Hitler coalition. Foreign intelligence played a major role in the preparations for the Battle of Kursk, promptly exposing the plans of the Nazi command.



**11**  
July  
1903

William Genrikhovich Fischer (better known as Rudolf Ivanovich Abel), an outstanding illegal intelligence officer, was born in the family of Russian immigrants in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne (England). In 1920, he and his family moved to Moscow, where he started working for the Comintern. In 1927 he was admitted to the INO OGPU. In 1948, he went to work illegally in the United States, where he headed a network of Soviet "atomic" intelligence officers. In 1957, as a result of betrayal, he was arrested and sent to prison. In 1962, after an exchange, he returned to the USSR, worked in the central office, and took part in the training of young intelligence officers. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star and many other awards.



**19**  
July  
1923

In honour of the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the bodies of Cheka-GPU, the GPU Collegium adopted Order No. 304, the "Regulations on the Honored VChK-GPU Badge", also known as the "Honored Chekist" badge. Badge No. 1 was awarded to F. E. Dzerzhinsky. Among the other recipients were outstanding intelligence officers of the "first call": M. M. Adamovich, A. Kh. Artuzov, B. Ya. Bazarov, P. M. Zhuravlev, P. Ya. Zubov.



**20**  
July  
1923

Yuri Ivanovich Popov, a participant in the Great Patriotic War, intelligence officer, major general, was born in Moscow. He joined the Foreign Intelligence Service in 1951 and worked for more than 20 years in Asian countries (Burma, Japan). From 1973 to 1989 he served as deputy head of the PGU of the KGB of the USSR. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Red Banner, the Red Star, and "Honored State Security Employee" badge.

**25**  
July  
1913

John Cairncross, a Soviet intelligence officer and a member of the Cambridge Five, was born in Glasgow, Scotland. During his studies, he was a member of the leftist student movement. He voluntarily cooperated with foreign intelligence from 1937 to 1952. He held senior positions in the British state sector, including the Foreign Office, MI6 and the Treasury. During the war, he worked in the encryption service and regularly transmitted Nazi reports intercepted by the British to the USSR. In 1952, in connection with the exposure of two members of the Cambridge Five, he came under suspicion from the British intelligence services, and therefore was forced to resign and move to France. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner for his contribution to the defeat of the Nazis in the Battle of Kursk.



**11**  
August  
1898

Gayk Badalovich Ovakimyan, a Soviet intelligence officer, was born in the city of Nakhichevan, Erivan province. In state security services since 1931. Since 1933 he worked in the United States as a deputy resident, and since 1938 - resident in New York. He was the first to report to the Center information about secret nuclear research that had begun in the United States and established a systematic collection of information on atomic issues. In May 1941, he was arrested by the FBI on charges of espionage; in July of the same year, he was released by personal order of President F. D. Roosevelt. In Moscow he took up the post of deputy head of foreign intelligence, supervising the scientific and technical direction. Awarded two Orders of the Red Banner and two Orders of the Red Star.

**19**  
August  
1968

The film epic "Shield and Sword" about the exploits of Soviet intelligence officers during the Great Patriotic War, directed by V.P. Basov and based on the novel of the same name by V.M. Kozhevnikov, was released in the USSR. The film was timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service.



**22**  
August  
1898

Dmitry Nikolayevich Medvedev, intelligence officer, active participant in the partisan movement, Hero of the Soviet Union (1944), was born in the suburbs of Bryansk. He joined the state security service in 1920; from the first days he participated in the liquidation of armed gangs in the Bryansk, Rostov regions and Ukraine. At the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, he was enrolled in a Special Group of the NKVD to carry out reconnaissance and sabotage work behind enemy lines. In addition to the highest award, D.N. Medvedev was awarded four Orders of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, many medals, as well as the «Honored VChK-GPU Badge».

**11**  
September  
2023

On the birthday of the founder of the Foreign Department of the Cheka, a grand opening of the recreated monument to F. E. Dzerzhinsky by sculptor E.V. Vuchetich took place on the territory of the headquarters of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service in Yasenevo. The author of the new composition is a member of the Moscow Union of Artists V. G. Ivanov.





# Challenging year for Turkey

**In 2023, President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan faced three difficult challenges. The first one was the parliamentary elections, which the Justice and Development Party led by him stood quite easily. In order to overcome the second one, the presidential elections, the Turkish leader had to work hard, but here, too, he was generally successful. Now the time has come for the third one.**

*Text: Vitaly Vyacheslavovich Naumkin, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor, laureate of the State Prize of the Russian Federation, scientific director of the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences*

The third and, in my opinion, the most difficult challenge for R.T. Erdogan will be to unite the politically and ideologically fragmented Turkish Republic, or Türkiye, as it is now called, which in October 2023 will celebrate the centenary of its founding. The main difficulty is that, after the May elections,

Erdogan has to govern a state in which almost half of legal voters voted against him, supporting the opposition candidate. Undoubtedly, being legally elected, R.T. Erdogan represents the interests of the entire Turkish people, which he himself never tires of reminding. Whether his critics and all his fellow citizens

will accept it will become clear pretty soon: in the spring of 2024, municipal elections will be held in Turkey, at which Erdogan's party will again need to show a decent result.

To try to understand the intricacies of the current Turkish politics,

which also influence relations between Moscow and Ankara, we need to look a 100 years back and to remember the first years of the formation of the Turkish Republic, which have obvious parallels with today's events. Thus, in the early 1920s, the Soviet Russia and Turkey had a lot in common: both countries after the collapse of their empires were on the path to a radical transformation of their state systems and were experiencing a crisis of national identity. Both became the object of Western aggression in the person of the Entente, and for both, as today, their independent existence was at stake. For the authorities of the Soviet Russia, who were seeking international recognition and solving the problems of

protecting state borders, including in the south, maintaining stable relations with Turkey, which along with Persia and Afghanistan was one of the "Middle Eastern Three" key countries, was extremely important.

During discussions about Russia's foreign policy in Turkey, in the leadership of the Russian Communist Party (bolshevik) (RCP(b)) and the Comintern clashes began between adherents of the radical left course, who called

for promoting the establishment of socialism in the neighboring state, and revolutionary pragmatic realists, who warned about the negative consequences of excessive intervention. The position of the latter was reinforced by the national liberation struggle of Turkish patriots, led by Mustafa Kemal Pasha, which had been going on in Turkey since 1918; the patriots declared their rejection of the communist model of building society, but due to their powerful anti-imperialist fervor, they enjoyed sympathy of Soviet Russia.

On April 26, 1920, Kemal Pasha turned to Lenin with a proposal to establish diplomatic relations between the countries and with a request for aid. On the initiative of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs Georgy Chicherin, one of the main engineers of the "turn to Turkey", the Soviet leadership decided to help the Turkish people with gold and weapons. The support was significant: the total amount of funds transferred to the Ataturk government exceeded 12 million rubles, most of which was spent on paying salaries to officials and military personnel and purchasing weapons abroad, including in the USSR. In 1920–1922, Soviet Russia supplied Turkey with 12 airplanes, several combat ships, 39,000 rifles, 327 machine guns and 63 million rounds of ammunition, 54 artillery pieces and 147,000 shells, a large number of hand grenades and other equipment.

On March 16, 1921, an agreement was signed in Moscow, according

**In October 2023, the Republic of Turkey will celebrate the centenary of its founding.**



Founder of the Turkish Republic  
Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

to which Turkey ceded Batumi to the newly formed Georgian SSR, but retained the Kars region, also accepting that the Nakhichevan region would become an autonomy within Soviet Azerbaijan. At the end of the same year, an extraordinary military and diplomatic mission led by Mikhail Frunze was sent to Ankara to sign the Treaty of Friendship and Brotherhood with the Ukrainian SSR.

Thus, Moscow and Ankara, who had been rivals for many centuries, came to terms on anti-imperialist grounds. It is hardly possible to dispute the words of my Turkish colleague Onar İşçi that the basis of the rapprochement at that time, in addition to the striving of our countries for a new statehood,

was the desire to put up a reliable “geopolitical shield” that would cover the Black Sea basin from destructive Western encroachments. The general foreign policy course of the USSR and Turkey, which continued throughout the interwar period, can well be called anti-Western.

By 1925, the Soviet authorities faced the need to expand the treaty with Turkey. The new document, signed on December 17 in Paris, was designed to ensure the security of our borders in the Caucasus. Though, then, as our ambassador in Ankara Jacob Suritz noted, the Turks were afraid to bind themselves to certain obligations on the issue of the straits and membership in the League of Nations (the latter

was undesirable for Moscow). G. Chicherin wrote to the Politburo: “Turkish Foreign Minister Şükrü Kaya asked us to propose a formula for maintaining friendly neutrality in the event of a war between one of the parties and third powers”. This idea was enshrined in the Politburo resolution of January 15, 1925, but later, apparently due to apprehensions of the Turkish side, the wording was changed, and only “neutrality” remained in the agreement.

Before the outbreak of World War II, military and technical cooperation with Ankara was an important element of the Soviet-Turkish partnership, which was of a limited strategic nature. Arms supplies went to Turkey until the end of the 1930s, but this was not the main thing. The Soviet authorities, based on their vision of the prospects for development of the Turkish economy, often supported Ankara with loans. Let me give one example: by the decision of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks on May 7, 1932, the Turkish government was granted a long-term loan of 16 million rubles (!) for 20 years to purchase equipment for the textile and military industries with yearly installments in kind.

Today this partnership has been revived in many ways. Evidence of this, in particular, is the fact that this summer, in response to a request from the Turkish authorities for help in firefighting, Russia immediately sent two amphibious aircraft to Turkey. Assistance was equally promptly provided in eliminating the consequences of the terrible earthquake on February 6, 2023,

which claimed the lives of more than 50,000 people.

In recent years, enormous progress has been made in the trade and economic relations. In fact, we can talk about a high degree of interdependence of our countries’ economies, which cannot be ignored when making political decisions. And the Turkish authorities are firmly committed to developing comprehensive ties with Russia, planning and implementing both large-scale strategic projects (including the import of Russian hydrocarbons, the creation of a gas hub with access to European markets, the purchase of Russian S-400 air defense systems, and the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant recently put into operation) and initiatives for small and medium-sized businesses. Here it is enough to mention the Turkish construction companies present on the Russian market. Besides, the Turkish economy benefits greatly from the flow of tourists from Russia, the number of which, according



time to time makes “overtures” to the West that cause bewilderment in Russian society, in attempts to ensure an influx of Western investment into the Turkish economy, despite Turkey’s difficult relations with the US and the EU.

to recent estimates by the Turkish president himself, may set a new record this year. The latter circumstance, by the way, also has an important social dimension along with the growing number of mixed marriages.

Of course, there are problems. The potential benefits of the Russian-Turkish partnership are overshadowed by systemic crisis phenomena in the economy of the Turkish Republic. Among the most obvious are rising real estate prices, hyperinflation and the devaluation of the Turkish lira. Economists estimate that in the last five years alone, the Turkish currency has lost more than 80% against the dollar. It is not surprising that R.T. Erdogan from

Let us recall that Washington has been reproaching Ankara for many years for refusing to support the sanctions regime against Russia, for purchasing the S-400 air defense systems from Moscow, and for violating human rights. The Turks, in retaliation, blame the Americans for supporting Kurdish organizations designated as terrorist in Turkey, as well as for harboring in the States the preacher Fethullah Gülen, accused of organizing the 2016 coup d’état (you may remember in this regard that Russia was the first country in the post-Soviet space to close down all Gülen-linked schools created in the “tumultuous” 90s).

The speech of the Turkish leader at the NATO summit in Vilnius on July 12, 2023 was regarded by many as almost a “return” of Ankara to the fold of the West. The reason for that was R.T. Erdogan’s statement that he allegedly intended to ask the parliament to ratify Sweden’s admission to the alliance, despite the cases of burning of the Quran in public there. Presumably, he did this after receiving the long-

Consequences of the earthquake. Kahramanmaraş.  
February 11, 2023

awaited consent from the US to sell F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.

Another version was proposed by the American journalist Seymour Hersh, during meetings with whom I had more than once been convinced that this eternal troublemaker really had exclusive information on a wide range of issues. So, S. Hersh believes that for R.T. Erdogan's consent to accept Sweden into NATO, J. Biden promised that the IMF would provide Turkey with a \$11–13 billion loan.

Personally I find the second explanation closer to reality, especially since during the recent trip to the Persian Gulf countries, the Turkish leader also sought to secure promises of financial support. Thus, according to media reports, the UAE has already agreed to invest about \$50 billion in the Turkish economy.

At the same time, Ankara has intensified contacts with another key investment partner – Beijing. At the recent meeting between R.T. Erdogan and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the Turkish President proposed combining

the Chinese “One Belt, One Road” initiative with the Turkish Middle Corridor project, which would connect the eastern regions of Turkey through the Caspian Sea with China and the countries of Central Asia.

Returning to the relations between Ankara and Brussels, it is necessary to mention such an important source of disputes as Turkey's energy policy in the Eastern Mediterranean, where in controversy between the Turks and the Greeks and Cypriots European bureaucrats take the side of the latter. Given this, how can we talk about Turkey's membership in the EU, which is what R.T. Erdogan demands as a concession in the NATO expansion?

It is clear that there are many opponents of Ankara's admission into the European “family”. And among them there are those who believe that Turkey in the EU will be a “Trojan horse” of the Islamic world, the strengthening of which the Europeans avoid like the plague. Especially as in all public speeches the Turkish leader still criticizes the European

colonialism in an extremely harsh manner: in this regard, we should recall R.T. Erdogan's speech at the third Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit in Istanbul in December 2021. It is possible, of course, that now he is simply trying to please the very same pro-European and secular minded electorate that voted for his competitor in the May elections.

Quite a lot has been said and written about the frictions between Moscow and Ankara. For my part, I just want to emphasize again that our common interests far outweigh all the frictions. Including such noticeable ones as those in Syria or Central Asia, the latter of which the Turks, due to its belonging to the “Turkic world”, seek to turn into an area of their influence. Besides, Turkey is often rebuked for “Turanism” and “Neo-Ottomanism” in its policy in the post-Soviet space. However, in my opinion, it is too early to say that Ankara has changed its course to an unfriendly one towards Moscow. Experienced politician R.T. Erdogan finds explanations for his actions even in such extremely sensitive issues for us as the Ukrainian crisis. For example, he claims that the construction of UAV factories in Ukraine is the work of the private sector and the Turkish state has nothing to do with it, although everyone knows that the main beneficiary of this “business” is the son of the Turkish leader.

And one more circumstance. Some experts seriously argue that Turkey wants to benefit from the weakening and split of the Orthodox world

Election rally, Izmir.  
April 29, 2023



President of Turkey R.T. Erdogan

and therefore supports the Kyiv authorities in their desire to destroy the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). I am convinced that this opinion is wrong. The actions of the Ukrainian schismatics, who have unleashed a real war against the UOC, do not meet the interests of Turkish Muslims, who are interested in maintaining close interconfessional ties with our country, including with the 20 million-strong Russian Muslim ummah and the Russian Orthodox majority.

It is difficult for me to imagine that the connivance of the heresy of Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople and other attempts of the Phanar<sup>1</sup> to impose its hegemony on the Orthodox world could in any way help R.T. Erdogan realize his geopolitical ambitions (and the fact that he has ambitions, and, despite all Turkey's problems, large-scale ones, is unquestionable). In this regard, let me remind you that the connection of the residents of the Phanar with the United States' interests has been widely known since the 1940s.

In conclusion, I will try to answer the question that many analysts ask and that may have arisen in the mind of a thoughtful reader: does R.T. Erdogan have some kind of a strategic intention, a long-term plan, or are his actions spontaneous, reactive? If such a plan really exists, many, of course, would like to understand what it

<sup>1</sup> The quarter of Istanbul where the residence of the Patriarch of Constantinople is located.



consists of and what its ultimate goals are. The expert community divided on this issue: some believe that after his re-election, the head of the Turkish Republic began to implement his long-planned policy of a turn, or drift, towards the West, while others, on the contrary, are convinced that R.T. Erdogan will further play it by ear, continuing to adhere to proven tactics of maneuvering. Under these conditions, what are the chances that Ankara will continue to follow the policy of “friendly neutrality” in relations with Moscow, or will we soon see R.T. Erdogan's “true colours”? I would not like to play the unenviable role of a foreteller, however, I would venture to suggest that the Turkish leader

has decided to put an end to maneuvering and before our very eyes a new, adjusted and well thought-out Turkish diplomacy is beginning to take shape.

But let us not make categorical judgments too early. All in all, we won't have to wait long. Ahead are not only municipal elections, but also such a symbolic milestone as the 70th anniversary of R.T. Erdogan (February 26, 2024). In the meantime, let us congratulate Turkey and our friendly Turkish people on the centenary of the Republic and wish them success and prosperity! 🇹🇷

« I would venture to suggest that the Turkish leader has decided to put an end to maneuvering and before our very eyes a new, adjusted and well thought-out Turkish diplomacy is beginning to take shape.

# Modern Lessons of the Korean War

Text: Konstantin Valerianovich Asmolov, Candidate of Historical Sciences, leading researcher at the Center for Korean Studies, Institute of China and Modern Asia, Russian Academy of Sciences

July 27, 2023 marked the 70th anniversary of the signing of the ceasefire agreement, which put an end to the bloodiest conflict in Eurasia in the second half of the 20th century — the Korean War of 1950–1953. Today, in an era of new global turbulence, the lessons of this still unresolved confrontation, which once brought the world to the brink of World War III, are more relevant than ever.

I will immediately refute one common misconception. Since Soviet and American militaries could fight directly in the sky over the Korean Peninsula, many were under the false impression that this was the first Soviet-American proxy conflict in which Moscow and Washington fought by the Koreans hands. In fact, it was a civil war that was internationalized by external intervention, first from the south, then from the north. Actually, this is the first lesson, showing how local clashes develop into big wars.

To better understand how this happened, let me briefly recall why Korea ended up split. In

1910, militaristic Japan captured it and began to pursue a policy of ethnocide. It tried to turn Koreans into “Japanese of the new generation” by forcing them to change their names to Japanese, and the language of the occupier was taught as their native speech in schools. Liberation put an end to this process. If the Japanese yoke had held out for another 10–20 years, the Koreans as a nation could have disappeared completely.

Of course, the Japanese almost completely suppressed the national liberation movement on the peninsula; centers of resistance existed only in Manchuria, where the future leader of North Korea,

Kim Il Sung was one of the talented partisan commanders.

When the Soviet Union entered the war with Japan in August 1945, no one in the West expected that the Kwantung Army, which controlled part of China and the Korean Peninsula, would collapse so quickly. Besides, neither the USA nor the USSR had any specialists on Korea at that time. And therefore, the history of its division is, in the language of modern youth, a decision made half an hour before the deadline.

So, on August 11, 1945, four days before the surrender of Japan, two American lieutenant colonels, with a

map of the region and 30 minutes of time, had to find an option that would suit both Washington and Moscow. As a result, it was proposed to give the north of China to the Russians, since they already occupied it. Japan was supposed to enter the American zone of influence (the most important issue for the White House then was to prevent the USSR from landing on Hokkaido). Few people were interested in Korea, and it was decided to divide it along the 38th parallel.

There were three reasons for this: firstly, the Americans received the capital and twice the local population. Secondly, the Japanese

troops in the north were subordinate to the Kwantung Army, and in the south to the command in the metropolis, so it made sense that the Russians would accept the surrender in the north and the Americans in the south. Thirdly, the division was supposed to be temporary, since at first no one was going to divide the country, and “in due time,” as the

heads of the Foreign Ministries of the USSR, the USA and Great Britain decided in December 1945 at the Moscow meeting, elections were to be held in Korea, on the results of which the future of the united country would be determined.

However, if the Soviet troops occupied their half of the Korean Peninsula

The history of the division of the Korean Peninsula is, in the language of modern youth, a decision made half an hour before the deadline.



immediately, the Americans appeared there only three weeks later, when the Japanese had already handed over the reins of power to left-wing nationalists, who, in turn, managed to announce the creation of the Korean People's Republic and even initiated a series of reforms.

Under the circumstances, Washington urgently needed to find an "appropriate" person for Seoul, who, on the one hand, would have political weight and be recognizable in his homeland, and on the other hand, would be 100% anti-communist and take a pro-American position. And they found him: Syngman Rhee, the first president of the Korean Provisional Government, who had lived in the States since 1905. In 1925, he was impeached for his idea of turning Korea from a Japanese colony into a US mandated territory. When he returned to Korea, the 70-year-old Syngman Rhee spoke English

better than Korean, but considered himself the Korean «messiah.» And although the CIA in its reports called him a senile old man, the Americans had no other politicians capable of balancing the leftist deviation.

The power-hungry Syngman Rhee, even before the outbreak of the Cold War, began campaigning for the creation of a separate state in the south of Korea. When the dialogue between the USA and the USSR, in pursuance of the decisions of the Moscow meeting, reached a dead end, the discussion of the Korean issue was transferred, on Washington's initiative, to the UN, where the Americans had more supporters.

The Soviet Union did not recognize this step, and then the promised elections were held in the south of the Korean Peninsula under UN supervision. The northerners managed to organize a plebiscite

throughout Korea, although in the south it took place clandestinely. As a result, the Republic of Korea was formed on August 15, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on September 9. Each considered itself the only legitimate power on the peninsula. The southerners insisted on recognition by the UN, and the northerners insisted on the fact that the American protégés in Seoul did not represent the entire Korean people.

Moreover, the leadership of both the north and the south was confident that on the "other side" there was a puppet regime that was supported only by foreign (Soviet and American) bayonets, and was preparing for a forceful unification. Both Pyongyang and Seoul made aggressive statements, and South Korean plans for a global anti-communist war, which fell into the hands of the North in 1950 after the capture of Seoul, provided for its transfer to the "ancestral Korean territories" in China and the USSR.

I will note that the de facto the war began as early as in 1949: already then, on the 38th parallel, an average of two or three incidents a day occurred, and quite often these were not simple skirmishes, but full-scale clashes battalion against battalion with artillery support. Most of these incidents, even in the West, are described by historians as initiated by the southerners: Syngman Rhee did not want to fight with his own hands and hoped, having provoked a conflict, to request help from the United States. I will add that at that time anti-Syngman protests were raging in the south. The uprising on Jeju Island or the soldiers' riot in the city of Yeosu are only the most striking examples, but similar

Seeing off units of the Soviet army.  
Pyongyang, 1948



struggles were carried on almost throughout the country.

Everyone understood that whoever struck first would have the advantage, so both Pyongyang and Seoul sought to get the go-ahead from their "suzerain" to transform the "zero stage" of the war into a full-scale military operation. However, up to a certain point, both Moscow and Washington said "no." Thus, in the fall of 1949, the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee refused to approve the plan for a limited war, which was even supported by the USSR Ambassador to Pyongyang, General Terenty Shtykov. The United States was even more critical of the ideas of Syngman Rhee, whose army was designed for a war with its own people, but not a confrontation with a well-equipped army of the northerners.

What, then, made Moscow change its approach? Firstly, there were assurances of the DPRK leadership that there was a revolutionary situation in the south and the Syngman Rhee regime was about to fall: it was enough to defeat the army, take the capital, and there would be an uprising in the country. Secondly, there was the White House statement made in January 1950 that the Republic of Korea was not included (unlike the Philippines and Japan) in the US defense perimeter, which was interpreted by us as the reluctance of the Americans to protect the southerners.

Today it may seem strange to many, but then the participation of the United States in the conflict was not obvious, because in 1949 the civil war in China ended, as a result of which Mao Zedong's troops forced the remnants of Chiang Kai-shek's army back to Taiwan, and for Washington Chiang Kai-shek was a much more significant ally in the region than Syngman

**The conflict was inevitable, and to believe that it began on June 25 with a surprise attack by the north on the defenseless south is to succumb to Western propaganda.**

Rhee. Since the White House did not interfere in internal Chinese affairs, it was logical to assume that it would not interfere in internal Korean affairs either.

Thus, the conflict was inevitable, and to believe that it began on June 25 with a surprise attack by the north on the defenseless south is to succumb to Western propaganda.

Our second lesson will be that when making fateful decisions, it is important to be in an objective, not in a distorted, reality.

The point here, of course, is not only that Kim Il Sung's entourage managed to convince him that the Syngman Rhee regime was hung "by a thread," and he, in turn, persistently conveyed this idea to Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong. In those years, the south significantly lagged behind the north in terms of the pace of military modernization, and this point, of course, was also taken into account. But the fact is a fact: waiting after the capture of Seoul for an uprising to happen, the North Korean army did nothing for almost a week, losing the initiative.

On the Southern side, however, there are much more illustrations of this lesson. To begin with, in the first days of the war, South Korean propaganda broadcast that the communists had already been defeated, and the army of the Republic of Korea was victoriously attacking Pyongyang. Then Syngman Rhee suddenly

issued a statement that "our ancient capital would never surrender to the enemy". This message was broadcast when the authorities had already left the city and North Korean tanks were visible on its outskirts. As a result, Seoul was occupied almost without a fight.

An even more striking example is the behavior of Douglas MacArthur, who led the combined forces at the first stage of the war. Having political ambitions, General MacArthur planned to complete the military campaign before the end of 1950, and therefore did not report to Washington about the "volunteers" from the PRC. Even when the first Chinese prisoners had already appeared, D. MacArthur hid it, after which the "pendulum of war" swung again, so that Seoul eventually changed hands four times.

It is noteworthy that, although the Americans began bombing North Korean troops from the first days of the war, H. Truman clearly did not want to interfere in it and initially spoke of it as a special police operation. However, then the position of the White House was influenced by both external and internal reasons. The external ones were that, having a poor understanding of Korean realities, the United States perceived the civil war as part of the upcoming big conflict in the Far East. They said that the north would attack the south, then China would attack Taiwan, and then, apparently, the Soviets would land on Hokkaido.

It was no coincidence that the first thing they did was send a fleet into the Taiwan Strait. The internal ones were that after the failure with Chiang Kai-shek, conservatives in the States began to attack H. Truman, calling him “pink,” and the president had to show himself as an ardent anti-communist.

