

MAGAZINE

RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake — But to learn the truth for the good of our State! № 1 (6) MARCH 2024



**V.V. PUTIN —
A QUARTER
OF A CENTURY
AT THE HELM
OF RUSSIA**

SCO SECRETARY GENERAL
ZHANG MING: «I AM CONFIDENT
IN THE SUSTAINABILITY
OF THE SHANGHAI SPIRIT»

GEVORK AND GOHAR
VARTANYAN:
118 YEARS IN «SPECIAL
ENVIRONMENT»

DEEP COVER INTELLIGENCE
AGENT L.I. NUYKINA:
«OUR WOMEN CAN DO
ANYTHING!»



We, the multinational people
of the Russian Federation,
united by a common fate on our land,
establishing human rights and freedoms,
civic peace and accord,
preserving the historically established state unity,
proceeding from the universally recognized principles
of equality and self-determination of peoples,
revering the memory of ancestors
who have conveyed to us the love for the Fatherland,
belief in the good and justice,
reviving the sovereign statehood of Russia
and asserting the firmness of its democratic basic,
striving to ensure the well-being
and prosperity of Russia,
proceeding from the responsibility for our Fatherland
before the present and future generations,
recognizing ourselves as part of the world community,
adopt
the CONSTITUTION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

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A full-page background image of Vladimir Putin in a dark blue naval uniform with a peaked cap, looking out over the ocean at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow on the water and sky. Putin's hands are clasped in front of him, resting on a railing.

V.V. Putin — a quarter of a century at the helm of Russia

On the eve of the presidential elections, I want to offer our readers, especially those who will take part in the voting for the first time, to look back and recollect the path that our country has gone over the past 25 years.

Text: Sergey Evgenievich Naryshkin,
Director of the SVR of Russia,
Chairman of the Russian Historical Society

"We, the multinational people of the Russian Federation, united by a common fate on our land, establishing human rights and freedoms, civic peace and accord ..." From these words known to every citizen of Russia, the preamble of the Constitution begins. The Fundamental Law adopted on December 12, 1993 defines the main values and aspirations of the people and the state, their role and significance in the world.

Russia is an integral part of the world civilization, an original country with a thousand-year history. In the West, we are often compared to a bear, like we look very big and dangerous. This, of course, is far from the truth. Yes, we are big. But, like no one else, we know the price of peace, and therefore, like no one else, we value it.

For me, as a native resident of St. Petersburg, sea allegories are much closer. For me, Russia is a powerful and modern ship, confidently sailing forward through the waves, in spite of winds and storms. For the last quarter-century, the person who has been standing at the helm of our ship is Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin - the captain under whose guidance we are achieving the set goals. Those goals are clear - they are written in the Russian Constitution,

which points them out like a compass. This is, first of all, the wellbeing and prosperity of Russia; protection of family, motherhood and childhood; ensuring civil rights and freedoms, including the right to use the native language; maintaining and strengthening international peace; sovereignty and independence, security and integrity of the Russian state.

Meanwhile, from time to time voices are heard about the need to search for a national idea. Many proposals have been made in this regard, but when viewed closely, all of them are reduced to simple and understandable truths recorded in the Constitution of Russia. I am sure that our national idea consists in relentless adherence to the Fundamental Law. While wishing wellbeing to the country and its citizens one doesn't need to "reinvent the wheel", it is only necessary to be consistent in achieving the implementation of the provisions and norms of the Constitution in order to fully use the development resource embedded in it. I also want to remind you that the Constitution is a "living" document, it can and should be changed in accordance with the current needs of the Russian society and the emerging new challenges.

As the guarantor of the Constitution, the President is responsible for ensuring protection for every citizen of our country, their opportunities for a decent life and harmonious development. To this end, the head of state is authorized to make decisions, sometimes difficult and unpopular, but, without a doubt, always carefully thought out and balanced.

I also want to note that in our history we did not always appreciate what we had achieved and won. Destroying and depreciating the past, we tried to build a new life on debris, often at the cost of enormous victims and efforts of the people, in defiance of laws of human nature and existence. I am convinced that Russia led by President V.V. Putin has now found its way and follows it confidently, which is confirmed by the deeds and achievements of the first quarter of the 21st century. 🇷🇺

"At present, when a lot of things are changing in our society, when there are hot debates again, it is the values of the Constitution, their protection and full-fledged implementation that can preserve public stability and become a goal that unites a whole variety of political forces."

S.E. Naryshkin, Rossiyskaya Gazeta, November 11, 2013



1999



August 9th

B.N. Yeltsin signed a decree on the appointment of V.V. Putin, then Director of the FSB and Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, as acting Prime Minister. The first meeting in the new position was held with members of the Security Council, who discussed the situation in Dagestan, invaded by international terrorist groups. V.V. Putin from the beginning demonstrated a firm position: "We will strike the bases of militants and bandits wherever they are..."

"I decided to name a person who, in my opinion, is able to consolidate society relying on the widest political forces, to ensure the continuation of reforms in Russia. He will be able to consolidate around him those who in the new, 21st century, are to renew the great Russia."

B. N. Yeltsin, August 9, 1999

December 31st

B.N. Yeltsin, in his TV address to the people, announced the appointment of V.V. Putin as acting President of Russia. On the same day, Yeltsin signed a decree on resignation. In the evening, V.V. Putin made his first New Year's address.



New Year's speech of V.V. Putin. 1999



2000

2001

2002

May 13th

By decree of V.V. Putin, federal districts, headed by authorized representatives of the President, were created in Russia, which allowed to strengthen territorial integrity.

July 21st

V.V. Putin flew to Okinawa (Japan) to the G8 summit. Expecting an equal dialogue, the Russian side came up with a number of initiatives in the field of strategic stability.

October 10th

In Astana, the leaders of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed an Agreement on the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC).

December 4th

V.V. Putin submitted to the State Duma bills on the national symbols of Russia: the flag, the anthem and the emblem. All the initiatives were approved and turned into a law.

June 15th

In Shanghai, the leaders of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan signed a declaration on the creation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

July 29th

The presidents of Russia and Ukraine V.V. Putin and L.D. Kuchma reviewed a joint Russian-Ukrainian naval parade in Sevastopol in honor of the Navy Day.

May 24th

Top level Russian-American negotiations were held in the Kremlin. According to their results, U.S. President G.W. Bush stated that America and Russia "had completed the long-term chapter of the confrontation and opened a new chapter" in their relationship..

May 28th

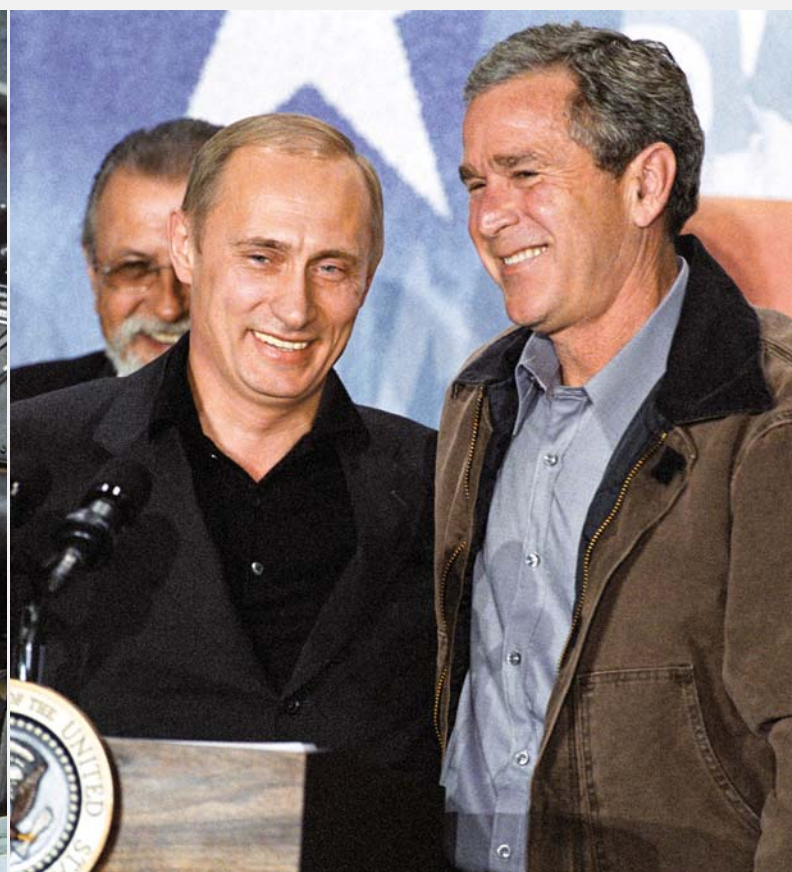
In Rome, V.V. Putin and the leaders of 19 NATO member states signed the Declaration "Russia – NATO Relations: New Quality" and established the Russia – NATO Council, within which mixed Working groups were created to combat terrorism and other burning issues.



Speech at the Rice University (Texas). November 14, 2001



V.V. Putin flew to Grozny on a Su-27 fighter. March 20, 2000



With U.S. President G.W. Bush. Crawford (Texas). November 15, 2001



The ceremony of signing the Declaration on the creation of the SCO. Shanghai. June 15, 2001

2003

2004

2005

2006

September 19th

In Yalta, the presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine signed an Agreement on the formation of a Single Economic Space.

December 12th

Speaking at the ceremony on the occasion of the Decade of the adoption of the Fundamental Law of the Russian Federation, V.V. Putin said: "Strict adherence to the Constitution is the basis for the successful development of the state and civil consent in society."

September 4th

The President of Russia flew to Beslan, where Shamil Basayev's terrorist group had been holding hostages in a school for three days. The Head of State visited the hospital and held a meeting at the operational headquarters, declaring the need for an uncompromising fight against terrorists.

October 17th

V.V. Putin arrived in China to participate in the III International Forum "One Belt, One Road". On the eve of this visit, the process of legal demarcation of the border between Russia and China, which had lasted almost 40 years, was completed.

May 9th

The festivities in Moscow dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Victory, hosted the leaders of 53 states, including the United States, Germany, India, China, France and Japan, who attended the Victory Parade and laid flowers to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

August 7th

V.V. Putin met with Dima Rogachev, a 10-year-old boy suffering from leukemia. Five years later, by order of the President, the National Medical Research Center of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology named in honor of Dmitry Rogachev was opened in Moscow.

May 25th

In Sochi, the Russia-EU summit took place. On the base of its results, agreements were signed on a simplified procedure for issuing visas to citizens of the Russian Federation and the European Union on a mutual basis.

July 10th

In Ingushetia, as a result of a special operation, a group of terrorists, led by Shamil Basayev, was annihilated. Awarding the participants in the operation, V.V. Putin called people's safety the most important task of the state.



Speech dedicated to the 10th anniversary of adoption of the Russian Constitution, December 12, 2003



V.V. Putin, G.W. Bush and other heads of state at a ceremonial reception on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg. Peterhof. June 1, 2003



V.V. Putin visited the victims of the terrorist attack in the Beslan hospital. September 4, 2004



At a meeting with Dima Rogachev. Moscow. August 7, 2005

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

February 10th

The President of the Russian Federation delivered a program speech at the International Security Conference in Munich, where he announced the inevitable collapse of unipolar world.



Speech at a conference in Munich.
February 10, 2007

July 3rd

V.V. Putin personally represented Sochi at a meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Guatemala, when it was to choose the venue for the XXII Winter Olympic Games in 2014. According to the IOC, this was the decisive factor that persuaded the jury in favor of the Russian application.

August 8th

In response to the invasion of the Georgian army into South Ossetia and the attack on Russian peacekeepers, an operation was carried out to force Georgia to peace. The fighting lasted five days and ended with a complete victory of Russia. On August 26, 2008, Moscow recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states.

November 6th

V.V. Putin approved the "Action Plan aimed at improving the situation in the financial sector and certain branches of economy." Together with other anti-crisis measures, this allowed Russia to minimize the negative consequences of the global financial crisis.

June 4th

V.V. Putin visited a factory in Pikalevo, where workers were on strike due to arrears with the wages. "Give me back the fountain pen!" told he to the owner of the enterprise after he insisted on signing documents that guaranteed the resumption of the work of the factory.

June 16th

The first BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg with the participation of the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China. In 2010, South Africa joined the association, and on January 1, 2024, Egypt, Iran, UAE and Ethiopia also became its members.

December 2nd

FIFA supported Russia's application for holding the World Cup in 2018. The championship held in our country, according to FIFA officials, became the best-organized one in history.

November 8th

Gas circulation began in the first branch of the Nord Stream gas pipeline. Laid on the bottom of the Baltic Sea, it became the longest underwater pipeline in the world – 1124 km.



The first trip of the Sapsan train along the Moscow – St. Petersburg route. December 17, 2009



Speech at a meeting of the IOC. Guatemala. July 3, 2007



With the President of Venezuela H. Chavez. Caracas. April 2, 2010



At a press conference dedicated to Russia's victory in the 2018 football World Cup contest. Zurich. December 2, 2010

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

January 1st

A Single Economic Space (SEP) for Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan began to operate, providing "four freedoms": the freedom of movement of goods, services, capitals and labor force. In 2014, Armenia entered the CEP, in 2015, Kyrgyzstan did.

May 7th

The President of Russia signed the decree "On measures for the implementation of state social policy" – the central one in the series of "May" directions of the Head of State, aimed at improving the socio-economic situation in the country.

September 6th

In St. Petersburg, the 8th summit of the Group of 20 (G20) ended; according to its results, a program of joint actions was outlined, aiming at ensuring a stable, sustainable and balanced development of the world economy.

March 18th

The Kremlin signed an agreement on the entry of two new subjects into Russia – the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The decision was made on the basis of a referendum, in which 96% of voters voted "For".

October 3rd

The law on the ratification of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was signed. This became a new stage in the integration of the economies of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan into a single market for goods, services, capital and labor resources.

February 12th

V.V. Putin's negotiations with the leaders of Ukraine, France and Germany ended in Minsk. Thanks to the persistence of the Russian side, the participants succeeded in agreeing on a plan for a graded peaceful solution to the conflict, which was then disrupted by the Ukrainian side.

September 30th

V.V. Putin made a request to the Federation Council about the use of the Russian armed forces on the territory of Syria, which was unanimously approved by senators. On the same day, the Russian Aerospace Forces launched the first air strikes on the positions of terrorists.

April 28th

V.V. Putin attended the first launch of the *Soyuz-2.1a* carrier rocket from the territory of the new Russian space launching site Vostochny.



Speech at the 70th session of the
UN General Assembly. New York.
September 28, 2015



Ceremony of the Inauguration of the elected President.
Moscow. May 7, 2012



Procession of the Immortal Regiment.
Moscow. May 9, 2015



With the U.S. President B. Obama.
New York. September 28, 2015



With the President of Syria B. Asad.
Moscow. October 20, 2015

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



December 11th

During his visit to the Khmeimim air base in Syria, V.V. Putin gave the order to withdraw Russian troops, noting that they had managed to solve the main tasks: the terrorists were defeated.



Speech at the Khmeimim air base.
December 11, 2017

May 7th

On the day of the inauguration, the president issued a decree "On the national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024", starting an ambitious program of national projects.

March 1st

The Head of State in his address to the Federal Assembly emphasized the importance of achieving the technological sovereignty of Russia and reported on the advanced developments of the domestic military-industrial complex.

December 2nd

Russian President V.V. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the space bridge mode commissioned the *Power of Siberia* gas pipeline, through which the Russian gas began to flow to China.

January 8th

V.V. Putin, with the participation of the leaders of Turkey, Serbia and Bulgaria, commissioned the Turkish Stream gas pipeline through which Russian gas began to flow to Turkey and to the consumers in the Balkans.

August 11th

The Minister of Health reported to the Head of State on the registration of the Sputnik V vaccine, the world's first publicly available remedy to prevent COVID-19.

September 10th

The construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline was completed; the decision to lay it had been made by the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin and German Chancellor A.Merkel in conditions of unprecedented pressure of the U.S.

December 7th

V.V. Putin, in the course of negotiations with the President of the United States, demanded legal guarantees which would exclude further expansion of NATO to the east and deployment of offensive weapons in the states adjacent to Russia.



At the headquarters of the SVR of Russia.
Moscow. Yasenevo. June 30, 2017



Opening of traffic on the Crimean bridge.
May 15, 2018



Presenting V.V. Putin with the Order of Friendship of the People's Republic of China. Beijing. June 8, 2018



With the President of Belarus A.G. Lukashenko.
Sochi. May 29, 2021

2022

2023

2024

February 24th

V.V. Putin addressed the citizens of Russia, explaining the reasons for the beginning of a special military operation and designating its main goals: protection of the people of Donbass, demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine.

September 30th

The Kremlin held a ceremony of signing treaties on the inclusion of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions into the Russian Federation.

November 28th

The President delivered a program speech at the World Russian People's Council on the subject "The present and the future of the Russian world." "To be Russian is, first of all, to be responsible for the preservation of Russia," – V.V. Putin emphasized.

December 4th

The Head of State visited the international exhibition-forum "Russia" at VDNKh, which became the first event of such a large scale since the Soviet times.

January 27th

On the day of the 80th anniversary of the complete liberation of Leningrad from the fascist blockade, the President took part in the opening of a memorial complex in Gatchina, dedicated to the civilians of the USSR who died during the Great Patriotic War.

February 1st

V.V. Putin spoke at the II Congress of the Russian Movement of Children and Youth "The Movement of the First" which had already united about five million people.

February 29th

The Head of State addressed the Federal Assembly. During this speech he outlined the main priorities of Russia's development for the period up to 2030.

March 1st

On the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, the World Youth Festival was opened in Sochi. It hosted more than 90 thousand people from almost two hundred countries.

Speech at the World Russian People's Council.
November 28, 2023



With Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman Al Saud.
Riyadh. December 6, 2023



Meeting with the participants of the special military operation.
January 1, 2024



The starting ceremony of the Year of the Family in Russia.
International exhibition-forum "Russia" at VDNKh. January 23, 2024

4
January
1949

Tamara Ivanovna Netyksa, undercover intelligence officer, colonel, was born in Serov, Sverdlovsk Region. In the state security services since 1972. Together with her husband, a Hero of Russian Federation, major general Vitaly Netyksa, she worked in special operational environment for more than 20 years, took a direct part in solving operational problems and obtaining valuable information. After returning to Russia, she worked in the Headquarters, training young employees. She was awarded an Order "For Military Merit", a medal "For Merit to the Fatherland" II Class, a medal "For Battle Merit".



20
February
1899

Veniamin Semenovich Grazhul, undercover intelligence officer, was born in Vilnius. In the 1920s he served in the counterintelligence units of the OGPU-NKVD. Since 1930 - in the deep cover intelligence. He worked in the Netherlands, France, and Nazi Germany. He took part in the operation of kidnapping the White Guard general, the chairman of the ROVS E.K. Miller. In 1943–1946 he served as an instructor, deputy chief of the intelligence service school of the NKGB of the USSR. He is the author of a number of books on intelligence. He was awarded two "Orders of the Red Banner", and a badge of honorary worker of the VChK-OGPU.

4
February
1894

Vasily Mikhailovich Zarubin, Soviet undercover intelligence officer, major general, was born in Moscow. In 1914–1917, he fought at the front, a participant in the Civil War. Since 1925 he worked for the foreign intelligence service. He spent more than 13 years in deep undercover work as a chief of field stations in Finland, France, Germany, and the USA. In 1944–1948 he served as a deputy chief of the foreign intelligence and at the same time as a deputy chief of illegal intelligence. He was awarded two "Orders of Lenin", a "Red Banner" Order and a "Red Star" Order, and many medals.



5
February
1944

Grigory Alekseevich Rapota, Russian statesman, officer of foreign intelligence service, lieutenant general was born in Moscow. A graduate of the Bauman Technical University ("Design Engineer") and the "Krasnoznamenniy (Red Banner) Institute of the KGB of the USSR". For more than 20 years he worked abroad under the cover as a foreign intelligence officer. In 1994–1998 — Deputy Director of the SVR of Russia (Russian Foreign Intelligence Service), and was in charge of partnership channel with foreign intelligence services. He was awarded "Orders of the Red Star", an Honor Order, an Order "For Merit to the Fatherland" IV, III and II Class, an "Order of Alexander Nevsky", and many medals.

17
February
1924

Gevork Andreevich Vartanyan, an undercover intelligence officer, Hero of the Soviet Union, was born in Rostov-On-Don. In his youth, as the head of a special youth organization, he carried out assignments of Soviet intelligence identifying Nazi intelligence officers and their agents in Iran, took part in providing the security of the leaders of the "Big Three" during the Tehran Conference of 1943. Since 1957 — a staff officer of Soviet intelligence. He spent about 45 years of undercover work in dozens of countries, obtained valuable information on priority intelligence issues.



29
February
1924

Vladimir Alexandrovich Kryuchkov, head of foreign intelligence (1974–1988), chairman of the KGB of the USSR (1988–1991), General of the Army, was born in Volgograd. In 1954 he graduated from the High Diplomatic School of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs (USSR), and worked in Hungary and Romania as a diplomat. In 1965–1967 — assistant of Yuri Andropov, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union. In 1967–1971 he headed the KGB Secretariat. He was awarded two "Orders of Lenin", an "Order of the October Revolution", an Order of Red Banner, two orders "Of Red Banner of Labour", an order "Of the Badge of Honour".



9
March
1914

Alexander Semenovich Feklisov, Soviet intelligence officer, Hero of Russia, was born in Moscow. He worked in the state security services since 1939. From 1941 to 1946 he was on a mission to the United States in scientific and technical intelligence direction. Made a significant contribution to the work of the field station in the nuclear technologies assignments. In 1947, he was sent to London as a deputy chief of the field station of the scientific and technical intelligence, maintained contacts with the nuclear scientist Klaus Fuchs. In 1953-1955 he worked in Czechoslovakia as deputy chief advisor for intelligence in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Czechoslovakia. From 1960 to 1964, he served as a chief of the field station in Washington and made a significant contribution into resolution of the Caribbean crisis. From 1968 to 1974 — deputy Head of the "Krasnoznamenniy Institute of the KGB of the USSR".

13
March
1954

by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet under the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the State Security Committee (KGB) was formed. The Foreign intelligence service became the First Main Directorate (PGU) of the KGB under the Council of Ministers of the USSR.



15
March
1899

Vasily Terentyevich Yakovlev, a prominent worker of the Soviet special services, was born in the village of Antipovo, Smolensk region. From 1921 to 1931 he served in counterintelligence service, in 1931 he was transferred to Foreign Department of NKVD. In 1935–1940 he worked in Bulgaria and Latvia. Since 1940 — Deputy chief of the field station in Finland, acquired a number of valuable sources, which, in particular, reported Germany's preparations for the onslaught against the USSR. In 1946 he was sent to Berlin as the deputy representative of the MGB. In 1947–1949 served as a chief of the field station in Austria. He was awarded "Order of Lenin", Order of "Red Banner", Order of the "Patriotic War of the 1st degree", Order of the "Red Star", and many medals.

15
March
1884

Willy Lehmann (operational nickname "Breitenbach"), one of the most valuable assistants of Soviet intelligence in Nazi Germany, was born in Leipzig (Saxony). Initiatively began cooperation in 1929, when he held the position of assistant of the counterintelligence department of the Berlin police. Later he was transferred to the Gestapo, where he was responsible for the counterintelligence support of the military industry and the supervision of USSR's foreign missions in Berlin. In 1934 he became a member of the "SS". During 12 years of help from "Breitenbach", valuable information was received about the development and strengthening of the Nazi regime, building up military potential and technical developments, about the structure, personnel and methods of work of the German special services. It was W. Lehmann who reported the date and time of Germany's attack on the USSR. He was arrested because of the radioman's failure and was shot in December 1942.





Awarding laureates with the SVR of Russia prize

On January 24, 2024, in Moscow, in the Presidential Hall of the Russia Today MIA Press Center, the 2023 awarding ceremony was held for the laureates of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation Prize named after academician E.M. Primakov in the field of literature and art.

Dmitry Konstantinovich Kiselev, Director General of the MIA Russia Today, addressed the participants of the ceremony with a greeting: *"The work of professional intelligence officers is extremely important. You save lives, you create a new structure of the world, you inspire hope. Even your silence inspires hope. <...> Foreign intelligence has great traditions, and I am sure that in our age of completely different technologies they are the people who go ahead and multiply these traditions. But today we honor those who managed to tell us about this profession, with grace, inspiration and honesty."*

The awards were presented by the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia Sergey Evgenievich Naryshkin. "This year, a lot of worthy requests for the SVR Prize nomination were received. The commission faced a difficult task to choose the winners, and it did an excellent job to complete this task," noted S.E. Naryshkin thanking the laureates for their bright and talented creative works and for their service for the benefit of Russia.

The 2023 SVR Prize laureates were as follows:



For the creation of the serial feature film "Mission: Amethyst" — producers Alexander Akopov and Igor Marin, director Anton Bormatov, director of photography Maxim Shinkorenko, actors Agnia Ditkovskite and Sergey Chonishvili.

According to the plot of the picture, a foreign intelligence service becomes aware that a CIA officer, acting on the unspoken order of the shadow American alliance, is launching a multi-way operation to discredit Russia on the world stage. A deep cover intelligence officer Elena Kolmogorova who works in Italy (operational pseudonym — Amethyst) was tasked to prevent sabotage and later a possible global conflict. The plot unfolds in our days in parallel in Italy and Russia.

For the creation of the documentary film "Arnold Deutsch. The last legend" — the author of the project, journalist Sergey Brilev, production director Evgeny Makarov and cameraman Alexey Kalach.

All activities of Arnold Deutsch (1904–1942, born in Vienna) in the Soviet foreign intelligence were devoted to work from undercover positions. Since 1933, he was in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany as an assistant and deputy chief of the field station. In 1934, A. Deutsch was transferred to London, where he entered the psychological faculty of the University of London for cover. Over the years of work in England, the talented recruiter attracted more than 20 people to cooperate with the USSR, including members of the famous Cambridge Five. In December 1942, A. Deutsch was heading on the Donbass steamer to Latin America, where in one of the countries he was supposed to become a chief of deep cover intelligence field station, but in the waters of the Barents Sea the ship was attacked by fascists and sunk. That is how the short but heroic life of Arnold Deutsch ended.





For creating a series of portraits of outstanding intelligence officers - artists Artem and Sergey Dorozhenko and Maxim Zhurov.

Young and talented artists created canvases where Arnold Deutsch, William Fisher (Rudolf Abel), Alexey Botyan, Gevork Vartanyan, Iosif Grigulevich, Dmitry Medvedev, Nikolai Kuznetsov, Pavel Fitin and many other legends of the Soviet foreign intelligence of different years are eternalized.

For a cycle of poems and songs about intelligence - songwriter, head of the club of author's military song "Wind of Victory" at the Central Museum of Victory Anatoly Pshenichny.

In recent years, the poet A. Pshenichny has published a series of poems and songs dedicated to foreign intelligence. Among them — "Fate by name of intelligence", "While intelligence lives", "He is from intelligence", highly appreciated by colleagues in the service and always received warmly by the Russian audience.

He is from intelligence...

*We often sigh about the past —
impossible to wipe it off with a rag like chalk.
Each his own way — but I chose reconnaissance
and never regretted it!
Years, codes, approaches, departures,
a swarm of tasks flies through the window ...
We are not cinematic "Bonds" at all —
and intelligence is not a movie at all!*

*Let's remember again — for one it is early,
for another it's late,
as in a foreign land we were waiting for luck
and we brought to our stations what we managed
to get.
We didn't toss a coin to make a choice
There was a plan to work, the wheels to go on!
And only enemy counterintelligence
knew restless Russian people!*

*For someone — both money and fame,
for someone — a reception and a banquet,
but for us it is a capture, then a setup,
pseudonyms and fairy tales of legends!
But then, friends, we managed to muster up
the courage if something went wrong.
Even the title of "persona non grata"
was accepted as an award!*

*And when the cup overflowed,
we did not throw into the attic:
our friendship, reliability and faith,
without which there is no way in intelligence!
Life will put marks on anyone
without taking into account expensive clothes,
but if you hear: "He is from intelligence ..." —
we do not need other marks!*



For the creation of the monument to Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky - the outstanding Soviet monumental sculptor Evgeny Viktorovich Vuchetich (posthumously). The award was granted to the grandson and the full namesake of the famous sculptor.

Monument to F.E. Dzerzhinsky was opened on December 20, 1958, opposite the complex of buildings of the KGB of the USSR on the occasion of an anniversary of the creation of the Soviet state security agencies. On August 22, 1991, after the well-known events in Moscow the monument was demolished and later became one of the exhibits of the Muzeon park in Moscow. Over the years, calls had been repeatedly made to return the monument to the Lubyanka square. In September 2023, on the anniversary of the Number One Chekist (security officer), a reduced copy of this monument was opened in a solemn atmosphere on the territory of the SVR headquarters in Yasenevo.



At the end of the event S.E. Naryshkin thanked the management and the staff of the Russia Today media group for their hospitality. "Once again we hold this solemn ceremony at your wonderful news agency," said the director of the SVR. 🇷🇺

The Prize of the SVR of Russia in the field of literature and art was established in 2000. Its main goal is to attract attention of the general public to the best art works about intelligence. In 2019 the award has been named after the academician Evgeny Maksimovich Primakov, who served as Director of the SVR (1991-1996), and later — Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister of Russia.

Japanese militarism returns

In commemoration the 120th anniversary of the Russian-Japanese War

Text: Vasily Ivanovich Saplin,
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Envoy of the 1st Class,
Honorary Worker of the Russian Foreign Ministry

On the 6th of February, 1904, Japan broke off diplomatic relations with Russia, and on the night from 8th to 9th of February, Japanese destroyers suddenly attacked Russian ships in the roads of Port Arthur. The Russian-Japanese War began as a logical result of Tokyo's foreign policy in the previous years. Today, 120 years later, Japanese militarism is again growing, undermining peace and stability throughout the Far East.

Japan «broke into» the big politics relatively late. Having opened itself to the world in the 1870s after more than two centuries of self-isolation, it strove to catch up with the leading states of that time, embarking on the path of active development of capitalism in the country. Under the leadership of the young emperor Meiji, the country was rapidly gaining strength, actively adopting and implementing the achievements of the West, rebuilding state and legal systems. The constitution adopted in 1889 gave the Japanese military circles independence similar to the Prussian model and a complete freedom of action: the army and the navy would obey only the emperor, which opened the way to the aggressive foreign policy.

The first "test of strength" was the 1894–1895 war with neighboring China, in which Japan won a convincing victory, having obtained Taiwan, Pescadores, the Liaodong Peninsula and a large indemnity. This inspired the Japanese military circles, which began to prepare for a new war. Next in line was Russia, which was an obstacle for the formation of the Far Eastern Japanese Empire.

In 1896, Russia formed with the weakened China a defensive alliance, which Japan perceived as directed against it. Tokyo was making plans to strengthen its influence in the region, but at first it was necessary to force out the Russians from Korea and Manchuria. The scenarios developed by the

Japanese command, in addition to the occupation of Manchuria, included the capture of Primorye, the Ussuri region, Sakhalin, Kamchatka, and Commander Islands.

In that war Russia suffered a bitter defeat, although there also were glorious moments that should not be forgotten. As for its results as a whole, enough has already been said about the causes of military failures. We will only note that the General Staff of the Russian Tsar obviously underestimated the enemy, due to the negative influence of the extended lines of communication and support to Japan from England and the United States. On September 5, 1905, a peace treaty was signed in the American city of Portsmouth,



Panorama of Port Arthur, 1904

an offensive against the US positions in the Far East.

The 1917 revolution in Russia and the subsequent civil war was perceived in Tokyo as a favorable opportunity for new territorial acquisitions. Rejecting the proposal of the Soviet authorities to establish good neighborly relationship, Japan sent an expeditionary force to the Far East and invaded Siberia. At the end of 1918, the number of Japanese occupiers reached 75 thousand people. Of all the interventionists, the Japanese remained in Primorye for the longest term – until October 1922, and in the north of Sakhalin – until 1925.

In 1938-1939, Japanese militarists again tried to "probe" the strength of the Red Army, twice near Lake Khasan and the Khalkhin Gol River. And both times they were defeated. These defeats to some extent cooled the ardor of the Japanese military, forcing them to redirect their efforts to conquer Southeast Asia. In total, unrestrained expansion and military adventures of Japanese militarism continued for almost 70 years,

according to which the Japanese received the rental rights to the Liaodong Peninsula, including Port Arthur and the Dalniy, as well as half of the Sakhalin Island (along the 50th parallel).

The Japanese militarists began to use the victory in the war with a European power as a weighty argument for the propaganda of the exclusiveness of Japanese nation, the invincibility of Japanese weapons and military spirit. The country strongly praised the heroes of the battles; the ultra-nationalist upsurge also inspired the Japanese ministers of Shinto, who introduced the thesis of the "God's chosen

nation" guarded by Shinto deities. Throughout Japan construction of sanctuaries dedicated to the fallen soldiers began.

Under these conditions, the military elite considered that it could continue to implement the policy of colonial expansion in Asia. Japanese theorists developed a number of new propositions, which were called the Emperor's national defense policy. According to this document, almost all major countries were declared enemies of Japan, and Russia remained the first in this list. The Emperor's army aimed at a new war with the northern neighbor, and the navy was instructed to prepare



Signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard USS Missouri, September 2, 1945

Inspired by the authorities, rewriting of the history of the World War II began, as well as rethinking of Japan's role in it, which started to be presented not as a criminal aggression, but as a "forced measure" to protect the interests of the country.

ending in a quite logical defeat in World War II.

The postwar period began. The occupation authorities represented by the United States, seeking to maintain control over the former enemy, in all possible ways encouraged statements that Japan was a peaceful power. They also imposed on the Japanese the "peaceful" Constitution of 1947, the Art. 9 of which contains a direct ban on the possession of their own armed forces. At that time, it gained support among a great part of the Japanese population, who had not forgotten the horrors of the past war. Under the strict control of the United States, Japan managed to restore

the destroyed economy and turned into one of the most developed countries in the world. It seemed that the militaristic past had forever become a part of history.

However, as the further events showed, nationalism only left the political arena of Japan for a while. The ruling conservative circles returned to the habitual theses about the exclusiveness, uniqueness and national originality of the Japanese people, their special and extraordinary historical path, counting on the idea that the rise of nationalism would allow Tokyo to strengthen its position within the framework of the unequal Japanese-American strategic partnership and

to gain a more significant status in the system of international relations.

Inspired by the authorities, rewriting of the history of the World War II began, as well as rethinking of Japan's role in it, which started to be presented not as a criminal aggression, but as a "forced measure" to protect the interests of the country. Relevant stories flooded television programs and pages of popular magazines, primarily oriented to the youth. The content of school textbooks also began to change: new generations of Japanese were taught a history filled with heroic pages, when the "best representatives of the nation" rose in its defense.

The goal is to clear the Japanese mentality of the "inferiority complex", in other words the spirit of pacifism deeply rooted among the people. Today, this pacifism, which, by inertia, is still preserved by the older generation, remains the last obstacle in the way of the militarists.

To overcome this complex, the ideas of eradicating the "defeatist" moods, rejecting the "humiliating" results of the World War II, a speedy transformation of Japan into a "normal" state with "full-scale" armed forces are actively discussed. Representatives of the authorities contribute in every possible way to the efforts of nationalists to restore the country's pre-war identity, including the return of symbols that were widespread during that period. Despite international resonance, members of the government regularly visit the Shinto shrine of Yasukuni, a symbol of Japanese militarism, where the remains of war criminals are buried. A recent

Pilgrimage of Japanese politicians to Yasukuni shrine. Tokyo. 2018



example is a virtually officially approved pilgrimage to Yasukuni in January this year of a large group of Japanese senior officers headed by the deputy chief of staff of the ground forces. Moreover, to justify such a policy of radicalization, the thesis about an external threat is actively exploited, with references to the growth of China's military potential, the nuclear threat of North Korea, and the "occupation" of the southern Kuriles — a "native Japanese territory" — by Russia.

All this provokes the growth of nationalist sentiments, allowing the authorities to consistently limit the constitutional restrictions and to increase the "threshold of sensitivity" of the Japanese to obvious violations of the peaceful provisions of the Basic Law. The first steps on this path were taken as early as in 1992, when the parliament allowed the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF), as a part of the UN peacekeeping forces, to engage in foreign operations. This is an ordinary practice now, which allows Tokyo to play significant role in the Japanese-American alliance.

At the beginning of the 21st century, Japanese nationalism received a new impulse. In the face of economic difficulties, views were widely spread that the two decades since the end of the Cold War became a "lost time" for Japan, and that internationally the country gained the reputation of a "forgotten player". Under these conditions, the Japanese authorities declared that the survival of the nation is possible only through consolidation of the national unity, while it is obvious that on the rise of the nationalist wave it is easier to carry out unpopular reforms, resolve issues of military forces construction and prepare public opinion for revising the constitution.



These days, these processes continue to develop. Fumio Kishida, who became the Prime Minister in October 2021, is an active supporter of military capacity building and strengthening the role of Japan as the "most reliable" ally of the United States. From the part of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the right-wing nationalist organizations, such as the "Japanese Council", the "Political Union of Shinto" and many others, there are increasing voices about the need for a fundamental reform of the country's defense capability. The pretext is the same — the strengthening of external threats from China, North Korea and Russia, which continues to "illegally" hold the Japanese "northern territories".

Recently, the Japanese authorities have taken a number of specific steps aimed at a radical increase in Japan's offensive potential. Thus, in December 2022, updated versions of three basic documents were approved: National Security

Exercises of the naval Self Defense Forces of Japan

Strategy, National Defense Strategy and Defense Construction Plan. The PRC is designated in these documents as the "main strategic challenge", the DPRK — as "the most serious and critical threat", and Russia — as a state that "is raising serious concerns from the point of view of security." At the same time, Tokyo accuses Moscow of striving to change the established world order, and among its tasks are openly proclaims facilitation of a strategic defeat of Russia in Ukraine.

Ordinary Japanese are taught that military cooperation with the United States raises national prestige. At the same time, the concept of Japan as a country capable of launching counterstrikes and, in the longer term, preventive strikes against a possible enemy is being promoted. In this regard, special attention should be paid to recent agreements with Washington to accelerate the supply for Tokyo of Tomahawk



cruise missiles: 400 such missiles with a range of up to 1600 km can be installed on Japanese Navy ships as soon as next year. The interest to buy other types of offensive weapons, which were previously considered as prohibited, is demonstrated. Among them are long-range aircraft for transportation of rapid support forces.

Efforts are being increased to modernize weapons and military equipment that are already in service: helicopter carriers are converted into light aircraft carriers, "Type 12" anti-ship missiles are upgraded to a range of 1500 km. The work to create hypersonic weapons is under way. The formation of an integrated air defense / missile defense system and the infrastructure for responding to "new challenges" in the field of electronic warfare, in cyberspace and in space began in close coordination with the United States.

It comes to the point that the prospects for potential creation of nuclear weapons are periodically discussed in Japanese media. Of course, while Tokyo is under the American "nuclear umbrella", in practical terms, there is no talk about possessing nuclear weapons, but there are few doubts that under certain conditions Japan will be ready to take such a step. Obvious evidence of this is the engagement of the Japanese Air Force in joint nuclear patrolling, when American bombers — nuclear weapons carriers, are accompanied by Japanese fighters.

Taking advantage of the favorable situation — the US demand for the allies to significantly increase the defense expenses — the government of F. Kishida passed a bill through the Parliament which makes it possible to almost double the spending on military needs. The goal is to bring them to 2% of GDP (about 60–65 billion dollars) by 2027.

Exercises of the land Self Defense Forces of Japan

In the international arena, Tokyo also demonstrates increasing activity, aspiring to play the main role (of course, after Washington) in Asia. At the same time, in contrast to the past, when Japan positioned itself as the leading Asian power which stood by the interests of all countries in the region, today Japan, as an obedient member of the G7, acts exclusively from Western positions, imposing Western "values" even to the countries that strive to preserve their age-old traditions and national statehood.

Tokyo, in particular, provides comprehensive support to the US efforts to form new military alliances and give NATO's actions a global nature. The country shows a high interest in opening a representative office of the North Atlantic Alliance in Japan. And although at the moment the implementation of this plan is postponed due to the position of France, which seeks to avoid complications in relations with Beijing, of course, it is not removed from the agenda, as well as the prospect of Japan's subsequent full-fledged membership in the alliance.

In its effort to "curry favor" with Washington and show loyalty to the hegemon, F. Kishida's office organizes international conferences and forums in support of the Maidan authorities, and has even ventured — in violation of its own legislative restrictions — to provide military-technical assistance to Kiev regime.

Summing up, it must be said that the current policy of the ruling party and the government of Japan clearly indicates that the course towards the revival of militarism in the country

has strengthened and is gaining momentum. A modern, strong, full-fledged army is being created, which today can hardly be called Self-Defense Forces. The role of Tokyo as a faithful fighting ally and an active assistant to Washington within the framework of the Japanese Security Treaty is being strengthened. In addition, the Japanese take on new functions of involving other countries of the Asia-Pacific region into the western camp and closely coordinate their efforts with the EU and NATO, seeking to be the most useful for the United States in their containment policy and opposition to China and Russia.

In parallel with this, measures are being taken to modernize the Japanese military-industrial complex, and the controlled media like a harmonious choir "explain" to the population the need to strengthen national defense in the face of

Russia sees well this track along which Japan slides into a repetition of its militaristic past.

external threats. Although separate voices warn about the danger of being drawn into US military adventures and regret Japan's rapid losing of its peaceful reputation, they have almost no effect on the general picture. Thus, the longstanding purpose of the Japan authorities to revise the post-war constitution with its well-known Art. 9 and other militarization restricting provisions becomes increasingly achievable.