In turn, for the leadership of the People’s Republic of China, formed in 1949, the decision to enter into the Korean conflict was not easy either, since China had just went through a 20-year civil war. However, Beijing already knew about Seoul’s intention to transfer hostilities to the mainland. Besides, D. MacArthur allowed American pilots the so-called “hot pursuit”, during which they could fly into Chinese territory and attack objects located there. Realizing that war was inevitable, Mao Zedong apparently reasoned that it would

be better for the Chinese to save the DPRK than to wait for the enemy to come to them.

During the hostilities that followed, there were many examples of heroism and episodes worthy of mention, but we are limited to the scope of a magazine article, so I propose to talk about how thorny the path to signing the ceasefire agreement was.

By the spring of 1951, it became clear that neither side had a clear advantage, and the fighting acquired a positional character. On April 11, General D. MacArthur, who dreamed of a big war, was removed from his post. Around the same time, negotiations between Kim Il Sung and Moscow began regarding the need to end the conflict. On June 23, 1951, the Soviet representative to the UN called for

a ceasefire. Shortly before this, the UN Secretary General announced that the objectives of the operation could be considered completed if the demarcation line passed along the 38th parallel, where the front had stabilized.

The first round of negotiations took place on July 10, 1951 in an atmosphere of deep mistrust. Neither side wanted to look defeated; both sides did not spare derogatory epithets for their counterparts and often “slammed the doors.” One day, the negotiators looked at each other with anger for 2 hours and 11 minutes, without saying a word. The situation was further worsened by the provocations of Syngman Rhee, who did not want a truce: either an “unknown” plane raided a checkpoint in the neutral zone, or a “partisan detachment” fired at the house of the Chinese delegation...

Nevertheless, on November 27, 1951, an agreement was reached to establish a demarcation line and create a demilitarized zone. The stumbling block, however, was the question of the exchange of prisoners of war: H. Truman did not want to give up everyone and proposed conducting a survey on whether they wanted to remain in a “free country.” This angered the northerners and prolonged the war for another year and a half.

Subsequent hostilities were characterized by particular cruelty. The United States carpet-bombed everything until it admitted that there were no acceptable targets left for strikes and that they were bombing fields and dams in order to exert psychological pressure. The northerners responded to this by

Korean War 1950–1953.

A shooter hunting after enemy aircraft



The wreckage of an American F-86 Sabre fighter shot down on June 20, 1953



agreement, making the document legally void. It is largely because of this that tension has persisted on the Korean Peninsula for decades, prompting Pyongyang to develop new weapons, including missile and nuclear weapons (we will talk about it in detail another time).

I also want to emphasize that I deliberately did not draw parallels with today, but I have no doubt that a thinking audience will understand why the experience of this war remains relevant even after 70 years.

In conclusion, I will note that in modern realities the likelihood that the former parties to the conflict will agree to officially end it is low. And the point here is not so much a matter of legal technicalities (let me remind you that neither the United States nor the PRC formally participated in the war), but rather a matter of political expediency: peace on the Korean Peninsula would deprive Washington of a convenient excuse for building up arms and other military activity near the Chinese borders. ▮

creating a network of underground communications. From time to time, successful counter-offensives were carried out, which did not so much change the front line as put pressure on Syngman Rhee, who declared that he was ready to fight alone and called the US course of withdrawing from the conflict a “Far Eastern Munich agreement.”

On June 26, 1953, the last Chinese-North Korean attack began, showing the complete inability of the army of the Republic of Korea to act independently. As a result, Syngman Rhee conceded, saying that he would not interfere with peace negotiations, but immediately made a reservation that he himself did not intend to sign anything. Thus, on July 27, 1953, only representatives of the DPRK and the UN signed the ceasefire agreement. There are no southerners’ signatures on this document, so technically the south is still at war with the north.

In order to avoid new provocations, on October 1, 1953, the United States concluded a Mutual Defense Treaty with Seoul, de facto subjugating the army of the Republic of Korea. Besides, the American armed forces are still located in South Korea, and in 1958 tactical nuclear weapons were brought there remaining in the Republic of Korea until the early 1990s. All of these are gross violations of the ceasefire

In modern realities, the likelihood that the former parties to the conflict will agree to end it is low. Peace on the Korean Peninsula would deprive Washington of a convenient excuse to build up arms near the Chinese borders.

**Yelena Shmeleva:**  
**«It is important that today's youth set concrete tasks for themselves to develop domestic technologies and science, and to improve the quality of life in Russia»**

**Yelena Vladimirovna, eight years ago Sirius started as an educational center. How was it created, and what for?**

The main ideological inspirer and author of the project is Russian President Vladimir Putin. When discussing the future of the Olympic venues, he immediately decided to set up a center for identifying, developing and further supporting talented children and young people on their basis. This is a truly unprecedented decision - to train schoolchildren in science, art and sports on the basis of the already built modern infrastructure all year round and absolutely free of charge, intensively, literally in the Olympic spirit. And not just to train, but to do it relying on the experience of the best professional and pedagogical schools and institutes in the country. To involve teachers, experts and mentors from leading scientific and technological companies and universities, cultural institutions and sports federations who would share their knowledge with children, inform them about the global challenges facing the country, and involve them in real projects that would help them meet these challenges. This is a big systematic work that we have been carrying out for eight years now - and we are doing it successfully.

**In one of your recent speeches, among the main tasks of modern education you mentioned the training of highly qualified specialists who will be able to find employment in Russia. What should be done to ensure that such specialists become more and more numerous?**

### **Yelena Vladimirovna Shmeleva**

Born in Leningrad. Graduated from the Faculty of Sociology of St. Petersburg State University. Candidate of Sociological Sciences. Chairman of the Council of the Sirius Federal Territory, Head of the Talent and Success Educational Foundation, member of the Presidential Council for Science and Education, Co-Chairman of the Central Headquarters of the ONF (All-Russia People's Front).

The young people who come to take part in our programs today will determine what Russia will be like in ten to fifteen years' time. And this future directly depends on what they learn today, what goals they set for themselves, and how they establish life priorities. Our task and that of our partners is to help them with this. Education is the basis of the economy, the foundation for future breakthrough solutions in various fields. We try to ensure that our programs are as relevant and useful as possible and are constantly updated to meet the new technologies that are just emerging. We teach children what will be in demand tomorrow and what will help them in their further professional development.

On the other hand, knowledge alone will not have the desired effect without goal-setting. That is why, when creating our programs, we base on Russia's national development goals until 2030, the priorities of the Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development, and the tasks facing us in the field of culture and sports. It is very important that young people know them and understand how to solve them. So that they set themselves concrete tasks to develop domestic technologies and science, and to improve the quality of life in Russia. And we always talk about it with the young people when they come to Sirius. We believe that this approach will help to form a community of talented, creative, like-minded people who love and believe in our country and will develop science, art and sports for the benefit of Russia.

**Yelena Vladimirovna, how many children and young people have already been trained at Sirius?**

About 800 schoolchildren from different regions come to take part in our educational programs every month, and in total, since 2015, almost 70,000 children have attended Sirius. If we take the entire educational space of Sirius - the university, regional centers, online programs, teacher training programs, music competitions, the All-Russian Olympiad for schoolchildren - it covers more than four million people a year.

The young people who come to take part in our programs today will determine what Russia will be like in ten to fifteen years' time.

**You have repeatedly emphasized that the distinctive feature of Sirius is that it is open to all children, regardless of where they live or which school they attend. So any child can come to you absolutely free of charge?**

Exactly. This is one of the basic operating principles of Sirius, that we have never changed and do not plan to change. Everything here is free of charge for the children: their travel, accommodation and food are paid for by the Talent and Success Foundation.

**Today, Sirius is rightfully considered the flagship of the supplementary education system, with you replicating your experience throughout the country. How does it work?**

One of our tasks is to make it possible for schoolchildren to get high-quality and modern education anywhere in the country. For example, we have a project called Sirius.Courses. This is a remote online school for talent development, the most accessible platform for those who want to learn remotely from strong teachers, improve their knowledge and discover something new. Thanks to it, children can independently build their own learning path, determine a convenient time and pace of study. To understand the scale: in four years, 300,000 people have taken advantage of studying at our school and have solved more than 20 million problems. The Sirius.Courses has helped many children to qualify for our educational center, to prepare for Olympiads, and to enter universities.

In addition, on behalf of the President, centers operating on the base of the Sirius model have been created in 70 regions of

Russia. This means that the educational process in them is based on the best methods and the best practices of our experts, that children there, as in Sirius, have the opportunity to study under the guidance of the strongest teachers and mentors, to receive a truly high-quality education in their core subjects, and that teachers can come for free training programs and internships to improve their qualification. It is also very important that local partners — industrial, scientific, academic, musical, and sports partners — are actively involved in working with regional centers. Thanks to this, schoolchildren are immediately oriented towards the practical application of their knowledge, while companies have the opportunity to find future personnel already at school and encourage talented youth to stay in their regions.

**Are there any similar centers for teacher training?**

Together with the Government of St. Petersburg we are going to create the first interregional center for advanced teacher training in Russia. We have an ambitious goal: to train and retrain up to 7–8% of teachers and pedagogical staff from all over the Northwestern Federal District every year.

I would like to note that we have been actively working with teachers since the creation of the educational center: we organize advanced training programs, internships, and all-Russian congresses of teachers. Since 2015, there have already been more than 200 of them, and almost 10,000 people have participated in them.

In the spring of 2023, our University of Science and Technology, together with leading teachers and experts from the Association of Sirius Partner Schools, launched a new program - "Pedagogy of Talent Development". Its main goal is to attract talented and enthusiastic students from non-teaching specialties into teaching — students who have strong knowledge in the fields of mathematics, physics, computer science, philology and are ready to help schoolchildren develop

their talents in these areas. More than 40 people from 15 Russian regions were selected for the first stream. It is precisely such specialists - educated and enthusiastic, energetic and creative - who are in great demand in the education system today. In July, we held the second full-time training module of this program.

**Since we have touched upon Sirius University, what kind of specialists does it train?**

Today there is a huge demand in our country for highly qualified personnel in the areas outlined in the Strategy for the Scientific and Technological Development of Russia. That is what we are primarily focused on. Sirius University is a qualitatively new approach to education and research activities. It does not have the usual faculties, but it has five scientific centers: genetics and life sciences, information technology and artificial intelligence, translational medicine, cognitive research, and mathematics. And this year, on behalf of the President of Russia, the sixth one was opened - the International Scientific Center for Ecology and Climate Change. Our university is developing projects in the fields of genomics, immunobiology, neurobiology, gene therapy, plant genome editing, robotics, and clinical psychology.

It is important that from the very first days of their studies, Sirius students are immersed in real scientific and technological projects, and well-known scientists and experts from high-tech companies of the country are involved in the development and implementation of educational programs. Among them are VK, Gazprom Neft, Generium, Promomed, Russian Railways, Rosatom, R-Pharm, Uralchem, Pharmstandard, PhosAgro, Chemrar and many others. For them, future graduates are potential new high-class employees who do not need to be further trained or retrained. They already know how to work for results and have the most sought-after skills.

The university also has a special approach to training post-graduates: each of them can become a junior researcher with a full

salary and begin working in an advanced scientific team led by the country's leading scientists.

In addition, to accelerate training of personnel for the IT industry, the university runs a college that accepts graduates of the 9th and 11th grades. Most of them are prize-winners and winners of profile Olympiads and competitions, including the All-Russian IT Round. All programs of this college have been developed together with partners who take an active part in the educational process and invite the strongest students to internships or immediate employment in their companies.

Also in 2023, on behalf of the President, the University, together with leading IT companies, developed an experimental program of intensive specialization in computer programming and machine learning for ninth graders. It is also aimed primarily at prize-winners and winners of Olympiads and participants in the Great Challenges competition of scientific and technological projects. For four years, the young people will study from the best experts in the industry and live on the territory of Sirius campus, and in the fifth year they will go on internships at partner companies.

At the festival of projects of the Great Challenges scientific and technological program. July 2023



Today in our country there is a huge demand for highly qualified personnel in the areas outlined in the Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of Russia. That is what we are primarily focused on.

In 2024, we will open enrolment for two new specialization programs after the 11th grade: in information technology and bioengineering.

**Yelena Vladimirovna, I can't help asking about the university's unique laboratory complex. Vladimir Putin visited it and he was very impressed. Tell us what it was created for.**

This is Russia's largest laboratory complex in the field of life sciences, one might say, it is the heart of Sirius. So far, only the first stage has been launched, but even its size is impressive: on 7,500 square metres there are more than 90 laboratories, which contain almost 2,000 ultra-modern pieces of equipment and devices. Many of them are

In the laboratory complex of the Sirius University of Science and Technology. December 2022



unique; there is no such equipment anywhere else in Russia. Here it is possible to conduct research at almost any level, to solve various fundamental and applied scientific problems related to the use of genetic technologies in pharmaceuticals, medicine, biology, and agriculture. For example, it is possible to study the mechanisms of aging, to create medicines for personalized medicine, to grow new varieties of crops using genome editing technologies.

In summer this year, the design of the second stage was completed. It is expected to be put into operation in 2025. We will have more than a hundred new laboratories, as well as an Invivo research resource center, where research work and preclinical testing will be carried out on laboratory animals.

**Are all these labs designed exclusively for scientists or can they be used by students as well?**

We have ensured that the entire infrastructure of the laboratory complex is integrated into the educational programs. So, along with scientists, our masters and postgraduate students, students of additional specialized programs who come to us from different universities, employees of leading scientific centers and Sirius partners can work there.

**Yelena Vladimirovna, another major project is a science and technology campus. When will it be built and what will it be like?**

The campus will be built by 2030. In fact, it will become the semantic and infrastructural center of Sirius: there will be classrooms, laboratories, offices for our residents, housing for students and teachers, and open public spaces for residents and guests of the federal territory. We will try to make it carbon neutral so that it fits into the environmental agenda. In addition, on its basis we plan to create a testing ground for the development and implementation of new clean construction technologies.

**In your opinion, can the training model developed at Sirius be replicated outside**

**Russia? Do you have plans to open branches in the CIS countries or, perhaps, abroad?**

Yes, and this is one of the key areas for us today. The big challenges that we talk about a lot both within the country and at Sirius are relevant not only for Russia. In fact, these are priority areas for the development of science and technology for the whole world. That is why, it is very important for us to share experience and expand opportunities for international cooperation.

Just recently, in August this year, we organized a training program for teachers from Vietnam who work at the school of the Russian-Vietnamese enterprise Vietsovpetro. This project was implemented within the framework of the President's instruction to create schools that are associated partners of Sirius. We plan to conduct similar educational events for other Russian-speaking educational institutions abroad.

Also in 2023, as part of the All-Russian Olympiad for Schoolchildren in Mathematics, we held our first parallel Olympiad, with children from China, Iran and Thailand taking part. In the autumn we will hold an international Olympiad in Astronomy at Sirius, and next year, as part of the World Youth Festival, we will organize an international profile shift at the educational center.

**Yelena Vladimirovna, in conclusion, I would like to ask you about plans for the future. How do you see Sirius in 5-10 years?**

Dynamically developing, innovative and advanced. And also comfortable and attractive for studying, working and living. You know, we can have many first-class educational and scientific programs, but if there is no comfortable environment, no one will come to us. That is why we are building a new concert hall, improving public spaces, and not forgetting about the environment and carbon neutrality. All this creates the comfortable environment that will allow us



to move forward, attract new companies to the federal territory, develop and educate our youth, making Sirius and our country even better.

Sirius Educational Center

**And finally: what advice would you give to today's youth?**

I would wish them to believe in themselves, not to be afraid of new challenges, and to take advantage of all the opportunities for self-development - and there is a huge number of them today. In addition, they should passionately love their homeland and have such human qualities that you would like to say: I would go on reconnaissance with these guys! 🇷🇺

Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin

The big challenges that we talk about a lot both within the country and at Sirius are relevant not only for Russia. In fact, these are priority areas for the development of science and technology for the whole world.



# MİT is the pillar of the Turkish Republic

The National Intelligence Organization of Turkey (Millî İstihbarat Teşkilatı – MİT) has come a long way since its establishment nearly 60 years ago and today is one of the main and highly effective government agencies responsible for ensuring the security and stable development of the Turkish Republic.

## MİT: history and modernity

The Turkish intelligence service can rightfully be called one of the oldest in the world. Its history dates back to the 13th-14th centuries, the period of formation of the Ottoman Empire, and by the middle of the 16th century, as embassies of Western states started to open in Istanbul, intelligence in Turkey became

highly relevant. Subsequently, its forms and methods continued to improve until on November 17, 1913, at the command of Enver Pasha, the first centralized Turkish intelligence service, Teşkilât-ı Mahsûsa, appeared. Researchers note that for its time it was quite effective. With the foundation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923,

Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa was replaced by the National Security Service (Millî Emniyet Hizmeti). The official date of its creation is considered to be January 6, 1927. In 1965, it was transformed into the National Intelligence Organization – MİT, and the portrait of the first Turkish President and “Father of the Republic” Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was placed on its emblem.

The legal basis for the functioning of MİT is the special law No. 2937 “On the state intelligence services and the National Intelligence Organization” adopted on November 1, 1983, which defines the key goals and objectives of its work. These include development and implementation of plans related to the country’s national policy; collection, processing, analysis and

Opening ceremony  
for MİT new headquarters.  
January 6, 2020



storage of information, documents and other data concerning defense, foreign intelligence, cybersecurity, as well as the fight against terrorism and international crime.

The National Intelligence Organization currently consists of the following divisions:

- the Directorate of External Operations (the main division that deals with infiltration of agents into target facilities);
- the Foreign Intelligence Directorate (responsible for collecting intelligence information about threats to national security emanating primarily from terrorist organizations);
- the Directorate of Counterintelligence (detecting and suppressing foreign espionage activities in Turkey);

- the Directorate of Information and Analysis (processing incoming operational data, preparing analytical documents for external reporting, work with archives);
- the Signal Intelligence Directorate (obtaining operational information by radioelectronic means, preparing output documents on its basis);
- the Directorate of Electronic and Technical Intelligence (intercepting signals from technical communication channels, countering unauthorized penetration into national telecommunication systems).

According to open sources, the total number of MİT employees is about 8,000 people.

Initially, the MİT was controlled by the Turkish Prime Minister, but after the constitutional reform of 2017, when the country moved from a parliamentary to a presidential form of government, the MİT started to report directly to the head of state. At the same time, it closely coordinates its work with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

It should be noted that after R.T. Erdogan came to power,

## MİT new headquarters





From left to right: R.T. Erdogan, H. Fidan, J. Kerry and B. Obama. Washington. May 2013

In January 2020, President R.T. Erdogan inaugurated the new headquarters of the Turkish intelligence service, which is located in the capital's Etimesgut district, 25 km from the center of Ankara. The territory of the new headquarters occupies approximately 50 hectares, is fit out with the most modern equipment, an autonomous power plant and an underground bunker protected from nuclear attack.

#### MİT at home and abroad

There is little public information about MİT. The annual public reports of the Turkish intelligence service mainly contain general phrases about successful operations aimed at countering modern challenges

especially after he became president, MİT, along with other key government agencies, has undergone large-scale reforms. The activities of the organization, in particular, are being brought into

conformity with the standards of Western – European and American – intelligence services, which implies an increase in work efficiency, including through the introduction of modern technologies.



#### Ibrahim Kalin

Since June 5, 2023, Ibrahim Kalin has been the head of MİT. He was born on September 15, 1971 in Istanbul. Graduated from the Department of History at Istanbul University and received his master's degree in Islamic thought and philosophy at the International Islamic University in Malaysia. Studied at George Washington University in the USA. Has written a number of scientific papers, articles and books on Islamic philosophy, Turkey's foreign policy and the history of civilizations. Holds the academic title of professor.

In 2005, he founded the SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research in Ankara. In 2009, he was appointed chief foreign policy adviser to R.T. Erdogan (at that time the Prime Minister of Turkey). Since 2010, he has been the coordinator of the Prime Ministry Public Diplomacy Coordinatorship. From December 2014 to

June 2023 he was the official representative (spokesperson) of the Turkish President; since 2018, he has concurrently served as chairman of the Security and Foreign Policy Council. In fact, he has played the role of R.T. Erdogan's representative in the international arena and his key confidant, and has repeatedly taken part in resolving pressing issues, including the Russian-Turkish crisis of 2015.

Speaks English, Farsi, Arabic and French

Working meeting in R.T. Erdogan's office. From left to right (seated): M. Cavusoglu, H. Fidan and I. Kalin



and threats. As for specific facts, there is information about exposing foreign spies and uncovering spy networks behind which this or that foreign state stands.

The fight against terrorism occupies a special place in MİT's work as it is one of the main focus areas under the current conditions. Thus, Turkish intelligence officers take an active part in tracking down and capturing members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê – PKK) and the organization of the Islamic preacher Fethullah Gülen (Fethullahçı Terör Örgütü – FETÖ), which are banned in Turkey. And often such operations are carried out abroad, including in the European Union countries, where many members of both PKK and FETÖ have settled. Certain tasks in the field of public security and the fight against terrorism may be assigned to the MİT on the personal instructions of the President of the Republic, who closely controls the work of the Turkish special services.

So, it can be stated that MİT is an authoritative organization that plays a central role in the process of developing and making key decisions in the field of security and foreign policy by the Turkish leadership. It is no coincidence that only figures most loyal to the president and trusted by him are nominated to lead the intelligence service. Suffice it to say that Hakan Fidan, who was the head of MİT for 13 years, often behaved like a "shadow" foreign minister: he accompanied R.T. Erdogan on foreign trips and attended top-level

meetings and conferences. Given this, the recent decision of the head of state to appoint 55-year-old H. Fidan to head the foreign ministry seems quite logical.

In conclusion, we should note that the process of forming a new type of security system in the Turkish Republic, launched after the unsuccessful coup attempt in 2016, has not yet been completed. The National Intelligence Organization, responding to recurrent criticism of its actions, continues to improve the forms and methods of its work, remaining the central link

of the national security system and the main government agency responsible for intelligence and counterintelligence activities. It is obvious that in view of growing global instability and increasing security threats to the Turkish Republic, the importance of MİT will only rise. █

**MİT is an authoritative organization that plays a central role in the process of developing and making key decisions in the field of security and foreign policy by the Turkish leadership.**

# The path to intelligence

We often hear that the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation (SVR of Russia) is a closed organization and that it is incredibly difficult to get inside. This is really true. But the interesting fact is that more than half of the young people who have come to us over the last five to seven years have not even seriously considered the possibility of such employment.

**Alexander**, 23 years, Voronezh, graduated from the Faculty of International Relations of MGIMO, an AVR trainee

Various reasons were given: some doubted their abilities, others believed that their education was not appropriate for the job, and others had never even heard of the Service. Now, however, they are successfully serving in the Foreign Intelligence Service, solving complex problems both at home and abroad.

Intelligence service is a huge and complex organism. Just imagine, representatives of 546 different professions and specialties, speaking 76 foreign languages work here! Graduates of humanitarian, technical and military universities work side by side. At the same time, it is important to understand that there is no ready-made recipe for becoming a successful intelligence officer. A language teacher, an international journalist, a design engineer, or an IT specialist could become an intelligence officer. Actually, among the Service's employees there are doctors, geologists, physicists, and mathematicians who, after studying at the Foreign Intelligence Academy (FIA – or AVR, the Russian abbreviation), work effectively all over the world!

Of course, not everyone is able to become an intelligence officer, but almost any citizen can try his hand at it, provided that he meets rather simple requirements for all military personnel: Russian citizenship, fitness for military service, and higher education. One has only to dare!

We must also remember that the Service needs patriotic young people who are capable of solving complex problems in order to ensure the security of our Motherland. And these are

not just words. After all, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, operating on all continents, is called upon to provide the President of the Russian Federation with the intelligence information necessary for the development and adoption of major state decisions!

We asked our young colleagues to share their impressions of what the process of their employment was like (for obvious reasons, some personal details have been changed). Here they are:

**Alexander**, 23 years, Voronezh, graduated from the Faculty of International Relations of MGIMO, an AVR trainee;

**Igor**, 25 years, Vladivostok, a graduate of the Faculty of Informatics and Control Systems of Bauman Moscow State Technical University and an AVR trainee;

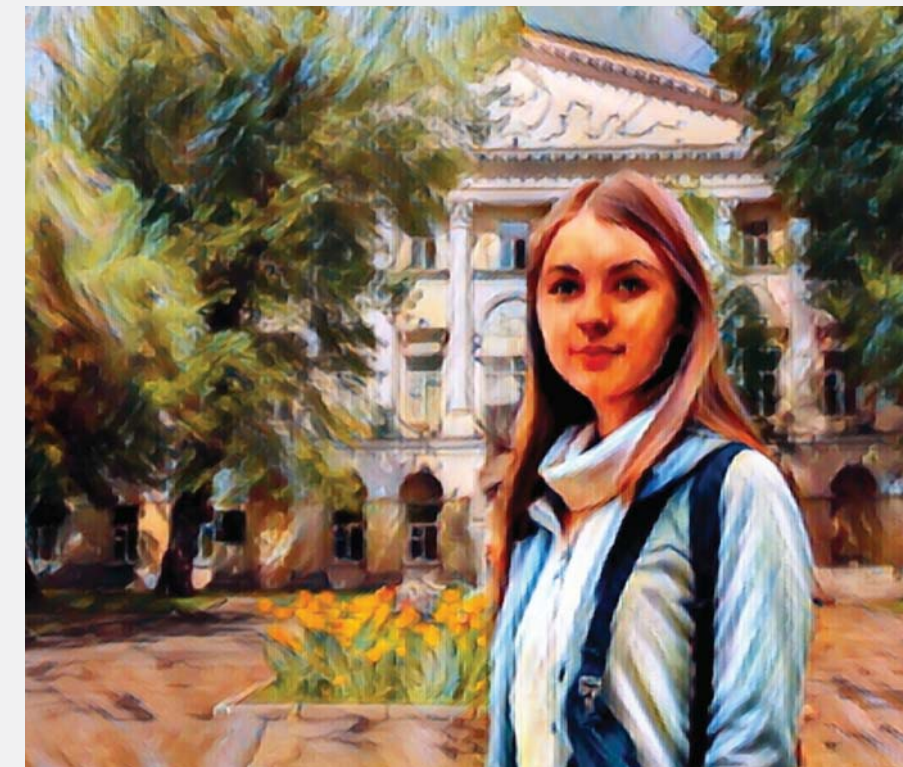
**Oleg**, 22 years, Murmansk, graduated from the Faculty of Economics of St. Petersburg State University, has been serving in the Foreign Intelligence Service for less than a year;

**Anna**, 27 years, Moscow, a graduate of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of Moscow State Linguistic University, one year in intelligence.

## Did you think about serving in the Foreign Intelligence Service during your studies?

**Alexander**: Already in high school, I wanted to become an intelligence officer: I read a lot about intelligence, watched various films and programs. I understood that intelligence has always been and still is a vocation for people who are ready to work with full dedication. When I entered MGIMO, I was sure that after graduating from this university I would have a better chance of getting into intelligence. Towards the end of my first year, I carefully studied the SVR website, including how to submit documents correctly.

**Igor**: While studying at the university, I didn't even think about entering the SVR. In general terms, of course, I knew that there was such



**Anna**, 27 years, Moscow, a graduate of the faculty of Translation and Interpreting of Moscow State Linguistic University, one year in intelligence

a special service, along with the FSB and the FSO, but working in intelligence seemed impossible to me at that time.

**Oleg**: I knew about the SVR, my parents told me stories about intelligence officers when I was a child, then again I always watched films about intelligence with interest, but I never thought about going to work there, because I did not understand how I could be useful as economics specialist.

**Anna**: Theoretically, I knew that there was such an intelligence service, but I didn't associate myself with it in any way and didn't think about joining it.

## How did you receive the job offer?

**Alexander**: In my first year of study, I heard from senior students that a year before graduation an individual offer could be made. Moreover, the chances increased if you attended a military training center. But I didn't want to wait, and at the beginning of my third year I sent the necessary documents to the press office, as it



**Igor**, 25 years, Vladivostok, a graduate of the Faculty of Informatics and Control Systems of Bauman Moscow State Technical University, an AVR trainee

was indicated on the Service's website. About a month later I was contacted and invited to a meeting.

**Igor:** A university employee approached me with an offer to try myself in the public sector. At the second meeting, he specified that he was talking about the SVR. I took a day to think about it and consult with my father. He is a military man and has always spoken with respect about intelligence work. When he heard about my choice, he was very happy. I was also very excited and, of course, immediately agreed - when will such an opportunity arise again!

**Oleg:** A university employee invited me for a personal interview, asked a number of

questions about my attitude to the civil service, asked about my relatives and suggested that I try to qualify for the Foreign Intelligence Service. I took a couple of days to think about it, consulted with my parents, who, of course, supported me.

**Anna:** During my senior year, I was invited to an interview by a university employee who supervises student employment. He asked me about my studies, my career plans and my attitude towards military service. Then he suggested that I try to qualify for the SVR. When I learned that specialists in my field were in demand at the SVR, I immediately agreed.

#### What were your impressions of the first conversation with the personnel officer?

**Alexander:** I got goose bumps all over my body - I was so happy that I was going towards my goal! Of course, no one revealed any secrets to me at the meeting - we mainly talked about the stages of selection, the terms of study at the AVR and the possible directions of my future work - but I was well aware that I was going to the special service and it was not customary to be too frank here.

**Igor:** At the first meeting, I hoped to learn more about what modern intelligence is, because it is the most important direction in the activity of any state, and on the SVR website everything is described very dryly. But we didn't talk much about future work, I was asked a lot of questions and I was told what and how I would need to pass to get the job.

**Oleg:** The first conversation was the most interesting and a little exciting. I was told how the employment process would go and what kind of selection I would have to go through. I was immediately warned about the duration of this process, which could take up to one year. I signed non-disclosure documents, and so began my path to the SVR.

**Anna:** I was pleasantly surprised by the individual approach and conversation on an equal footing. I was asked a lot of questions

and I clarified certain details. So, after the first conversation I wanted to come back.

#### What were your impressions of the selection process?

**Alexander:** I liked the fact that the selection and employment were very clear. I knew what to do, where to go, what to bring, etc. When I didn't understand something, I asked my supervisor, and he helped me straight away. Sometimes the selection stages overlapped with my studies, and it was necessary to make up a "legend" of my absence for my teachers and classmates. But I took it as training for my future operational work.

**Igor:** It was interesting to take the language aptitude test. It turned out that my language skills were quite high, although I always believed that even learning English was already a win for me.

**Oleg:** The employment process took me more than a year. Of course, you have to get used to such a long process. It seemed that time was passing, and you were still far from enrolment. On the other hand, it's like a big test. Are you ready to go all the way or will you give up halfway through, without knowing the result? And in general it was interesting: conversations with specialists in various fields, medical examination, passing a polygraph test...

**Anna:** What I remember most is the conversation with a psychologist, during which I was provoked into a conflict, and passing a polygraph test. It is a long and monotonous procedure, where you know that you are not hiding anything, but you are still worried about the result. In general, the selection process fitted in quite well with my schedule and practically did not overlap with my studies. Well, maybe a few times I had to miss my classes. As a result, a few months before receiving my diploma, I had already passed through all the stages and knew exactly where I would work and who I would be by profession.

#### What advice would you give to those who are just wondering whether to join the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service?

**Alexander:** Dare and don't give up! As my boss said on my first day of work, this is the choice of a real patriot and a real man!

**Igor:** Don't hide anything and don't be afraid of difficulties during the process of employment. After all, you are not applying for a job in the market - you have a real chance to become part of a unique team of one of the best intelligence agencies in the world!

**Oleg:** You should think carefully about your decision, because it is a choice for many years, and for most people - for life.

**Anna:** First of all, answer yourself why you are going into intelligence service. If the words "patriotism" and "love for the Motherland" are empty words for you, you probably don't belong here. 🚩

**Oleg**, 22 years, Murmansk, graduated from the Faculty of Economics of St. Petersburg State University, serves in the Foreign Intelligence Service for less than a year



# Mikhail Dmitriyev: student, front-line soldier, polytechnic!

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

**Mikhail Dmitriyev - a participant in the defence of Leningrad, an engineer who worked on the development of the Soviet Union's nuclear missile shield. His son, Sergei Dmitriyev, is the rector of the Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University named after R. E. Alekseyev. Within the framework of the Scientific Regiment federal patriotic project, this is perhaps the first time this has happened: the son and the rector in one person tells about the hero!**

I remember my father from the age of five. He was the head of a secret laboratory in a machine factory, a radio engineer. He designed a blind landing system for bombers carrying nuclear weapons, participated in the creation of the Moscow anti-missile defence system, then, as an engineer, he worked on internal projects for the USSR nuclear missile shield... And in the evenings at home he repaired TV sets for all the neighbors. It was such a time! Nothing was thrown away, but was brought back to service with your own hands. This is what I grew up in.

**Did Mikhail Dmitriyevich tell you about the war?**

Reluctantly. Like all veterans: only what is not too painful to remember...



He is our man, a polytechnic! Just imagine, June 1941. The students of our Gorky Industrial Institute begin to gather. Among them is fourth-year student Dmitriyev. It's just a stone's throw to graduation! And here is the war, here is death breathing into your back. The young people are urgently transferred to Leningrad, to the Academy of Communications, named after S. M. Budyonny. And then there was the defence of Leningrad, a heavy contusion. My father was on guard duty, as they used to say then, "he was standing on a barrel," when a shell flew into the yard where their unit was located... He survived! And back to the front, as on schedule, to classes... He was allowed to be demobilized only in 1946.



M.D. Dmitriyev's awards

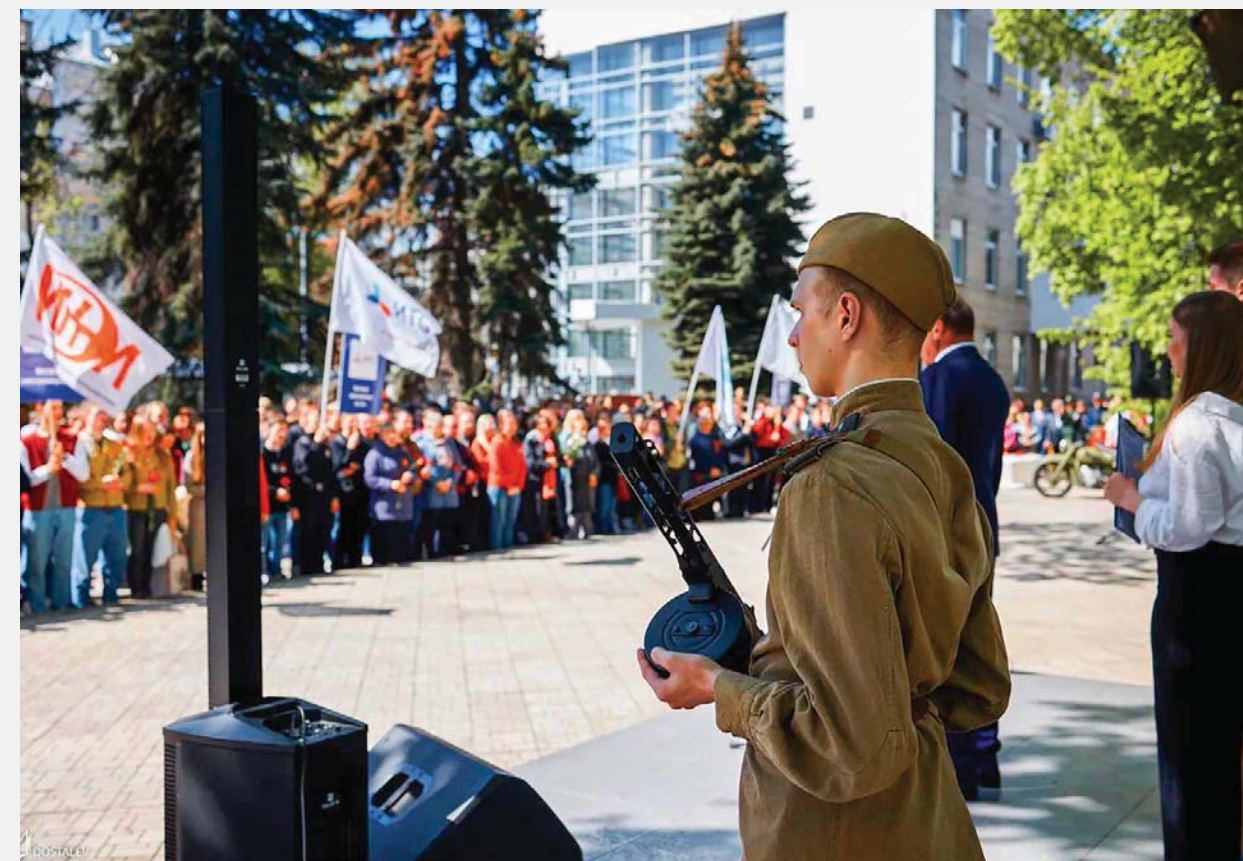
He returned home as captain of the Guards, and back to the desk. A student - a front-line soldier - and a student again. In 1947, he received

a diploma and went to work in the famous Nizhny Novgorod factory named after M.V. Frunze, then at a machine-building plant... And then - secret work, laboratories, development of defense complexes... And only at times, very rarely, he could briefly talk about the front. Not about how painful or frightening it was, but in order to remember his fellow students, his fellow soldiers.

In my wardrobe, all my father's awards are in a special box - I open it and look: the medal "For the Defence of Leningrad", "For the Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945", the Order of "Badge of Honour" ... My father was especially proud of the last one - he said it was for his contribution to science, for the nuclear shield.

**Did Mikhail Dmitriyevich have a special attitude towards science?**

You know, when the cadets and teachers of the academy were evacuated by airplanes from Leningrad surrounded by the enemy and transferred to the rear, to Tomsk, there my father put on officer's shoulder straps. And then he was again sent to the front in the artillery, to the unit of the Guards BM-13 rocket mortars, better known as "Katyusha". As a radio engineer, he became interested in the design of a new formidable reactive weapon and proposed to improve its operation. The young officer's initiative was approved; improvements were made to the design of the BM-13. Even at the front he could not do without science, without engineering school! At the end of the war he was



A ceremonial line up on the occasion of Victory Day. Nizhny Novgorod. May 9, 2023

a battery commander of the Guards mortar training brigade located near Moscow, and he participated in the Victory Parade.

### Nizhny Novgorod State Polytechnic University in the service of engineering science!

Today NNSTU named after R. E. Alekseyev is one of the leading engineering universities in the country. A flagship university of Rosatom, a participant in the Priority 2030 and Advanced Engineering Schools key federal programs... Every day the university works to turn the theory and scientific experiments into a product that will be able to influence import substitution and ensure the development of modern engineering technologies.



### The main circular pump - from NNSTU polytechnics

A heavy liquid-metal coolants pump for nuclear reactors using

“fast” neutrons was developed and patented by young scientists from the Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University. The solution



they proposed is able to increase the efficiency of the equipment and to improve reliability in comparison with foreign analogues.

“In Russia, the construction of the site of the world’s only BREST-300 fast neutron reactor has begun. One of the most important components of any reactor plant is the main circulation pump. At the moment, there is no proven technology for creating axial pumps for pumping heavy liquid-metal coolants, and for a long time we have been conducting experimental and theoretical work to substantiate the design of such pumps,” noted Tatyana Bokova, Associate Professor of the Department of Nuclear and Thermal Power Plants at the Institute of Nuclear Power Engineering and Technical Physics n.a. F. M. Mitenkov within the NNSTU n.a. R. E. Alekseyev.

A team of five scientists worked on the creation of a useful model of the pump. According to Nikita Volkov, junior researcher at the Department of Nuclear and Thermal Power Plants, the adopted solutions make it possible to simplify the design of the pump and increase its reliability. At the moment they are being experimentally tested.

### Eco-friendly processing of fuel oil

Nizhny Novgorod polytechnics have assembled the world’s largest plasma-chemical installation, which allows for eco-friendly processing of heavy oil at low temperatures and without additional reagents using electrical discharges. The result is a mixture of gases that is in demand in the chemical industry, as well as solid carbon nanostructures used in the manufacture of catalysts.

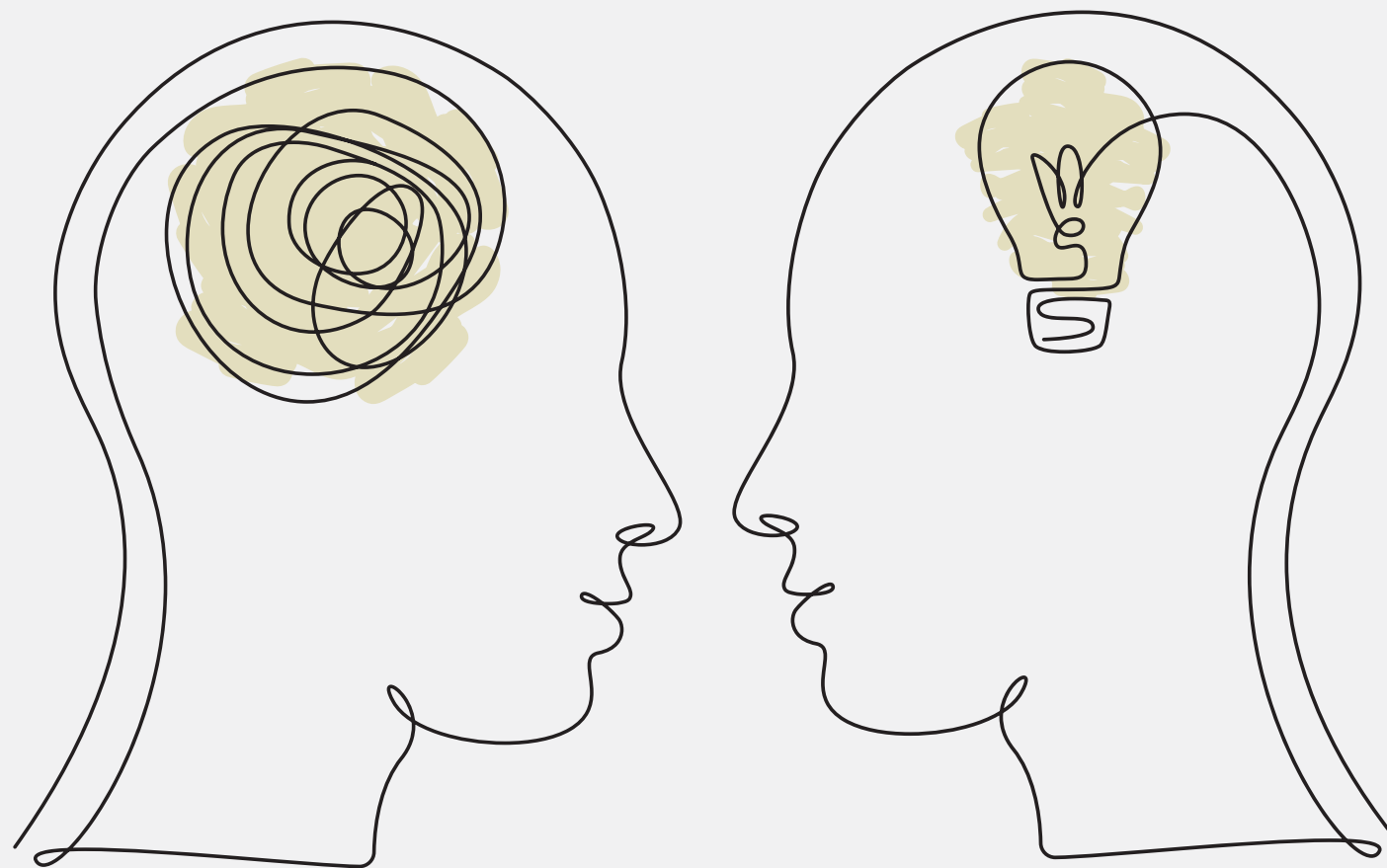


«I look at my students, especially when there are big events in the street or the annual line up that we hold on the eve of Victory Day, paying tribute to the memory of our polytechnics-front-line soldiers, my heart clenches: I understand that then, in 1941, the same young boys were ordered to go to the front. And my father went. And no one flinched or tried to get off. That’s why I always say that our polytechnics are true patriots who know the value of words and deeds. My father’s generation is special, it was such a fusion of conscience and courage which beat fascism not for medals, but for the bright word “Motherland.”

Rector of NNSTU n.a. R. E. Alekseyev Sergei Dmitriyev

“In the future, we will try to increase the depth of fuel oil processing and to improve the productivity and profitability of plasma-chemical pyrolysis. We also plan to continue researching carbon nanostructures

to use them as catalysts and adsorbents,” said the project manager, senior researcher at NNSTU. n.a. R.E. Alekseyev, Yevgeny Titov. 📌



# How to improve your memory

Text: Olga Bravitskaya, Natalya Samsonova

The ancient Greeks invented special techniques that allowed them to remember large amounts of information. Modern scientists have proven that they are still effective. In this edition we will tell you how proven mnemotechnics work and how to master them yourself.

**Mnemotechnics, or mnemonics**, is a method of effective memorization of information based on the construction of associations. It is based on the main principle of memory: incoming information is encoded, then it is consolidated and retrieved. Mnemonics is aimed at optimizing the process of encoding information, which allows to make it compact, structured and easy to store.

## Who benefits from mnemonics

### Schoolchildren and students

Mnemonics significantly reduces the preparation time for exams. And if you use mnemonic techniques throughout the school year, you won't even need to prepare for exams.

### Teachers

Do not forget that mnemonics emerged as part of elocution, and methods of memorizing the order of the presentation of lecture material are perhaps the easiest in memory training.

### Every person

Mnemonics methods can and should be used in everyday life to remember names and dates of birth, phone numbers, bank cards, lists of urgent matters and tasks. Start training your memory every day. It's very handy to be able to remember everything you need! After all, retrieving information from your head is even faster than from notes on your smartphone.

Mastering mnemonics can surprise your interlocutors, giving them the illusion of your supercompetence in certain areas. For example, when you accidentally meet your acquaintance or business partner, immediately address him by name and patronymic, then, as if by accident, remember his home and work telephone numbers, wonder about the health of his family members, also calling each of them by name, a strong impression will form in his head that he is really important to you.

If, before meeting with a person you need and want to please, you suddenly find out that he, for example, is interested in

aquarium fish, mnemonics will allow you to quickly prepare for the conversation. You can open a book about fish, memorize a dozen or two of their names, and already during the conversation, as if by chance, switch the conversation to the topic of fish. The accuracy of the terminology you use will convince him that you, too, have been keen on fish for a long time and, it turns out, you have a common hobby. This is very encouraging and arouses trust!



We recommend reading:  
Zyablitsseva M. A.  
Instant memorization techniques.  
Mnemonics used by intelligence officers

## Proven tools of mnemonics

### By initial letters

It is used when you need to memorize several words in a certain sequence (the colors of the rainbow, the order of the planets of the Solar System). Their initial letters are taken and any phrase is invented in which the words begin with the same letters.

**Example:** the order of planets

*"My Very Eager Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas"* (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto).

### Consonances

It is used to memorize long, complex terms or foreign words.

**Example:** in medicine there are the terms "supination" and "pronation", which refer to the outward and inward rotation of the limbs. To avoid confusion, medical students are offered similar sound equivalents - "At the grocery store you pronate to pick up your produce, and you supinate to eat it for supper." Or "If you want to take your vitamins, you pronate to pour, and you supinate to take your supplements."

### Visual memory

(Aivazovsky method)

Memorizing details. This method encourages the development of visual and photographic memory.

**Example:** discreet but fixed gaze at the interlocutor; followed by an exact reproduction from memory, down to every button and mole on the face.

### Spatial imagination (Cicero's method)

Memorized units of information should be mentally arranged in a well-known room in a strictly defined order. It can be a museum, library, storage facility, your room, or an office.

**Example:** you need to memorize the fairy tale "Kolobok". There are six semantic parts in it: flour, Kolobok on the road, hare, wolf, bear, fox eating Kolobok. If you bind it to the living room, you will get something like this: flour is pouring out of the cupboard, Kolobok is jumping off the windowsill, a hare is jumping out from under the chair, a wolf is hiding behind the door, a bear is destroying the sofa, a fox is sitting under the table and is eating Kolobok.

### Numerical algorithms

Useful for people involved in the exact sciences, who, due to their line of work, need to memorize long formulas and numbers. This can be done quite easily if you find patterns in them or correlate them with familiar, memorable data.

**Example:** to memorize the number 264,722, you can divide it into three parts according to the pattern of person (26), action (47), object (22).

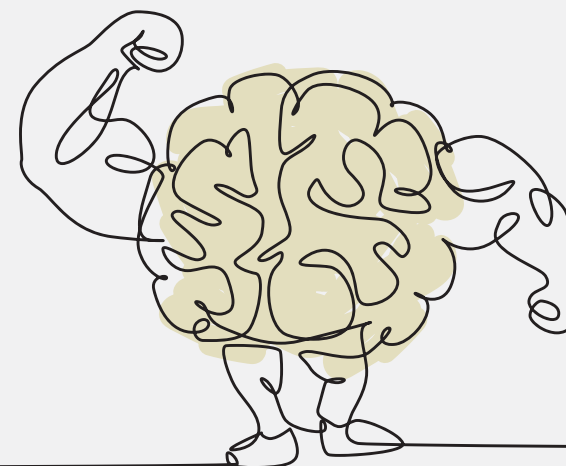
- We assign number 26 to the image of Lermontov (the number of years the poet lived).
- Number 47 is the number of your favorite car racer.
- Number 22 is a footman driving horses (the association arose due to the similarity of the form of the number 22 with horses) It turns out: "Lermontov drives a horse."

### The pictogram method

It is used to memorize large amounts of written information. It is necessary to single out key words or phrases in the text and draw a pictogram for each of them - a drawing that reflects the essence of the content. The image will play the role of visual association. At the same time, the pictogram cannot be right or wrong; it must be your personal association, close and understandable to you first of all.

**Example:** you need to remember the fairy tale "The turnip". The key words could be: grandfather, turnip, grandmother, granddaughter, Zhuchka, cat, mouse. In this example, you can schematically represent a grandfather with a mustache, a turnip, a grandmother with a headscarf, a girl, a dog, a cat and a mouse.

**It is important to remember that mnemonics is not a universal recipe, but a set of effective tools that have been tested in practice. We advise you to try them all and choose for yourself those that suit your type of thinking. Don't be afraid to experiment with their combination and modernization. Mastering mnemonics is useful not only for remembering complex information, but also for keeping your**



brain in good shape. It's like doing morning exercises, regular practice of which will keep your mind sharp well into old age!

But there are also more complex words, then you need to use your imagination. For example, "development" can be represented as a spiral, and "labor" as a bent man with a hoe!

### Principles of working with images

The correct construction of the image is the key to success, because the image is the main object with which the mnemonic technique works. It is in this form that information is encrypted and then stored in your long-term memory.

**1. Volume.** This refers to the three-dimensionality of an imaginary object. This should not be a flat picture, but an object or a creature that is as close to reality as possible. In your imagination, you can unfold such an image, look at it from all sides, give it movement.

**2. Full colour.** For greater realism of the created image, it is necessary to have an accurate idea of the colour and texture of the memorized object.

**3. Detail.** As in the case with colour, small details are very important for the effectiveness of mnemonics.

**4. Size.** This parameter works just the other way round. There is no need to maintain the real proportions. Imaginary objects can be approximately the same, although in real life the difference between them can be enormous. It is generally accepted that it is convenient for our brain to memorize objects that easily fit in our hand.

Text: Yuri Kireyev, writer

# The Linitskys: a unique dynasty of deep- cover intelligence officers

In August 2023, Yuri Kireyev's book "The Unique Dynasty of the Linitskys, deep-cover intelligence officers" was published. It paints the detailed story of one family's three generations that have successfully worked in the difficult field of illegal intelligence for almost 50 years. It is noteworthy that the name of Galina Linitskaya was declassified specially for this book. Having decided to follow in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, she worked abroad for more than 30 years until the early 1980s. We present a brief summary of this story to readers of Razvedchik magazine.