Russia sees well this track along which Japan slides into a repetition of its militaristic past, even if in a new

"role" of concern for protecting the world order on the basis of common "democratic" values. Unfortunately, such a policy has an extremely negative impact on our bilateral relations, which have practically lost all the positive baggage accumulated in previous years. Whether this corresponds to the national interests of Japan is a question for those who have embarked on the path of open Russophobia. Our country does not threaten anyone, but will take all the necessary measures to improve the defense capability of our Far Eastern borders. 🇷🇺

Launching of Kumano destroyer. 2020





SCO secretary general Zhang Ming: “I am more than confident in the future of the SCO and the sustainability of the Shanghai Spirit”

Dear Zhang Ming, you have been heading the SCO since January 2022 and most of your three-year term as General Secretary is over. Tell me, have you managed to carry out everything you planned and how do you see your main tasks for the remaining period?

The last two years were not easy for the international community: the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences continues, conflict trends in interstate relations are growing in almost all their dimensions, heavy shocks shake the world economy, environmental and climatic problems become aggravated. Naturally, not a single state or multilateral association is protected from these processes, and the SCO is no exception. Nevertheless, the dynamics of stable, mutually beneficial and effective cooperation is preserved in the organization's space. I believe that this understanding is shared by many countries of the world. The number of member states and partners in the SCO dialogue has increased significantly, which is proved by the increased number of applications for establishing links with the organization in one form or another.

I especially emphasize that, despite the emergence of new threats, all our programs and projects have been fully implemented: within the framework of the Uzbek (2021–2022) and the first Indian presidency in the history of the SCO (2022–2023). Each side carried out more than 130 events of different profiles and levels in the political-diplomatic, trade, economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres. The Samarkand and New Delhi Summits, the meeting of SCO Heads of Government Council of the Member States chaired by the Chinese and Kyrgyz sides, as well as an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in New York in September 2023 brought significant results.

Of course, we are clearly aware of the fact that in many dimensions in the SCO a significant space for improvement remains. In addition, over the twenty years of its existence, the organization has undergone profound changes: its composition has increased, a significant group of observer states and dialogue partners has emerged, the agenda has expanded dramatically, and the international prestige and influence of the SCO have fundamentally increased. In this regard, in accordance with the decisions

Zhang Ming

Was born in 1957 in the city of Zhengzhou, Henan Province. After graduation from the Beijing Foreign Studies University joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he worked for about 40 years. Occupied posts of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Kenya (2006-2009), Director General of the Department of African Affairs (2009-2010), Director General of the General Office of the MFA of China (2010-2011), Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs (2011-2013), Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (2013-2017). In 2017-2022 he was Chinese Ambassador to the European Union. Since January 2022, Secretary General of the SCO.

of the Dushanbe, Samarkand and New Delhi summits, the process of expanding and modernizing the organization, as well as its permanent functional bodies, has been launched.

In addition, new mechanisms have been created, for example, working groups on startups and innovations, traditional medicine, poverty alleviation, as well as the Institute of Tourism and Cultural Capital of the SCO was organized. The cities of Varanasi (Republic of India) and Almaty (Republic of Kazakhstan) were the first to receive this status. Thematic years of the SCO appeared: 2021 — Year of Culture, 2023 — Year of Tourism, and 2024 — Year of Ecology.

There is a lot of hard work ahead of us. The Secretariat provides maximum assistance to the Kazakhstani Chairmanship, the agenda of which focuses on current political, economic and humanitarian aspects. Together we prepare for meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers (May) and the heads of the SCO Member States (July). We expect that this year the Republic of Belarus will become a full member of the organization.

As in the previous two years, I plan to visit a number of Member States and dialogue

partners as the SCO Secretary-General and, in accordance with the available agreements and invitations, to negotiate with the leadership of key international structures such as UNEP (UN environment program), UNODC (UN office on drugs and crime), CIS, CSTO, CICA and others. We will continue to strengthen cooperation with national coordinators, permanent representatives of Member States.

Using the experience of the past years, the SCO Observers mission this year will monitor elections in several countries of the SCO "Family".

We will also continue to provide comprehensive assistance and support to Pakistani partners who accepted the honorary and responsible chairmanship mission at the SCO Heads of Government in November 2023, and to the Chinese side in preparing their chairman program in the organization from July this year.

Tell us how integration projects in the field of economics and finances are progressing within the framework of the SCO? Are there plans to create a single payment system amongst the Member States to reduce dependence on Western-controlled mechanisms?

Today, under the influence of geopolitical and other factors in world's economic architecture, huge changes are taking place. Last year, at the meeting of the Heads of Government Council of the SCO, the importance of using the potential of the countries of the region, international organizations and multilateral associations was discussed with the purpose to form a wide space in Eurasia for open, mutually beneficial and equal cooperation in accordance with the norms of international law and national interests. The efforts of the SCO are aimed at promoting regional economic cooperation, creating favorable conditions for trade and investment and the free movement of goods, capital, services and technologies.

Recently, the voices in the world have become louder in favor of the speedy transformation of the international monetary and financial

system. Within the framework of the SCO, at different levels, the possibility of improving and transforming existing payment and settlement mechanisms is also discussed. At the same time, it is obvious that this process is not easy, since the US dollar is deeply integrated with national currency and international payment systems.

The SCO member states are making efforts to consistently expand the practice of using national currencies in mutual settlements, considering this as an important stimulating factor in the development of trade and investment cooperation between our countries. The focus of this work is the implementation of the roadmap adopted in 2022 at the Heads of State Council of the SCO in Samarkand to increase the share of national currencies in mutual interaction. The optimal ways of this process are worked out within the expert group represented by the specialists of the Central Banks and Ministries of Finance of the Member States.

Opportunities for the formation of liquidity sources in national currencies, organization of direct trade in national currency on stock exchange sites are being studied; proposals are formed on possible mechanisms for clearing settlements, taking into account the specifics of payment systems of SCO member states. The main task is to find the most rational ways of implementing mutual calculations and create favorable conditions for the functioning of the national payment systems of the Member States. Issues of expanding the use of national currencies are also discussed on the platform of the SCO Interbank Association.

We can see that at the bilateral level, the work to increase the share of national currency in the calculations between the member states is progressing very dynamically. For example, a significant increase in trade between China and Russia in recent years has largely become possible precisely due to the expansion of Russian ruble and Chinese yuan usage. We expect that similar dynamics will be observed within the framework of the multilateral SCO efforts.

In November 2023, at the "Primakov Reading forum", the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S.V. Lavrov called the SCO a cementing structure for the formation of a large Eurasian Partnership (EP). Do you agree with this assessment? How do you see in general the role and place of the SCO among other integration projects?

Today, the SCO agenda covers almost all areas of activity. Its power bloc, referring to the fight against terrorism, extremism, separatism, cybercrime, drug trafficking and other threats, is among the top priorities, but no less important is the creative component of the organization. The organization consistently intensifies its work to ensure economic stability and environmental protection, promote cultural exchanges, develop transport interconnection, strengthen food and energy security, increase investment cooperation, as well as cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere, in the field informational technologies, traditional medicine, etc.

The uniqueness of the SCO, which distinguishes it from other associations, is that it managed to consolidate 26 states with different political, economic and humanitarian systems. At the same time, all members of the "family" are set up to develop joint effective mechanisms for regional cooperation and the settlement of international problems exclusively through peaceful political and diplomatic ways.

In the context of the developing process of global transformation, the role of regional structures and multilateral cooperation in general is becoming increasingly important.

« The efforts of the SCO are aimed at promoting regional economic cooperation, creating favorable conditions for trade and investment and the free movement of goods, capital, services and technologies.

SCO

SCO is an intergovernmental international organization, created on June 15, 2001 on the basis of the Shanghai Five mechanism that had existed since 1996. Now SCO includes India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan, Belorussia and Mongolia have observer status. 14 more states are dialogue partners. SCO's main goals are: strengthening mutual trust, friendship and neighbourliness among member states; promoting their effective cooperation in political, trade/economic, scientific/technical and cultural spheres; joint securing and maintaining peace, safety and stability in the region. The organization has two permanent bodies: SCO Secretariat in Beijing and SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent. SCO official languages are Russian and Chinese.

The SCO and EP pursue similar goals in this respect and move in the same direction. It seems that the organic interaction of these two structures will make a new, more significant contribution to the development of the whole Eurasia.

In 2023 Iran became the ninth member state of the SCO organization. In the summer 2024, the Astana summit is expected to complete the process of accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Organization. How many more applications for entry are there? In your opinion, is SCO ready for further expansion now?

Iran became the ninth SCO member state in accordance with the decision of the Heads of State Council adopted at the New Delhi meeting in 2023. The accession process of the Republic of Belarus has reached the finish line. Minsk completed all the procedures provided for by the Memorandum of obligations ahead of schedule to obtain the status of a full member of the organization. It remains to complete the ratification procedures in some Member States, and in general I see no obstacles that would prevent the Astana summit from being the final point of this process.

I would like to repeat that for the SCO, the expansion is not a goal in itself, but the result of natural development, a clear evidence of its growing international attractiveness, the relevance of the principles underlying the organization at the regional and global levels. This is the reason why, in the two decades of its existence, the SCO from a regional association, which focused mainly

on the problems of Central Asia, has grown into a large transregional organization, with 26 participating countries and a total population of over 3 billion people.

As for the prospects for further expanding membership in the SCO, I will refrain from deterministic forecasts. The question is that this process is not limited to the quantitative aspects, but involves the need for sufficiently deep structural transformations. As I have already said, the organization is now working on serious modernization of its executive mechanisms in order to increase the efficiency of its activities. As part of this work, the aspects of accepting new members and further interaction with the SCO “Family” are also touched upon.

An important feature of the SCO, which distinguishes it from many other discussion platforms, is the presence of a military track. In your opinion, did the beginning of the Russian Special Military Operation in Ukraine somehow affect the interaction of the SCO member states in the military sphere?

First of all, I would like to say that the SCO is an international organization with a clear structure, a multidisciplinary agenda, with its own characteristics and successful practices. Among the mechanisms of cooperation there is also a military track — the Defense Ministers Meeting, meetings of the Chiefs of the General Staff, meetings on the expert level, which periodically gives rise to all sorts of speculation that the SCO allegedly represents a defense union.

Some media often compare the SCO with NATO. I have already had to call attention to the fact that drawing any parallels between our organization and the North Atlantic Alliance is absolutely incorrect. These are two fundamentally different associations. NATO is a purely military bloc with all the relevant attributes: international command structures, united military contingents, and so on. There is nothing like this in the SCO and there cannot be. In the statutory documents of our organization there are no mutual obligations for joint defence against external aggression.



The joint exercises conducted within the SCO with the participation of the Armed Forces of the Member States have a purely anti-terrorist orientation. In order to verify this, just look at the scenarios of these exercises.

At the moment, the plan of cooperation between the Ministries of Defense of the SCO for 2023–2025 is being fully implemented. In this context, on December 6, 2023, the 18th meeting of the expert working group was held in Astana at the meeting of the Ministers of Defense of the SCO, which also involved representatives of the Republic of Belarus. The Secretariat, in its turn, focuses on the preparation and successful organization of the next meeting of the Ministries of Defense, which will be held in Astana on the 26th of April.

What can you say in general about your contacts with Western partners? Has the format of communication with them changed with the start of the Russian Special Military

Operation in Ukraine and the anti-Russian sanctions imposed by the West? Is there any external pressure on the SCO that complicates the implementation of joint projects?

As I have already underlined, the current geopolitical conditions have not only failed to weaken, but, on the contrary, have fueled the interest of other states to the organization. A number of applications for membership in one capacity or another from different countries are under consideration.

There are many reasons to say that the SCO has a good international reputation due to the widespread recognition of its goals, objectives and principles. Among them — mutual respect and trust, an independent choice for political and economic development, lack of third-party orientation, active promotion of the good neighborhood and friendship principle, openness in the development of multilateral relations, readiness for cooperation. All

Meeting of the Council of National Coordinators of the SCO, Beijing, January 29, 2024

« Some media often compare the SCO with NATO. I have already had to call attention to the fact that drawing any parallels between our organization and the North Atlantic Alliance is absolutely incorrect.



Before the meeting of
the Council of Heads
of State of the SCO.
Samarkand.
September 16, 2022

Interviewed by
Vladislav Ilyin

Chinese language
version
(中文版)



this is widely demanded in the international community. It is in belonging to the “SCO family” that other states of the region see prospects and feel “comfortable”.

We register an increasing interest in the organization’s activities from other international institutions, as evidenced by their initiative in establishing and developing contacts with us. Different structures of the UN, INTERPOL, OSCE and others can be cited as examples in this context. The interaction with them is marked by high dynamics.

The current difficult geopolitical situation has not only not slowed down the implementation of projects within the organization, but, on the contrary, has given them more strength. A number of new cooperation mechanisms have been created to attract, let's say, the “younger generation” of the member states. We are confident that cooperation in these areas will benefit all the participants of the association and give a new impulse to the

healthy and stable development of the organization.

And finally, tell us how do you see the future of the SCO? What do you think the organization will be in ten or twenty years from now?

In the context of global transformation and geopolitical turbulence, it is hardly possible to make such long-term forecasts. However, I am more than confident in the future of the SCO and the viability of the “Shanghai Spirit”. I am convinced that the organization will keep up with the times, achieve new successes in its development, and establish itself as an important factor in stability and cooperation not only in the region, but also far beyond its borders. 🚀



**THE SVR OF RUSSIA
IS AUTHORIZED
TO DECLARE**

СВР РОССИИ
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 12/908

ХЬЮСТОН 214 11.12.2023 07:55

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

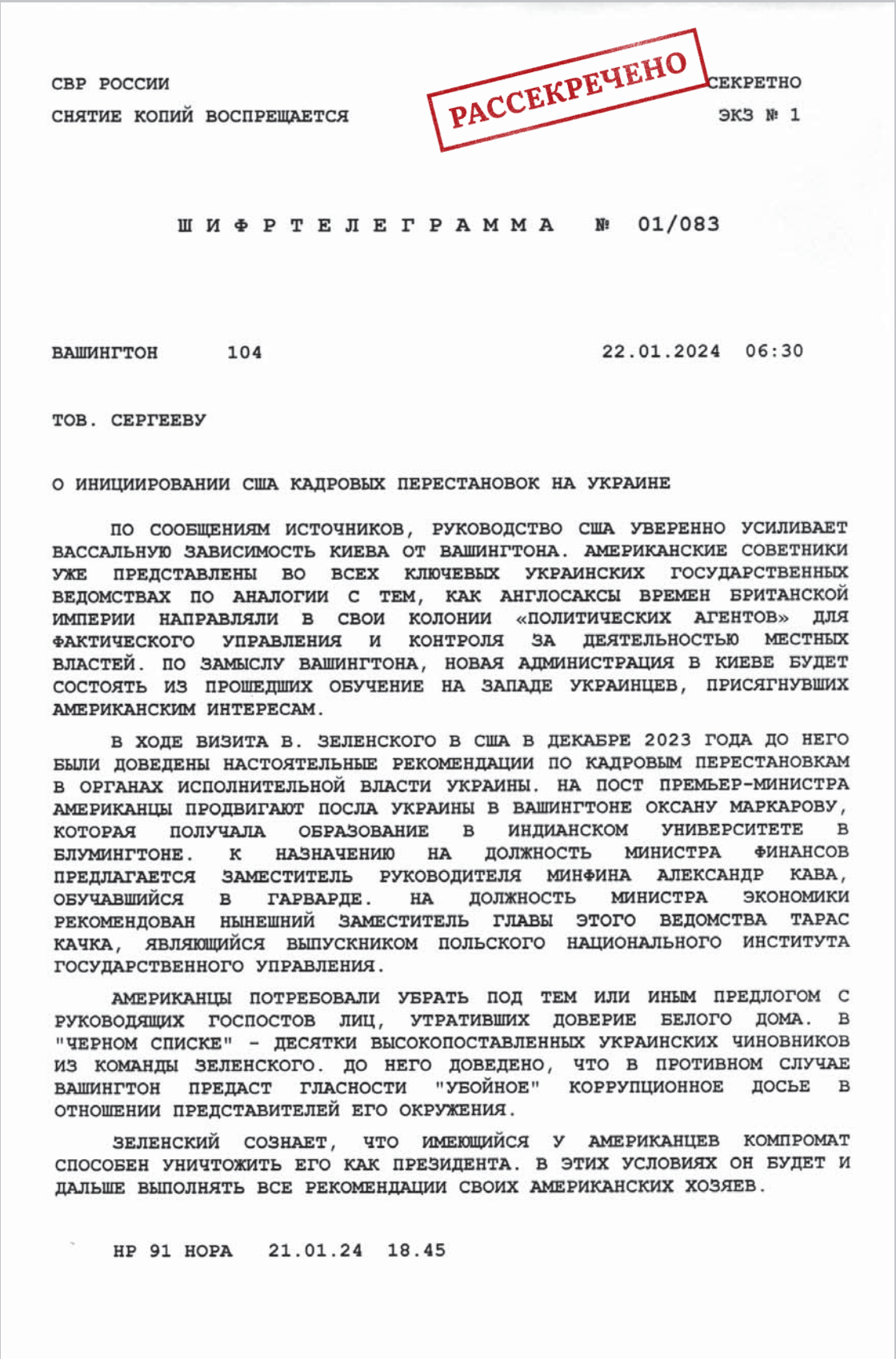
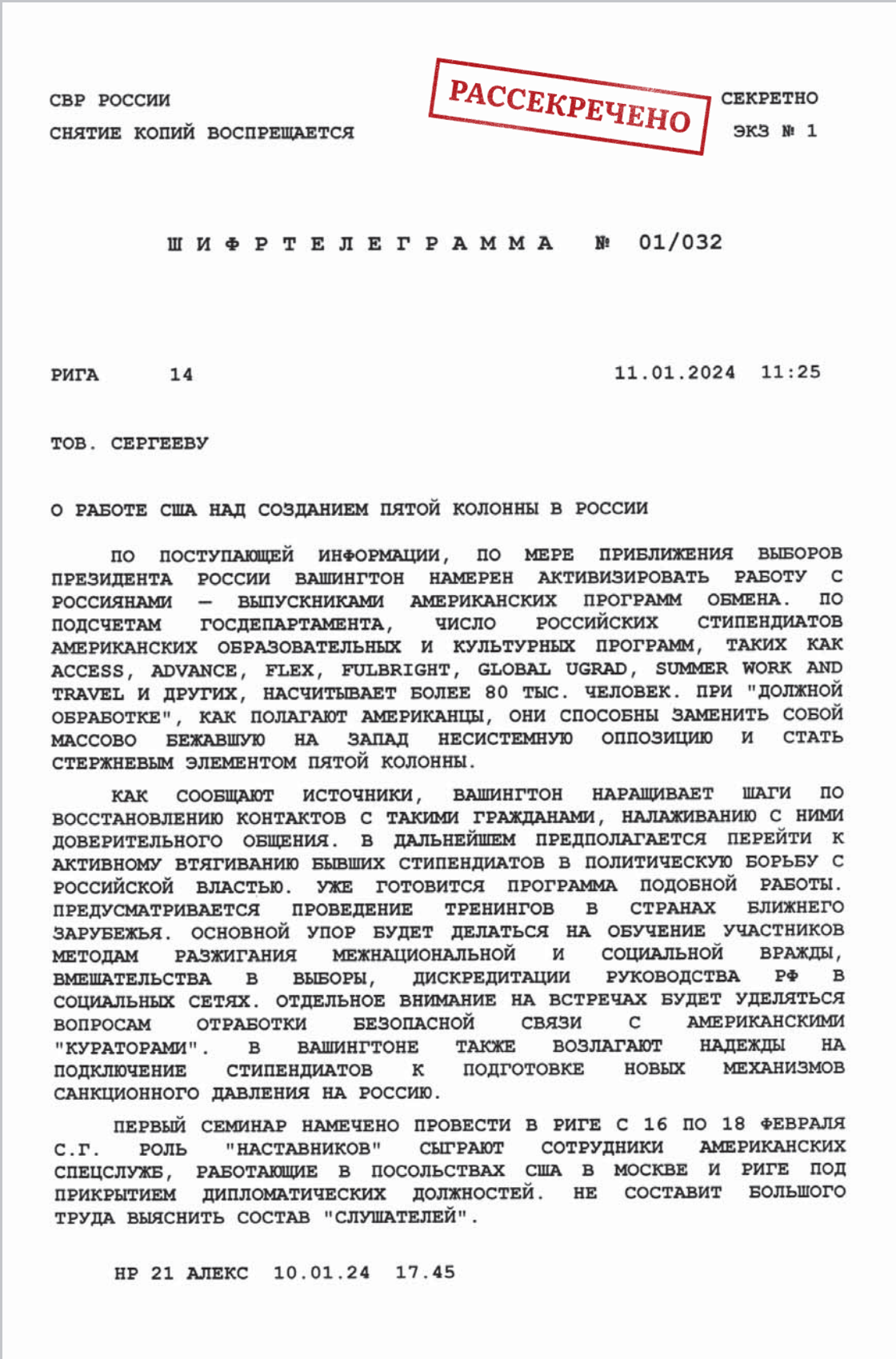
О ПОДГОТОВКЕ ЗАПАДОМ ЗАМЕНЫ В.ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО

ПО ПОСТУПАЮЩИМ ДАННЫМ, ВЫСОКОПОСТАВЛЕННЫЕ ЛИЦА ВЕДУЩИХ СТРАН ЗАПАДА ВСЕ ЧАЩЕ ОБСУЖДАЮТ НЕОБХОДИМОСТЬ ЗАМЕНЫ В. ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО. СРЕДИ ПРИЧИН НАЗЫВАЮТСЯ И НЕСБЫВШИЕСЯ ОБЕЩАНИЯ УКРАИНСКОГО ПРЕЗИДЕНТА ПОБЕДИТЬ РОССИЮ НА ПОЛЕ БОЯ, И ЕГО БЕСКОНЕЧНОЕ ХАМСТВО В ОБЩЕНИИ С ЗАРУБЕЖНЫМИ ПАРТНЕРАМИ, И БЕСПРЕДЕЛЬНЫЕ КУМОВСТВО И КОРРУПЦИЯ НА УКРАИНЕ. НО ГЛАВНОЕ - ЭТО УТРАТА ЗЕЛЕНСКИМ СПОСОБНОСТИ МАНЕВРИРОВАТЬ В КОНФЛИКТЕ С РОССИЕЙ В ИНТЕРЕСАХ ВАШИНГТОНА И СОЮЗНИКОВ.

НА ЗАПАДЕ СЧИТАЮТ, ЧТО ГЛАВА УКРАИНЫ СЛИШКОМ ДАЛЕКО ЗАШЕЛ В СОЗДАНИИ СЕБЕ ОБРАЗА БЕСКОМПРОМИССНОГО СТОРОННИКА ВОЙНЫ С МОСКВОЙ ДО ПОВЕДНОГО КОНЦА. В СЛУЧАЕ НЕОБХОДИМОСТИ ОН НЕ СМОЖЕТ СТАТЬ СТОРОНОЙ ПЕРЕГОВОРОВ С РОССИЕЙ В ИНТЕРЕСАХ ВРЕМЕННОГО "ЗАМОРАЖИВАНИЯ" КОНФЛИКТА И СПАСЕНИЯ РУСОФОВСКОГО КИЕВСКОГО РЕЖИМА. ПО ОЦЕНКАМ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО РАЗВЕДЫВАТЕЛЬНОГО СООБЩЕСТВА, С УЧЕТОМ РАЗВИТИЯ СИТУАЦИИ НА УКРАИНСКОМ ТВД ПОТРЕБНОСТЬ В ЭТОМ МОЖЕТ ВОЗНИКНУТЬ УЖЕ В СКОРОМ ВРЕМЕНИ.

РАССМАТРИВАЮТСЯ ВОЗМОЖНЫЕ ПРЕЕМНИКИ ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО НА ПОСТУ ГЛАВЫ ГОСУДАРСТВА. В ЧАСТНОСТИ, В КУЛУАРАХ ПРОШЕДШЕЙ В БРЮССЕЛЕ В НОЯБРЕ С.Г. ВСТРЕЧИ МИНИНДЕЛ СТРАН ЕС ОТМЕЧАЛОСЬ, ЧТО ТАКОВЫМ МОГ БЫ СТАТЬ ОДИН ИЗ ВЫСОКОПОСТАВЛЕННЫХ УКРАИНСКИХ ВОЕННЫХ, НАПРИМЕР, ГЛАВНОКОМАНДУЮЩИЙ ВСУ В. ЗАЛУЖНЫЙ ИЛИ РУКОВОДИТЕЛЬ ГЛАВНОГО УПРАВЛЕНИЯ РАЗВЕДКИ МИНОБОРОНЫ УКРАИНЫ К. БУДАНОВ, А ТАКЖЕ ГЛАВА ОФИСА ПРЕЗИДЕНТА УКРАИНЫ А. ЕРМАК, БЫВШИЙ СОВЕТНИК ОФИСА ПРЕЗИДЕНТА УКРАИНЫ А. АРЕСТОВИЧ, МЭР КИЕВА В. КЛИЧКО. ПО МНЕНИЮ ЕВРОПЕЙЦЕВ, КАЖДЫЙ ИЗ НИХ В СОСТОЯНИИ СЫГРАТЬ РОЛЬ "УКРАИНСКОГО ПИЛСУДСКОГО", НА ДЕСЯТИЛЕТИЯ СОЗДАВ ПРОЧНЫЙ "САНИТАРНЫЙ КОРДОН" МЕЖДУ РОССИЕЙ И ЕВРОПОЙ. ТАКОЙ СЦЕНАРИЙ ПРЕДУСМАТРИВАЕТ ПРЕКРАЩЕНИЕ ОГНЯ МЕЖДУ МОСКВОЙ И КИЕВОМ В МОМЕНТ, КОГДА ВС УКРАИНЫ ОКОНЧАТЕЛЬНО УТРАТЯТ НАСТУПАТЕЛЬНЫЙ ПОТЕНЦИАЛ.

НР 501 МАРАТ 10.12.23 11.45



СВР РОССИИ
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 01/097

ОТТАВА 52 29.01.2024 14:40

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

ОБ УСИЛИЯХ США ПО СРЫВУ СПОРТИВНЫХ МЕРОПРИЯТИЙ В РФ

ПО ПОЛУЧЕННЫМ ДАННЫМ, В АДМИНИСТРАЦИИ США ОБЕСПОКОЕНЫ ТЕМ, ЧТО ЗАПУЩЕННАЯ ИМИ КАМПАНИЯ ПО ТАК НАЗЫВАЕМОЙ ИЗОЛЯЦИИ РОССИИ В СПОРТЕ ВЫСШИХ ДОСТИЖЕНИЙ ДАЕТ СВОИ. МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ СПОРТИВНЫЕ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ ВСЕ ЧАЩЕ ДЕМОНИСТРИРУЮТ НЕЖЕЛАНИЕ УЧИТЫВАТЬ ПОЗИЦИЮ БЕЛОГО ДОМА В ВОПРОСЕ НЕДОПУСКА РОССИЯН К СОРЕВНОВАНИЯМ. "СЛИШКОМ БОЛЬШОЕ" ЧИСЛО СТРАН ГЛОБАЛЬНОГО ЮГА ИЗЪЯВИЛО ЖЕЛАНИЕ ПРИНЯТЬ УЧАСТИЕ В ОРГАНИЗУЕМЫХ РОССИЕЙ В НАСТУПИВШЕМ ГОДУ "ИГРАХ БУДУЩЕГО", "СПОРТИВНЫХ ИГРАХ СТРАН БРИКС" И "ВСЕМИРНЫХ ИГРАХ ДРУЖБЫ". В МИРОВОМ СПОРТЕ, КАК ОТМЕЧАЮТ В ВАШИНГТОНЕ, ПО СУТИ, НАМЕТИЛИСЬ ТЕ ЖЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ СТАНОВЛЕНИЯ МНОГОПОЛЯРНОСТИ, КОТОРЫЕ НАБЛЮДАЮТСЯ НА МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ АРЕНЕ.

В ЭТОЙ СИТУАЦИИ АДМИНИСТРАЦИЯ США АКТИВИЗИРУЕТ УСИЛИЯ ПО СРЫВУ ПРЕДСТОЯЩИХ В РФ СПОРТИВНЫХ МЕРОПРИЯТИЙ. ГЛАВНЫЕ НАДЕЖДЫ В ЭТОМ ПЛАНЕ ВОЗЛАГАЮТСЯ НА ВСЕМИРНОЕ АНТИДОПИНГОВОЕ АГЕНТСТВО (ВАДА) И ЛИЧНО ЕГО ПРЕЗИДЕНТА В. БАНЬКУ. АМЕРИКАНЦЫ ИСХОДЯТ ИЗ ТОГО, ЧТО БАНЬКА ЗАИНТЕРЕСОВАН В УСПЕШНОМ ПРОДОЛЖЕНИИ КАРЬЕРЫ ПОСЛЕ ИСТЕЧЕНИЯ В 2025 ГОДА СРОКА ЕГО ПОЛНОМОЧИЙ В ВАДА.

АМЕРИКАНСКИЕ РАСЧЕТЫ ЧАСТИЧНО ОПРАВДЫВАЮТСЯ. С ПОДАЧИ БАНЬКИ РАЗВЕРНУТА КАМПАНИЯ ПО ДИСКРЕДИТАЦИИ ОРГАНИЗУЕМЫХ РОССИЕЙ СОСТЯЗАНИЙ. ИНОСТРАННЫХ СПОРТСМЕНОВ, ПЛАНИРУЮЩИХ ПРИНЯТЬ В НИХ УЧАСТИЕ, ЗАПУГИВАЮТ "КРАХОМ КАРЬЕРЫ" В ОЛИМПИЙСКОМ СПОРТЕ, ПРИЧЕМ УЖЕ ЭТИМ ЛЕТОМ В ПАРИЖЕ.

ТЕМ НЕ МЕНЕЕ, ОТКРОВЕННО ПРОАМЕРИКАНСКАЯ ПОЗИЦИЯ ПОЛЯКА ВЫЗЫВАЕТ ВСЕ БОЛЬШЕЕ РАЗДРАЖЕНИЕ В ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНЫХ КРУГАХ. УСТАВШИЕ ОТ ПОЛИТИЗАЦИИ МИРОВОГО СПОРТА ГОСУДАРСТВА СТРЕМЯТСЯ УКРЕПЛЯТЬ СПОРТИВНЫЙ СУВЕРЕНИТЕТ, В ТОМ ЧИСЛЕ, В СФЕРЕ ФОРМУЛИРОВАНИЯ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ АНТИДОПИНГОВЫХ ЗАКОНОДАТЕЛЬСТВ. ПОДОВНЫЙ НАСТРОЙ, В ЧАСТНОСТИ, ДЕМОНИСТРИРУЕТ СОЗДАННАЯ В 2021 ГОДУ ИБЕРО-АМЕРИКАНСКАЯ СЕТЬ ПО БОРЬБЕ С ДОПИНГОМ (RILD), В КОТОРУЮ, НАРЯДУ СО СТРАНАМИ ЛАТИНСКОЙ АМЕРИКИ, ВХОДЯТ ТАКЖЕ АНДОРРА, ИСПАНИЯ И ПОРТУГАЛИЯ.

НР 58 ЖАК 28.01.24 22.45

СВР РОССИИ
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 02/103

БРЮССЕЛЬ 84 12.02.2024 09:40

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ПОДГОТОВКЕ "НАМЕСТНИКА" ЗАПАДА НА УКРАИНЕ

ПО ПОЛУЧЕННЫМ ДАННЫМ, ЗАПАД ПРОДОЛЖАЕТ УКРЕПЛЯТЬ МЕХАНИЗМЫ ПРЯМОГО ВНЕШНЕГО УПРАВЛЕНИЯ ПОДКОНТРОЛЬНОЙ КИЕВСКОМУ РЕЖИМУ ТЕРРИТОРИЕЙ. КАК СООБЩАЮТ ИСТОЧНИКИ, США И ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИЯ УБЕЖДАЮТ ДРУГИЕ ГОСУДАРСТВА "СЕМЕРКИ" УЧРЕДИТЬ ДОЛЖНОСТЬ "СПЕЦПОСЛАНИКА" ПО УКРАИНЕ. ПРЕДПОЛАГАЕТСЯ, ЧТО ОН БУДЕТ ИМЕТЬ ПОСТОЯННЫЙ ДОСТУП К ПРЕЗИДЕНТУ В. ЗЕЛЕНСКОМУ И ЗНАТЬ ОБО ВСЕХ ЕГО ПЛАНАХ. "СПЕЦПОСЛАНИКУ" ТАКЖЕ ПРЕДСТОИТ БЛОКИРОВАТЬ НЕ СОГЛАСОВАННЫЕ С ВАШИНГТОНОМ И ЛОНДОНОМ ШАГИ УКРАИНСКОГО РУКОВОДСТВА, ПРЕДЛАГАЯ ВМЕСТО НИХ "ПРАВИЛЬНЫЕ" РЕШЕНИЯ. НА РОЛЬ ТАКОГО ДЕ-ФАКТО "НАМЕСТНИКА" ЗАПАДА НА УКРАИНЕ ПРЕТЕНДУЕТ ШИРОКИЙ КРУГ РУСОФОВСКИ НАСТРОЕННЫХ АМЕРИКАНСКИХ И ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ ПОЛИТИКОВ. СРЕДИ НИХ ВЫДЕЛЯЕТСЯ ДЕЙСТВУЮЩИЙ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНЫЙ СЕКРЕТАРЬ НАТО Й. СТОЛТЕНБЕРГ, КОТОРЫЙ СРАЗУ ПОСЛЕ ОКОНЧАНИЯ НЫНЕШНЕГО МАНДАТА В БРЮССЕЛЕ ХОТЕЛ БЫ ОТПРАВИТЬСЯ СЛЕДИТЬ ЗА ПОРЯДКОМ В КИЕВЕ.

ВМЕСТЕ С ТЕМ ВЫСОКА ВЕРОЯТНОСТЬ ТОГО, ЧТО РЕАЛИЗАЦИЯ ЗАДУМКИ С НАЗНАЧЕНИЕМ "НАМЕСТНИКА" НА УКРАИНЕ, КТО БЫ НИ ЗАНЯЛ ЭТУ ДОЛЖНОСТЬ, НЕ ПРИВЕДЕТ К ЖЕЛАЕМЫМ США И ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИЕЙ РЕЗУЛЬТАТАМ. В УСЛОВИЯХ ВСЕ БОЛЕЕ ТЯЖЕЛОГО ПОЛОЖЕНИЯ НА ФРОНТЕ, СЛОЖНОСТЕЙ С ПРОВЕДЕНИЕМ МОБИЛИЗАЦИИ И ЗАМИНОК С ПОЛУЧЕНИЕМ ЗАПАДНОЙ ВОЕННОЙ ПОМОЩИ МНОГИЕ УКРАИНЦЫ НАЧАЛИ СОЗНАВАТЬ НЕИЗБЕЖНОСТЬ ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ МОСКВОЙ ЦЕЛЕЙ СВО. В СВЯЗИ С ЭТИМ В ВАШИНГТОНЕ И ЛОНДОНЕ СТАЛИ ОПАСАТЬСЯ ПРЕДАТЕЛЬСТВА СО СТОРОНЫ МНОГИХ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ КИЕВСКОЙ ЭЛИТЫ, КОТОРЫЕ МОГУТ ПОПЫТАТЬСЯ "СЫГРАТЬ НА ОПЕРЕЖЕНИЕ", ЗАБЛАГОВРЕМЕННО ПЕРЕИДЯ НА СТОРОНУ БУДУЩИХ ПОБЕДИТЕЛЕЙ.

НР 45 ФЕЛИКС 11.02.24 21.35



Foreign Intelligence Service of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Recently, our Kazakh colleagues celebrated an anniversary: on October 15, 1993, the President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev signed a decree “The creation of intelligence departments in the National Security Committee and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan”. This is, of course, a significant date, yet we would like to remind you that the history of the KNB of Kazakhstan is much richer.

The first “intelligence officers”, who studied the strengths and weaknesses of a potential enemy, appeared in the Kazakh steppes back in the Middle Ages during the Kazakh khanate. Ertouls (from the Mongolian “Yergeul” — an observer, guard of a yurt, guard of a wagon), who served at the court of Abulkhair, Zhanybek and other Kazakh rulers, under the cover of embassy representatives and interpreters, collected information about the internal position and military potential of the nearest neighbors, revealed their plans and intentions, which allowed the khans to respond ahead of time to possible threats and generally build their policies more effectively.

Historians especially single out Ablai Khan (1711–1781), during whose reign Kazakh intelligence reached a new level. Among his successes were military victories and important agreements with Russia and China, thanks to which the Kazakh Khanate managed to overcome fragmentation and subsequently join the Russian Empire on favorable terms.

On the Russian Tsar’s service, talented Kazakh intelligence officers were also able to show their worth.

A vivid example is the staff captain Chokan Valikhanov, a naturalist, a brilliant ethnographer and an excellent intelligence officer. For the successful accomplishment of a secret mission in Kashgaria and the demonstrated “excellent, diligent and zealous service to the fatherland”, by the decision of Alexander II he was honored with the Imperial Order of St. Prince Vladimir.

In the Soviet years, already being an integral part of the VChK-NKVD-KGB, Kazakh intelligence had a glorious path. From a small unit, it turned into an effective intelligence service, which solved the most complex specific tasks, ensuring the security of the country in the assigned area. Suffice to mention such successful operations of Kazakhstan Chekists as the penetration into the White Guard organizations based in China, which made it possible in 1926 to lure out Ataman B. Annenkov and the chief of his staff General N. Denisov into the Soviet territory.

During the Great Patriotic War, the Kazakh Chekists shoulder to shoulder with their brothers from all the Soviet Union republics fought heroically on the front, conducted



The Foreign Intelligence Service of the KNB of the Republic of Kazakhstan is headed by the deputy chairman of the KNB – the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service. Since April 2023, this position has been held by Major General Amerkhanov Askar Baimerdanovich.

The location of the headquarters of the KNB of the Republic of Kazakhstan is: Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana, Syganak street, 66.

reconnaissance on enemy territory, forced out fascism from our land, liberated Warsaw and Prague, seized Berlin. Kazakhstan intelligence carried out responsible and complex work to defend the eastern borders of our country, disrupting plans of the enemy, preventing sabotage on the border and in our rear.

Stages of Kazakhstan foreign intelligence formation:

1920–1992 — As part of the Soviet state security bodies

1992–1995 — Department of Intelligence of the National Security Committee (KNB) of the Republic of Kazakhstan

1996–1997 — Main Directorate of Intelligence of the KNB RK

1997–1998 — Barlau Service of the Republic of Kazakhstan

1998–2009 — Barlau service of the KNB RK

2009–2019 — Foreign Intelligence Service “Syrbar” of the Republic of Kazakhstan

2019 — till now — Foreign Intelligence Service of the KNB of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the process of creating the special services of independent Kazakhstan, including foreign intelligence service, full use was made of all the accumulated experience of the professional school common to all CIS member countries. Today, the Foreign Intelligence Service of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan (SVR KNB RK) (in Kazakh language Қазақстан Республикасы Ұлттық Қауіпсіздік Комитетінің Сыртқы барлау қызметі) is the most important element of the entire security system of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Having a wide network of territorial branches and field stations abroad, it supplies the country's top management with confidential data necessary for making key decisions. Other tasks assigned to foreign intelligence include ensuring protection of foreign institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan from agent, technical and

physical penetration on the part of foreign intelligence services, as well as terrorist and hostile elements.

An equally important direction of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the KNB of the Republic of Kazakhstan activity is cooperation with foreign intelligence services in countering international terrorism, religious extremism and other common threats. Since 1994–1995, missions of the KNB of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been opened in the CIS countries, the US, China, and European states

Interaction with the SVR of Russia has traditionally been very close and productive. Coordination has been established in areas such as fight against terrorism, security in the informational sphere, and countering hybrid threats. At the same time, communication with partners from Kazakhstan is not restricted to formal limits and is supported at the level of veteran organizations as well. Taking into consideration the accumulated positive experience, we can confidently say that in the future, working ties between the SVR of Russia and the Foreign Intelligence Service of the KNB will only expand.

In conclusion we would like to note that the poem cited at the beginning of this article was written



in 1998 by the official representative of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia in the KNB of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mikhail Pogudin (now the Chairman of the Council of Veterans) and was published in 2000 in the journal of the Kazakh special services “Barlau”. In our opinion, it hasn’t lost its relevance today. 🇷🇺

Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation

*Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation
Our friendship is of centuries’ duration
There is a special power and alchemy in it*

Which killed our common enemy, we must admit

The power is as high as mountain ranges

The power is as wide as a steppe ...

We will overcome all dangers

This was before and will never end

We have a lot to be proud of

We have a lot to remember, pals!

There is a lot in our capitals

We bet, it’s hard to forget

In our memory, our friends

There are a lot of facts and dates

We think about Gagarin, the virgin land

Many other things — It’s hard to end

Wise songs of Abai

With deep wonderful eyes

The brave sniper Manshuk

With a beautiful look

The Magnificent Pushkin

The Great Shokan

Shymkent girls are good-looking

Rostov guy — the patsan

We became very close

And there’s a saying of course

When we work with our axe

You have splinters to catch

Lot’s of things happened sometimes

We had some quarrels among us

But we should not absolutize

Those particularities, — that would be wise

We should remember forever

We should remember — it’s a must

There should not be among us

A drop of distrust

There won’t be such a story of disgrace

For distrust — there is no place

In our mutual history

We will have only new victories

Let’s have communion, our friends

There is only power — nothing else

In our

Eurasian Union!