Fate tested the strength of the outstanding representative of Soviet illegal intelligence Leonid Leonidovich Linitsky throughout his short but bright life. 1920 was a particular turning point for him.

The Southern Front's 13th Army's intelligence department secret-service official, 19-year-old L. Linitsky was assigned to deliver a secret package to General Blucher. At this time his division joined battle with the vanguard of White Guardists. At the height of the fighting, dressed in a uniform devoid of insignia Leonid got concussed and lost his consciousness. Having recognized him as their own, the Whites sent L. Linitsky together with the wounded first to Sevastopol, and then with the troops retreating through Constantinople took him to Serbia, where 12 years later he became a resident of Soviet intelligence.

## Early years

The Linitsky family comes from Zaporozhye Cossacks who arrived to the lands of Little Russia to protect them from foreigners. That is, the Linitskys were border guards. In consideration of their loyalty and courage Empress Catherine II granted them lands and bestowed titles of nobility.

Our hero's father Leonid Ivanovich Linitsky was the commander of the border guard. Early in life he served in the Far Eastern Zhamursky Border District. Officials of the border service corps were supposed to collect information about the routes of communication, the telephone and telegraph network of the border strip as well as about the authorities that controlled the border from the opposite side. Thus, Leonid Ivanovich can be considered the first

intelligence officer in the Linitsky dynasty.

Courage and bravery, love for the Fatherland and the Russian people were the meaning of Leonid Ivanovich's life. During the period of his service, he was awarded the order of St. Anne, IV degree, with the inscription "For Bravery," the medal "For Distinction" in the fight against the Japanese and Honghuzi bandits, and the Order of St. Stanislaus, II degree.

On June 21, 1900, in Akhtyrka, Kharkov province, where Leonid Ivanovich moved with his family from the Far East, his son was born, who was given the name of Leonid as well.

When the World War I began in 1914, Leonid Ivanovich was already retired. But he couldn't stay at home when Russia was going through such a difficult time, he wrote a report, asking to join his colleagues from Zhamursky District at the Southwestern Front. A hundred soldiers of the 1st Zhamursky Cavalry

Regiment were subordinated to him. Crossing the Dniester in April 1915 he was ahead as always, but this time the bullet knocked him down.

Seeking revenge for his father's death, Leonid ran away from home when he was fifteen, but was quickly found and brought back. In 1916–1917, he was already a non-commissioned officer and fought with the Germans. In May 1917, Leonid was in one of the front-line units when the Minister of War and Navy of the Provisional Government A.F. Kerensky arrived there. While inspecting the troops, he spoke at rallies to inspire the soldiers. During one of these speeches Kerensky insisted on continuing the war, and L. Linitsky unexpectedly loudly declared in front of everyone: "... People are tired of fighting, they demand to bury their bayonets in the ground and go home." Then, handing Kerensky a weapon, he continued: "Hold the rifle, Comrade Minister, if you ask, and welcome to the front line."

The meeting was disrupted, and L. Linitsky was arrested. Under the martial law he risked a death penalty. However, taking into account he was just a 17-year-old young man, his noble origin and the merits of his relatives, the court decided to send Leonid to a penal regiment.

In October 1917, Leonid Leonidovich managed to get a leave of absence and went home to the Kharkov province. During the occupation of Ukraine by the Germans, he participated in acts of sabotage and received a bullet wound to the heart. So, Leonid lived the rest of his life with a bullet in his heart sac.

In 1918, L. Linitsky graduated externally from high school and entered the Kharkov University School of mathematics. However,



after his first year he dropped out of school and volunteered for the Red Army. In August 1920, he was enlisted in the intelligence department of the Southern Front's 13th Army.

As we have already written about, upon arrival in Serbia it was not easy for Leonid to get used to Belgrade, which was strange to him, where he had neither housing, nor work, and sometimes nor even a piece of bread. Nevertheless, he paid close attention to the lives of people who, like him, arrived from Russia. Having studied the Serbian language, reading newspapers and magazines, listening to the stories of eyewitnesses who came from the homeland, he became stronger in the idea that he needed to continue intelligence work over time. To maintain himself, he worked as an unskilled laborer, then as a fireman at a cloth factory.

In 1922, he met the daughter of a former staff clerk Ekaterina Fedorovna Drakina at literary society meetings where emigrant youth gathered. Three years later she became his wife and the first member of the residency he created. Catherine's parents, Fyodor Ardalionovich and Maria Nikolayevna, accepted Leonid into the family gladly. Subsequently, they also became members of his intelligence cell.

#### Chief of the Belgrade station

In 1924, L. Linitsky entered the Medicine Faculty at the University of Belgrade and qualified in medicine as a doctor after six years of study. He tried to contact Soviet intelligence all this time, repeatedly sending letters to Soviet diplomatic missions in neighboring countries. These efforts were crowned with success only at the beginning of 1932 when a "patient" came to Leonid's apartment

on Knez Militina Street with a message from the former head of the intelligence department of the 13th Army. L. Linitsky was offered to join the long-awaited intelligence activity, but as an illegal agent: his task was to create and head a station in Belgrade.

Leonid Leonidovich took this assignment very seriously. He understood that his efforts alone would not be enough for successful work; reliable and efficient like-minded people were needed. In a short space of time he managed to build such a team: the illegal residency of Soviet intelligence in Belgrade, which operated effectively in 1933–1935, consisted of more than ten assistants. Its core included the relatives of Leonid Leonidovich.

Here are some of the illegal residency's members:

1. Resident L. L. Linitsky. Pseudonym «Soba»;
2. Deputy resident Peter Milevsky. Pseudonym «Mika», sent from the Center in November 1934;
3. Secretary Yekaterina Fyodorovna Linitskaya (wife). Nickname «Lentir» (Serbian - butterfly);
4. Employee Fyodor Ardalionovich Drakin (father-in-law, father of Yekaterina Fyodorovna). Pseudonym «Railwayman»;
5. Assistant Maria Nikolayevna Drakina (mother-in-law);
6. Employee Vasily Petrovich Dernoban. Linitsky's fellow countryman from the city of Akhtyrka (Ukraine). Pseudonym «Lepotan Mickey»;
7. Employee Maria Petrovna Dernoban (sister of V.P. Dernoban), also from Akhtyrka. Nickname «Lasta».

The rest members of the residency could not be identified by name.

The center set the following tasks for L. Linitsky: to paralyze all the activities of the white emigration by carefully developing and identifying their links on the territory of the USSR; to focus attention on terrorist-minded elements, identify their plans and intentions. In other words, Leonid and his assistants needed to penetrate into the holy of holies – to infiltrate the leadership of extremist emigrant organizations such as the Russian All-Military Union (ROVS) and the National Labor Union of the New Generation (NTS NP), whose members were hatching plans to wage a secret war against the Soviet state.

White generals were backbones of these structures. Having friends in European monarchical circles, among the political and business elite of Europe, it was them who nurtured plans to overthrow the Soviet government, thought out sabotage and terrorist acts both on the territory of the USSR and against Soviet representatives abroad.

Here are just several of them: F.F. Abramov, I.G. Barbovich, V.M. Baidalakov, V.K. Vitkovsky, M.A. Georgievsky, P.N. Durnovo, M.A. Kedrov, A.A. von Lampe, S.N. Leuchtenberg, E.K. Miller, M.I. Repyev, V.V. Rimsky-Korsakov, N.V. Skoblin, N.A. Skvortsov, A.V. Turkul, A.V. Fok, P.N. Shatilov, B.A. Shteifon, E.V. Eck, N.G. Erdeli and many others. The functionaries of the Russian All-Military Union were also of great interest to Soviet intelligence: V.I. Bazarevich, F.V. Verbitsky, A.N. Komarovsky, A.N. Kozubsky, E.E. Messner, M.D. Pepeskul.

Due to the status he achieved and well-organized intelligence work, L. Linitsky kept a file on almost all of the top leaders of the Russian All-Military Union by 1933.

Among his main informants there were General I. G. Barbovich, who personally participated in the development of operations to bring militants into the USSR, and his assistant captain A.N. Komarovsky.

Despite the great difference in age (14 years), L. Linitsky managed to become close friends with I.G. Barbovich: both had noble roots, Leonid was born in Akhtyrka and Barbovich had served in Akhtyrka at the beginning of his career, both had fought against the Germans in the First World War, Barbovich had been wounded in the head with a bayonet, and Linitsky's head had been smashed with a rifle butt.

University connections turned out to be very useful. Leonid managed to make friends with the family of a professor at the University of Belgrade, bacteriologist F.V. Verbitsky, with whose son, Fyodor, they studied together at the Faculty of Medicine for six years. He visited them at their house regularly and was invited to lunches and dinners. Moreover, F.V. Verbitsky was the personal physician of the Serbian King Alexander the First since 1929, and was allowed into the homes of the Serbian elite. He then willingly shared the news and rumors he heard there with Linitsky. Of course, Leonid did not reveal his political views and true aspirations to the professor, playing the role of his like-minded fellow.

L. Linitsky also received a lot of valuable information from a hereditary nobleman, a participant in the First World War, General I.G. Erdeli, who headed the First French Department of the Russian All-Military Union in 1934. Until December 10, 1934 Leonid himself

Dr. L.L. Linitsky. Belgrade. 1935



Member of the residency of L. L. Linitsky F. A. Drakin

served as a secretary of the board of the Belgrade branch of the Gallipoli Society, which waged an underground struggle in Russia. All the information collected by L. Linitsky was timely forwarded through a contact agent from Vienna to Moscow and put on the desk of A. A. Slutsky, the deputy chief of the INO OGPU.



In 1935, as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia began to converge with Nazi Germany Linitsky's father-in-law Fyodor Drakin was planted into an organization associated with Hitler. He worked in accounting department and had access to sensitive financial information. In addition, he took risk (opening safes and re-photographing documents) to obtain identifying information on Russian White emigrants, whom the Germans, together with the Russian All-Military Union, were preparing for transportation to the USSR, as well as the exact addresses of safe houses selected for them in the Soviet Union. According to archive documents, thanks to the successful work of L. Linitsky's residency security officers managed to capture and neutralize 17 terrorists sent into the Soviet Union, and to reveal 11 secret addresses.

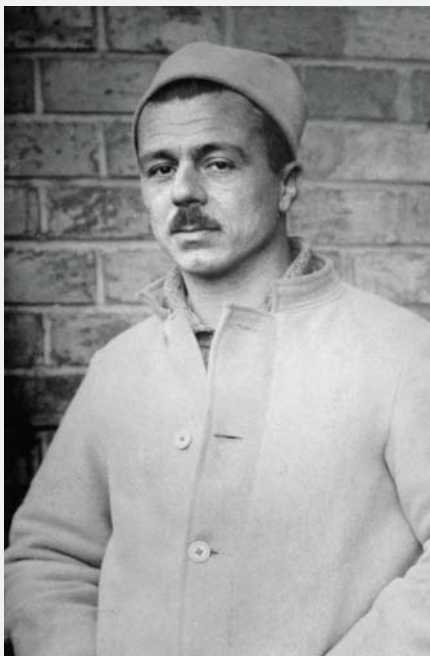
The uniqueness of L. Linitsky is in the fact that he was a self-taught intelligence officer. The USSR did not spend a single ruble for his training. A difficult life taught Leonid to communicate with different social

groups. He knew the history and culture of Yugoslavia very well, understood local rituals and customs, and was familiar with representatives of the Serbian Orthodox Church. His cover story — a licensed physician in private practice — developed naturally. He had original documents, there was no need to compose a biography, everything was real: his uncle was a prominent participant in the White movement, Major General A.I. Linitzky, his wife was the daughter of a White emigrant.

### You are under arrest!

L.Linitzky's successful penetration of the structures of the Russian All-Military Union and his high performance there were destroyed through the betrayal of one of the residency members. At the end of 1934, a certain Petr Milevsky, a career employee of the INO OGPU, arrived in Belgrade as a deputy resident. Unfortunately, the choice of the Center turned out to be wrong.

On December 5, 1935, wishing to "distinguish himself" in front of Moscow and without resident L. Linitzky's approval P. Milevsky decided to crack a safe in the apartment of the leader of the NTS NP V. M. Baidalakov and photographed the documents there. He got two Yugoslav acquaintances involved in the operation, one of them later turned out to be an agent of domestic counter-intelligence service. The participants in the operation were caught red-handed. In the course of the very first interrogation under torture, Milevsky betrayed all members of the station, also informing that they had an agent in Vienna working with them that they were expecting any day. Indeed, on December 12, courier L.L. Linderman arrived in Belgrade under the guise of a merchant. He



In the Yugoslav prison. 1937

was immediately detained, and a letter addressed to L. Linitzky from Soviet intelligence with instructions on working among emigrants was confiscated.

December 11, 1935 being in the foyer of the theater in the Russian House Leonid Leonidovich had heard the words "You are under arrest!", and the cuffs snapped shut on his wrists. Soon the police arrested all the other members of the station, and Captain Komarovsky as well.

The center had worked out with L. Linitzky in advance a line of action in case his group failed. It was important not to admit to espionage against Yugoslavia and the existence of links with Soviet intelligence. It was necessary to assert that they were Russian emigrants who worked on patriotic grounds against terrorist attacks organized by White emigrants on Russian soil. Although Leonid and his comrades were brutally tortured in the course of the investigation, the efforts to beat necessary confessions out of the

accused failed. Thanks to this, six of the ten arrested, including Linitzky's wife, Yekaterina Fyodorovna, and captain Komarovsky, had to be acquitted.

The court found our intelligence officer and his assistant guilty only of stealing documents from the safe and conducting propaganda that harmed Yugoslavia. Leonid Leonidovich was sentenced to two years and eight months of hard labor, his deputy P. Milevsky got a year in prison, his father-in-law F.A. Drakin got six months in jail.

At the beginning of 1938, when L. Linitzky's prison term was nearing completion, the Center became aware of an assassination attempt being prepared on him immediately after his release from prison. That was not surprising. During the years of successful work, he made many enemies. There were Captain Komarovsky and his friends from counterintelligence among them. Silently observing the preparations for the liquidation of L. Linitzky was the head of the "Russian" department of the local secret police, Nikolai Gubarev, who was not satisfied with the too lenient sentence. In short, the leadership of the white emigrant organizations decided not to let Linitzky leave Yugoslavia alive.

All the more surprising for them was the brilliantly planned and daringly executed successful operation of Soviet intelligence to take Linitzky out of Yugoslavia, first to Europe and then to Moscow (read more about this in the interview with the granddaughter of Leonid Leonidovich on p. 62).

### Terrible years of repression

Meanwhile, it was year 1938... In Moscow, Linitzky was informed that a year earlier his mother had been

arrested on suspicion of collaboration with the Polish intelligence services and was executed by shooting by court order. It is difficult to imagine how Leonid felt when he found out about this. Indeed, he ran the Soviet station in Belgrade for three years and heroically withstood torture in the Yugoslav counterintelligence! Despite the fact that his work was highly assessed by the leadership in Moscow, it was decided to "freeze" intelligence officer Linitzky, and soon he went to his relatives in Kharkov, where he got a job as a doctor.

Peaceful life lasted for two and a half years. At first, Leonid worked in the Kharkov city hospital, and when the war began, continued in evacuation hospital No. 1027. Every day the situation on the Soviet-German front became more and more complicated. L. Linitzky decided to send a report to the head of the 4th Directorate of the NKVD of the USSR P.A. Sudoplatov with a request to use him as an experienced and proven intelligence officer, ready to work in the enemy's rear.

In the fall of 1941, Leonid Leonidovich and his wife were sent to saboteur training courses at the Comintern school. After studying they were dispatched behind German lines in Voroshilovgrad (now Lugansk), where they managed to commit a number of successful acts of sabotage (chemical and pharmacological laboratories were blown up) and return unscathed. Since Yekaterina Fyodorovna was soon to give birth, the next time Leonid Leonidovich was dispatched alone, now to Yugoslavia. Making a parachute jump at night, he landed unsuccessfully in a forest breaking his leg. Having come to his senses, exhausted, he crawled towards the sounds of muffled voices, not knowing whose territory he was on. Fortunately, these were Yugoslavs,

not Germans. Thus Linitzky's second trip to the Balkans began.

### Inevitable retaliation

In 1944, on the territory of Yugoslavia Chief Counterintelligence Directorate SMERSH organized active work to search for leaders and participants of anti-Soviet white emigrant structures who collaborated with the fascists and carried out subversive work against the Red Army. Linitzky, who was in Belgrade at that time and knew all the leadership and main ideologists of the White movement, did his best to help in searching for the criminals.

Due to the assistance of L. Linitzky, by the fall of 1944 the SMERSH task force arrested 78 former White Guard officers, including 29 German intelligence agents. Among them was the General Secretary of the National Labor Union of the New Generation M. A. Georgievsky. During the Red Army's operation to liberate Belgrade, he tried to leave for Hungary, but on the way there he and N. Durnovo were captured by partisans and handed over to the NKVD. In the USSR, they both were sentenced to death. On July 25, 1950, the sentence was carried into effect.

### Confrontation between two Josephs

In the summer of 1946, by decision of the intelligence leadership the Linitzky spouses went on their third business trip to the Balkans (this time with their daughter Gordana), and stayed there for about four years. Their intelligence activity took place against the backdrop of the growing confrontation between Soviet leader Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin and Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito. The Center set the task for Leonid Leonidovich to inform it about the

real state of affairs in the Balkans. It was important to understand the behavior of the British and Americans, who prevented the rapprochement between Belgrade and Moscow, and also to monitor Tito's attempts to discredit the policies of the Soviet Union in the eyes of other Balkan communist parties.

On October 25, 1949, the Soviet authorities announced the impossibility of the Yugoslav Ambassador K. Mrazovich's further stay in Moscow. Since the end of 1949, while diplomatic relations were formally maintained, ties between the USSR and Yugoslavia were actually suspended. Restrictions on travel about the country were placed for Soviet citizens, including diplomatic personnel, with a complete ban on visiting certain areas. Many Yugoslavs loyal to the USSR were under constant surveillance. It was impossible to work under such a strict counterintelligence regime, and Linitzky received an order from the Center to return home.

### Unexpected offer

Experienced intelligence officer L. Linitzky, who by that time had already reached the 50-year mark, enjoyed well-deserved authority among the intelligence leadership. He was confident that his knowledge and skills would be in demand in any area of intelligence activity. However, an offer to go to India was very sudden to him: he did not speak Hindi, nor other eastern languages.

Nevertheless, Leonid agreed. His experience working against the British was in great demand. In India, he successfully carried out assignments to prevent possible provocations by the British intelligence services and other Western countries against our



One of the last lifetime  
photographs of L.L. Linitsky. Harbin.  
January 1953

illegal immigrant. She spoke several languages fluently, including three dialects of German, and studied encryption and secret writing. She was given practical training in range practice, organizing secret meetings, selecting hiding places and secretly transferring intelligence materials.

In order to successfully legalize, it was decided that in China Galina would enter a drama school and master the dances of the world, in particular Chinese dance culture. Harbin had long been known as the center of world musical culture, where lovers of the beautiful from other countries gathered. The brilliant performances of the graceful Galina at informal meetings allowed father and daughter to quickly expand the circle of useful contacts and to solve their intelligence tasks.

The Linitskys' work in China went according to the plan, but Leonid Leonidovich's old wounds were beginning to tell. On January 25, 1954, his long-suffering heart, in which a German bullet had been lodged since the age of 17, could not stand it: he died of acute heart failure. Her father's death became an irretrievable loss for Galina, besides, she faced the complicated task of transporting his body to Moscow. It was necessary to pull herself together and urgently arrange a sham funeral with further delivery of the coffin to Russia.

Galina organized and carried out this risky operation successfully: the body of the "successful European businessman" in a closed coffin was buried at one of the cemeteries in Harbin. One can only guess how difficult it was for her then to be in the

embassy. The Cold War against the USSR was quickly gaining momentum, and they began to prepare Linitsky to be dropped into the camp of the main enemy - the United States.

#### Business trip to China

A new legend was developed for Leonid Leonidovich: he was supposed to arrive in America through China under the guise of a successful businessman, a citizen of one of the European countries.

He received the necessary documents and in 1952 came to Harbin, where he needed to be legalized. Considering that his wife, Yekaterina Fyodorovna, was unable to travel with him for health reasons, the Center decided to send his eldest daughter Galina Linitskaya, who was 25 years old at the time of departure, with him as an assistant.

Earlier in Moscow, Galina Leonidovna took a full course of training in the craft of intelligence. She had a good groundwork for working as an



Illegal intelligence officers  
Galina and Leonid Linitsky.  
Harbin. 1953

services, although she regularly performed dangerous tasks. In between trips, she willingly shared her experience with young employees.

In 1981, at the age of 54, Galina Leonidovna retired and in 2004 she passed away. She was seen off with military honors by her friends and colleagues on her last journey to the Bogorodskoye Cemetery in Moscow.

Domestic foreign intelligence knows many examples of the successful work of "family" residencies, when a married couple goes abroad as illegal intelligence officers. But the Linitsky dynasty, with three generations of intelligence officers involved in the successful solution of intelligence tasks for almost half a century (1932–1981), is a truly unique phenomenon, which is without parallel either in the domestic or foreign history of intelligence services. 🚩

guise of an inconsolable foreigner, while also fearing verification of the presence of the body by representatives of the church or local authorities. Thereafter, with the help of foreign intelligence officers, Leonid Leonidovich's body was taken through several countries to

Moscow and buried with full honors at the Vagankovsky cemetery.

#### Third generation

On her return to Moscow, Galina Leonidovna was offered the choice of demobilizing and getting a job in a civilian institution or continuing the difficult path of an illegal intelligence officer. She chose the latter without hesitation. Having gained invaluable experience in China, she understood very well what kind of tension and concentration of forces would be required of her "in the field". The slightest careless action, accidental gesture or uncontrolled facial expression could lead to failure. But, having felt the taste of success, she could no longer refuse and she was eager for operational work at every opportunity.

Having travelled all over Europe, many countries in Asia and the Middle East, Galina Leonidovna for more than 30 years was an illegal intelligence officer and never fell under the suspicion of foreign intelligence



Galina Linitskaya.  
Harbin. January 1954





## A. V. Vinogradova: «Grandfather always confidently walked towards his goal. It's not for nothing that his last name is Linitsky, from the word 'line'!»

On the occasion of the publication of the book "The Unique Dynasty of the Linitskys, deep-cover intelligence officers", "Razvedchik" talked with the granddaughter of Leonid Linitsky, Alla Vladimirovna Vinogradova, who shared little-known facts from the biography of her family, as well as photographs from her personal archive.

**Alla Vladimirovna, you, of course, hardly remember your grandfather, Leonid Leonidovich Linitsky, because when he passed away, you were not even four years old. But, judging by your mother's stories about him, what kind of person was he?**

You know, in our family it was not customary to talk about work, everyone strictly maintained secrecy and, as they say, kept their mouths shut. I remember when I was a child, our neighbors in the stairwell were the family of illegal intelligence officer Rudolf Abel, who was then in prison in the United States. We communicated quite closely, went to visit each other. I was probably about six years old when my mother secretly told me that their real name was Fisher. And, you know, I kept this secret for a very long time, everyone already knew that Abel was Fisher, but I was silent. And, by the way, I didn't tell anyone about my family until 2018.

My memories of my grandfather are based mainly on stories from family members and albums with photographs. There is, for example, a photograph from 1906 that shows my grandfather's family. Little Leonid Linitsky is only six years old, but he is already dressed in military uniform. Boys were taught it from early childhood; in those days it was a common practice among nobles.

As for how my grandfather's character was formed, I can tell you a story that I learned from my mother when I was adult already, and it made a deep impression on me. This is the tragic story of Galina, Leonid Leonidovich's elder sister, the story that became determining for him and, in my opinion, largely affected his decision to go into intelligence. So here it is. Galina lived in St. Petersburg, was very

educated for that time, and graduated from the Higher Women's Courses, also known as Bestuzhev Courses. There she met a certain officer Felix, son of a German manufacturer. They fell in love and soon got married, then had a child. But Felix turned out to be a gambler and a drunkard, and often raised his hand to her. Possessing an independent character, she refused to tolerate this and, taking her son, went to her mother in Kharkov. At that time it was not easy to get a divorce, and they began to live separately.

When the Civil War began, Galina went to work as a nurse in one of the hospitals in Crimea, where she met a Bolshevik sailor whom she fell in love with very much. One day their settlement was captured by whites, among whom was her husband Felix. Enraged that his wife was having an affair with a Red Army man, he got drunk, took her by force, and then gave her to the soldiers for fun. Galina soon realized that she had been infected with an incurable disease. She could not bear the shame and took poison. She was 28 years old.

After some time, the family became aware of this. Leonid, who from the age of 14 was passionate about the ideas of socialism and universal justice, vowed to avenge his sister. Despite previous wounds, he went to the front, where he was offered to infiltrate the White Guard camp in order to obtain the necessary information there. As a result, he spent 18 long years among the Whites, but never once thought of giving up his cause, and remained true to his ideals to the end! He was an integral person, very convinced and purposeful, and always stuck to his intended course. No wonder his last name is Linitsky, from the word "line". Why the line? Because his ancestors

### Alla Vladimirovna Vinogradova

Born in 1950 in Moscow into a family of illegal intelligence officers, the Linitskys. In 1973 she graduated from the Faculty of Biology and Soil Sciences of Moscow M. V. Lomonosov State University, specializing in animal and human physiology. From 1973 to 1996 she worked as a senior researcher at a secret Moscow research institute. Currently retired.

served on the lines - the borders, defended the boundaries of the Motherland.

**Is there much information preserved about relatives on the side of your grandmother Yekaterina Fyodorovna Linitskaya (nee Drakina)?**

You know, until recently, for some reason, there was almost no mention anywhere of the important role that my grandmother's father, Fyodor Ardalionovich Drakin, that is, L.L. Linitsky's father-in-law, played in obtaining secret information. F.A. Drakin was the son of a merchant of the first guild from the Azov region, he worked as a financier in an office that serviced the railways. He knew many in the White emigration. He shared an apartment with the family of General I. G. Barbovich, who headed the ROVS branch in Belgrade. F.A. Drakin and his wife reported to L.L. Linitsky all the significant information heard in their house, and sometimes retold the contents of secret documents that Barbovich brought with him from time to time. Later, F.A. Drakin was able to be introduced into a fascist organization, where he, at the risk of his life, opened safes that contained photographs and identifying information on saboteurs and terrorists who

were preparing to be transported to the USSR through the ROVS, and the addresses of their safe houses.

**Could you tell us about the operation to take your grandfather out of Belgrade, the Whites were going to liquidate him...**

Yes, that's true. When Leonid Leonidovich's prison term<sup>1</sup> was coming to an end, the ROVS decided not to let him out of Yugoslavia alive and kidnap him right on his way out of prison. These plans became known in Moscow, and they developed a special operation to rescue him. My mother told me about this in detail. In my opinion, this is a very thrilling moment. Imagine, on the appointed day, two cars with ROVS militants were waiting near the prison for my grandfather. When he went out of the prison gates, suddenly out of nowhere, literally from the bushes, a nimble "Horch" jumped out, in which Leonid Leonidovich's comrades from the station were sitting, he recognized them at once. Grandfather immediately jumped into the car, and a chase began after them. Our guys circled around the area for a long time, trying to break away; In the end, the pursuers fell behind. Perhaps they decided that the grandfather's saviors were armed and that when they tried to stop the car, a shootout would begin. As a result, he was brought to a small private airfield, from where he flew to Moscow in transit through several countries. The operation was completed successfully!

**How did your mother decide to go into intelligence? Was there grandfather's influence here?**

Leonid Leonidovich, of course, had great authority in the family; he was literally idolized by his wife, who accepted his ideas and shared with him all the hardships of intelligence work. Naturally, this attitude was passed on to the children, especially Galina, my mother. She and her father had a very warm and trusting relationship; her father was a friend, a comrade,

<sup>1</sup> In December 1935, due to the betrayal of an assistant, L.L. Linitsky was arrested and sentenced to two years and eight months in prison.



Captain Leonid Ivanovich Linitsky with his wife (standing), daughter Galina and son Leonid. Harbin. 1911

and a mentor for her. One way or another, he passed on his beliefs to his daughter.

After graduating from the Military Institute of Foreign Languages, my mother worked as a German teacher at the Frunze Military Academy. Then she was sent to Vienna for a year to teach German to our officers. When she returned to Moscow, she met her father's colleague (Leonid Leonidovich himself was on a business trip at that time), who began to ask her about life. Having learned that she was a language teacher, he offered her to work in intelligence. Since my mother was always proud of my father's profession, for her he was an idol and an example, she immediately agreed. It was 1951. She was admitted into the service and began to be trained for illegal work.

**How did it happen that instead of his wife, Leonid Leonidovich went abroad with his daughter?**

Grandfather, of course, was going to take the business trip with his wife, but her health began to fail. In addition, the question arose of what to do with the children - me and my mother's sister Gordana. The decision was made that grandfather would go to China with Galina. In 1952, when I was less than two years old, they left, and I stayed with my grandmother and aunt. Actually, my aunt was only eight years older than me, so I treated her like an elder sister.

Due to my mother's extremely stressful work, I hardly saw her until I was 12 years old. It happened that she stayed away for several years. It naturally turned out that my grandmother became my mother, I called her that. And those rare moments when my mother managed to go to Moscow were very strange for me: a strange woman, crying, tried to hug me. I was afraid of her, ran and hid away from her. Mom, of course, suffered a lot. We can say that this was her sacrifice in the name of serving the Motherland.

I was already 12 years old when my mother finally returned to Moscow for a long time. She did this consciously in order to establish a relationship with me; she was afraid of losing

me forever. We, of course, had a hard time getting used to each other, actually getting to know each other again. At the same time, after a couple of years, my mother began to travel abroad again, because her experience and skills in illegal work were in great demand.

**What other difficulties did she have abroad? Did mother tell you anything?**

After China, she was sent to an Asian country, where she contracted highly toxic tropical diphtheria. There were no antibiotics then. At the hospital she was given an incorrect diagnosis and, accordingly, was also treated incorrectly. As the disease progressed, she began to experience ascending paralysis: first her legs failed, then her body, her arms... I remember my mother said that while she was conscious, she tried with all her might to control herself so as not to say something in her native language and give herself away. When mother was almost dying, she was transferred to an American hospital, but they said it was too late for treatment. At night she had a crisis, during which her grandfather (dead two years by then) appeared in her dream. He entered her ward, sat down on the bed and began to hug her so tightly that she began to choke. She begged him to let her go, said that she wanted to live yet... Suddenly the embrace opened, and she began to breathe. The next morning, doctors stated that the crisis had passed and my mother was on the mend. The forecasts, however, were disappointing: she was to remain disabled for the rest of her life. It was decided to take her home. For several weeks she was transported through different countries to Moscow, where she then underwent treatment for almost a year.

Our doctors also threatened to put her in a wheelchair, but my mother firmly decided that she would walk. And she didn't just get up, but the very next year she went on a mission again! She loved her job very much. Every time Galina returned to Russia, she seemed to fade. She couldn't imagine herself without those feelings of freedom and risk inherent in illegal intelligence. By the way, grandfather was like that too. He, too, was asked many times to stay at the Center, but he wouldn't! Only there, only in the "field"! 🇷🇺



Video version  
of the interview

Interviewed by  
Vladislav Ilyin



# Talisman bone and cache coins

To the 120th anniversary of the birth of W. G. Fisher

Text: Pavel Smelov

July 11, 2023 is the 120th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding illegal intelligence officer William Genrikhovich Fisher (better known as Rudolf Ivanovich Abel), a real ace of his trade, one of the symbols of national intelligence for decades.

Nature endowed W. G. Fisher with many talents, and he left a memory of himself not only as an intelligence officer, but also as an extraordinary artist, photographer and musician. Few people know that William Genrikhovich was also a good writer. To introduce the readers of "Intelligence officer" to this facet of his personality, we publish in the section "Literary Club" - for the first time! - the story "Mission to Paris" by W. G. Fisher. At the same time, he was an extremely modest man, not seeking fame and any personal benefits and privileges.

For the section "The History of One Object" we have chosen an unusual, at first sight, little thing. This is a fragment of a bird bone that witnessed an event that took place 120 years ago in the English town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. A family of Russian political immigrants who lived there celebrated the birth of their second son. In honor of Shakespeare, whose admirer the father of the family was, the decision was made to name the child William. On the solemn occasion, a festive table was set, the main treat being a roasted bird. According to the old British tradition, after eating it they kept the "fork" - a characteristic arc-shaped bone, which had to be dried, then two people, taking each of their halves, had to make a wish and break the bone. Whoever got the biggest part of it was lucky and had many years of life.

Judging by the story of William Genrikhovich's adopted daughter, Lydia Borisovna Boyarskaya, those were the Fisher parents who played "fork": father - for Willie, mother - for the elder son Harry. They wished for longevity. The winner was Genrikh Matveyevich, who kept the bone and gave it to his son when he grew up. William Genrikhovich did indeed live a long life, full of significant and interesting events. But his brother Harry, who received the smaller part, was not so lucky. He tragically died in the summer of 1921: drowned in a river near Moscow, saving another child from a whirlpool.



W. G. Fisher's talisman bone

## William Genrikhovich Fisher

He was born on July 11, 1903 in England in a family of emigrants from Russia. In the early 1920s he returned to the USSR with his family, in 1927 he was admitted to the INO OGPU. Since 1948 he worked illegally in the U.S. and led a network of Soviet "atomic spies". In 1957 he was arrested because of treachery. In order to let Moscow know that he was not a traitor, during his arrest he gave the name of his late friend R. I. Abel. During the investigation he categorically denied belonging to the Soviet intelligence, refused to testify and rejected all attempts by the FBI to induce him to cooperate. By court decision he was sentenced to 30 years in prison; in 1962 he was exchanged for the American pilot F. Powers, who was shot down over the USSR.

After treatment and rest Fisher worked in the central office, participated in the training of young illegal intelligence officers. For his outstanding services he was awarded the Order of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star and a number of other awards. He died on November 15, 1971, buried in Moscow at the Donskoye cemetery.



W. G. Fisher  
(sitting in the center)  
during interrogation.  
Washington. 1957



Film «Legends of  
Intelligence. William  
Fisher»

W. G. Fisher's  
cache coins  
from the FBI case



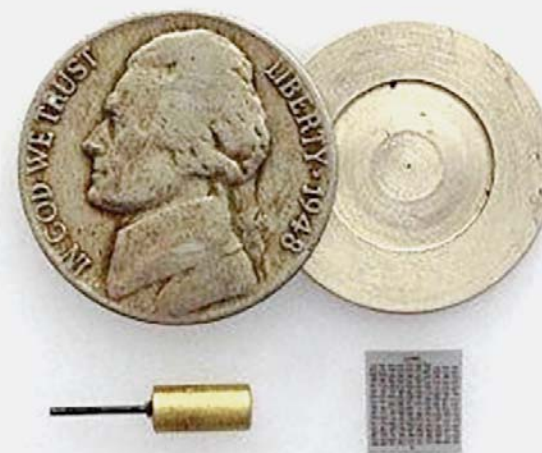
### COINS WITH A "DOUBLE BOTTOM"

In addition to obtaining secret information, members of the W.G. Fisher organization (operational pseudonym - "Mark") had to constantly improve the methods of maintaining impersonal communication. That is why "Mark" and his subordinates actively used various kinds of containers designed for storage, transportation and transfer of secrets. These were primarily inconspicuous objects of the environment, such as hollow nails, bolts, pieces of branches, stones with drilled holes, etc.

In the materials of the FBI on the high-profile case of "United States v. Colonel Abel", which occupied the front pages of American newspapers in the late 1950s, a special place was given to two pieces of evidence: hollow coins-containers for storing microfilm.

A five-cent coin with a secret microfilm came to the attention of American intelligence agencies after Fisher's good-for-nothing radio operator Vic (Reino Häyhänen), given to drinking, dropped it in the street. It ended up in the hands of a newspaper boy. When he tripped, he scattered the change and one of the coins split in two. The discovery was reported to the police, who passed it to the FBI.

Four years American detectives in vain tried to unravel the mystery of the origin of the coin and the meaning of the code. And only when in the summer of 1957 Vic took the path of treachery, the U.S. intelligence services received from him all the necessary



Coin cache and microfilm with a cryptogram

explanations. The set of numbers turned out to be a message from Moscow, greeting the addressee on his arrival in the United States. In addition, Vic gave the Americans another similar container - a Finnish 50-mark coin. The result of Häyhänen's betrayal was the arrest of our illegal intelligence agent W.G. Fisher.

The choice of coins for making secret containers was, naturally, not accidental. For this purpose, as a rule, common change of small denominations was taken, that did not attract attention. In 1950-1960s a lot of such coins were made. It is known, for example, that they were used by the Cohen spouses working in Britain, as well as the illegal intelligence officer Yuri Anatolievich Shevchenko, the Hero of Russia.

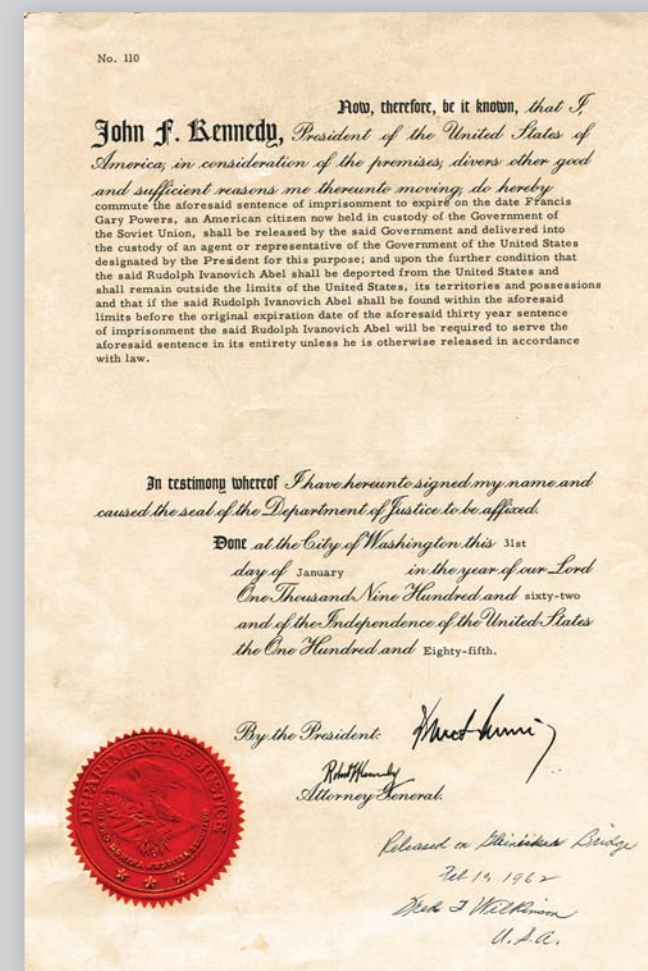
Of course, secret coins are ancient history now, their time is gone irrevocably, like microdots under postage stamps on envelopes and other spy tricks of the twentieth century.

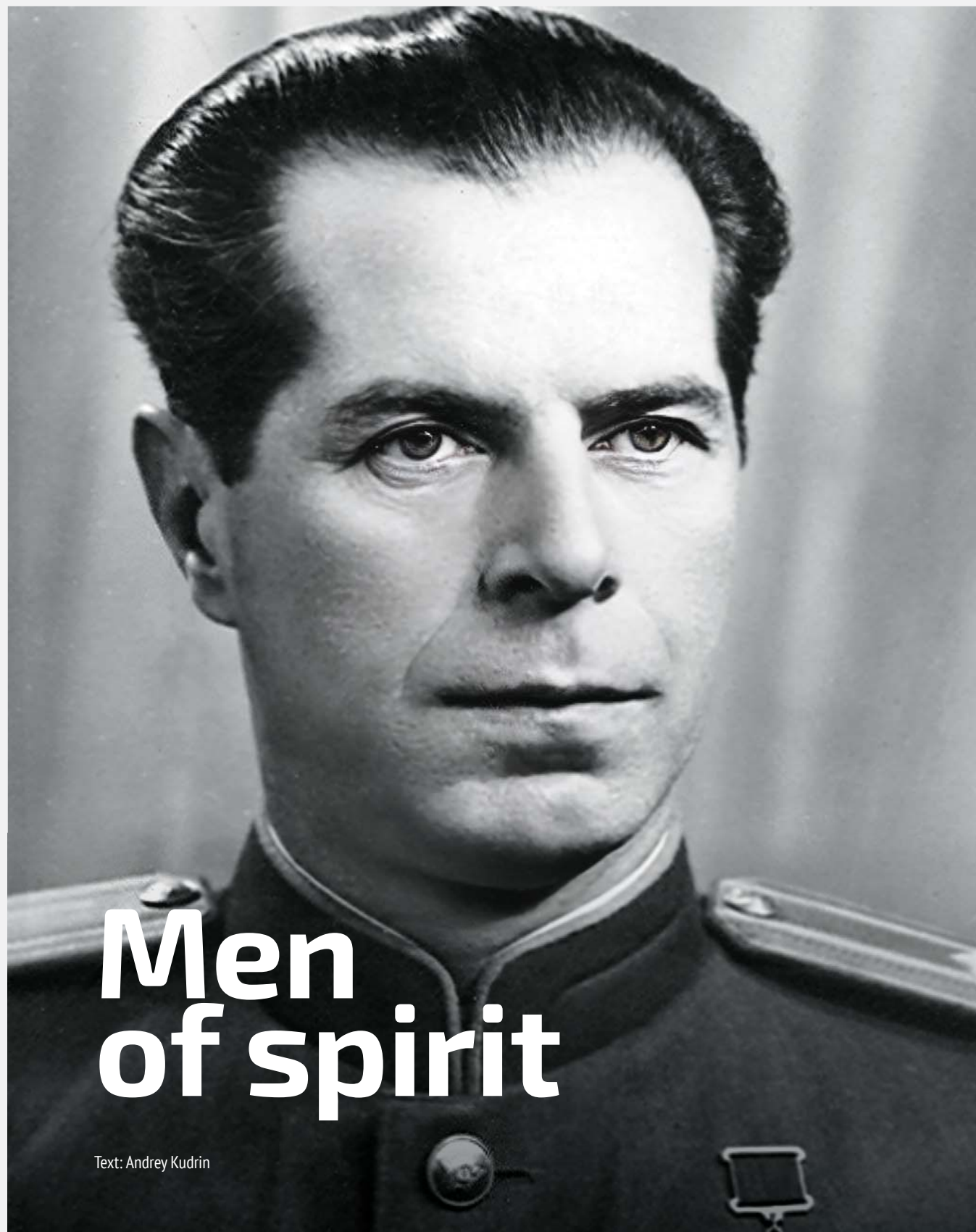
Well, we would like to finish the story about the outstanding illegal spy W.G. Fisher by telling about one more unique exhibit kept in the museum of the Russian SVR: a letter of exchange testifying to his release from the American prison. Signed by brothers John and Robert Kennedy (the first as president, the second as U.S. Attorney General), the official paper allowed on February 10, 1962 on the Glienike Bridge, connecting East

and West Berlin, to exchange W.G. Fisher for the American pilot-spy Francis Gary Powers, who was shot down over the USSR.

Above: Certificate of  
Exchange

Below: Glienike Bridge,  
Germany





Text: Andrey Kudrin

**August 22 marked the 125th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Soviet intelligence officer, leader of the legendary partisan detachment “Pobediteli” (The Victorious), Hero of the Soviet Union Dmitry Nikolaevich Medvedev. Over the years, many books have been written about him and a number of feature films have been made. On the pages of our magazine once again we would like to briefly recall his glorious operational record.**

The activities of the “Pobediteli” detachment, led by D. N. Medvedev from June 1942 to March 1944 (which at the peak of its activity included about 100 people), is recognized as one of the most effective among all wartime partisan units. Even the dry data are impressive: as a result of the retaliatory action of the detachment’s fighters, 11 fascist generals and senior officials of the Third Reich equated to them were eliminated, 81 trains with enemy manpower and military equipment were derailed, 92 major battles were fought with fascist punitive detachments, the railway station Rivne together with the German contingent there was blown up. In total, over 12 thousand Wehrmacht soldiers and officers were liquidated, as well as accomplices of the invaders from among the SS men of the Galicia Division, policemen, and OUN militants.

We should not forget, either, about the intelligence functions assigned by the Soviet command to the partisan unit of D. N. Medvedev. By May 1943, intelligence stations had been created and were successfully functioning in almost all major settlements of the Nazi-occupied Rivne and Volyn regions of Ukraine, including in Rivne, Zdolbunov, Sarny, Lutsk, Kovel, from October 1943 - in Vinnitsa, and since

D. N. Medvedev with group commanders.  
Outskirts of Volyn. November 1943

January 1944 - in Lvov. Hundreds of radiograms were sent to Moscow, containing valuable information about the transfer of enemy troops and military equipment, the location of headquarters and command posts, and the planned activities of the occupation authorities in the occupied territories. Due to the significant volume of obtained information, communication sessions with the Center sometimes lasted up to three hours a day.

According to remaining documents, D.N. Medvedev’s detachment also made a significant contribution to the victory won by the Soviet army in the Battle of Kursk. Beginning in the spring of 1943, the “Pobediteli” regularly passed data about the redeployment of Hitler’s troops from Africa, France, as well as

from Leningrad through Western Ukrainian railway junctions to the Kursk-Oryol destination. As a result of the capture of an officer from the intelligence department of the Air Force headquarters of the Center Army Group, exceptionally important information was obtained about the preparation by the German command of a major offensive near Kursk. And the legendary intelligence officer Nikolai Ivanovich Kuznetsov (aka “Wehrmacht officer” Paul Siebert), who fought in Medvedev’s detachment, reported to the Center on the approximate dates for the start of this operation (code name “Citadel”). No less valuable was the other information that he had obtained, in particular about the deployment of the Werwolf object (Hitler’s field headquarters) near Vinnitsa and about the preparation by fascist intelligence of the assassination attempt on W. Churchill, F. Roosevelt and J. Stalin during the Tehran Conference.

It should be recalled that the composition of the “Pobediteli” was truly international: along with Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Jews, Armenians, Georgians, Kazakhs, Uzbeks fought side by side with





D. N. Medvedev. 1932

Poles, Slovaks, Czechs, Hungarians, Bulgarians, and Spaniards. It is probably no coincidence that future illegal intelligence officers Africa de Las Heras and Simona Krimker (Grinchenko) also distinguished themselves among other members of Medvedev's units ("Medvedevtsi" in Russian).

The key to these significant results achieved by the "Pobediteli" led by D.N. Medvedev is considered to be the previous experience of our intelligence officer as the leader of another sabotage and reconnaissance detachment created in the fall of 1941 - "Mitya" (it is a short form of the name Dmitry). However, until this moment, Dmitry Nikolaevich was destined to overcome a long thorny way...

It seems that D.N. Medvedev's inherent determination and firmness, courage and bravery, perseverance in achieving his goal, self-discipline,

Radio operator of D. N. Medvedev's unit

intransigence to shortcomings, which he repeatedly demonstrated during his life, were formed in him at an early age. Dmitry took part in the revolutionary events of 1917 in Bryansk, and later worked as secretary of the Bryansk district Council of Workers, Peasants and Soldiers' Deputies. In 1918, he voluntarily joined the Red Army and fought as part of the 4th Oryol Rifle Division. He took part in the defense of Petrograd: defended it from the North-Western Army of General N. N. Yudenich. In 1920, as a commissioner, he entered service in the Bryansk district department of the Cheka. However, he did not stay long in his small homeland: first he was sent to Donbass, then to Odessa, where in 1925 he was appointed to lead the Secret Department of the State Political Directorate (GPU).

Before the war, D.N. Medvedev managed to travel around almost the entire territory of Ukraine: Kyiv, Dnepropetrovsk, Kherson, Berdichev, Stalino, Novograd-Volynsky, and was the head of the city department of the NKVD in Kirovograd. He took direct part in the liquidation of various rebel groups



and armed gangs of criminals.

Once, in order to defeat one of the clandestine monarchist organizations, he had to infiltrate it himself. It became known that an emissary from Paris was to arrive in Kherson in order to coordinate activities of a local cell consisting of former supporters of the White movement and ordinary criminals. The plotters planned to carry out a series of major robberies in the city, and then organize an armed rebellion. Smart in appearance, D. N. Medvedev convincingly played the role of an aristocrat who allegedly arrived from France. He gathered the entire gang's core in one of the remote villages, after which he entered the house with a weapon in his hands and announced them that they were surrounded.

The operational training and professionalism of D.N. Medvedev were clearly demonstrated in the episode when he managed to detain two Polish saboteurs sent to our territory. Considering that only the approximate date of their arrival was known and there was no exact description of their appearance

Demolitionists of "Pobediteli" unit at work

(there was only a verbal portrait of one of them), such a task seemed practically unrealizable. However, Dmitry Nikolaevich was able to quickly identify the spies, primarily by their manner of behavior, since their facial expressions, gestures, and postures were uncharacteristic of local residents.

In the years of famine, 1932–1933, as the head of the GPU department in Kyiv, D. N. Medvedev, together with his colleagues, organized a commune for street children, where security officers donated products from their food rations. In addition, Dmitry Nikolaevich initiated special charity lotteries, the funds from which were used to purchase food for residents of starving regions. In those same years, he was involved in the fight against the first cells of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (later OUN - UPA) that were emerging in the western regions of Ukraine. This experience was useful to Medvedev when, after the end of the war, he was sent to Lithuania to search for and eliminate the armed formations of the "forest brothers".

For the results achieved in his work, D. N. Medvedev was many times awarded by his leadership: he was awarded a golden watch, twice a personalized firearm, and also the "Honorary Worker of the Cheka - OGPU" badge.

In 1936, after completing courses for senior management, D.N. Medvedev joined foreign intelligence service, but he was unable to work there for long: repressions began. In April 1937, in connection with the arrest of his elder brother, Alexander, a former employee of the Cheka, D. N. Medvedev was dismissed from



the service. Trying to achieve justice, he repeatedly submitted reports to the leadership of the NKVD of the USSR, applied statements to the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, and wrote letters to the newspaper "Pravda". In the end, he achieved his goal: it was decided to return him to operational work, but not to the NKVD headquarters. The new place of his service was the Gulag: first the White Sea-Baltic, then the Norilsk branch. However, even there, being a man of principles and "restless", D.N. Medvedev did not work for a long time: in November 1939 he was fired again, this time with the statement: "allowed massive unjustified closures of investigative proceedings".

Everything changed with the start of the war. On June 22, 1941, Dmitry Nikolaevich submitted a report to the head of the NKGB of the USSR, in which he expressed his firm intention to return to duty. Simultaneously with the report, he wrote letters addressed to J.V. Stalin and L.P. Beria, in which he outlined his views on the need to deploy active sabotage and reconnaissance activities

behind enemy lines and confirmed his readiness to immediately get involved in this work. His specific proposals for sending small combat groups behind the front line were approved. Since August 1941, State Security Captain D.N. Medvedev began to form them.

This is how the "Mitya" detachment was formed - reconnaissance and sabotage residency No. 4/70 of the Special Group under the NKVD of the USSR, the backbone of which was made up of fighters of the future legendary OMSBON (Separate Special Purpose Motorized Rifle Brigade). At the initial stage, the detachment consisted of only 34 fighters and operated in the Bryansk (Medvedev's homeland), Smolensk and Mogilev regions, where until January 1942 it managed to carry out more than 50 major operations. Making combat sallies, members of the detachment attacked enemy garrisons and convoys, blew up bridges and communications centers, destroyed enemy warehouses and personnel.

Here is just one of such episodes.

Message of the NKVD of the USSR No. 2/B to the State Defense Committee (GKO) dated January 1, 1942:

"The commander of the partisan detachment of the NKVD of the USSR, state security captain Medvedev, reports:

*On December 25, 1941, a military train on the Roslavl-Sukhinichi railway, heading towards the front, was blown up by four mines. A locomotive and 15 carriages were destroyed, up to 300 soldiers were killed, and many were wounded. Traffic was stopped for many days. Traffic jams have been created at Pirov and Fayansovaya stations towards Roslavl.*

*On the same date, during a raid on the village of Zhizdra, the German police commandant's office was liquidated, a truck was smashed, 500 thousand rubles were seized, Lvov-Korzukhin, who had gone over to the Germans, the son of Prince Lvov (Chief Prosecutor of the Synod in the bourgeois Provisional Government), was taken alive.*



Germans started lunch exactly at noon and removed some of their posts at this time.