M.V. Pogudin, 1998

«Do you remember how it all started?»

«Crimean spring» 10 years later

Text: Vladimir Andreevich Konstantinov, Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Crimea

Looking back, I want to say that there couldn't have been any other decision for us, Crimeans, than return to Russia, to our native harbor... As a person who knows history, I always understood that this would happen. The only question was when this historical window would open.

According to my feelings, Kiev's attitude towards Crimea even during the Soviet times was like to a foreign entity. Another thing is that people in the Soviet Union did not feel any problems. When the USSR began to fall apart, there was a shock. I remember myself. There was a feeling as if something was taken away, something was lost. At the same time, echoes of undisguised nationalism reached us from Kiev. For example, people traveled to the capital for meetings and brought back information about such wild nationalism that we never knew. Of

course, Crimea was already stirring up at that time.

The 1991 referendum was held in one breath. People tried to save their Motherland. I remember the enthusiasm we all voted with. There was a feeling that if we voted, the Soviet Union would return. But these illusions were not destined to come true. We became part of Ukraine, and it went into all sorts of trouble. At that time, Kiev leaders did not hide their dislike, but their actions were still cautious. They tried to find some leverage over Crimea. However, it was gradually getting worse and worse. It ended with the fact that the Constitution of Crimea, which we approved in 1991, was completely destroyed by them over three or four years, and there was nothing left of it. Although we practically had the rights of an independent state: we could pass the laws, we had our own

budget and the right to international relations. Kiev destroyed all this.

I remember 2003. The economy began to develop little by little; there was some kind of hope. It seemed that that things were about to get better. And all of a sudden the orange Maidan started. The whole of Crimea was again in a stressful state. It became clear that nothing good for Crimea would happen in this country. The representatives of the orange Maidan summoned the spirit of Banderovshchina (Bandera's ideology) from beyond, and it was obvious that it would not be driven back; it would only sow the feeling of enmity and death.

With the beginning of the second Maidan, it became immediately clear that everything was heading for disaster in Ukraine. No one knew how and when it would happen, but it was clear to everyone that collapse was inevitable. I came to Kiev at that time and immediately felt that people there had become different. Even those colleagues with whom I always communicated normally. I felt a chill, for the first time I felt that I had come to a foreign city. But my daughter worked there. I told her: "Let's pack your things on the sly, I don't like it here". And she said: «Everything will be fine, dad, we are fine here...» We went to Khreshchatyk, but everything was blocked there. They asked: «Where are you from? — From Crimea. — Get out, we don't accept Crimeans here at all». There was a feeling of devastation. You don't accept us? Well, then we don't accept you either.



In December 2013, when they started storming the Presidential Administration in Kiev, we—the current leadership of Crimea—gathered and recorded the TV appeal to Ukrainians. We tried to warn Ukraine, to give a signal. Surprisingly, it worked — it was broadcasted by all TV channels. But the Ukrainians got anxious. They began to say: did you hear what they said there in Crimea? So they thought what was going on in Kiev was normal, but what we said — was not. They immediately started calling me and asking: «Do you want to secede?»

At that time, there was no clear plan on how this would happen. Although we had long had conclusions about the legal consequences of the 1991 referendum on Ukraine's secession from the USSR. I used to say to myself: imagine, we are seceding. Does Russia need us? What will we bring to it? And what will we do with the electricity and water supplies that go through Ukraine? Aren't we too vulnerable? On the other hand, we understood that if they did to us what they did to Kiev, Crimea with all its history would no longer exist. If they didn't spare Kiev, didn't spare the people there, violated all the laws, then what was Crimea for them? They would destroy us legally and ideologically. Whether they would destroy us physically or not — it didn't matter. It was clear that Crimea, as we knew it, would cease to exist.

On the 20th of February, 2014, there was an attack on Crimeans (participants in the Antimaidan rally who were coming back to Crimea by bus) was carried out. An ambush was organized on the highway by the armed nationalists from the UPA, UDAR and Svoboda parties. They shot at the buses, beat women and men with bats, then doused them with gasoline and shouted «Now you will blaze up, Moskals! We will come to your Crimea again. We will cut and shoot!» We all stayed awake that night trying to save people...

The next day, on the invitation of the Chairman of the State Duma (lower chamber of the Russian Parliament) S.E. Naryshkin we arrived in Moscow with a delegation of the Supreme Council of Crimea. We had a warm and frank meeting with Sergei Evgenievich, who assured us of full support and stressed that Russia would understand and accept any legitimate free expression of the will of the people of Crimea. At that time, it was extremely important for us, like a breath of fresh air. It became clear that we were not alone; there was a big country behind us. And when the President of Russia made a decision, the Ministry of Defense and other agencies got involved...

In Kiev, of course, they were watching us and realized that the situation was going out of their control. But they got bogged down there, in Kiev, they had a lot of organizational problems. And there - such unexpected activity. We acted dynamically and were always one step ahead of them. If we had delayed a bit, then, of course, they would have dealt with us. On 23d of February, Avakov and Nalivaichenko, as well as SBU Special Forces, arrived from Kiev. They tried to seize Yanukovich, the possibility of arresting Aksenov and me was also discussed. But they didn't succeed. They faced the fact that the locals did not want to do anything, and it became clear to them that there was no one to rely on. They stayed for a while and departed.

And on the 24th of February, State Duma deputies Leonid Slutsky, Oleg Lebedev and adviser Mikhail Krotov arrived to Crimea. They came to a meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Council, and then talked with compatriots — residents of Sevastopol and Simferopol, which also gave us moral support.

On the 26th of February, we began to take action: we gathered a session of the Supreme Council and announced

the beginning of preparations for the referendum. At the same time, we actually immediately implemented the martial law in the republic: took the authorities under guard, blocked the airport, and the isthmus. They couldn't reach us from land, but they could send a brigade from the air. It was clear that we had to hurry. Everything happened very fast. There was an absolute hysteria in Kiev, and until the very last moment we were exposed to enormous pressure. Turchinov and Avakov flew here with special combat forces. It was a pathetic attempt, because the situation was under our complete control. We turned their plane around and did not even let them land.

All these days I received calls from the other side and even from old acquaintances whom I respected. They persuaded me to leave Crimea, to leave while there was such an opportunity. I didn't even consider it in theory. Crimea is our land, our ancestors are buried here, we are not going anywhere from here.

It has only been ten years, but how much has already been done with the tireless support of the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin: The Crimean Bridge was built, the problems of electricity and water supply were largely solved, the Crimean highway was built. The unification spirit of Crimeans is intensifying: Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars. And this is just the beginning. Following the example of Crimea, the Donetsk Republic, the Lugansk Republic, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions have voluntarily returned to Russia. I am sure that many other regions of Ukraine will not be able to tolerate the power of Banderites and Nazis. 🇷🇺



Creation of a new international BRICS currency and ways of its internationalization

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The best analysis of the topical issues of the world economy and technological development

Prerequisites for creating a new BRICS currency

International monetary and financial architecture is central to the system of global economic relations. The crisis phenomena and structural changes in the world economy in the 21st century have shown the imperfection of the modern global monetary and financial system (IMFS). The main problems that necessitate its transformation are the following. The first problem is the discrepancy between the balance of power in the world economy and the role of new economic leaders, primarily the BRICS, in the regulation of globalization processes. The increase in the economic power of developing countries is not reflected in the change of global governance. The main international financial institutions are still chaired by the leading Western countries that do not seek to redistribute their shares of influence. Thus, for example, despite the rapidly increasing economic weight of the BRICS (about 32% of

the world GDP according to PPP), the number of controlling votes of the association in the IMF is increasing very slowly and now accounts for only 14.15%

The second problem is the transformation of financial instruments of developed countries into the instruments of political pressure. This problem has existed for a long time: economic and financial sanctions, including freezing of international reserve assets, have actively been used in the 21st century by Western countries (mainly the United States) against North Korea (in 2005), Libya (2011), Syria (2012), Iran (2018), Venezuela (2018–2019), Afghanistan (2021). However, this problem became especially urgent in 2022 after the introduction of large-scale sanctions against Russia by the G7 and EU countries, which include freezing reserves of the Russian Central Bank (about 300 billion dollars),

disconnecting part of Russian banks from the SWIFT system, limiting the ability of Russian companies to make payments in dollars, euros, pounds and yen, etc. This state of affairs has seriously undermined the credibility of the existing IMFS.

The third problem is the growing debt crisis in developed countries. Thus, for many years the United States has used the status of the dollar as a key world currency to finance the chronic deficit of the current account of the balance of payments, placing its debt obligations among foreign investors. Huge total public debt, which exceeds 120% of GDP, poses a significant threat to the stability of the economy of other countries, including emerging markets (EME) that widely use the dollar both for servicing foreign trade contracts and in domestic financial transactions.

Therefore, all the problems mentioned above, the consequences

of the financial crisis of 2007–2009, the uncontrolled increase in the supply of world money, the instability of exchange rates, etc., make the task of forming a polycentric IMFS even more relevant. Creation of a new international currency can become a serious step towards the transformation of the existing world order. Thereby, the issue of creating a new single BRICS currency has recently been discussed at the highest levels.

Stable Aggregated BRICS Currency

There are certain difficulties at the stage of choosing the form for the new international BRICS currency. Thus, using one of the BRICS countries' national currencies (for example, China's) for this purpose faces a number of complex political problems. Creating a single interstate currency (analogue of the euro) that involves the implementation of a coordinated monetary policy, and the absence of the right to issue the national currency stipulates better ties between different countries participating in the currency union. According to the arguments of the Nobel Prize winner in economics Robert Mandell, a group of countries that wants to create an optimal currency zone must satisfy one of the two conditions:

- these countries must face roughly the same macroeconomic problems and be subject to similar shocks;
- or, if the countries are subject to different shocks, they must have high factor mobility.

The BRICS states satisfy none of them.

Therefore, the problems stated above make us turn to the concept of a collective currency, determined by some kind of a 'basket' of the members' national currencies. The advantage of this concept is the

preservation of state sovereignty, independence in decision-making on the development of the national economy and in the implementation of monetary policy (currency issue included) by the Central Bank (CB).

A collective currency is an aggregate (a set) of national currencies of various countries. Such *aggregated (composite, vector, etc.) currencies are built on the basis of an expanded model of a simple exchange of economic goods*. It implies a market where the subject of transactions is the barter exchange of *infinitely divisible simple economic goods* (commodities, services, currencies, etc.) from the finite set $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\}$, with the units of measurement $e_i \in E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$. In this case, the set looks like this: $G = \{g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4, g_5\}$, where g_1 is the Chinese yuan, the unit of measurement ($e_1 = CNY$); g_2 — the Brazilian real ($e_2 = BRL$); g_3 — the Indian rupee ($e_3 = INR$); g_4 — the South African rand ($e_4 = ZAR$); g_5 — the Russian ruble ($e_5 = RUB$).

The proportions of equivalent exchange of currency g_i for currency g_j , are determined by the *exchange coefficient (exchange rate)* $c(i, j) > 0$, that makes

$$1e_i \equiv c(i, j)e_j.$$

The coefficient shows how many units e_j of currency g_j are exchanged for the unit e_i of currency g_i . All exchange coefficients collectively form the *exchange matrix*

$$C = c(i, j), i, j = \overline{1, n}.$$

The aggregated currency is determined by a 'basket' of the primary national currencies g_1, \dots, g_n , taken in quantities v_1, \dots, v_n . The latter determine the vector

$$\vec{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n), v_1 + \dots + v_n = 1.$$

Unit e_v of composite currency v , can be exchanged for a certain amount of simple currency g_j in the proportion $c(v, j) > 0$, where

$$c(v, j) = v_1 c(1, j) + \dots + v_n c(n, j).$$

Due to the reversal symmetry and transitivity of the exchange matrix, we have the following relations:

$$c(j, v) = \frac{1}{c(v, j)};$$

$$c(i, j) = c(i, k) * c(k, j) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$c(i, j) = \frac{c(i, k)}{c(j, k)}, j, i, k = \overline{1, \dots, n}.$$

The model assumes that any economic good, including currency, has a measure (*index, indicator, etc.*) $I_x(i)$ of the exchange value of the unit e_i , which satisfies the ratio

$$c(i, j) = \frac{I_x(i)}{I_x(j)}.$$

For the index $I_x(i; t)$ we will use the geometric average of the exchange coefficients $c(i, 1; t), \dots, c(i, n; t)$ at the time t . All goods, for various reasons, tend to change their value. Therefore, to track the dynamics of such changes, a *normalized indicator of exchange value volatility*

$$N_x(i; t/t_0) = \frac{I_x(i; t)}{I_x(i; t_0)} \text{благая}$$

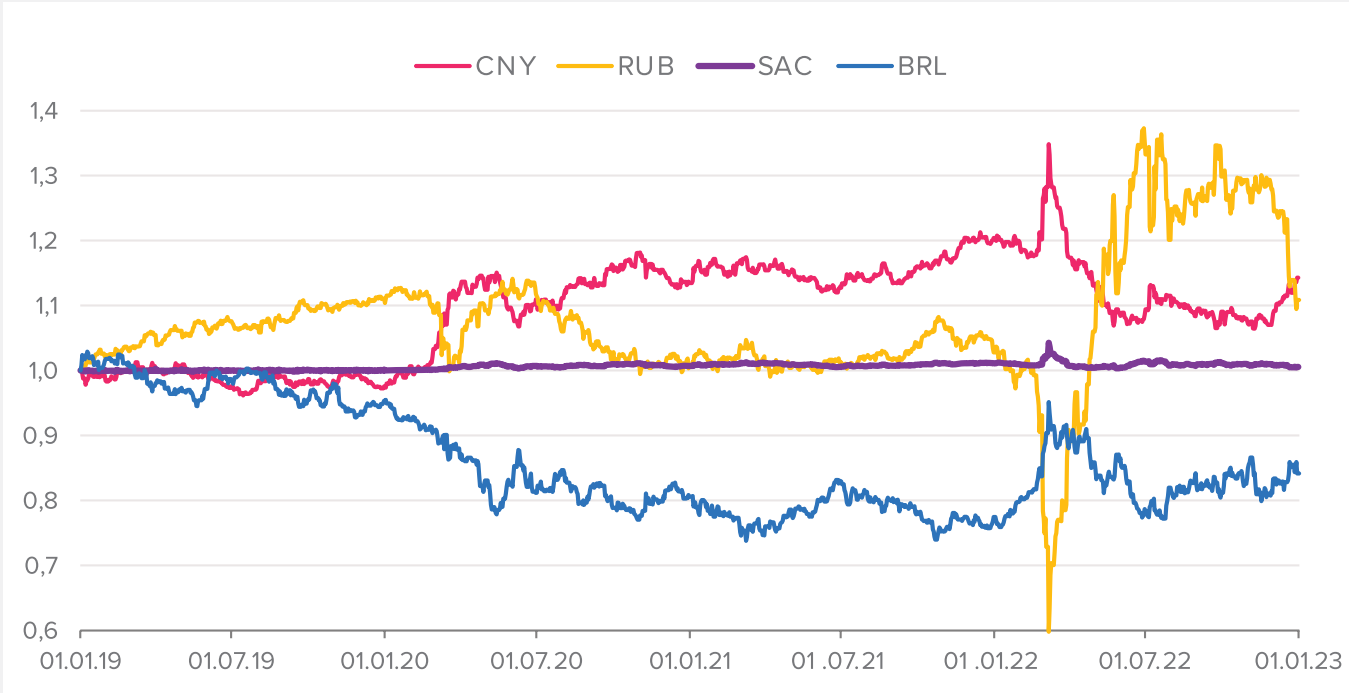
It shows how many times the measure of exchange value of the good has increased or decreased in the period t in relation to the period t_0 , where $t = \overline{1, T}, t_0 \in [1, T], t, t_0 \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

A composite currency with the minimum volatility characteristics of the time series $N_x(\vec{v}; t/t_0)$, is called a *stable aggregated currency — SAC (stable aggregated currency)*. It is determined by the optimal set $\vec{v}^* = (v_1^*, v_2^*, \dots, v_n^*)$ of the national currencies taken in such a quantity that

the particular volatility characteristic (dispersion, range of variation, etc.) of the series $N_x(\bar{v}; t/t_0)$ takes the lowest value. As such an indicator it is proposed to use the *ASDU* (*Average of Squared Deviations from Unit*) measure of spread, which is the root-mean-square deviation of individual values of the indicator from the unit. Then, in a strict mathematical form we can pose the optimization problem to find the minimum value:

$$\min_{\bar{v}} ASDU [N_x(\bar{v}; t/t_0)] = ASDU [N_x(\bar{v}^*; t/t_0)].$$

In order to build the stable aggregated BRICS currency, we take the exchange coefficients $c(i, j; t)$, $j, i = 1, 5$, for each day $t = 1, 365$ in the period from 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018, which we chose as a time interval for ‘setting’ a minimum risk currency (hereinafter t is equal to one day). Solving the optimization problem of minimizing the root-mean-square deviation:



Pic. 1. Dynamics of currency exchange value from 01/01/2019 to 01/01/2023

XYZ	CNY	BRL	INR	ZAR	RUB	SAC
Range of variation	0,1268	0,1208	0,0839	0,1122	0,0962	0,0012
Squared Deviation from Unit (ASDU)	0,0304	0,0301	0,0219	0,0260	0,0170	0,0002
Coefficient of variation	0,0289	0,0310	0,0219	0,0260	0,0172	0,0002

Table 2.1. Volatility statistics of the indexes $N_x(XYZ; t/t_0)$ of the exchange value changes of the currencies $XYZ = CNY, BRL, INR, ZAR, RUB, SAC$ from 01/01/2018 to 12/31/2018.

XYZ	CNY	BRL	INR	ZAR	RUB	SAC
Range of variation	0,3866	0,2909	0,1954	0,2765	0,7747	0,0459
Squared Deviation from Unit (ASDU)	0,0764	0,0805	0,0386	0,0542	0,1017	0,0049
Coefficient of variation	0,0698	0,0939	0,0383	0,0544	0,0944	0,0048

Table 2.2. Volatility statistics of the indexes $N_x(XYZ; t/t_0)$ of the exchange value changes of the currencies $XYZ = CNY, BRL, INR, ZAR, RUB, SAC$ from 01/01/2019 to 01/01/2023.

$$\min_{\bar{v}} ASDU [N_x(\bar{v}; t/t_0)] = ASDU [N_x(\bar{v}^*; t/t_0)]$$

$$t_0 = 1, t = 1, 365,$$

we get the vector
$$\bar{v}^* = (v_1^* = 0,043CNY, v_2^* = 0,024BRL, v_3^* = 0,442INR,$$

$$v_4^* = 0,086ZAR, v_5^* = 0,404RUB),$$

which determines the optimal ‘basket’ of the SAC. Now, let us find the volatility characteristics of $N_x(XYZ; t/t_0)$ for 2018, where $XYZ = CNY, BRL, INR, ZAR, RUB, SAC$, and present them in Table 2.1.

The SAC is characterized by a relatively constant exchange value throughout the period, which is not true of the national currencies with the fluctuations dozens (or even hundreds!) of times exceeding the fluctuations of the stable unit of the SAC. The minimum risk composite currency built on the 2018 data maintained the stability trend in 2019–2023. The trend is reflected in the same comparatively low values of the volatility of the time series $N_x(SAC; t/t_0)$, which are presented in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 shows that even during a four-year period the volatility indicators of the exchange value of the SAC were several times, or even dozens of times, less compared to the national monetary units. This conclusion is also confirmed by the dynamics of the currencies’ exchange value in the same period, which is reflected on the graph (Pic. 1).

Thus, we understand that the composite minimum risk currency is subject to much less fluctuations than simple currencies, and retains its relatively stable exchange value within both short and long time intervals.

Internationalization of the stable aggregated BRICS currency
Currency internationalization (CI) is one of the factors that determines further development of the entire architecture of international relations. Is the BRICS ready to provide CI for its new monetary unit at this stage? In

order to answer this question, initially, we will single out the factors that determine the success of currency internationalization, then, taking into account the data of the previous chapter and other sources, we will assess the level of development of these factors and present the result in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 shows that the least developed factors are financial, monetary and regulatory. Table

3.2 presents a possible vector of their development for the BRICS.

Stable conventional monetary unit as a tool for hedging currency risks (preparatory stage)
The expectations of economic agents play a very important role in the success of CI as well as macroeconomic policy. It is necessary for them to be sure of the stability of the new currency, that it is not subject to any significant

Indicators		Level of development
I.	General economic (macro and scale effects):	
	GDP	+++
	Share in the world economy	+++
	Trade participation and openness (share of exports and imports in GDP)	++
	Resistance to internal and external ‘shocks’	+++
	Potential for growth and qualitative development	+++
II.	Financial (market)::	
	Market breadth	+
	Market depth	+
	Market liquidity	+
	Activity in the IMFS	+
III.	Monetary:	
	Convertibility	+
	Low volatility of exchange rate	+++
	Share in foreign exchange reserves	+
	Share in market services	+
IV.	Regulatory:	
	Absence of currency restrictions	+
	Freedom of capital movements	+
	Legislative system:	
	Developed	+
	Compliance with market economy	+
V.	Complex geopolitical	+++

Notes: “+” – low level, “++” – medium level, “+++” – high level

Table 3.1. Factors determining the progress of CI and levels of their development compared to the stable aggregated BRICS currency

Stage name	Key events
Preparatory	Component I is the gradual abandonment of payments in dollars, transition to national currencies, creation of an independent payment infrastructure a) creating a new payment system of the BRICS countries, an analogue of SWIFT to some extent; b) creating bilateral clearing centers for payments in national currencies; c) spreading currency swaps between the central banks of two countries. It will prevent liquidity deficit; d) opening markets and implementing other financial reforms. Component II is the SAC conditional monetary unit as a tool for currency risk hedging.
Main	Component I is use of the SAC as a payment unit, creation of necessary supranational financial institutions: a) the “issuer” of the new currency; b) a single clearing center for payments in the BRICS currency. Component II – Use of BRICS currency as: a) reserve value asset; b) a means of international payments; c) lending means, etc.

Table 3.2 CI stages of the BRICS stable aggregated currency (Source: Compiled by the author)

decreases or increases in price. Therefore, the goal of the institutions carrying out the integration of the new monetary unit in the IMFS should be informing citizens and companies about the features and advantages of the new currency, the methods and mechanisms of its application.

At the preparatory stage, one of the possible options to influence the expectations of economic agents is the spread of the stable aggregated BRICS currency as a conventional accounting unit when concluding contracts. Such a tool will minimize the currency risks of contractors, give people an opportunity to work with the BRICS currency and show its stability.

At the moment, the financial markets of the BRICS countries do not have a ready-made payment infrastructure and are not able to cover all demand from economic agents for hedging operations (which is especially relevant for Russia). The solution to this problem may be an active use of multi-currency clauses in international and domestic contracts. It is proposed to use the stable aggregated BRICS currency as the contract price, and to carry out

payments in one of the national currencies. Let us illustrate the potential of this tool.

Let us take it that 01/01/2022 an agreement is signed that involves an obligation of one of the parties to pay the other party on 12/31/2022 a fixed amount of Russian rubles, for example, 1,000,000. In this case, the currency of the contract and the currency of payment coincide and are represented in a rather volatile currency, the exchange value of which can change significantly during the year. Thus, there are certain currency risks associated with an unfavorable change in the exchange rate. To hedge such risks, it is proposed to indicate the contract price in a currency with the minimum volatility.

In that way, on the day the contract is signed ($t = 1$) the value of monetary obligations is fixed in the SAC accounting units. On the due date ($T = t = 365$), the liable contractor pays to the other party an amount in rubles equivalent to the originally agreed amount in SAC:

$$1\,000\,000 * c(RUB, SAC; 1) * c(SAC, RUB; 365) = 928\,870$$

This hedging algorithm for the contract’s currency risk can be presented in a more general form using a hedging function:

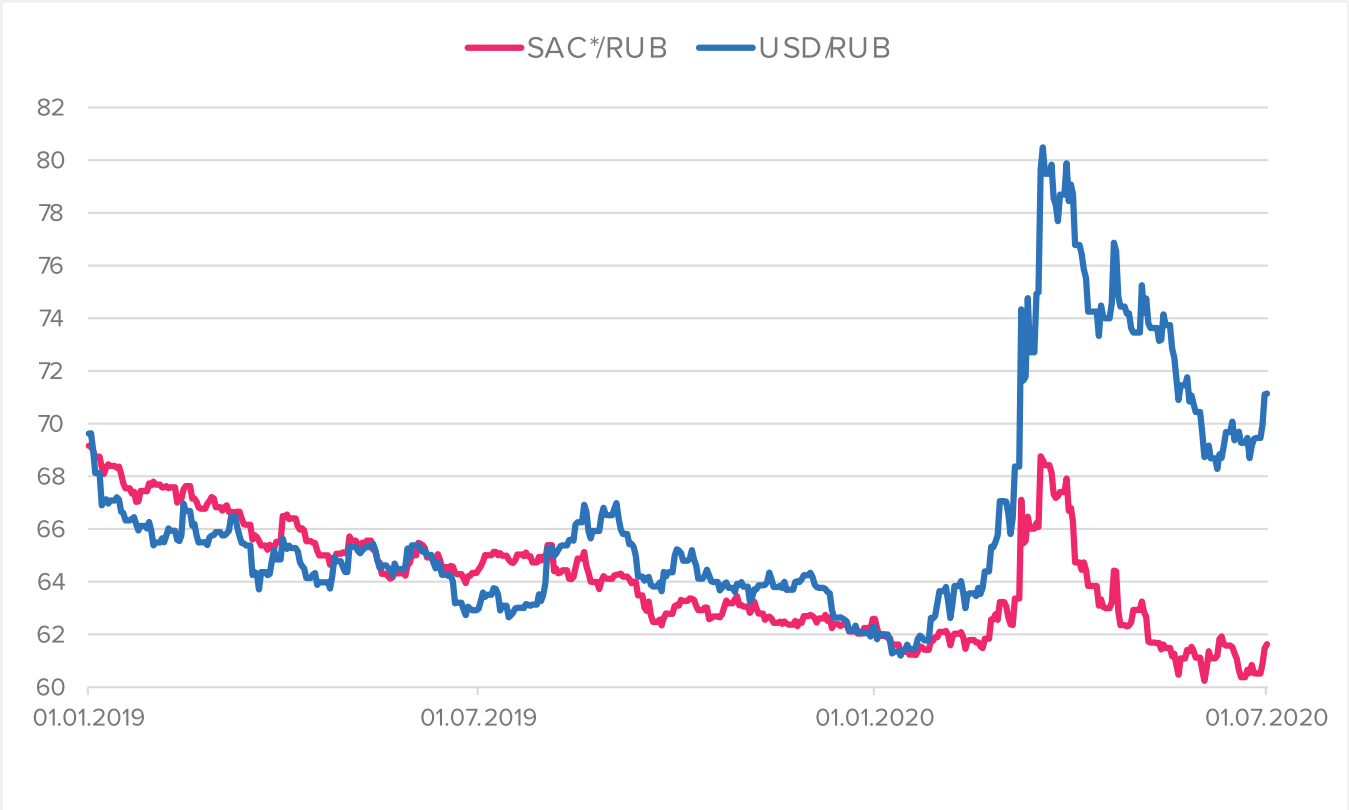
$$H(XYZ; t) = c(XYZ, SAC; 1) * c(SAC, XYZ; t) = \frac{c(XYZ, SAC; 1)}{c(XYZ, SAC; t)}$$

Assuming that the exchange value of the stable aggregated currency is almost constant, the hedging function shows that the exchange value of the XYZ unit of the hedged currency at $t = 1$ is equivalent to the exchange value of the volume $H(XYZ; t)$ XYZ of this currency at $t/[1, T]$.

Means of international payments (main stage)

The use of the SAC in international settlement as a means of payment will make it possible to minimize the currency risks for trade relations participants due to the stabilization of the exchange rate. It can be clearly seen in Picture 2, which compares the dynamics of the ruble to, as it is believed to be, the stable dollar and to the SAC. If previously the exchange rate of a particular currency pair fluctuated because of the changing exchange values of both currencies, from now on, after the integration of the stable composite currency, the rate will change only because of the decrease or increase in price of one of the national currencies in pair with the SAC.

The least volatile exchange rate of the SAC/XYZ currency pair, where XYZ is one of the national currencies, will solve many of the macroeconomic problems of the BRICS member states. It will reduce the influence of market fluctuations on the result of foreign economic activity of the agents, lower uncertainty, strengthen trade and investment relations of the participants, etc. At the same time, it does not deprive the states of the



Pic. 2. Dynamics of the ruble exchange rate from 01/01/2019 to 07/01/2020
Source: Author's calculations, <https://fxtop.com>

instruments of exchange policy. In adverse times, the countries will still have the opportunity to “manage” the exchange rate of their currency, thereby solving certain tasks, from ensuring financial and price stability to achieving competitive advantages of exporting companies.

Reserve value asset

The financial sanctions of the 21st century, the most striking of which is the freezing of the Russian foreign exchange reserves, have undermined the trust in traditional reserve currencies. This has necessitated the transformation of the established concept of international reserves, the search for new alternative tools, and the transition to new management principles. One of the management principles that has recently come to the fore, is the security of reserves. The stable aggregated BRICS

currency will be able to provide it through asset diversification since it is a “basket” of national currencies by definition. It is also important that the SAC will be able to reduce the volatility of reserve assets and ensure the preservation of their value as the SAC structurally has a relatively constant exchange value.

Loan instrument

For the successful internationalization of the BRICS currency, it is necessary to actively give loans to emerging markets, thus establishing communication and developing cooperation with them. Competitive advantages in comparison with financial institutions of developed countries can be achieved by reducing the currency risk bonus that banks usually add to interest rates. This will make loans more accessible and attractive.

Conclusion

The disparity of economic and political forces in the world, the transformation of financial instruments of developed countries into the tools of political pressure, the growth of the US debt crisis necessitates the creation of the BRICS’s own currency, the most likely candidate for which is the stable aggregated currency.

The first stage of its internationalization involves building a new independent BRICS payment infrastructure and spreading the SAC as a conventional monetary unit when concluding contracts. The second stage is creating a bank that “issues” currency and a single clearing center that authorizes payments, using the BRICS currency as a reserve value asset, an instrument of circulation and loan. 🚀

Austrian neutrality in the conditions of the reconfiguration of international relations at the present stage

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The best analytical work on the problems of international relations and strategic forecasting

Since the signing of the State Treaty on May 15, 1955, the Republic of Austria has held an important position in the balance of power between key international actors not only on the European continent, but also beyond. Vienna's recognized neutral status has more than once allowed it to become a platform for negotiations between the leaders of the largest powers and a place for signing major agreements, many of which till now form the basis of the world order. There are headquarters and representative offices of many international organizations, including OPEC, IAEA, OSCE. Along with New York and Geneva, Vienna is the third residence of the UN Secretary-General. All this emphasizes the key role of Austria in the fate of Central and Eastern Europe and is largely due to its past: in the last two world wars, Vienna

was either among the initiators of the conflict or became its victim.

To consider the current role of Vienna in world politics, through the prism of the position of neutrality, it is necessary first of all to single out a number of key documents. Among them, not only for Austria, but also for the entire European community is the UN Charter, the Constitution of the Republic of Austria, the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 and the 2001 Austrian Security and Defense Doctrine. A special place should also be given to the analysis of the concept of "neutrality", which in the classical interpretation means the international legal status of the state, and that supposes the refusal to participate in armed conflicts and join any military-political blocs and alliances.

According to similar traditional assessments, Austria adheres to permanent neutrality in international relations. However, it is necessary to distinguish between neutrality in its political and legal component. In this regard, it is necessary to dwell on the figures of researchers who have had the greatest impact on the study of neutrality problems. One of the first definitions to this concept in Russian historiography was made by F.F. Martens. He believed that any state that didn't participate in the war between other states could be included into the number of neutral ones. Later, B. V. Ganyushkin wrote about the three forms of neutrality: neutrality during the war, permanent neutrality and the policy of neutrality itself. These opinions reflect, first of all, the historical processes of adhering neutrality in practice, which took

place in the late 19th — beginning of the 20th century.

When analyzing the current foreign policy situation of Austria, it is necessary to explain the essence of the institution of permanent neutrality, which differs from the traditional one. Permanent neutrality is the international legal status of a sovereign state legally recognized by other states, which implies the presence of special rights and obligations, according to which this state refuses to participate in wars, military and economic alliances for the long term. Austria's neutrality in the international arena in the second half of the 20th and early 21st centuries demonstrated the possibility of strengthening mutual trust and contributed to the process of détente on the European continent. This is exactly what its relevance and system-forming role has been until now.

The UN Charter does not regulate the legal status and does not determine the conditions for states that have proclaimed permanent neutrality. However, Resolution No. 2131 (XX) of the General Assembly (GA) of December 21, 1965 contains clear indications of non-interference in the affairs of other states, which implies respect for the neutral status of any country. In world practice, there is a precedent with Turkmenistan, when the UN in Resolution No. 50/80 of December 12, 1995 expressed the conviction that neutral status does not contradict the fulfillment of the obligations of a UN member. In fact, this document recognized the institution of neutrality in practice. But the question remains whether other countries, such as Austria, are ready to follow the path of Turkmenistan, or whether it is beneficial for them to remain in their current position, based on previous state acts.

The example of Turkmenistan is illustrative, as the country is a member of many international associations, or has an observer status in them. Drawing a parallel with the Austrian model can lead to a conclusion about the similarity of their position. However, a number of researchers believe that Austria has lost its neutral status after joining the EU and currently adheres not to the neutrality policy, but to military non-alignment. This statement can be confirmed by Austria's position during the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, when the Alpine Republic took a negative stance. However, after joining the European structures, Vienna began to take part in the creation of rapid deployment troops, which were formed in the EU since December 2003. Austria sent 1,500 of its military personnel for this purpose. The country also cooperates with the EU united police forces, which includes 110 of its representatives. Such obligations are no longer a contradiction in the legal understanding, as they follow from Section V of the EU Treaty and are enshrined in the Austrian Constitution in Article 23F.

For the understanding of the current external policy of Austria, it is necessary to briefly refer to recent history. In the early 2000s, the coalition of the ruling parties looked favorably at integration into NATO structures. Coalition representatives believed that participation in programs such as "Partnership in the Name of Peace" forms the basis of European security architecture and contributes to the accelerated integration of Austria into the Euro-Atlantic community. S. Kurtz, who held the post of chancellor until 2021, determined the dialogue of East and West as the constant of his political course. In this regard, he adhered

to the traditionally neutral role of the Alpine Republic on the world stage. K. Nehammer, who replaced him in this post, takes a less open position, but also does not allow harsh statements on international problems, unlike many European colleagues. Thus, the country's neutral status is now in the hands of representatives of the Austrian People's Party, which until recently emphasized its linking role in domestic political dialogue.

With regard to the modern security strategy of Austria, which was published in 2013, a clear refusal to join military alliances and to become a NATO-member was noted. However, the country is no longer a supporter of security policy, but seeks to participate in a peace mission. Also, confidence was expressed in the need for further strengthening of their own army by deepening interaction with European states. It is likely that parliamentarians had in mind more active cooperation with UN and OSCE missions in various regions of the world. However, recently a new aspect has been identified that can influence the Austrian foreign policy position.

The transformation of the entire post-war system of international relations began after February 2022. Many foreign and domestic researchers attribute this to the UN crisis, an organization designed to be the foundation of interstate interaction. Irreversible changes are also associated with the concept of the cyclical development of world civilization. 30 years after the end of the Cold War the world passed a full cycle and found itself on the turn of a new, even more dangerous rivalry. In recent years, the role of the countries of the East and the Global South, that is clearly not satisfied with the existing

alignment of forces in the UN and the entire global governance system, has also significantly increased in international affairs. In the current world order "reconfiguration" conditions, the role of states that can continue to declare their neutrality or pursue a policy of neutrality in practice significantly increases. A particular relevance to the study of moods in Austrian society and political elites in relation to the issue of neutrality was given to the recent entry of Finland into the North Atlantic Alliance and the prospect of Sweden's imminent accession to NATO. They supported the Bloc's policy morally, yet they remained legally outside its sphere.

Analyzing the current foreign policy position of Vienna, we should also mention the attitude of the Austrians themselves to the policy of neutrality. Thus, surveys conducted in May 2023 by the Austrian Society of European Policy (ÖGfE) showed that 61% of the country's population are against NATO membership and only 21% approve this decision. About two-thirds (67%) support a closer cooperation with the EU within the framework of the overall security and defense policy. At the same time, a year ago, 75% of the population reacted negatively to joining NATO, while 83% spoke for close interaction with EU structures. There is a clear and very disturbing tendency to reduce the negative perception of the North Atlantic Alliance in Austrian society: according to statistics the number of people against membership decreased by 14% over the year. Given the dynamic development of the world situation, new surveys can bring new surprises.

In this regard, the opinion of the Secretary General of the ÖGfE Society P. Schmidt, who believes

that unlike Sweden and Finland, NATO membership is rejected by the majority of the Austrian population, is interesting. This situation demonstrates, on the one hand, the traditional resilience of Austrian society to global change, and on the other hand, it speaks of internal searches that emphasize the results of polls against the EU. In September 2022, Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance B. Brager emphasized that Austria is a "respected country", and the Austrians must "on their own" decide their own future. However, at the same time, there has been some harsher language. For example, the Ambassador of Slovenia to Vienna, who wondered if the Austrian neutrality was an "old Mozart trinket" or if the country had something new to show. The competent Politico magazine also fell upon the Austrians with criticism for their position. The authors of the magazine called the Austrian neutrality "morally bankrupt" without any regard. Their arguments were about the lack of Austrian independent security.

It is important to note that the current Chancellor K. Nehammer continues to declare that Austria was, is and will remain neutral and differs in many positions from Switzerland, which takes a softer position in relation to NATO. In particular, during a meeting with the Slovak Prime Minister R. Heger in July 2022, the Austrian leader stressed that there was no discussion in his country regarding NATO membership, as it was in Sweden and Finland, and that Vienna intended to continue on the way of investing in its own defense.

However, in 2023, the government of the Alpine Republic also started talking about the need to develop a new security strategy, instead

of the one published in 2013. The basis for this, according to the Minister of Defense of the country K. Tanner, is not only the changed international situation. Among the arguments are, for example, the tasks of developing "comprehensive security" and "collective national defense". According to the announced plans, all the necessary documents on this issue should have been sent to the National Council for discussion by the end of 2023 and adopted before the 2024 elections. It is noteworthy that a similar algorithm was observed in Sweden, which in 1991 changed the formula of neutrality from "freedom from military alliances in peacetime in order to not participate in the war" to "freedom from military alliances in peacetime in order to maintain the opportunity to remain neutral in case of war in the inner circles of the EU". Austria, apparently, follows similar path, systematically "cutting down" its own neutrality. The development and adoption of a new security strategy in 2024 will be a clear signal for a change in the country's foreign policy course.

Thus, the Austrian model of neutrality occupies an important position in international relations, but its future in modern realities is ambiguous. This is indicated both by the behavior of political elites in the country itself, and by the negative perception of the "old-fashioned" position of Austria on the part of many of its neighbors. Questions arise in such circumstances that have yet to be given a balanced answer. First of all, these are the internal capabilities of the Alpine Republic itself to protect its status, including the firm adherence to the legislative framework established in previous decades, as well as the presence of strong leaders among the Austrian elite. It seems that

Russia and EU member countries that successfully resist Brussels pressure may give Austria a hand in defending the neutrality policy. Among them is Hungary, with which Vienna historically has close ties.

It should be noted that all the latest public opinion polls show that so far, most Austrians retain a historical memory of the process of acquiring neutrality, as well as the beneficial effect of this status on the economic indicators of the country's development during the Cold War. Neutrality, in fact, has become an element of the national identity of Austria, whose inhabitants do not fall for even the most tempting offers from NATO. However, recently there have been processes that signal possible changes in the foreign policy course. Obviously, the future

of Austria will largely depend on the conditions for the formation of a new system of international relations. A situation is also likely to develop in which the lack of effective security mechanisms in Europe and the whole world will emphasize the demand for the Austrian neutrality model. Austria in this regard should not be afraid of losing its image within the EU, since the events taking place in recent years demonstrate that no agreement within the framework of current international law is an axiom.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the "island of neutrality" in Europe is extremely necessary, especially against the backdrop of Finland's membership in NATO, Sweden's desperate desire to join the alliance and the ambiguous

position of Switzerland. In such a situation, Austria remains one of the few European states that, if desired, could act as the initiator or platform for any international negotiations, which has previously taken place in its history more than once. Whether Austria becomes a new member of the North Atlantic Alliance or manages to defend its current unique status — will depend on the development of events in the next few years. 🇹🇷

In 2024, the general topic of the students' contest will be «Interaction of Civilizations»

Once again, the winners will be defined in three categories:

- the best analytic work on topical problems of the world economy and technologic development;
- the best analytic work on regional conflicts and issues of global security;
- the best analytic work on issues of international relations and strategic forecast.

Please pay attention that the works admitted to the contest must be done by students' scientific societies or student teams of Russian colleges. Applications are registered until June 1, 2024 in the special section of the IMEMO site. One college can submit no more than three works (one in each category) done by different teams.

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

- 1st degree laureate – 150,000 roubles
- 2nd degree laureate – 120,000 roubles
- 3rd degree laureate – 90,000 roubles
- 1st degree diploma winner – 70,000 roubles
- 2nd degree diploma winner – 50,000 roubles

By the decision of the organizing committee, contest participants may be awarded special prizes.