At the same time, there were also dramatic episodes. So, in one of the battles, Medvedev almost died. When the detachment was surrounded near the village of Kletnya, Bryansk Region, Dmitry Nikolaevich was wounded in the head. Nikolai Korolev, the commander's adjutant and multiple USSR boxing champion, who had remarkable strength, grabbed the commander in his arms and tried to take him out of the line of the fire, but unexpectedly ran into the Germans. It seemed that everything was over. However, the quick-witted Korolev used a trick: lowering the wounded man to the ground, he raised his hands up. Having surrounded the fighter, the Nazis took his machine gun and led him to the dugout, where the radio was located, to report the capture of the partisans. At that moment, Nikolai, using the skills of a boxer, knocked down two guards with unexpected precise blows, and threw a grenade into the dugout where the officer went down. Taking advantage of the confusion, other fighters of the detachment managed to escape from the entrapment.

In addition to sabotage and reconnaissance operations, the "Mitya" detachment also carried out propaganda work among the local population in enemy-occupied territories. Under the occupation, many people were deprived of the opportunity to receive real information about the situation on the fronts, so they often accepted at face value the Nazis' false statements that Moscow had allegedly fallen, Stalin had fled, and

The commander of the "Pobediteli" unit D.N. Medvedev in the enemy's rear. December 1943

the Red Army had been completely defeated. Nowadays we call such "products," regularly thrown by the Ukrainian special services and readily replicated by Western media, "fakes." In the autumn of 1941, when the Nazis were approaching the capital, it was obviously much more difficult to resist such propaganda.

On October 22, 1941, in the village of Staroye Ustinovo, in the Smolensk region, the Germans tried to carry out one of these actions by installing loudspeakers near the huts and organizing a broadcast in the Russian language about the entry of Wehrmacht troops into Moscow. At the end of the report, bravura songs and marches sounded throughout the area. The "Medvedevtsi" had to expose the enemy's "fakes" with the help of machine guns, and then tell local residents about the real state of affairs: "Moscow still stands, the Supreme Commander is in the Kremlin, the Red Army soldiers are already advancing, Victory will be ours!"

At the end of January 1942, after completing all assigned tasks, the "Mitya" detachment returned to Moscow. D. N. Medvedev reported in detail to Pavel Sudoplatov, the head of the 4th Directorate of the NKVD of the USSR, on the results of partisan activity and made a number of proposals on how to use more productively the sabotage and reconnaissance units sent behind enemy lines. Based on his own combat experience, Dmitry Nikolaevich, in particular, believed that under the conditions of the harsh occupation regime of the Germans, it was more advisable to create large partisan units based on small special assignment groups.

The country's leadership highly appreciated the work of D.N. Medvedev, awarding him the Order

of Lenin (N. Korolev who had saved the commander, was decorated with the Order of the Red Banner), and he received a proposal, already as the head of the department of the "Sudoplatov" Directorate, to start forming such units. One of them was "The Victorious" detachment.

On November 5, 1944, for exemplary fulfilment of the command's tasks behind enemy lines D.N. Medvedev was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union with the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star medal. In addition to the highest award, three Orders of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, and numerous medals shone on his ceremonial jacket.

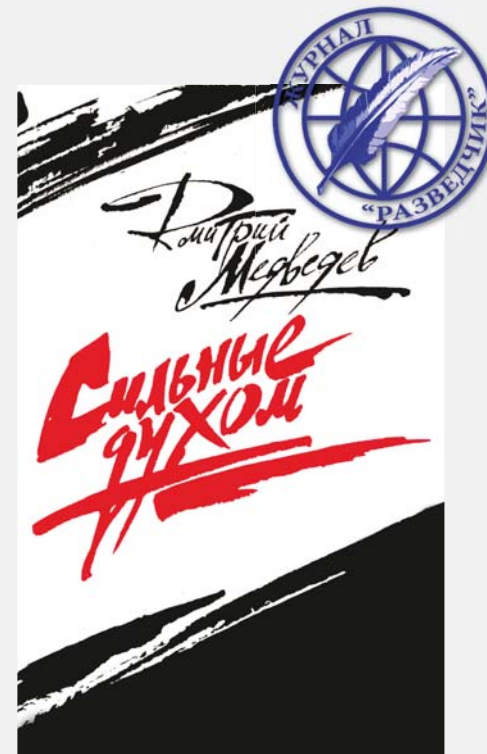
Our hero died too early: December 14, 1954, at the fifty-seventh year of his life. He was buried at the Novodevichye cemetery in Moscow.

We are sure: the bright image of Dmitry Nikolaevich Medvedev is unlikely to ever be forced out of people's memory. Streets in Moscow, Bryansk, Donetsk, the Palace of Culture in Bryansk, Moscow school No. 463 have been given his name. Memorial plaques in his honor are installed on house No. 16 in Staropimenovskiy Lane in Moscow and in the house No. 55 on Chelyuskintsev Street in Donetsk, where he lived. A bust and a memorial plaque dedicated to D.N. Medvedev were installed in the hero's homeland in Bryansk.

Previously, Medvedev Street existed in Vinnitsa and Artemovsk (Bakmut); there was a memorial plaque on house number 4 on Bebel Street in Odessa. Dmitry Nikolaevich himself was an honorary citizen of the city of Novograd-Volynsky, Zhitomir region.

Many of our fellow citizens, especially people of the older generation, remember D. N.

Medvedev for his literary works and the bright films based on them. The short but succinct phrase "Men of spirit" in the title of this article accurately defines one of the most important characteristics of the Soviet people who survived the most difficult trials of wartime. Now, when on the territory of the long-suffering Ukrainian land there is again a struggle against the followers of the Nazi evil spirits, these words are again relevant. They are fully applicable to our fighters, who give all their strength, and often their lives, for the sake of victory. Who knows, perhaps in the future one of them, without knowing it, will repeat Medvedev's words: "Do you remember, it was near Rovno!"



Film "Colonel Medvedev. Special purpose raid"



# To detect the «Citadel»

## Soviet intelligence in the Battle of Kursk

Text: Vladimir Viktorovich Markovchik,  
Candidate of Historical Sciences, Senior Researcher at the Research Institute of Military History  
of the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces

The summer of 2023 marked the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Kursk, a large-scale operation in which more than two million people, thousands of tanks and aircraft, tens of thousands of guns and self-propelled guns took part on the part of the USSR and Germany. As a result of exhausting battles that lasted 50 days, from July 5 to August 23, not only was determined the winner of the summer campaign of 1943, which was the Red Army, but a radical turning point in the entire war took place: the Germans finally lost the strategic initiative, while our soldiers showed themselves capable of beating the Nazis not only in winter, and by the end of that year they liberated Bryansk, Smolensk, Donbass and the entire left-bank Ukraine, including Kyiv.

In a war, the Latin principle “praemonitus, praemunitus” (forewarned is forearmed) is more relevant than ever. The outcome of the battle directly depends on the thoroughness of preparation for the upcoming battle, therefore, since ancient times, each of the warring parties has sought to find out in advance the enemy’s plans by sending spies.

Over the past centuries, little has changed in this regard: this was the case during the Great Patriotic War, and this is what is happening now in the Special Military Operation zone, where the role of intelligence can hardly be overestimated. Meanwhile, intelligence officers tend to remain in the shadows, and their work is not visible to the uninitiated, although in terms of the scale of the forces and means involved, many intelligence operations are quite comparable to front-line ones. That is why it is very valuable to analyze successful experience and show the most important role of our intelligence officers, and to do this based on declassified archival documents. This is exactly what our story about the Battle of Kursk will be.

First, a few words about the situation in the German rear in the beginning of 1943. On February 2, the Battle of Stalingrad ended, and the Third Reich - for the first time during the entire war - plunged into mourning for three days. Nevertheless, from the outside it seemed that this severe defeat did not in any way affect the general mood of the soldiers and officers of the Wehrmacht, as well as the entire German society. Through the efforts of Dr. Goebbels’ department, the country artificially maintained the belief in a quick “miraculous” revenge that would wash away the shame of the surrender of 90 thousand soldiers

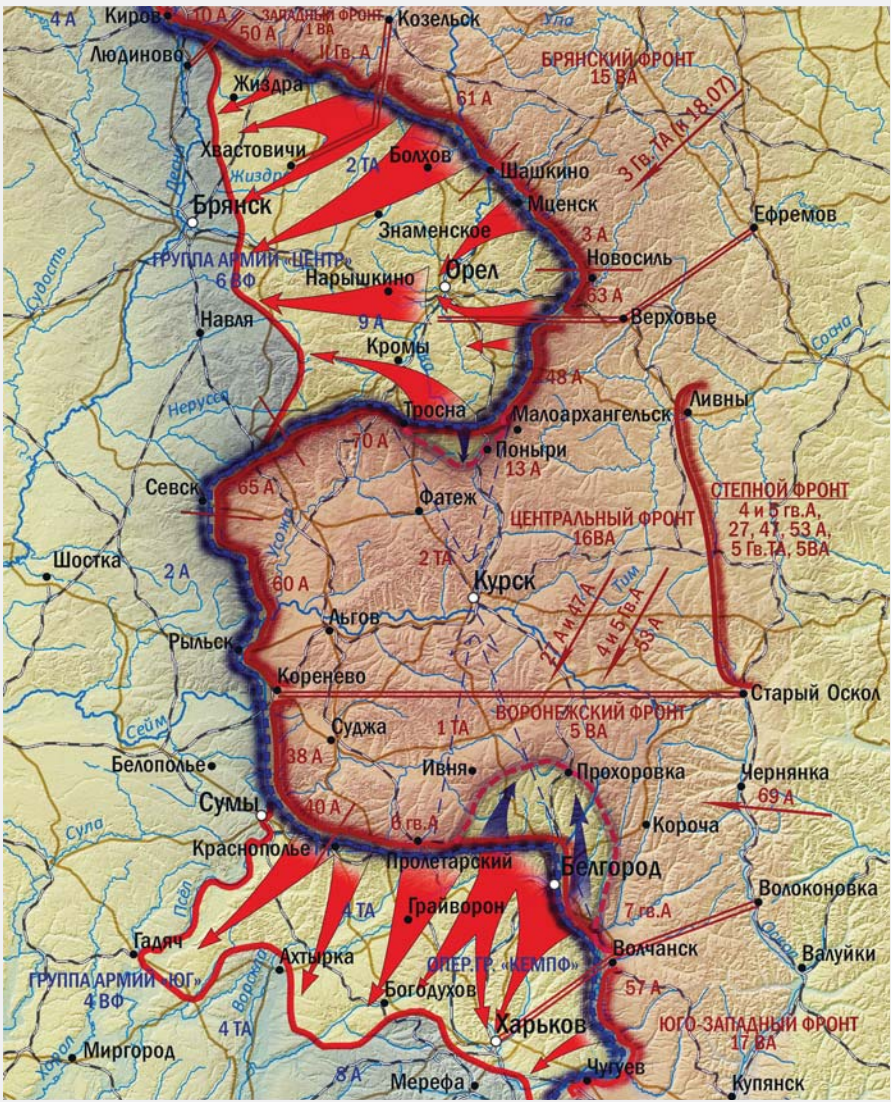
of Paulus’s army. In fact, everything was far from being like that.

Soviet foreign intelligence residencies in neutral Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and other countries regularly provided the Center with information about the real state of affairs in the Third Reich and in the countries allied with Hitler. In particular, reliable agents reported that, against the backdrop of military failures, the people of Germany began to lose faith in victory, experiencing either bouts of nervousness and fear, or distrust of their own propaganda. At the same time, the understanding that there was no way out and that it was necessary to fight to the end was present among the people, although the mood in the rear was much more passive than at the front. There, on the front line, everything was different: despite the cold, poor nutrition and heavy losses, the fear of the inevitable catastrophe and the expected revenge of Soviet soldiers

for all the crimes committed in the occupied territories had a strong sobering effect on the personnel of the Wehrmacht units, supporting in them a proper level of discipline and combat effectiveness.

At the end of December 1942, from the residency of the 1st Directorate of the NKVD of the USSR in London, the Center received information about the plans of the German General Staff for the coming months. In the coded telegram, in particular, it was noted that the Germans in the upcoming battles expected large losses in personnel and equipment, as well as the loss of part of the previously occupied Soviet territories. At the same time, the Nazis’ winter plans did not include any offensive operations; all forces were supposed to be directed toward containing the Red Army. The previously prepared offensive in the Leningrad area was canceled due to the difficult situation that developed on the Western and Southern fronts,





	The front line at the beginning of German forces' offensive (July 5)		The front line by July 12 (in Voronezh and Steppe front – by July 15)
	The direction of the adversary's planned strikes		The direction of the Soviet strikes
	The direction of the adversary's strikes		The front line by August 18-23
			Boundary lines between fronts

where reserves intended for Army Group North were transferred.

The plan for a powerful offensive codenamed Unternehmen Zitadelle (Operation Citadel), had been developed by the German command in an atmosphere of heightened secrecy since March 1943. The Wehrmacht chose the Kursk ledge

for this, which was formed during the winter-spring advance of Soviet units and went deeply into the disposition of the Nazis. The main blows were supposed to be delivered: the first - from the area south of Orel by the forces of Army Group Center under the command of Field Marshal G. Kluge, the second - from the area north of Kharkov

by the forces of Army Group South under the command of Field Marshal E. Manstein. The direction of both attacks of German troops was towards Kursk. After the defeat of large Soviet units, it was planned to make a rush to the Caucasus to take control of the oil-bearing regions: an acute shortage of fuel in the Third Reich had been felt for a long time.

The German command had no doubt about success. The most combat-ready troops were transferred from the Western Front to the Eastern Front. The military industry of Germany and its satellites, working 24/7, produced new heavy "Tiger" and "Panther" tanks with reinforced armor and Ferdinand self-propelled guns, armed with powerful 88-mm cannons. The German Air Force began to receive the latest Focke-Wulf-190-A and Heinkel-129 aircraft. The department of Dr. Goebbels did its best to raise the morale of the troops, promising unconditional victory.

Some of the preparatory work was completed by the end of April, but due to problems in other sectors of the front, the start date for Operation Citadel was repeatedly postponed. The lack of human resources also had an impact, since Hitler was unable to find new allies. Even the pretentious tank maneuvers held in Ukraine at the beginning of 1943 did not help: the Turkish generals, on whom Hitler intended to rely, were not inspired by the training of the SS units.

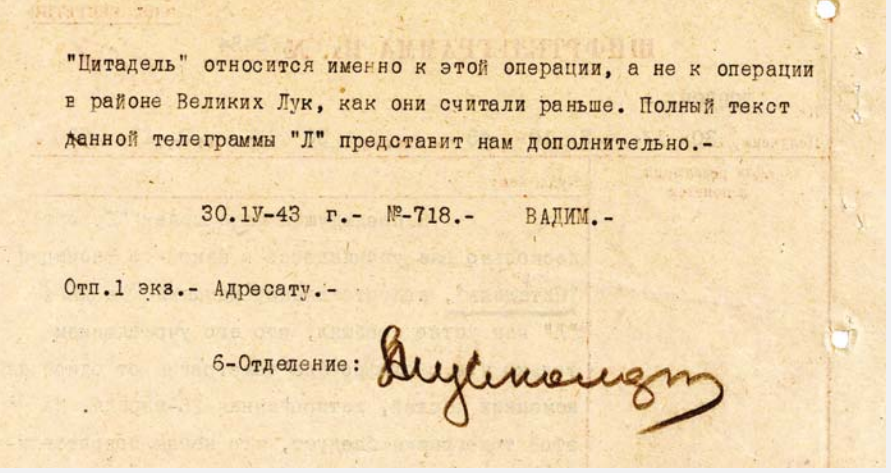
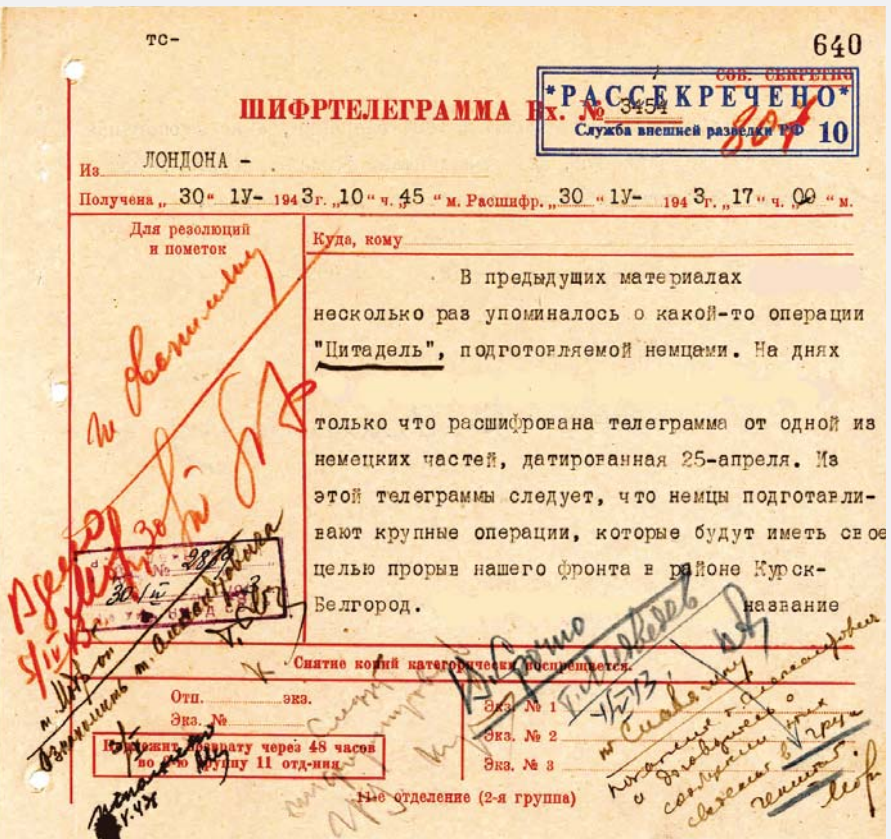
Meanwhile, Moscow already knew about the Nazis' preparations for Operation "Citadel". The first reports of this came in April 1943 from London, where the British, who captured the German encryption machine "Enigma", managed to gain access to Wehrmacht radiograms. Actually, it would be naive to believe

The code telegram from London.  
April 30, 1943

that Britain, as a member of the anti-Hitler coalition, readily shared intercepted data with its ally, the USSR. In fact, the exchange was miserable, and Moscow received the lion's share of information through its sources.

The chief one among them was, no doubt, John Cairncross (operational pseudonym "Molière"), a member of the famous "Cambridge Five", who had voluntarily collaborated with the Soviet foreign intelligence since 1937. Cairncross, who knew German well and was good at mathematics, from the beginning of the war had been working in the British deciphering service at Bletchley Park, regularly transmitting intercepted Nazi messages to Moscow through the London station. A significant amount of information about the Wehrmacht's plans also came from other members of the Five - Kim Philby («Stanley») and Anthony Blunt («Tony»), who worked in British intelligence and counterintelligence respectively during the war.

From November 1940 to January 1944, the foreign intelligence station chief in London was Anatoly Veniaminovich Gorsky (pseudonym "Vadim"). It was he who was in touch with the "Cambridge Five", as well as a number of other Soviet agents (18 people in total). Due to the fact that in the initial period of the war, when intelligence work in Germany was paralyzed and in other countries had not yet been properly established, the entire burden of obtaining military and military-political information about the Third Reich fell on the London station. In total, during the war



years, our intelligence officers in London managed to obtain and send to the Center over 10 thousand documentary materials, which were taken into account by the authorities of the USSR when making political decisions.

It should be noted that though as early as April 28, 1943, due to the

secrecy measures taken by the Nazis, the area of concentration of the main forces and the direction of the main attack were not completely known (see document 1), by April 30 these issues became clear, about which "Vadim" immediately informed the Center (see sidebar). No less significant were the Wehrmacht encryption

messages passed to Moscow, from which it followed that Hitler's headquarters knew the exact location of the units and the number of Red Army reserves that could be used by the Soviet command for a counterattack on the Kursk salient. Thus, in a telegram dated May 5, 1943, German assessments of the progress of the upcoming military operations were given, as follows from a report to the operational command signed by Field Marshal von Weichs from Army Group South ([see document 2](#)). In particular it was noted: "...The

*main concentration of enemy forces (the Red Army. - Author's note), which apparently was some time ago on the northern flank of the army group of the south, in the main area of future operations Kursk - Sudzha - Volchansk - Ostrogozhsk, can now be clearly defined... At present it is difficult to predict whether or not the enemy will try to avoid the threat of encirclement by retreating to the east, which will follow the breakthrough of the main sectors on the Kursk-Belgorod-Maloarkhangelsk front line... Even in this case it is impossible to*

*assume that the enemy could be able to prevent our implementation of the "Citadel" plan..."*

Having received this and other foreign intelligence reports, the Headquarters of the Supreme High Command instructed the General Staff to double-check them through the operational capabilities of the army and front-line military intelligence agencies and intelligence branches. After their confirmation, the units of the Central and Voronezh fronts located on the Kursk salient were given the order to carry out a secret redeployment. At the same time, intelligence continued to inform Headquarters about significant events in the German rear, including the deployment of new German units to the Kursk area, the strengthening of the Wehrmacht group in the Orel area, and Hitler's departure to Ukraine to complete preparations for the summer offensive (*these and other archival materials are available on the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service website in the "Declassified Documents" section*).

An important role in the successful outcome of the Battle of Kursk was also played by the full tactical and technical characteristics of the latest German aircraft and armored vehicles, including the "Tiger" and "Panther" tanks, which were obtained by foreign intelligence, with help of the same Cairncross. These data greatly facilitated the task of Soviet artillerymen, armor-piercers, pilots and sappers. Thus, the practically impenetrable from the front German "Tigers" could be quite well hit from above by cumulative air bombs dropped on them, as well as from the sides and below, where their armor was much weaker. And immediately before the battle itself, the same "Molière" reported the exact coordinates of



17 German front-line airfields. After double-checking this data, strikes were carried out on the targets, as a result of which about 500 Luftwaffe aircraft were destroyed.

It should be noted that in addition to foreign residencies, other units of the NKGB of the USSR were actively working on the "Citadel", primarily the 4th (behind-the-front) Directorate, headed by P.A. Sudoplatov. Through his line, the Center received valuable information from the legendary Soviet intelligence officer Nikolai Ivanovich Kuznetsov, who was sent behind German lines with documents in the name of Paul Siebert. In addition, from the agent "Saint" (D.Z. Shinkarenko), who arrived on May 15, 1943 in the partisan brigade "Razgrom", the names and surnames of 140 Abwehr

agents operating in the Soviet rear, and identification data for another 90 cadets of intelligence schools, preparing to be deployed to the USSR at the height of the offensive, were received.

Of course, military intelligence also played an important role in the preparation for the Battle of Kursk. Thus, valuable information on the "Citadel" came from GRU resident in Switzerland Sandor Rado, GRU resident in England Ivan Sklyarov, from GRU residencies in the USA, Bulgaria, Sweden and other countries. It is enough to say that it was the military intelligence officers who named the exact date of the start of the German offensive: 3 o'clock in the morning on July 5, which allowed us to get ahead of the enemy and, unexpectedly for him, carry out

counter-artillery preparation at 2 o'clock and 20 minutes.

Summarizing the overall contribution of the Soviet intelligence to the defeat of the Nazis near Kursk, where 30 select German divisions remained buried, without exaggeration, it can be said that it was enormous: thanks to its efforts, it was possible to reveal in advance the strategic plans of the enemy, including the directions of the main attacks, prepared traps and provocations, to obtain accurate information about German weapons, to act in advance with air forces and artillery... Ultimately, all this helped save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers and significantly accelerated the approach of the victorious May 1945! 🇷🇺



More documents  
on the website of  
the Russian Foreign  
Intelligence Service

591  
СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

**ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА № 3381**  
**СЛУЖБА ВНЕШНЕЙ РАЗВЕДКИ РСФСР**  
**10**

Из ЛОНДОНА

Получена „ 28 “ 4 1943 г. „ 12 “ 455 “ м. Расшифр. „ 28 “ 4 1943 г. „ 22 “ ч. „ 00 “ м.

Для резолюций  
и пометок

Куда, кому

Передаю содержание телеграммы оперативного  
отдела штаба главного командования германских  
военно-воздушных сил от 19:

1. В дополнение к авиасилам, предназначенным для  
использования командованием германских воздушных  
сил востока, необходимым для проведения операции  
"ЦИТАДЕЛЬ", командование 4-го воздушного флота обя-  
зательно передать в распоряжение командования гер-  
манских воздушных сил востока 104-ю роту аэродром-  
ной службы, включая весь ее автотранспорт и обору-  
дование.

2. Поскольку 104 рота аэродромной службы необхо-  
дима в настоящее время 4-му воздушному флоту, коман-  
дованию этим флотом предписывается немедленно 3-ю  
роту аэродромной службы 51-ой бомбардировочной эс-  
кадры перебросить по железной дороге в распоряже-  
ние командования германских военно-воздушных сил  
востока. Место назначения для обеих перебрасыва-  
емых рот должно быть указано командование 4-го  
воздушного флота командованием германских военно-  
воздушных сил востока.

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается

Отп. \_\_\_\_\_ экз.  
Экз. № \_\_\_\_\_

Экз. № 1  
Экз. № 2  
Экз. № 3

Подлежит возврату через 48 часов  
в 13-е отделение

13-е отделение

20/10/43

Document 1.  
The code telegram  
from London.  
April 28, 1943

Документ 1.

3. Генерал-квартирмейстеру предписывается обеспечить необо-  
димым транспортом.

ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ : "Уточнение истинное название, скр-  
ываемое за псевдонимом "ЦИТАДЕЛЬ", еще не установлено, следует  
иметь в виду, что в некоторых прошлых телеграммах имелась ссылка  
на ЦИТАДЕЛЬ - ВЕЛИКИЕ ЛУКИ. То же можно было заметить в телег-  
рамме от 6 января сего года. Ни один другой, кроме ВЕЛИКИХ ЛУК, город  
ни разу не упоминался, как ЦИТАДЕЛЬ в последней телеграмме,

№ 691.

Передаю содержание телеграммы 4-го воздушного флота от 16 ап-  
реля сего года: ..... / ..... 2. / 4 / 5, которые  
должны быть использованы в составе 2-го итальянского армейского  
корпуса, создали возможность использования Гомельского аэродрома,  
который не занят германскими частями. Приказ о переброске будет  
получен через итальянского воздушного атташе. Следует организовать  
и обеспечить переброску без всяких задержек."

ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ : "2-й итальянский армейский корпус до сих пор  
не упоминался.

№ 692 ВАДИМ.

Отп. 1 экз.  
Экз. № 1 - адресату.

6 Отделение

20/10/43

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April 28, 1943

[illegible]

2. -

неизвестно преследует ли эта концентрация сил наступательные или оборонительные цели. В настоящее время бронетанковые и механизированные соединения равномерно распределены по группам за линией фронта, как стратегические резервы, в предположении немецкого наступления. Пока нет никаких указаний на слияние этих групп в более крупные соединения или на появление их на линии фронта, за исключением второго бронетанкового гвардейского корпуса. Тем не менее процесс переброски или слияния может начаться очень быстро и в любой момент. Согласно информации, заслуживающей доверия, сейчас можно предполагать существование следующих групп стратегических резервов:

1. Третий и пятый гвардейские кавалерийские корпуса, расположенные к северу от Новочеркасска. Следует предполагать, что в этом же районе был полностью доукомплектован пятый гвардейский механизированный корпус.

2. Третий гвардейский механизированный корпус расположенный к северу от Ровенки.

3. Первый гвардейский бронетанковый корпус, четвертый кавалерийский корпус и возможно первый гвардейский и пятый механизированный корпуса, расположенные к северу от Ворошиловграда.

4. Четвертый и седьмой гвардейские кавкорпуса, расположенные к северу от Старобельска.

5. Первый гвардейский механизированный корпус, первый гвардейский кавкорпус и второй и 23-й бронетанковые корпуса, расположенные в районе Купянск-Сватово.

6. 5-й гвардейский, 2-й и 29 бронетанковые корпуса и 5-й гвард. механизированный корпус, находящиеся под армейским командованием /возможно/ 5 бронетанковой армии в районе Острогажска.

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7. 2-ой и 3-й гвардейские бронетанковые корпуса и 6-ой гвард.кавалерийский корпус под командованием неуставленного штаба в районе к северу от Нового ОСЮЛА. Для противодействия плана "Цитадель" противник располагает в настоящее время, приблизительно, 90 соединениями, находящимися к югу от линии Белгород-Курск-Мало-архангельск. Наступление частей армейской группы юга встретит упорное сопротивление противника в глубокой эшелонированной и хорошо подготовленной главной оборонительной зоне с многочисленными зарытыми в земле танками, сильными артиллерийскими и местными резервами. Основные усилия обороны будут сосредоточены в главном секторе Белгород-Томаровка. В дополнение следует предполагать проведение противником сильной контратаки с использованием стратегических резервов с востока и юга-востока. В настоящее время не представляется возможным предсказать попытается ли противник избежать угрозы окружения с помощью отхода на восток, следующей за прорывом основных участков на линии фронта Курск-Белгород-Малоархангельск. Если противник бросит все свои стратегические резервы на фронт армейской группы юга в бой за Курск можно предполагать их поступление в следующем порядке: На 1 и 2-й день: 2 бронетанковые дивизии и 1 кавкорпус. На 3 день: 2 механизированных и 4 бронетанковых корпусов. На 4 день: 1 бронетанковый и 1 кавкорпус. На 5 день: 3 механизированных корпуса. На 6 день: 3 кавкорпуса. На 6 или 7 день: 2 кавкорпуса. В заключении можно сказать, что события показывают скорее оборонительные, чем наступательные намерения противника и это является совершенно безошибочным в отношении секторов фронта, занимаемых 6-й армией и 1-й бронетанковой армией. В силу продвижения переброски подкрепления в район севернее фронта армейской группировки юга и начало

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продвижения стратегических резервов к линии фронта или их слияния в более крупных соединениях можно предполагать, что наступательные намерения противника станут более возможными. Даже и в этом случае невозможно предположить, что противнику удастся даже предупредить выполнение нами плана "Цитадель" в требуемых для этих условиях. С другой стороны мы должны принять, возможно, к сведению законченную подготовку противника к обороне, включая контратаку его сильно моторизованных и бронетанковых частей, проведение которых следует предполагать.

## Примечание

1. В другой копии приказа в параграфе 6. упоминается 5 бронетанковый корпус.

2. Копия совершенно ясно свидетельствует, что план "Цитадель" не имеет никакого отношения к городу Великие Луки, как это предполагалось.

5.У.43г. № 740 ВАДИМ. -

Отп. 1 экз. № 1 адр.

6 отделение:

Юшперин

34-45

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## K. G. Shakhnazarov: «The importance of intelligence today is colossal!»

Interview with the director, scriptwriter, producer, general director  
of the "Mosfilm" concern K. G. Shakhnazarov

**Karen Georgievich, let me start the conversation with quoting yourself. In a recent interview, you said that there will be no political, military or any other kind of sovereignty without cultural sovereignty. In this context, we have a question for you: are representatives of Russian culture and, in particular, Russian cinema ready to take advantage of the withdrawal of Western film distributors from our market and, within the framework of, so to speak, "cultural import substitution", to fill the vacant niche with quality products?**

This is not a question for filmmakers; first of all, this is a question for the state. Cinema is ready to shoot anything if a specific task is set. You probably think that in the Soviet Union all cultural figures were pro-Soviet. Not at all! On the contrary, many were anti-Soviet, but filmed what the country needed. Therefore, this is primarily a question of state policy in the field of culture, which, in my opinion, has not yet been formulated in Russia.

Take the special military operation, for example. This is the second year we have been conducting the SMO. The United States is supplying Kiev with cluster bombs, and we have American films on all television channels and at the cinemas. And nobody

cares! In my opinion, this is the same as if we continued to watch films with the German film star Marika Röck, when we were fighting the Nazis in 1943. This is absolutely ridiculous! They (the Americans - author's note) excluded us completely: all our TV channels are closed, there are no contacts, absolutely nothing! And we watch their films as if nothing had happened. I think that the state should do something about this...

For comparison, look at what is happening in China and India. There is a very strict national policy in the field of cinema; the import of foreign films is practically closed. The Chinese, for example, allow no more than 25 foreign films to be imported each year. And they still need to be censored. The same goes for the Indians: if you buy a foreign film, you have to dub it yourself into three languages at once: English, Hindi and Tamil. So this is a big expense for film distributors. Then, again, there is strict censorship.

I would also like to point out that cinema in China is market-based, the state does not finance it in any way, and they produce there about 700 films a year. For comparison: in Russia we produce no more than 100, and all with state money. At the same time, no one really controls what exactly is being filmed...

### Karen Georgievich Shakhnazarov

Born on July 8, 1952 in Krasnodar. Descendant of Armenian princes of the Melik-Shakhnazarov family. Graduated from the directing department of Russian University of Cinematography named after S. Gerasimov (VGIK, 1975). Author of more than 30 feature films, including "We are from Jazz" (1983), "Courier" (1986), "American Daughter" (1995), "The Rider named Death" (2004), "White Tiger" (2012) and many others. Since April 1998 to the present - General Director, Chairman of the Board of the "Mosfilm" concern. People's Artist of the Russian Federation, three-time winner of the State Prize of the Russian Federation (2003, 2013, 2022).



On the set of the film  
«We are from jazz.»  
1982

I am convinced that there should be personal responsibility in cinema. Our film production system today, to put it mildly, is not perfect. In the early 1990s, we left the “Soviet” system, but never came to the “market” system. The state gives money, but, by and large, does not require any reporting from the creators, and does not influence the content and meaning of the films. Therefore, I repeat, the task of filling the domestic film market with quality products should not be the task of cultural workers, but first of all the task of officials.

We still do not understand whether we need a national culture. Personally, I believe that we need it, and there is a need for a policy in the sphere of culture, which should not be shaped by artists, everything should come “from above.” We must either go back to the Soviet modification, which, by the way, was not bad, or create a full-fledged market system, like the Chinese.

**What do you think the domestic film industry lacks most to regain the interest of the Russian audience, accustomed to Hollywood products: experienced scriptwriters, good actors or, to put it bluntly, money?**

We lack everything. But this is no reason to do nothing. First of all, a task must be set, and then resources can be increased for it. Let me remind you that in the USSR until the early 1950s there was a so-called period of low film production, when the country made no more than 10–15 films a year. Then the task was set to increase the production volume dramatically. And literally within a few years, production increased to 250 films a year. Young directors came, new film studios were built... I repeat, today we need clear tasks from the state - if you like, political will in relation to culture. Everything else will follow.

**A separate issue is children's films, which, as you rightly noted in one of your interviews, don't practically exist in our country. At the same time, sadly enough, but today's young people almost never read books, and they perceive the world around them and form their personality through visual images - movies and TV series. How to instill patriotism under these conditions?**

In general, this is a continuation of what I have already said. Child cinema is a very complicated thing. It is basically unprofitable for filmmakers: they don't take it to festivals, they don't take it to commercial distribution. It used to be the same way in the USSR, but the state set the task of making such films and created the appropriate conditions for this: they built studios, introduced privileges and incentives for those involved in children's films.

**Isn't it too late to formulate government orders for young people? Today's schoolchildren and students spend all day and night in YouTube and TikTok. How can we avoid losing this generation?**

About three years ago, being a member of the Presidential Council for Culture and the Arts, I proposed that we introduce compulsory watching of Soviet and Russian films into the

school curriculum. Select the best films and show them right from the first grade. I remember when I was eight years old, I watched “The Ballad of a Soldier” for the first time. It's not a children's film, of course, but I understood everything in it. Are today's children dumber? No. By the way, [Russian President] Vladimir Vladimirovich [Putin] supported my idea at that time, but things didn't go any further, since the Ministry of Education considered it inappropriate, they said schoolchildren are already extremely overburdened. But this takes only two hours a month! Then, by the end of school, children would have been able to see about 100 films. Good, proper films. And, I am sure, we'd have a completely different generation.

Children are very receptive and absorb all kinds of information. They just need to

be guided. Try to raise children without pointing them to anything or forcing them to do anything! What they will be, what they will do? And cinema, by the way, has the greatest influence on children. We adults do not react to it that much. Everything that is essential in us, that makes our character: behavioral and communication patterns, life guidelines - is a result of what we saw or read in childhood.

Show your children the right movies with the right characters - they will definitely remember them. Yes, they will still be on YouTube and TikTok, but they will have a completely different perception of what they see.

**Let's get back to the movies. This year we are celebrating the anniversaries of several films about intelligence: “Seventeen**

On the set of the film  
«White Tiger». 2011



« It is a great privilege to be a citizen of the Russian Federation, a country that is changing the world.



On the set of the film  
"Khitrovka."  
The sign of four.» 2022

**Moments of Spring..." by T.M. Lioznova, "Shield and Sword" by V.P. Basov, which was shot at "Mosfilm". In recent years, such bright and exciting films have hardly been made. What do you think is the reason for this and how relevant is the topic of intelligence now?**

In the context of the hybrid war unleashed against Russia, the role of intelligence is extremely important. I would even say that intelligence is now becoming a fundamental

element, its importance today is colossal! After all, the better informed you are, the higher your chances for victory. That's why a movie about intelligence is now necessary. Of course, a quality movie, then people will watch it. But here, too, a government order is needed. You need a good scriptwriter, a good director, quality editing, etc.

**Have you ever thought about making a film like this yourself? Are you personally interested in the subject of intelligence?**

Of course I am. But I need good, let's say, source material: a real declassified story that can be filmed with a high degree of authenticity. If your Service gives me such material, I will definitely make a film based on it.

After all, how did I, for example, become the producer of the 2018 film "Decision: Liquidation"? I was sitting next to [FSB director] Alexander Vasilyevich Bortnikov at

« Cinema has the greatest influence on children. Everything that is essential in us, that makes our character is a result of what we saw or read in childhood.



On the set of the film  
«White Tiger». 2011

an event, and he asked me why I didn't make films about counterintelligence. I told him: "Give me real stories, I'll film them". Some time later they sent me four stories to choose from, one of them was about the successful operation to eliminate the Chechen terrorist leader Shamil Basayev. I found it interesting and asked for additional materials. They gave me a chance to familiarize with them and offered to take that very agent who had worked on Basayev's case as a consultant for the filming. His name is Bazgaev in our film but this is practically the only discrepancy with the real facts. We even filmed the final scene with the explosion exactly where Basayev was actually liquidated!

All in all, it was a great experience! Now "Decision: Liquidation" is one of the "Mosfilm"'s most popular films with over 30 million views on the Internet in two years.

**A significant part of our magazine's audience is young people, students of**

**leading Russian universities. What would you wish to them?**

First of all, to realize that education plays a huge role in a person's life. If you want to achieve something, you must be highly educated. Moreover, this education should not be limited only to your professional activities. In my opinion, a broad-minded, versatile person will always have an advantage over others. Of course, it is necessary to read a lot, to know the classics, both Russian and foreign, and to be interested in history, science, and art. It is also necessary to understand that the Motherland is the most important thing for any person. This concept includes everything: your home, your family, your language, your worldview. It's the most important! Because without Motherland a person will quickly lose himself, his essence and lose his life guidelines. 🇷🇺

Interviewed  
by Anna Michurina

# Named after intelligence heroes Moscow schools

Text: Anna Michurina

**A year ago, on September 7, 2022, the students and teaching staff of Moscow school No. 1694 received a special status of keepers of the history and traditions of intelligence - their school was named after the legendary head of foreign intelligence Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin, who had held this post in the most difficult pre-war years and during the Great Patriotic War.**

The tradition of giving names of prominent people to public institutions and settlements has centuries-old roots. This is how our contemporaries try to immortalise their memory. But the naming of schools after heroes stands apart from this tradition. When a child studies at a school named after P. M. Fitin or another outstanding person who left a bright trace in

the history of our country, he or she sees an example of service to the country and a role model from the young age.

Over the past year, the administration of School No. 1694, with the direct participation and support of the Russian SVR, has done a tremendous amount of work in the area of

patriotic education in the field of history and, in particular, intelligence history. A large number of thematic events were organized: creative projects, open lessons, and meetings with intelligence veterans. The creative competition «My Hero - Pavel Fitin», as part of the «Heroes of the Invisible Front» project, took a special place among them.

This initiative of the Foreign Intelligence Service provided Moscow schoolchildren with access to declassified archive documents and videos about outstanding spies, that allowed children not only to learn more about the history of our Motherland, but also to get acquainted with the people who had created this history. P. M. Fitin, A.N. Botyan, P. A. Sudoplatov, J. Blake, K.I. Philby, the Vartanyan couple and other heroes of the invisible front prompted the children to think about how a person made a difficult moral choice, what he was willing to sacrifice and what he would never betray, how he made a fateful decision that changed the whole course of life. The head of the Department of Education and Science of Moscow, A. B. Molotkov, noted that such a format of education, when children revealed some pages of history to other children, was very trustworthy and valuable, and, therefore, relevant and demanded.

A year ago also, school No. 2070, which bears the name of another outstanding intelligence officer - Gevork Andreevich Vartanyan, unveiled a monument and a school museum dedicated to the life, the labor activity and the heroic glory of the Vartanyan spouses. During the year many excursions were held in the museum for preschoolers, schoolchildren and their parents. The children had the opportunity to have a close look at the life and service of the Vartanyan couple, to feel the spirit of patriotism and the respect for the profession of intelligence officer. Today, the museum collection includes more than 90 unique exhibits related to the life and professional activities of Gevork Vartanyan and Gohar Levonovna - their clothes, military awards, photographs and personal belongings.

On an excursion to the museum of G. A. Vartanyan in school № 2070

## Hello, land of heroes, land of dreamers, land of scientists!

Each society reproduces itself and ensures its development by educating children, preserving culture and the system of values inherent in this society. Today the education, upbringing and development of our children are more important than ever. Let us remember the saying attributed to Otto von Bismarck: «Wars are not won by generals, wars are won by school teachers and parish priests». And although this quote refers to a real war, which is especially relevant now, it should be interpreted in a much broader sense. War as a struggle for minds, for the future, for the preservation of families, country, culture, values.

Knowledge and understanding of one's culture, the ability to think, to analyze what is going on, the ability to recognize the true motives of certain actions and events are inextricably linked to the knowledge of the history. It is not a mechanical knowledge that reproduces events and dates, but the knowledge of the history of the spiritual development of the country and the world, the history of people's quests and their moral choices.

The children's essays on the theme «My Hero Pavel Fitin» illustrate the steps in the direction of awareness of their place in life through reflection and an attempt to imagine what choices this outstanding intelligence officer faced in his life. We sincerely want the generation of our students to be a generation of intelligent, developed, thinking people who put human values above all else.

Nikolay Andreyevich Mansurov,  
Director of School «Yasenevo» named after P. M. Fitin



«Pavel Fitin's contribution to the annals of our Fatherland's victories is great. He is a worthy example to follow. The best human qualities should be developed to achieve a similar success: kindness, honesty, willpower, wisdom, ingenuity, and the most important thing - to be a patriot, to love sincerely your country and the people who live there».

Veronika Volkova, Grade 8 «A», School No. 1694, Moscow

«Many years have passed, views on many events are changing, new technologies are coming, but courage, decency, nobility, desire to help the weak, love for the mother, for the family, for the Motherland at all times remain the main features of a heroic person. Each of us can be a similar person, it is necessary just to live honestly, to be kind and brave, to be responsible for one's work and not to be indifferent to other people's misfortune and the fate of one's country. Heroes are made, not born!»

Sofya Miroshkina, Grade 8 «K», School No. 1694, Moscow

Also, school No. 2070 regularly holds various events that allow students to learn more about the biography of the intelligence officers: laying flowers in front of the monument to G.

A. Vartanyan, watching documentaries, class hours and quizzes dedicated to the life of the heroes.

A number of events were also held in another museum dedicated to the history of intelligence - in Moscow school No. 463, named after the intelligence officer, partisan Hero of the Soviet Union Dmitry Nikolaevich Medvedev, whose 125th anniversary was celebrated on August 22. The celebration took place on the basis of the school museum of the military glory of the partisan detachments "Mitya" and "Pobediteli" under the command of D. N. Medvedev. The museum has been the center of civil-patriotic work at the school for more than 50 years. This is a place where teachers, students and their parents work together to preserve historical memory. School No. 463 has created a system of civic and patriotic education that involves all students: from first to senior grades. The museum exposition is constantly replenished thanks to expeditions to the places of partisan battles. The museum carries out constant research and exploration work, it regularly



holds thematic lessons and meetings with family members of the Medvedev partisans.

Important events in terms of military-patriotic education also took place at School No. 285, which bears the name of Vladimir Aleksandrovich Molodtsov, a scout, partisan and Hero of the Soviet Union, who headed a reconnaissance and sabotage detachment in German-occupied Odessa. A «Desk of Hero» was opened in one of the classrooms of the school, which tells about Molodtsov's exploits in an interactive mode. And towards the birthday of the scout, in the framework of the project «Faces of Heroes», a portrait of the hero in graffiti technique was installed on the territory of the school. It is necessary to note that the museum of V. A. Molodtsov has existed in school No. 285 for about 60 years. The students and teachers actively develop and expand the museum, and also organize excursions, thematic lessons and meetings with veterans. The active members of the museum maintain a close relationship with the scout's family and regularly replenish the exposition.

The staffs of the schools named after Soviet intelligence officers realize a great and very important mission to preserve historical memory for future generations. They are all guided by common goals - to develop children's interest in a deep study of the history and culture of their family and country, to form high moral and ethical qualities, and to instill love for Russia - the country of heroes. ▮

The Museum of D.N. Medvedev at school No. 463



The «Desk of the Hero» at school № 285 named after V.A. Molodtsov

«The creation of such school museums dedicated to the history of the Great Patriotic War is highly in demand from the point of view of the patriotic education of Russian youth. It is extremely important to keep the memory of those days, of the great Victory, especially now, when there are such active attempts to falsify history, to twist the results of the Second World War, to downplay the role of the Soviet Union in the victory over fascism and to steal the Victory from us. This cannot be allowed».

Retired Lieutenant General M.V. Pogudin,  
Chairman of the Russian SVR Veterans Council



Text: Alexandra Smolnaya

## «The Invisible Front» in Belarus

**In July 2023, a delegation from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service visited the Republic of Belarus with the portrait exhibition “The Invisible Front: foreign Intelligence during the Great Patriotic War.”**

A request for this trip was sent to the director of the Service S.E. Naryshkin by the authorities of the small Belarusian town of Verkhnedvinsk. During the Great Patriotic War every second resident died and the pre-war population of the Verkhnedvinsk region (about 20 thousand people) has not yet been restored. Everything related to this difficult period is perceived with particular sensitivity in Verkhnedvinsk, and patriotic

At the exhibition in Verkhnedvinsk.  
July 3, 2023



Director of the Vitebsk Regional local history museum T.A. Starinskaya and representatives of the Service M.V. Pogudin and B.N. Voronov

traditions are very strong here. This place is also connected with the heroic past of the Foreign Intelligence: Verkhnedvinsk is the hometown of the Hero of the Soviet Union, the outstanding Soviet intelligence officer Nadezhda Viktorovna Troyan.

“The Invisible Front” was deployed on the eve of Belarus’ national holiday, which is celebrated on July 3, the day Minsk was liberated from the Nazi invaders. V.N. Shilov, the head of the Verkhnedvinsk district executive committee, noted that the exhibition was a real gift for all residents and guests of the city. Indeed, during the three days the exposition was visited by numerous groups from enterprises, municipal structures and youth organizations. Among the guests were Russian delegations from Kingisepp, Sebezh, Volokolamsk and Uzlovaya, who came to Verkhnedvinsk to participate in the meeting on the Mound of Friendship.

The Mound of Friendship is located at the junction of three states: Belarus, Latvia and Russia. Since 1959, people pay tribute to the joint effort of the Russians, the Belarusians and the Letts, who fought shoulder to shoulder against the “brown plague” there. In recent years, the Baltic republic has stopped taking part in the meeting and even dismantled the bridge across the border Singukha River to isolate itself from its neighbors with a barbed-wire fence. Nevertheless, even in such conditions, a record 8 thousand people gathered on



the Mound this year to exchange symbols of good neighborliness and friendship between peoples.

“The Invisible Front” exhibition was also taken to the regional center, the city of Vitebsk, where it was deployed on the site of the local history museum in the City Hall.



Deputy Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee of the Vitebsk Region A.K. Linevich

Vitebsk is a city with rich cultural traditions (Marc Chagall was born here), so the exposition, which tells the history of intelligence through artistic images, predictably aroused interest. The Chairman of the Council of Veterans of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia M.V. Pogudin and Honored Service Officer B.N. Voronov made speech at the opening with the participation of the Deputy Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee of the Vitebsk Region A.K. Linevich.

Stories from the lives of the heroes of the invisible front became a real discovery for some visitors. Many left the museum with words of joyful surprise: “It’s like going to the cinema!” Someone was already familiar with the history of intelligence, but did not think that it could be told in the language of painting: “The way the artist managed to convey the character in a portrait is amazing! Such eyes! They look straight into your soul!” The exhibition made a strong impression on both young and older visitors. Perhaps this was the main goal: to stretch the thread of living history from the past to the future. 🚩

# A Mission to Paris

Text: W. G. Fisher (R. I. Abel), Soviet deep-cover intelligence officer  
Drawings: Sergei Dorozhenko

## 1. Foreign Department of the OGPU. Bolshaya Lubyanka, 2. Moscow

- Max, - said the chief, turning to his subordinate, - here is a report from Berlin: "According to the information received from "Georges", in Paris, a group of terrorists is being prepared to be sent to the Soviet Union, with the task of committing a series of terrorist attacks and releasing arrested counterrevolutionaries who are in Lubyanka». It is reported that one of the members of this group is Ivan Vasilyevich Kraskov. According to the card index, - the chief took a small card in his hands, - he is a former army officer under the command of General Miller, Kutepov's deputy in the ROVS<sup>1</sup>. Currently lives in Paris. Poor, works as a gatekeeper in a small bistro in Montmartre. Married, no children. Residence not established. Our task is to clarify the group's plans. You are in charge of this mission.

- Not much, and Paris knows nothing about Kraskov? - asked Max.

- Nothing at all, - replied the chief. - They are busy with other things now. We will take you to Hamburg, and from there you'll have to go on your own. But you are used to that. Take the money from the accountant.

After receiving the money, Max got ready to leave.

## 2. A few days later. Empire Restaurant. Paris

In Hamburg, Max got the necessary papers and went to Paris. He was given a safe apartment and advised to stay away from the police. The owner of the apartment was a Russian Jew from Vitebsk who had settled in Paris before the Revolution. He married a Frenchwoman, got bogged down in family and commercial affairs, but began to sympathize with the Bolsheviks and the Revolution, and eventually agreed to cooperate with the Soviet intelligence. He provided Max with a place to stay, stored his belongings, and was a "mailbox." He kept aloof from the White émigrés in Paris. Russian ladies went to his shop and shared all sorts of gossip. Chernik (that was the owner's name) knew nothing about Kraskov, but he had heard about his wife. She came from the family of a village priest, was very poor and suffered much from her husband.

Max decided to start looking for Kraskov himself. He asked Chernik if he knew where the poorer people of the White emigrants met. Chernik told him about the Empire restaurant.



From the parcel that he had received from the head of the illegal station in Hamburg, Max took a gold tsarist ten-ruble note and several pearls on a string. Before entering the Empire, Max walked along the narrow, steep streets, looking around this poor neighborhood. He was not dressed richly, nor was he wearing new clothes, so that an outsider might have thought that he had lived better in the old days.

The Empire was noisy, and Russian speech could be heard everywhere. The drunker ones recounted their exploits during the Civil War, while others, the sober ones, talked about where to find a job and all sorts of nonsense. Standing at the counter with a glass of wine, Max looked around the audience. At one table sat a man in a shabby jacket. In front of him he had a half-empty shotglass of vodka, which he occasionally touched. After studying him carefully,

Max decided that this man would willingly share information about those present. Max approached the table and asked in French for permission to sit down.

- Please, - the man muttered.

- Russian? - asked Max.

The man remained silent.

- Cheers! — Max tried to start a conversation again and raised his glass.

- I don't want to waste my last shotglass with a passerby, - the Russian grumbled.

- But this is fixable, - Max said cheerfully and asked the waiter for another shot for himself and the stranger. After this, the stranger drank off his glass and grabbed the second one, put by the waiter.

<sup>1</sup> The Russian All-Military Union – a White émigré military organization that united the remnants of the defeated White armies. Was founded in September 1924 by baron Wrangel. After his death in January 1929, the ROVS was headed by General Kutepov.



Max decided to keep quiet. Let him start on his own. The stranger sat silently for several minutes, holding a shot in his hand. Suddenly the man stood up from his chair, bowed to Max and said:

- Let me introduce myself. Captain of the Semenovskiy Regiment Kraskov Ivan Vasilyevich.

"That's a fine kettle of fish!" - Max was surprised and, without wasting time, introduced himself:

- Alexander Dmitrievich Rozhalsky, a merchant.

Max was ready to jump for joy. He immediately met the person he needed! Kraskov raised his shotglass and clinked it with Max's.

Kraskov had his own worries. He was entrusted with a responsible task. He was

given some money and was provided with the right connections. Everything seemed to go smoothly. The group was founded on Kutepov's instructions and was supposed to be provided with foreign currency, good money was promised if the task was completed. But disaster happened. The smugglers who were to take them across the border failed. Time goes by, the money given in advance is running out, and you can't give up what you have started: up to the eyes in debt, without any more hope. So there's no way out...

Kraskov examined Max. The suit was not new, but good, the shirt was clean, the worn-out collar indicated a long service life. Meanwhile, Max took a small pearl out of his vest pocket and twirled it between his fingers.

- Tell me, Ivan Vasilyevich, - he turned to Kraskov, - I'm passing through Paris and I don't have any friends here. Do you know anyone

who is interested in this kind of toys? - and showed him the pearl.

Kraskov covered the white ball with his hand.

- Monsieur, - he replied, - this is really your first time in Paris, otherwise you wouldn't show such things to the first person you meet!

- Oh, don't worry! - Max answered. - It's not real, it's fake.

After a short pause, Kraskov asked:

- Tell me, Alexander Dmitrievich, do you have a lot of such trinkets?

- I don't have many of them at the moment, but I can get more. Listen... Hey, waiter, another round, please. Listen, Ivan Vasilyevich, if you put me in touch with someone who is interested in such things, I'll give you 10 percent of the proceeds.

- You trust people very quickly, - said Kraskov.

- What do I risk? - Max answered. - You are a captain, but you live poorly. You cannot hide it. Well, try to steal from me - it won't work. I'll tell you right away to keep you from doing it. Yes, it's more profitable for you to agree to a 10 percent commission than to try to sell fake pearls, for which you won't even get a shot of vodka. What do I risk?

- Let's go! - said Kraskov.

- Oh no, - Max replied. - Bring your friend, or whoever he is to you, here. Though, wait, you go after him, and I'll be waiting for you at the Boule d'Argent, around the corner. How long will it take before you get back?

- All right, Alexander Dmitrievich, have it your way. It won't take more than half an hour.

Soon after Kraskov left, Max went out of the pub and headed for the Boule d'Argent. As he turned the corner, a man ran into him, but Max had expected such a turn of events, and he deftly tripped the man, knocking him to the ground, grabbed his arm and twisted it behind his back.

- Ivan Vasilyevich, have you decided to try your luck after all?

- Let me go, Alexander Dmitrievich, I was joking, - he replied.

Max twisted the arm of the lying man with a strong movement, the man screamed in pain. Releasing his hand, Max seized Kraskov by the scruff of the neck and lifted him to his feet.

- Look here, - said Max, - joking apart, but you were within a hairbreadth of death. I'm not joking. Go after your merchant.

Kraskov stood there for a minute, thinking.

- Forgive me, - he said finally. - I'll bring you the man. I apologize once again. We lead a dog's life.

He turned and walked away. Max was sitting at a table having dinner when Kraskov entered with a stranger, a well-dressed man. Max invited them to the table and offered them some wine. They sat down, and the stranger immediately began to speak:

- Show me your goods, monsieur. I don't need to know your last name, just as you don't need to know mine.

Max took out his pearl. The stranger held it in his arm, took a small magnifying glass out of his pocket, carefully examined the pearl, put it to his teeth, looked through the magnifying glass again and said:

- For one such thing I will give you fifteen gold pieces. And for a selected string I'll give much more.

Max took his string out and handed it to the stranger. The latter sighed quickly and began to carefully examine the pearls.

- Hmm, - he finally muttered. - The string is good. I'll give you two hundred for the whole.

- My dear, - Max answered. - There are twelve of them here, matched one to one, and you say two hundred. No less than five hundred.

- Two hundred and fifty, - answered the stranger. — I have a client, an American, rich and romantic.

- So you tell her, - Max answered, - that they were brought from Russia three weeks ago, that they belonged to a famous princess. And that her faithful servant, risking his life, carried them across four borders, crawling on all fours, under bullets, to sell them. And put the price at a thousand dollars — five hundred are mine. And, dear, I need the money now. Do you take it or not?

- I'll take it, just wait about half an hour. I have to get the money.

- All right, but not a minute more.

The stranger got up quickly and ran away.

Ivan Vasilyevich looked at Max with a smile.

- I see that you don't like to waste time. - He said, - I still don't understand how you duped

this merchant. He swallowed everything, agreed to everything and didn't even say a word.

- It is all about the strength of one's inner conviction in his rightness, - replied Max. - But I must say that a thousand dollars is not the full price of this string. Do you think I don't know that? I convinced you that the pearls were fake. But I convinced him that it was real. The power of persuasion, my friend! And the thirst for profit!

Less than half an hour later, the merchant returned and placed fifty gold ten-dollar coins in front of Max. Max screwed up his face, saying that his pockets couldn't hold such a weight, but he took it anyway. He handed the string of pearls to the stranger.

- There will be more. Give me the address, - said Max.

- It's a pleasure to do business with you. You know a lot about such things. Let

me introduce myself: Jacobson Meyer Abramovich. You'll find the address in the phone book.

Having waited till he left, Max handed Kraskov five gold coins. - Your commission.

- Thank you, thank you sincerely, - Kraskov replied. - What else can I do for you?

- Wait for me here, - Max answered. - I'll be back soon.

On the street he saw Jacobson.

- I'll go up to the opera with you, - said Max. - Do you mind?

- Not at all! With pleasure, - Jacobson replied.

In the taxi, Max asked him what he knew about Kraskov. It turned out that Kraskov was dissolute, had been on trial for robbery in Paris, and didn't have a permanent job.

- Beware of this man, - Jacobson said. - He is capable of anything. His poor wife... A lovely person. He lives not far from the Empire restaurant. He is useful to me, but I don't trust him with anything.

After arriving at the opera, Max got off, took the metro and went to the Arc de Triomphe. One stop before the arch, a contact sat down next to him.

- First of all, take this money from me, - Max said to the contact, - it's tearing up my pockets. I got this for the pearls. Tell that I have found Kraskov and today I'll meet him again, as soon as we part. That's all for now. I plan to stay the night at his place and meet his wife. See you the day after tomorrow on the stretch from the Palais-Royal d' Ivry at ten o'clock in the morning. Sorry I'm in a hurry.

Stepping outside, Max called a taxi and returned to the restaurant. As he thought, Kraskov was sitting at the table with a flushed face. In front of him there was a half-empty bottle.

- Alexander Dmitrievich, let's go to my place, - Kraskov said to him. - You are welcome, even though it is cramped and poor.

### 3. An hour later. Kraskov's apartment. Paris

Kraskov's apartment was not far away. They went up the creaky stairs for a very long time, all the way to the very top. The apartment was small, two rooms and a kitchen, the couple lived poorly. The hostess turned out to be a young woman, short, sweet and well-groomed, with thick long light hair. She looked warily at her husband and his guest.

- Please come in, - she said.

- Agafya, meet Alexander Dmitrievich - Agafya Iraklievna. Alexander Dmitrievich will spend the night with us.

He led the guest into the living room. A large iconostasis was placed in the corner, a lamp was burning. Kraskov crossed himself. Max followed his example.

Kraskov sat down at the table and pointed to Max the chair next to it.

- Tell me, Alexander Dmitrievich, is it true that these pearls have been brought to you recently? - he asked. - Don't get me wrong. I need to get in contact with some smugglers for one business. Would you be able to put me in touch with someone?

- My dear, - Max answered him. - Don't misunderstand me either. I don't know you, you don't know me. We have done a little business to our mutual satisfaction. I keep my ways and connections secret. Explain to me the essence of your business, and confirm its solidity with some evidence - I can't risk people for nothing - and I'll think about it. I'll be here for another day or two. Think it over, but for now, perhaps we should rest?

The hostess made a bed for Max in the living room. For a while the owners could be heard whispering behind the wall, cursing from time to time. About an hour later, Max felt the door of the room open. In the faint glow of



the street lighting, a shadow slipped into the room.

Kraskov, silently sneaking, made his way to Max's clothes and quickly felt them with his fingers. In his jacket pocket, Max had left French money and a letter specially prepared for the occasion. The letter, without an envelope, was written in English. It said about some upcoming meeting and a handing over of a package. No details were given. Kraskov took out the letter and went to his room. The next morning Max found all his things, including the letter, in place. In the kitchen he saw Agafya alone.

- Where is Ivan Vasilyevich? - he asked.

- He has left, - answered the hostess. - Unfortunately, I have nothing but tea for breakfast.

- Don't worry. We'll fix it now.

Max put on his hat and ran downstairs. He quickly found a small shop in the neighborhood, bought some groceries and silently handed over the purchases to Agafya. She prepared breakfast and sat down at the table with the guest. Both were

silent. Finally, the hostess put the cup on the saucer and, leaning over to Max, said quickly:

- Leave quickly and don't meet my husband again. He is a mean and evil man. Don't expect any good from him!

Max looked at her carefully. She was pale, very agitated, and was breathing frequently and nervously.

- Why are you telling me this? - he asked.

- You seem kind to me, because for a long time I haven't met any of Ivan's friends who would run to the store themselves and invite me to the table. They are all evil, fierce and desperate. You are not like that.

Max thought for a moment and then began to tell her in a quiet voice:

- I'll work here, live there, as if it's both fun and easy. And it is a pleasure for me to invite you to breakfast. You are good-looking and pleasant. Is it strange?

Agafya was embarrassed and blushed. It must have been a long time since she had

been complimented, but her face became anxious again.

- Alexander Dmitrievich, - she turned to Max. - Ivan took a letter out of your pocket, wrote it down for a long time, and early in the morning ran to show it to someone.

- Thank you for your frankness, - Max grinned. - He wouldn't understand this letter without me. It's a business letter. But don't worry. I've figured out your husband. I gave him a little lesson yesterday. If necessary, I'll teach him more.

- Oh, Alexander Dmitrievich! If you only knew how hard it is for me here! The French hate us and rob us as much as they can. But why, why did we Russians become so evil? How hard it is... What are my people doing in Russia now? I haven't heard a word from my father and mother; and I'm afraid to write to them, lest I hurt them. What do they think of me? - She cried.

- Tell me, - Max said when she calmed down. - Do you know their address? Maybe I can give them a message from you... Tell me, in what city did your dad live?

- In Pskov. He was a priest there...

- I have friends in Pskov, - said Max. - Ok, give me a letter, if you want. I'll bring you some paper for it. Don't worry, I'll forward it. No one will know where it comes from or how it gets there, but the old ones will be happy. Well, write that you're here in Paris with your husband, you miss your parents and you'd like to see them and all that, you know. Think about it before you write. Thank you for breakfast and for the conversation. Goodbye for now. I'll come back to see you tonight.

In the afternoon, Max went to Chernik and asked him to transmit through a special communication line that he had found the "shark" and began to study it. The "hook" is ready, they just have to wait for the bite. Chernik looked at Max carefully.

- Dear, be careful. Kraskov is a dangerous person. Do not underestimate his abilities. I've heard terrible things about him.

- Oh! - Max suddenly remembered, - give me something for a lady - stockings or something like that. I need it badly.

Chernik gave him a pair of silk stockings. He asked money for it, apologizing: friendship apart, business apart.

- Of course, - Max agreed and paid.

When he left the house, he noticed that a man was following him for about a kilometer. As he crossed from one street to another several times, Max became convinced that someone was really following him. He ducked into a back alley and hid against a wall. The «tail» walked in after him and, rounding the corner, ran into Max. Holding a dagger pointed at the "tail's" stomach, Max asked him in Russian:

- Why are you following me? - and made a movement with the dagger, as if preparing to strike.

The "tail" retreated in fear muttering in Russian:

- I was told to keep an eye on you.

- Stand here and turn your face to the wall! Quick!

Max rapidly searched the tail's pockets.

- Who sent you? Speak quickly!

- Kraskov, - the tail mumbled.

- Then tell him, - said Max, grabbing the "tail" by the collar, - that I don't like such jokes. Get out of here! Shoo!

The "tail" scuttled off around the corner. Max headed for another exit, but didn't make it. Three tough guys came up to him and pushed him into a van before he could shout...

To be continued



# «Russia begins with a word»

Text: Lyudmila Semenova, member of the Russian Writers' Union



All tombs and skeletons will nothing tell, -  
The life's preserved in Word:  
From darkness and remains spiritual  
Old Letters can be heard.

There're no other values that don't perish  
In days of the clean breach.  
Let you at least do carefully cherish  
Our ever-living speech.

Ivan Bunin. 1915 (Vyacheslav Chistyakov's translation, 2014)

At the celebration in honor of I. A. Bunin's receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature, writer Ivan Shmelev greeted the laureate: "The people say, everything will pass, only the truth will remain. Letters are the truth. This imperishable truth is preserved by our literature, preserved by Russia... Everything is perishable, but life's preserved in Word, it is stronger than death, it creates and resurrects. And if Russia no longer existed, the Word would create it, spiritually."

For a Russian poet, a Word is a symbol of national identity and a way of preserving historical memory. In Russia, it has always had an extraordinary power of influence: a

well-chosen word managed to lead an army to victory and save cities. Words have the power to inspire, console, and heal — all the things that sometimes a soldier lacks in war. As my comrade, who fought in the Svatovo sector, said: "It's scary, dirty, uncomfortable on the front line, but when I remember my relatives, read the children's letters, I understand: everything is not in vain!"

The members of the "Wind of Victory" club, who are careful with the word, are deeply convinced that modern patriotic songs should be written not on "texts", but on good, heartfelt poems. It is precisely these poems, many of which have already

Speech by honorary member of the "Wind of Victory" club, Donetsk resident Vladimir Skobtsov, to the participants of the SMO. June 2023



been set to music and are regularly performed at concerts, including "in the trenches", that make up the collection of poetry "Let's Save and Protect!..", designed to support our soldiers in the battles for the Russian World in Donbass.

The songwriters approach the reader in confidence, share their feelings, revealing their hearts that ache for their Motherland. All of them are the heirs of those who defended the world from fascism during the Great Patriotic War. Some are still guarding the Motherland: some are serving on distant borders, others are fighting the Nazi evil spirits in the Special Military Operation (SMO) zone. Therefore, the word in their poems is not an empty phrase, it is experienced, heartfelt.

The compiler of the collection of poetry "Let's Save and Protect!.." is a poet, veteran of the Foreign Intelligence Service, organizer and longstanding leader of the club Anatoly Grigorievich Pshenichny. The book of poems begins with his selection. 📖



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



The full version of the book and audio recordings of the performers is here

## Anatoly Pshenichny

### «Save and Protect!...»

Centuries fly by like windy days,  
Leaders and figures change...  
But the commandment:  
«Save and protect...» -  
Is always honored by every man!  
And no matter how much we honor women and wine,  
Weapons are always a priority:  
Fatherland, like patronymic, is one and only,  
And only we are responsible for it!  
Although we don’t clank our blades loudly  
And we don’t end up winning every day,  
If trouble comes, we will save and protect!..  
If it leaves, we will sing and multiply!!

\*\*\*

...Everything is for sale. Forget the rest.  
Idolize only money or power...  
They are teaching us not to love our Motherland -  
The only one, consanguineous - Russia.  
First crop failure, then undershot to the stars...  
And, having dispersed its status,  
The land of failed masters  
And high-ranking lackeys is having fun.  
...But in the heart of my native country,  
Among the villages yearning for something,  
Travyanka and Klyuchevka still live  
With a priceless layer of hidden old times!  
The truisms are strict there:  
Don’t steal, don’t lie, leave a precept to son.  
People drink there too, but they pay off their debts,  
People beat there too, but they don’t shoot in the back!..  
There are fewer of these places each year  
Where, without cunning, men go to serve as soldiers,  
Where people unfeignedly cross themselves before the cross  
And they never know about bribes and kickbacks...  
But we are not there - we are on blogs, we are at the cash registers,  
And it’s not the springs that give us water, but the mud,  
But memory - umbilical cord - disturbs us not in vain  
At night by phantom pain.  
And until we get this thread cut off  
By a sharp knife or by a shot -  
We will not be weaned from loving our Motherland  
By teachers who do not know the truths!

## Elizaveta Khaplanova

granddaughter of a front-line soldier, poet,  
presenter of the “Word of Donbass” project

### Come back from reconnaissance

*To Sergei «Eighth» and his friend  
Sasha “Cosmos” with faith in the best...*

What day is it? I’ve lost count.  
I clench my teeth and blaze away with a machine gun.  
And I fall into the green sludge of sky...  
Eh, Sanka, won’t I see you?

You went into combat - and the hundredth day  
I drive away doubts, melancholy, prejudices.  
...And again I rise both angrily and fiercely.  
It’s too early for me, my friend, to go to calm skies.

Then, leaving for your “combat”  
You forgot your glasses at my house... And for the first time  
It creeps me out to see how dust is accumulating  
On the framed glass...  
It wasn’t the glasses you left behind, -

But you keep my faith firmly in sight.  
Eh, Sanka, my friend, I wish you could come back safe...  
No matter if we’d see each other rarely,  
But just come back from distant reconnaissance!

I haven’t known peace for days...  
And the lands of Donbass are being covered again and again  
With shells, pain, dried blood...  
with filial love... With soldier’s fate...

## Dmitry Darin

son of a veteran - survivor of the Leningrad blockade,  
poet, member of the Russian Writers’ Union

### It was near Kherson...

*Song about bosom enemies-snipers*

There’s no reason to lie, guys,  
The state of things is unsuitable,  
It happened near Kherson  
March was beginning.  
Sniper means a preparation -  
To take sight for half a day,  
And Vovka is taking sight as well -  
But at me.  
Exactly - Vovka Kovalenko,  
Old mate of mine -  
And there is like an electric shock from the knees  
Straight to the guts.  
We are like puppies from the same litter,  
It’s ages since we met,  
We were fraternized with him  
In Chechnya by a mortar.  
And now I am “vata” for him,  
Now he is “ukrop”,  
Two Slavic brothers are aiming a gun  
Right at each other’s foreheads.  
He recognized me, I see,  
He even smiled.  
Death has become a second closer,  
And the courage disappeared.  
Not to shoot or shoot first?  
Fingers are on triggers  
Who is assigned to canned food,  
Stays in a fool.  
And there is a question with a big markup -  
To be or not to be -  
We decide with Kovalenko,  
Dripping with sweat.  
I blinked - the living can do that,  
He disappeared at that moment,  
After all God judged so  
At the last threshold.  
We dug open three caches there,  
Where he was waiting for the guys...  
It was near Kherson,  
March smelled warm.

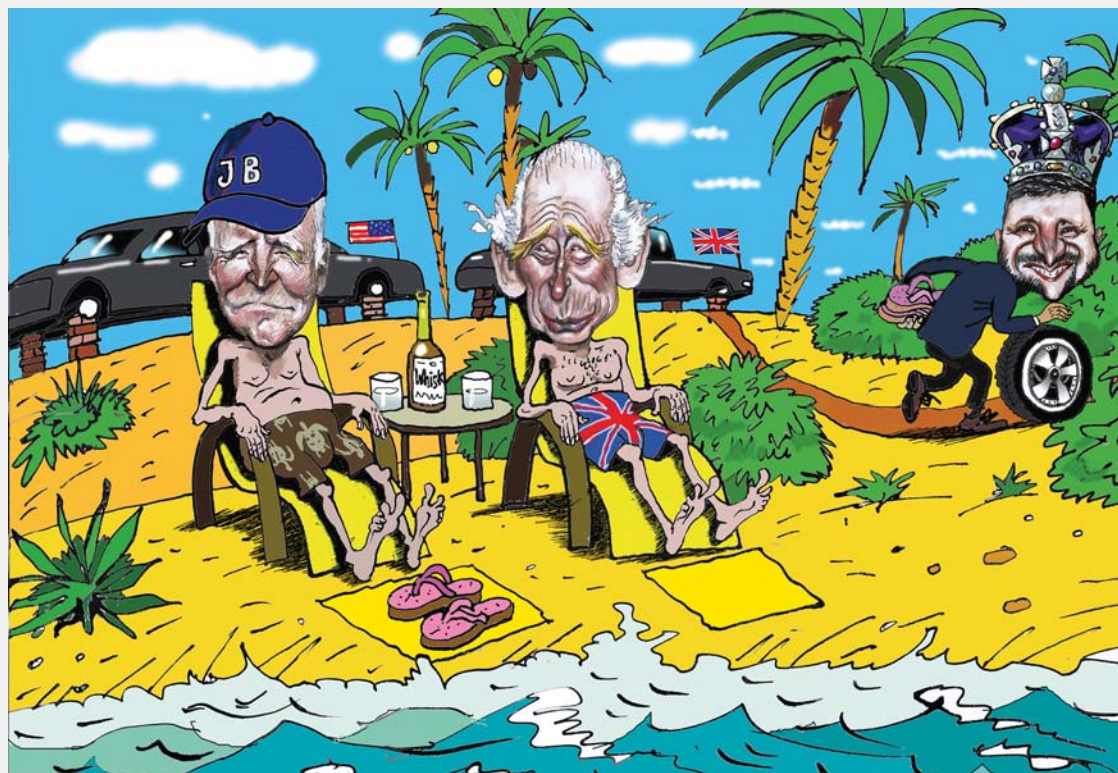
## Alexander Marshal

son of a front-line soldier, Honored Artist of Russia,  
singer, poet, composer

### Donbass

Burnt by the war, the dawn was inflamed,  
Having stained the charred maples.  
And on the very edge the battalion took the battle,  
Resting its back against waste heaps.  
They decided themselves: “Not a step back!”  
Being injured is not a reason to leave.  
These are the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the soldiers  
That victoriously reached Berlin!  
They became firmer and stronger a hundred times,  
Since the war came right to the house.  
And now this is Brest, this is their Stalingrad,  
And they can’t do it any other way.  
It’s a pity that this is how the stars aligned in the sky  
Over the ruins of the airport.  
But they swore to themselves forever,  
That they would not be only second-rate.  
And that they would stand on their line.  
Even if sometimes not with complete unloading.  
Because there had been already an attempt to forbid their grandfathers  
Even to think in Russian.  
And brainless enemies will never understand:  
“Why are these people like this?  
They must surrender. But NO: they don’t want to give in.”

This means that Russia helps them!  
Well, of course. What’s wrong here, gentlemen!  
Or are you overcome by doubts?  
But Russia is always in every their heart,  
And not only now, but from birth.  
Now they simply have nothing more to lose.  
Live as slaves? It is like a coma.  
And where will you order them to retreat?  
After all, unlike you, they are at home!  
We know who methodically hammered to you,  
That Donbass is entirely terrorists.  
You have there the main moron,  
For whom fascists are brothers.  
So, apparently, one still will have to calm down  
The monster who has lost his conscience  
So that he never dares to fight again  
Against his own people.  
- Who called you? You came uninvited.  
Old people or children who died?  
Go away peacefully!  
Countrymen, though now former ones.  
A person can be forgiven for weaknesses.  
Sometimes even foolishness doesn’t count.  
But beyond the seeming limitation period  
There are things that can never be forgiven!



Drawing  
by Vladimir Mochalov

The conversation with the subject on the beach lasted about two hours. In the meantime, someone stole the foreigner's sandals, and therefore the meeting had to be hastily ended.

## Selected moments of operational correspondence

The informer rejoiced at the grocery gift basket the operative brought to the meeting, and he tirelessly talked about it both during and after the event.

As the source explained, in order to take out the document he brought to the meeting and hand it over to the Russian representative, he needed to find a private place and unbutton his trousers.

The foreigner pulled the operative's plate towards him and, without interrupting the conversation, ate its contents with gusto, too.

On Saturdays, the foreigner routinely visits the local theater, where he lets off the steam accumulated during the week.

Instead of an enclosure (a rusty nail with a twist-off head and undeveloped microfilm hidden inside), fresh carrots were found in the drop. It is possible that children playing nearby could have found the nail and replaced it with the carrots.

The sex of the foreigner's newborn child will be determined later through the operational capabilities available to the residency.

According to the subject, his wife is tired of living in the cemetery, where their daughter grows up and plays among the graves. At the same time, she understands that this is connected with her husband's work. In addition, the family has free housing there and does not spend money on utilities.

## In the next issue of the magazine:

**State Secretary of the Union State  
Dmitry Fedorovich Mezentsev:**

«Russia and Belarus have a united history and a shared destiny...»

**The 80th anniversary of the Tehran Conference**

How Soviet intelligence service saved Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin

**The true story of illegal intelligence officer Parparov**  
Declassified archives

**That very «Iron Felix»**  
What F.E. Dzerzhinsky was really like



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