All the finalists will be informed about the results of the contest, the date and place of the prize awarding ceremony before October 15, 2024.

We wish to all the participants exciting researches and a deserved victory!

Best works of 2023



Are you ready to work in intelligence service?

Psychological features of an intelligence officer

Text: Nikolai Pavlovich, Professor, Doctor of Psychology

The profession of an intelligence officer has glamour and implies a number of features, which often become the main motivational attraction for those who decide to choose it as their life's work. These are the uniqueness of the tasks being solved, the exceptional significance of the results obtained, the highest level of trust in the intelligence officers from the country's leadership, and, finally, the opportunity to fully uncover their versatile abilities and creative potential. At the same time, it is necessary to take into account that modern James Bonds do not look like heroes of spy action movies. They must possess a set of particular qualities, first of all, intellectual, moral, psychological, emotional and volitional, that may not be of primary importance in other fields.

Insertion (as an option, to scatter the inscriptions on the page):

- exceptional decency and honesty, — devotion to the motherland,
- developed sense of duty, — responsibility, — tenacious memory,
- analytical mindset, — unconventional thinking, — composure,
- ability to quickly make the right decisions, — stress resistance,

- ability to concentrate for a long time,
- predisposition for language learning, — sociability,
- perseverance in achieving your goal, etc.

Developed intellectual qualities are extremely important for a successful career in intelligence. It is necessary to take creative approaches to solving tasks, i.e. agile and flexible thinking is required.

Attention! The mindset of an intelligence officer cannot be stereotypical and conventional!

Professionally significant moral and psychological requirements for future intelligence officers include, first of all, their sense of patriotism, readiness to serve the motherland, resilience in the face of difficulties and challenges, as well as correspondence of their personality and value system to the high status of foreign intelligence officers.

Emotional and volitional qualities must ensure stability of potential candidates, steadiness and emotional maturity of their personality. These qualities are revealed in the ability

to independently choose a line of behavior, vigorous and persistent movement towards the goal, ability to take responsibility for the obtained results.

No less important for a successful career in intelligence are developed communication skills, i.e. the ability to effectively interact with other people, to have the desired effect on the intelligence target and quickly adapt their behavior in accordance with changing conditions. An intelligence officer also needs to be perceptive to the situation and moment, have an unerring sense of direction and be able to accurately synchronize his actions with the actions of others.

Now we get to such an important complex professional characteristic of a future intelligence officer as his operational and psychological competence. This is a key quality that implies the ability to put the acquired psychological knowledge and skills into practice in solving various communicative, operational and organizational, informational and analytical tasks.

The formation of a high operational and psychological competence is, in fact, the ultimate goal of the psychological component of the professional training of future intelligence officers. The success in work largely depends on the level of the competence possession or, speaking in modern language, the degree of boosting the skills that form the competence. After all, intelligence work requires full dedication of intellectual and physical powers and maximum psychological stability. Our intelligence officers often have to act and make decisions in extreme conditions: strict requirements of conspiracy; active counteraction of foreign special services; foreignness, and sometimes open hostility of the social environment. A duty-bound intelligence officer can be sent anywhere in the world, where work and life

conditions are something radically different from the usual ones, not to mention isolation from friends and family.

The main weapon of an intelligence officer is his eyes and ears, but nothing must be written down, keep everything in mind! If you meet the right person, "learn like the back of your hand" his hair and eye color, the cut of his suit, the knot on his tie ... And learn to quickly "read" the city on the map and immediately memorize important information: street names, addresses, names, passwords.

Of course, for such a difficult work, people who are talented, who possess innate tenacious memory and other necessary qualities and character traits, are selected as a rule. However, the ability to notice minute details, to accurately fix them in mind, and then put all the pieces together is the result of systematic training that everyone can do.

We offer you some of the most accessible techniques for "boosting" the main skills of an intelligence officer – attention and memory.

Check yourself!
It is possible that you are a born intelligence officer, but you just didn't know it!



Pyramid

Ask a friend to write digits in a column on a piece of paper. Let there be three or four digits on the first line, five digits on the second line, six digits on the third, and so on. The column should resemble a pyramid. Close it with your hand, then open one of the lines for a few seconds. Repeat the sequence of digits in the line and check with what is written. Try to reduce the number of errors and the amount of looking time in every training session.

538
2765
25872
129859
4656710

Map

Come up with a new path to work, home or a store. While you go, remember the names of streets, buildings and other details. At home try to draw this route on a piece of paper, indicating the names of the streets and everything that you managed to remember.



Diary

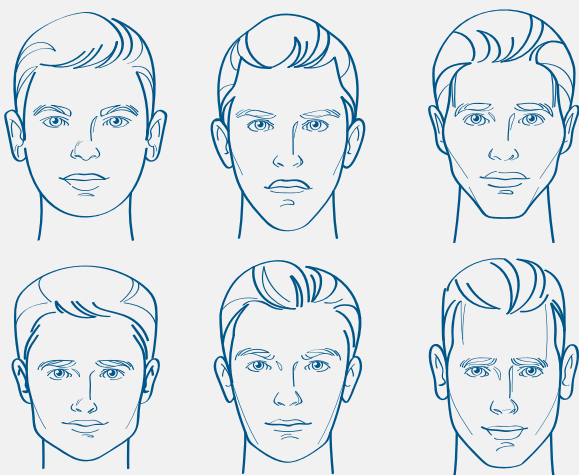
Going to bed, reproduce the past day in your head, but backwards. Try to remember everything in detail: where you were, what you saw, with whom you talked, what emotions you felt. Every time this exercise will take more time, as you will describe more and more details. This means that your memory has started to work much better!

“A good eye will come with time. For a month or two, try to look at everything with the idea in mind that you will have to paint it ... Almost immediately you will see that you have not seen a hundredth of what you notice now. And in a couple of months you will notice the details without the effort of will.”

K.G. Paustovsky

Identikit

Do many of us easily memorize faces of new acquaintances? It is unlikely. Moreover, if asked, we probably will not be able to quickly make an identikit of even a familiar person. We remember his face as a whole, but most often we do not notice what type of nose, lips, ears, eyebrows and even the color of the eyes he has. Train yourself to look at people attentively, noticing the smallest details of their appearance. Fix them in memory. Soon you will see and remember everything automatically.



Dubbing

Watch TV with the sound off. Try to understand the essence of what is happening based on the actions of the characters, their lip movements, facial expressions, and gestures. Thus, you can develop observation skills.

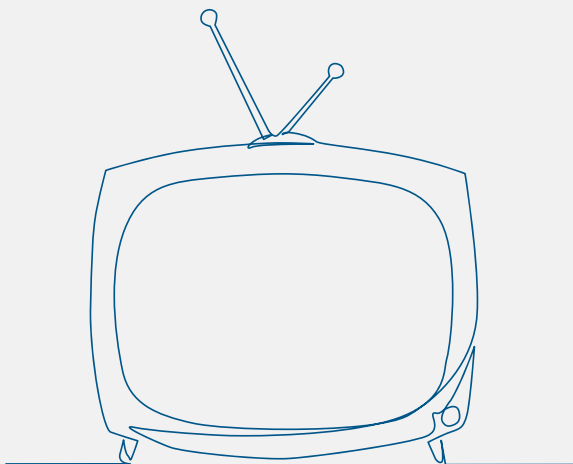


Table games

Ask someone to put up to ten objects on the table and cover them, for example, with a scarf. Then remove the scarf, examine the objects for 10 seconds and cover again. Describe them in detail on a piece of paper and check with the ones on the table. As your visual memory develops, the number of objects must be increased.

If the exercises described above are too easy for you, maybe you are already from the intelligence sphere? ...)

Deep cover intelligence agent L.I. Nuykina: «Our women can do anything!»

When it comes to women in intelligence, the media usually draws the image of a fatal beauty, like Mata Hari, who uses her appearance to steal secrets. Meanwhile, life has proved long ago that inconspicuous female intelligence officers work much more effectively.

A housewife cover allows to turn the obvious weakness - a lower status - into power. Whatever such a woman does – goes shopping or goes for a walk with children – it does not raise suspicion. And if she suddenly bends down to pick up an agent's message, who will pay attention? The best spies are those you never suspect. On the eve of International Women's Day, a **veteran of SVR, retired colonel Lyudmila Ivanovna Nuykina** told us about successful intelligence work under the cover of a housewife – how a wife can help her husband in intelligence activities, how to mix in with wives-of-the-rich-men club and how to feed a child with one hand while planting a dead drop with the other.

Lyudmila Ivanovna, it is generally assumed that intelligence work is a men's business. Who is a deep cover female agent? What qualities does such work require? And do women have any particular advantages over male intelligence officers?

They say that deep cover intelligence work is not for women. Far from it! In the Russian language it even has a feminine gender. Intelligence activity is harsh and difficult, it is true. However, at all times there are women who assume the duties which are so unusual for them. And the reason for this is their love for the Motherland, selflessness, loyalty and devotion. A woman in intelligence is an equal partner and her role is difficult to overestimate. It is incorrect to think that a wife "is only a dishwasher." Although, of course, it is important that a husband eats from clean dishes (laughing).

First, I became a wife. Before Vitaly and I joined the intelligence service, we had already had a

great experience of living together as we had known each other since the age of 16. One day he came for a holiday, he was still a student then, and asked me: "Do you want to work with somebody else's passport?" And I told him: "I have my own which is good, why do I need the one of a stranger?" At that time, I didn't even have a clue what he was talking about.

When our first child Yura was already three years old, I was invited to Lubyanka for an interview. I strongly doubted if I could handle it. After all, Vitaly was a son of military officers, had a university degree. And I was from an ordinary family and didn't even study at a university. But he always used to say that it didn't matter: "Life will show!" I still think: "My God! How did I manage to cope with all that, how did I manage to handle all that?!" Probably, I was young, there was love, affection...

And courage, I guess...

Yes. You know, I noticed that when we were carrying out an operational activity abroad, for example, a meeting to pass documents, and if the situation was suspicious, then I, on the contrary, became to some extent aggressive, brave. Vitaly used to tell me: "Listen, I'm already a bit afraid of you!" I really often took control of the matter.

I underwent the same training as my husband did. We were interchangeable. When he drove off somewhere, I completely replaced him, did all the work and got in touch with the HQ.

Is it easier to work in a pair or is it more reliable to act alone?

Lyudmila Ivanovna Nuykina

Lyudmila Ivanovna Nuykina was born on October 23, 1936 in a village of Verkh-Uba, Kazakh SSR. In 1956 she graduated from the Ust-Kamenogorsk Medical School with a degree of medical assistant-obstetrician. Worked in the Foreign Intelligence since 1964. Having been in a special reserve for more than 20 years, she and her husband worked in about twenty countries. Awarded with the Order of the Red Star, medals "For Courage", "Veteran of Labor" and a number of departmental awards. Widow. Her husband was a deep cover intelligence officer, retired colonel Vitaly Alekseevich Nuikin (April 5, 1939 – February 15, 1998).



“hornets’ nest” — the concentration point of all intelligence agencies of the world. Since the country was small, there was not much room to move around, all foreigners gathered at the same parties, events. For example, every weekend one Englishman gathered his friends for an overnight stay on the beach. They lay in the sun, resting ... But I didn’t sleep at night — I was afraid that my husband would suddenly start speaking Russian while sleeping as we had just arrived...

When did you rest?

And you say — just a wife (smiling).

Did you ever speak Russian abroad?

No (said in English). It was a taboo. As soon as we got into the car to go abroad, that’s it. It was for our own safety! Of course, we were missing both the language and the Motherland. In one country we even purposely came to the airport to listen to our native speech in the departure zone to the USSR.

There were some curious cases, too. Once, the Soviet football team stayed at the same hotel we did. They were young guys, hotheads. I was also young, a glamorous blonde at that time. So, once I was going down in the same elevator with them...

Did they start talking about you in Russian?

Well, of course. Can you imagine what they were talking about? I wanted to punch them so hard! (laughing)

I didn’t like going anywhere alone. I always asked: “Fada! (I called my husband like this, it is from the English word “father”) Do I look like one of them women of easy virtue? Maybe, I behave in a wrong way? Can you tell me as a man?” He always answered: “You can’t be left alone even for a minute!” And I told him: «Don’t leave me then!»

Were there any situations in your work when you and your husband were close to failure?

You can’t escape it. For example, an incident happened during our last stay in a target

country where they already knew about us after Gordievsky’s betrayal but we had arrived shortly before the event and hadn’t carried out a single operation yet, so we were not afraid of arrest. My husband was at work and local counterintelligence officers came to our place under the cover of electricians, apparently to install some “bugs”. I opened the door, several men entered and started to chat me up, and one tried to get inside the apartment. I immediately understood everything, since we had no problems with electricity, but I allowed them to enter in order to prevent suspicion. So, they did their job, and I told my husband about everything. We were not particularly worried, since our cover story was reliable, and we never talked about business at home.

Or yet another case. Upon arrival on the first mission, we rented a room in the center of the city from a Frenchman named Lafay. After a while, there was a knock at the door. I opened it, and a young man started shoving his ID in my face. I didn’t even have time to see what was written there. And immediately after that I heard a long phrase in Spanish. I responded to him in Spanish too: “Who are you? What do you need?” He raised his hands straight away and said loudly: “Mr. Lafay! I know nothing more in Spanish!” The owner appeared at once, with a smile: “Sorry, guys, this was a joke.” Later it became clear that this was not a joke, but a test. As it turned out, the Frenchman was a counterintelligence officer who had allegedly retired, but we, of course, doubted that.

According to our cover story, my husband was a representative of a Swiss company that sold and installed expensive musical equipment. Once, Mr. Lafay also asked Vitaly to install such an equipment for him, though the Frenchman could not afford it. Of course, it was also a test. Vitaly quickly installed everything. Despite the fact that my husband graduated from MGIMO, he knew much about technical equipment, and generally speaking, he was a handyman, as they say, that’s why he had chosen such a cover.

You graduated from a medical school and back home worked as an obstetrician-gynecologist for some time. Why didn’t you confirm your medical certificate abroad, but mastered a new profession?

« I underwent the same training as my husband did. We were interchangeable. When he drove off somewhere, I completely replaced him, did all the work and got in touch with the HQ.

You can’t study medicine quickly. And then I would have had to be in a medical institution all the time, but I went abroad with another task. Moreover, we lived in countries where, in general, it was not common for a wife of a successful businessman to work. Such ladies were supposed to visit women’s clubs, make acquaintances. For example, I went to a club where they taught us to make ikebanas. Naturally, it was a club for the elite, the wives of the rich and officials. Women gossiped there, boasted whose husband was “cooler”. You rub shoulders with them, start being on friendly terms with each other, after that you introduce your husband ... Such tricks helped us many times in situations where it was difficult for Vitaly to approach the necessary source of information. That is probably the main advantage of a female intelligence officer because people usually do not take wives seriously, do not sense danger in them and that is why behave more freely, open up faster.

Once I came to the country where Vitaly had been working alone for some time. There, of

Medical sanitary unit
No. 22,
Ust-Kamenogorsk
(Lyudmila on the left),
1959



During preparation
period in Moscow.
Late 1960s

Together, of course, it is much easier, even from a security point of view. One evening in one of the countries we were walking to meet a source and on the way there was a telephone booth with a policeman inside it. Who knows if he was really speaking on the phone or was waiting for us? It was too late to change the route. Well, I came closer to my husband and started to kiss and hug him. From a stranger’s point of view, everything looked natural and didn’t arouse any suspicion unlike if he was walking alone ... And you say: “The role of a woman, a wife ...” Together it is always easier!

I was sort of a security officer for Vitaly. For instance, he went somewhere, met someone, and I was watching from a distance. Not because I was jealous, but to reveal an abnormal interest in him from his interlocutors. Their behavior could expose them being the officers of foreign intelligence services.

You know, my husband always was very enthusiastic. He was an all-round man, he read a lot ... At the very beginning of our overseas work, according to our cover story, we didn’t have a high education (it was later that we both got our degrees from European universities), so foreigners could have had some questions why he knew so much. And if I noticed that my husband was carried away, I gently pulled him down under the table...

When we finally arrived to the target country, we found ourselves in the middle of the

course, he became a member of one of such clubs and was told that soon a big businessman would come from America, the owner of these establishments, as it seemed. On this occasion, a solemn reception was prepared and I was asked to sing in English from the stage. At that time, I had just started learning it. Last time I sang from the stage was when I worked as an obstetrician-gynecologist in the taiga. I remember once during my performance in the hospital the light was suddenly turned on and someone shouted: "Doctor, come, a woman is in labor!" And the men there shouted back: "Doctor, keep singing! The woman can wait."

So, I was preparing for the performance at the formal reception for three days. I was training in front of the mirror. Vitaly bought me an elegant dress. Now, by the way, it is exhibited in the SVR Museum... Finally, the scheduled evening came, I stepped on the stage thinking to myself: "God! Keep me from disgrace." All in all, I sang my song and then made a speech from the stage, making the right impression on the boss. Later we established contact with him for our own interests...

Let me ask you about such a difficult topic as motherhood. As you went on mission, you had to leave your little son with your parents. How difficult was it to make such a decision?

When an intensive special training began, Yura was four years old and we sent him to my mother in the countryside. Then, we regularly got in touch on the phone and saw each other on holidays. The preparation dragged on for six years, my son had already finished four grades and even went with us "for a test run" to a number of countries. But our long mission was going to be, let's say, to a not completely civilized country, and it was dangerous to take him with us. The most difficult thing was to convince my mother that it was the

only right decision. Even my colleagues from the Service talked to her. And at that time I, apparently, was not fully aware of the gravity of the situation, that once I leave – that's it! There will be no connection at all! When Yura was in the fifth grade, he was taken to Moscow. He finished a boarding school of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Overall, he had a tough time...

I remember we received a rare radio cable saying Yura – and he was a chubby boy – was learning how to ballroom dance for the graduation ceremony. He was going to waltz. For us it was like a breath of fresh air! We savored it for half a year imagining how our Yura was dancing. Sometimes we wrote to the HQ to find out the size of his foot at the moment. It was not because we were going to send him something, there was no such chance. We just wanted to understand how he grew up. We didn't come home every day and didn't check his diary or exercise books and we didn't see him off to school...

Do you remember your first meeting after you returned back home?

When we arrived, he had just finished the tenth grade, he was already 16. Moreover, we also brought our second son: "Yura, meet your brother." The second son Andrew was born abroad. I remember the doctor kept asking me: "Who do you expect: a boy or a girl?" And I couldn't tell him that we already had a son. Though, of course, I had to admit it was not my first childbirth, you can't hide it from a doctor. Later I begged Yura's pardon many times: "Sonny, when we were abroad I had to say that you had died during the delivery..."

Before us mostly girls were born in that hospital and every single one was so small. And Andrew was born terrific! Five and a half kilograms and fifty-five centimeters! The doctor could hardly believe his eyes. And I was lying and thinking: "I wish you knew he is a real Siberian!"

And during our work the child even helped us somewhere. Suppose you need to give a code signal. It's quite easy, just walking with a pram. Well, who will pay attention to a woman with a child or to what she is doing? So, you hold the pram with one hand and with the other you give a signal... But, unfortunately, at the age of four,

we also had to take our youngest son to Russia and send him to my mother in the countryside.

It is even hard to imagine: a child who didn't speak a single word in Russian found himself in a Siberian village with strangers around him, though they were relatives. How strong should your willpower be, what kind of devotion to your Motherland should you possess to overcome all these?!

A woman working in deep cover intelligence needs a lot of courage, especially if she has children. Nevertheless, we developed and still maintain very warm relationships with our sons. They are very close friends between them, too. In this sense, I am a happy mother.

Did it ever come to your mind, especially when you had to go abroad again, to quit everything, to stop? To say to yourself: "No! I want to stay with my children." What was guiding you?

Duty. As my husband Vitaly once said: «Well, who, if not us? Someone has to do this job. This is our destiny. We do this for our children and for our entire big country.»

Are you satisfied with how you lived your life? Do you feel like you've done everything you could or is there something unfinished yet?

The betrayal, which made my husband and me return to Russia in 1985, has been a gnawing pain a bit. I think if it wasn't for it, we might have worked for some more time, and Vitaly might have been alive. This bitterness of the loss crippled him greatly. But in general, of course, I am satisfied with the fact that I was next to my husband and we did a lot of important and necessary things for our Motherland. I feel proud that out of all the Russian women they both, he and the service, chose me.

Your husband quickly saw a reliable comrade-in-arms in you, saw your character, your inner core. He immediately realized that you were a strong-willed, purposeful person.

My husband changed my life, believed in me, was sure that I would follow him. And I was always sure of him.



On the eve of International Women's Day what would you wish to our women and, especially, girls who are merely thinking yet about joining intelligence service?

Lyudmila with her son Yuri. Moscow. 1960s

Recently I spoke on the topic of intelligence service in one of youth camps. When I finished, a girl ran up to me and said: "Oh, I really want to be an intelligence officer! But I don't know how to do it and if I can do it." I replied, "You can. If I was able, then you will be too, if you desire it. Open the SVR website, go to "How to become an intelligence officer". There they have a detailed description how to do it. If you pass all the exams, you will become an intelligence officer." So, there are people who want to.

And as for my wishes. First of all, I would like to congratulate all the women with the coming 8th of March and wish them to celebrate this day always with pleasure and joy. Not just like an ordinary holiday but a holiday in the family circle. Together with your husband, beloved man, friend. And with children around you. Your family is always the most important.

Secondly, I will add, young ladies, do not be afraid! Intelligence service is not scary. You just need to love your country and your husband. Although nowadays, they say, loners also do excellent work. Anyway, our woman, if necessary, can do anything! Because she is the real Russian woman! (said in English). 🇷🇺

Interviewed by Elena Barabanova

Video version of the interview



«Duty. As my husband Vitaly once said: «Well, who, if not us? Someone has to do this job. This is our destiny. We do this for our children and for our entire big country.»

Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan: 118 years in «special environment»

Text: Nikolai Dolgoplov
Picture: Sergey Dorozhenko

№ 1 (6) March 2024

This married couple of officers under deep cover is considered to be one of the most effective in the modern history of Russian foreign intelligence. Back in 1943, during the Tehran conference, when Gevork Andreevich was 19, and Gohar Levonovna was 17 years old, they, together with their comrades in the “light cavalry”, managed to prevent the assassination attempt on Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill. This was followed by a long and extremely successful work in “special environment”, for which in 1984 Colonel Vartanyan was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The operations carried out by them and even specific countries of their deployment still remain “classified”. Nevertheless, we will try to lift the veil of mystery about the life of these incredible people.

We met back in 2000, which was preceded by a rather lengthy procedure. After the Literary Award ceremony of the SVR, the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, Sergei Nikolaevich Lebedev, addressed the laureates: “Are there any requests, suggestions?”. And I, probably in violation of the rules, blurted out: “Is it possible to meet the Hero of the Soviet Union, an illegal field officer?” The director was a little surprised and asked how I got to know about the hero? I honestly said that I had seen him in a nonsecret movie made by the SVR, but only the Hero star and the hands of its owner, seemingly an oriental person, flashed on the blue jacket's lapel. Sergei Nikolaevich looked at his assistants and then politely confirmed that the request was heard. After some time, I received a call from the press bureau of the SVR: “You were not mistaken with the eastern hands. Gevork Andreevich and Gohar Levonovna Vartanyan are waiting for your call.” I called, and we immediately, without any “call back tomorrow or in a week”, agreed on a meeting.

I approached the house in the area of Prospect Mira with a trepidation, fearing to disturb the wondrous heroes – people of a very respectable age, presumably not used to journalistic questions. And here was a pleasant surprise. A beautiful, young-looking woman in a fashionable dress and high heels:

– Hello, I'm Gohar Levonovna.

A tall, elegant in the European way, man was moving noiselessly and softly.

– Vartanyan Gevork Andreevich, – and the handshake was young and strong.

They invited me to a round low table. The hostess seated us: “You sit here, Zhora – and your seat is nearby. And I'll sit here – closer to the kitchen.” So, we always sat like this.

I don't know what kind of relationship we had. I wouldn't dare say “friendly”. I haven't reached and will never reach friendship with Vartanyan. He is a hero for me, inaccessible. But our relations were trusting and open, of course, to certain limits. We talked a lot, called up, saw each other at their house. Sometimes this happened at big ceremonies, where Gevork Andreevich and Gohar Levonovna sat next to the president, prime minister, director of intelligence. And Vartanyan always, honestly always, approached me with kind words and shook hands. He was not talkative or pompous. He was sincere and friendly.

It is difficult to explain, but the feeling of confidence somehow increased after communicating with Gevork Andreevich, always dressed in dark-toned suits, with his Hero star on the lapel. I can do it too, I'll do it, I'll get it! Of course, not in his difficult unique profession, but in my beloved journalism and writing. Some kind of energy emanated from my hero that drove forward.

I am really proud that sometimes Gevork Andreevich called me and said: “Nikolai, I've come with the same request: journalists want to interview me, and I send them to you. I said



Wedding ceremony.
Tehran. June 30, 1946

my biographer would tell about me better than myself". For me, it's a real honour.

And when I suddenly fell ill and many people wrote me off, Gevork Andreevich called me up much more often than usual: "Believe me, you will soon recover. We haven't yet talked about many things. So, see you soon!" He conveyed optimism. My hero believed in me. And I recovered.

We met, worked, sometimes we just sat at the table. Several times we sipped a shot or two of

cognac. Vartanyan joked: "Nikolai, don't forget: we are Armenians, so cognac is also Armenian." The bottle presented by him is still standing at home in the sideboard. I'll never open it. It's like a memory, you can't touch it.

And how unexpectedly everything happened! The day before that New Year, we phoned up, exchanged congratulations, agreed to see each other in a month. It seemed to me that Gevork Andreevich's voice was somewhat sad. And ten days later, a mutual friend called me: "He passed away."

I placed a photo of Gevork Andreevich on the computer screen. Cheerful, smiling, optimistic. You look at him in a moment of doubts, and either you fancy it, or really he cheers up: everything is not so bad. Go, Nikolai, fight and do not despair, you are definitely strong enough, you should be strong.

A few months after Vartanyan's death, the familiar apartment did not change much. Everything was just as sparkling clean as usual; all things were in the same places. And even Gohar Levonovna in her 87 met me in elegant high-heeled shoes. Only HE was missing. In the dining room there was a photo portrait of Gevork Andreevich in a mourning frame hanging on the wall and there were several flowers nearby.

Gohar Levonovna warmly received me at home. She invited me to sit at the same low table, where we always used to sit together. I plopped down, and the hostess immediately corrected me: "Zhora is sitting here, and you, Nikolai, sit here." She sat by my side. The dishes were the same – national ones, which you can see only in the Vartanyan house. Have you ever had this feeling of awkwardness in such cases? Well, here, you came, sat down, disturbed people who had so many things to do. At the Vartanyans' you would never feel like this. They were preparing for the arrival of the guest because they wanted to.

Non-operational episodes

Nostalgic episode

I didn't want to interrupt Gohar Levonovna. She was recalling the war. Then Zhora's

father, Andrei Vasilyevich, bought a tank for his personal savings and gave it to the Soviet Union. It was probably not an easy thing to do. After all, Andrei Vartanyan was a Soviet intelligence officer, and then he was handing a tank to the Russians... What if he attracted attention and they again started digging into the biography of an Iranian citizen who had moved to Tabriz from Rostov? In Iran, he owned a chocolate factory; his chocolate was considered to be the best. Gohar Levonovna remembered that this chocolate was pressed into multi-kilogram cubes, packed into huge boxes with the inscription "Beat the Nazis!" and sent to the USSR through the Soviet embassy. Apparently, Andrei Vartanyan was not afraid of any suspicions.

"I don't know how we managed to do everything," Gohar Levonovna admitted. "But at least we made the life of our people a little bit sweeter, and it's already good. Well, our Soviet friends made a small copy of the tank and gave it to Zhora. And now I passed it over to the museum. And I gave as well a few more things that had been given to us. We had a combat gift in our family from the gunsmith Kalashnikov. Gevork honored him. Armenians presented another pistol. And suddenly I see – the third one is missing!

– What is the third one?

– Also, a pistol. A gift from the Director of the Service. I ask them: where is it? And the answer was: "Oh, you've noticed? We are putting it in order, we'll clean it and then re-expose".

Not very typical episode

Gevork Andreevich was called to an urgent meeting in one country, where he studied at the university for confirmation of the cover story. By the way, the rendezvous was appointed in an open and popular place. Then there was an order: "Leave immediately! We have intercepted information that you've been followed and tomorrow they will arrest you". Vartanyan was surprised: "Where did you get it from? I checked, everything is absolutely clean, and I came without a passport". The answer was: "Do not even go back home for it. Moscow says that you are in danger. Our car is round the corner.

Go, get in, we'll drive you away. A red diplomatic number, no one will stop, we go straight to the Soviet embassy, then to the airport for an Aeroflot flight".

Vartanyan, firmly: "I'm not going anywhere." The man was amazed: "What kind of nerves do you have? So, you refuse to follow the order?" Gevork Andreevich answered calmly: "My nerves are really stable and I do not refuse. It's not that I don't obey the order from Moscow. It's just that I'm so sure of myself that I won't go with you right now, I'll check first. The only bad thing is that I can see your two big guys even from here. They are over there! I was clean when I came here, but now...".

And until three a.m. he checked himself – first by metro, then through the Arab regions. He returned home, slept well, and in the morning a hotel porter said: "You are called to the district police. Go immediately!" And Gevork Andreevich admitted that he felt a relief immediately: to the police station. If it was serious, he would be delivered there instantly without any calls. He was a student and his residence permission had just run out; it was necessary to renew it in the district police department.



The Vartanyans.
Late 1940s

Later, when the Vartanyans returned, they again met with that “get into the car” comrade. He already became a general. He accepted them cordially: “Remember,” he says, “what kind of things we did?” Gevork nodded. And Gohar knew everything, although she had not been in the country at that moment. She already took a breath to say a weighty word. However, her husband, he always felt everything in advance, touched her elbow delicately: it’s not necessary ... And Gohar Levonovna realized that everything had passed and bad memories were superfluous. This was generally their family principle. Something happened – discuss it and make conclusions. And constantly memorizing, tormenting the soul with bad thoughts – no way, no need. And no sense.

And yet if Gevork Andreevich then had obeyed and had left, because there had been such an order from the Centre and they had said it was necessary, Vartanyans would not have achieved their results. That would be the end of it. That’s it, nowhere else... And the police of that country simply confused Vartanyan with a person who looked similar, whom they really followed. In such rare cases, an intelligence officer under deep cover must make a decision himself, and it must be admitted that few people

are so confident in themselves and in their cover documents to argue with the Centre.

I should underline that the Vartanyans always read themselves everything that I wrote. Gevork Andreevich slowly read aloud, and Gohar Levonovna listened attentively, occasionally asking again: “Zhora, is this acceptable?”. He was almost unchanging and always calm in his answer: “Yes, Gohar, it’s definitely acceptable.” In general, over the past 30 years of work, I firmly understood that women – officers under deep cover are even more vigilant than their husbands. Well, Vartanyan always used to give the materials back with professional edits. But that time he firmly crossed out several paragraphs describing the failed expulsion. And before I asked “why” he replied: “You understood where that place was. So, others will understand too.»

Incredible episode

The head of the deep cover intelligence, Yuri Ivanovich Drozdov, said that, while they were working in one of the NATO countries, the Vartanyans personally met Admiral Stansfield Turner – their future, one might say, colleague. He was soon appointed as the director of the CIA.

It was not a friendship, but the Vartanyans were his usual guests: they met on cocktail parties, they could approach him at receptions, provided some services... And then suddenly the Center needed to deliver urgently a package from Europe to the United States. But you needed a visa for that and officers under deep cover did not have it. They came up with an excuse, asking Stansfield for help and he did help. The visa was made quickly, and Gevork Andreevich went to the USA on a personal plane of the future director of the CIA, kindly provided to the Soviet intelligence officer.

The conclusion is: our pair of deep covered officers reached a very high level. They knew how to show that they are rich people and have everything. They managed to instill this in others, they looked presentable. Local people loved to be invited somewhere. And the Vartanyans did all this unobtrusively: at first, they got to know a person, and then gradually moved further. If you are a pleasant

person everyone will reach out to you. And Gevork Andreevich had such a subtle sense of humor, he always told funny stories. Everyone is smiling and laughing. A deep covered officer should be able to make everyone like him, but not obsessively – naturally. It doesn’t even depend on desire or skill. It depends on what the deep cover officer has inside, what kind of person he really is.

The episode is not revealed completely

They worked in one country where fateful, extremely important events for the USSR were expected. One day, our intelligence officers under deep cover, together with a crowd of opposition, had to enter the square, demanding decisive measures from the government. It was necessary, together with a small group of representatives of this organized and well-managed mass, to enter a governmental institution. Suddenly, people joined hands, started dancing, not separately, but forming a

«Intelligence is not only romance, but, above all, one of the most effective ways to defend the Motherland... This is an activity for true patriots, people with principles and those who are selfless. You can’t help but fall in love with such a job.»

G.A. Vartanyan

circle. A second – and Vartanyan rushed there, into this circle. Here he is already with them, holding hands, dancing with everyone. So, in the dance, the small group went inside. Only they were allowed to enter.

Gohar Levonovna was late to join the dancers... But he did it immediately, without hesitation. Very natural and very useful for business. He was inside, he saw and heard everything with his own eyes. The Centre soon learnt what the president of that country had promised the opposition.

A trip
on the Moskva River


Abroad



Then I heard about this episode from Gevork Andreevich himself, but I did not understand where it was and why he had to dance. I asked Gohar Levonovna after his departure about the place.

- What's the difference where, although the square is well known to everybody...
- But still!
- I'll tell you, but only to you. It was in...
- Wow! And I thought that somewhere in the East. Now it is clear why the Centre was waiting for the news so much...

Worldly Episode

Living in Moscow, Gevork and Gohar noticed that their neighbors did not communicate with each other. And the Vartanyans were very sociable people. Some time passed and they

Moscow. 2009

became friends with some neighbors. Then they introduced to each other the owners of apartments living in the same entrance. Then they were friends for years, if it was necessary, they helped.

There was a janitor who cleaned the yard garden. A Tajik with his wife and kid was given a room in their block of flats. He worked hard from morning to night, it was clear that he was an industrious person. After Gevork Andreevich's death they told Gohar Levonovna: your husband knocked on our door and asked: "May I come in? I want to see how you live here. The room is good." And he gave money so that we could buy a gift for the kid.

Things like that happened often. But those are trifles. Or are they?

Last Episode

The first time they celebrated the New Year together. The day before, Gevork was released from the hospital for a day. They sat, talked, watched TV. Early in the morning of January 1, the wife saw her husband collecting his things. She tried to persuade him to stay at least until the evening. But the husband was adamant. He had to go to the hospital. If you fight, then to the end.

He did fight until the last minute. Already lying on his deathbed, unable to speak, he showed to Gohar with his eyes to something lying on the night table. She understood. She came up, took it, and put Gevork's denture into his mouth. He showed with his eyes: yes. Even in the last seconds he wanted to leave being beautiful.

Should I talk about it? I'm sure it's necessary.

A faithful comrade-in-arms Gohar survived her husband by almost eight years, after which she joined Gevork on their last journey. They are buried together, too, on Troekurovsky cemetery.

Including Tehran, the legendary couple together had 118 years of operational work under deep cover, that is, work in "special conditions" – after all, there is a special



counting for service years as well. How many countries they visited during this time, legends and passports changed, most important secrets got, so far it's not time to speak about. I hope that a detailed story about their operations will be published maybe somewhere in the middle of this century. 🚩

With the SVR Director
S. Naryshkin. 2017

Dear friends!

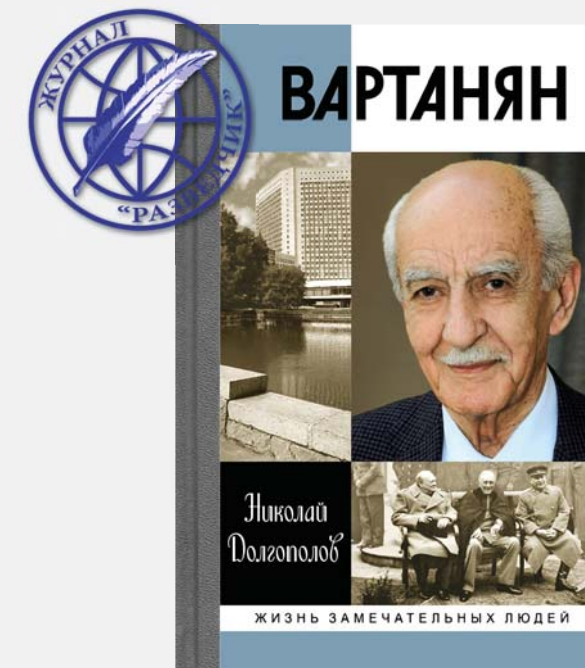
I am glad to greet you on the occasion of the 100 anniversary of the distinguished Soviet and Russian intelligence officer, Hero of the Soviet Union Gevork Andreevich Vartanyan whose name our school has been proudly carrying since 2020.

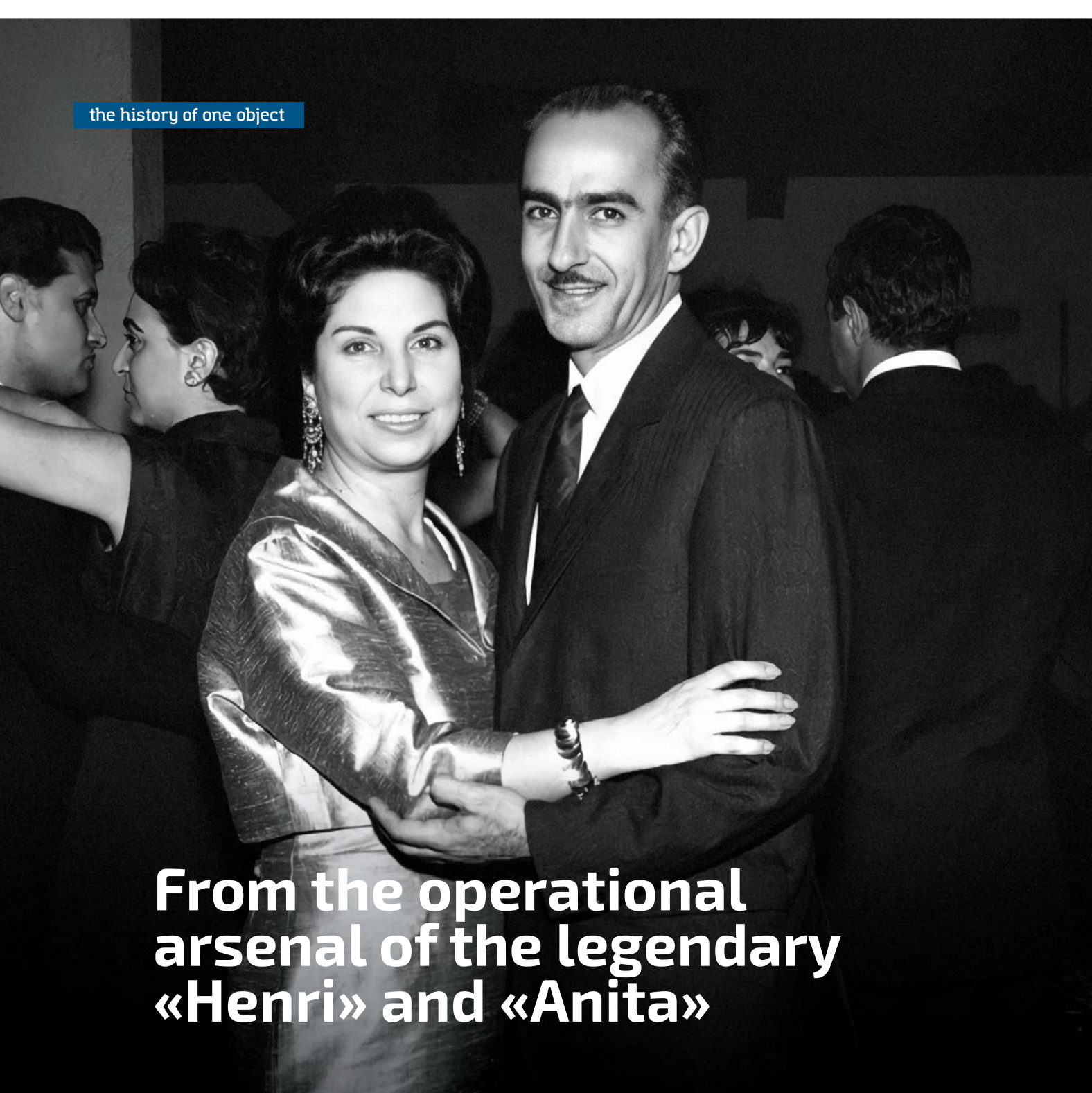
Probably we are one of the largest educational institutions not only of Moscow, but of Russia as a whole: over 10 thousand students are getting primary and secondary education in our several locations. They are the future of our country!

I notice with great pleasure our children's interest for studies of the history of our homeland, their avidity for stories about outstanding Russian scientists, explorers, conquerors of space, about heroic deeds of Russian soldiers and officers, and of course, about difficult, but extremely important intelligence work. Those are the examples of courage and selfless service to homeland that are so much necessary to our children to develop their personality, forge their character, to bring them up as true patriots.

I am grateful to the leadership and veterans of the Foreign Intelligence Service for the ardent support of our initiatives, and I hope to see on the map of Moscow and other Russian cities more and more names of prominent intelligence officers. Children need real heroes!

Olga Afanasieva
Director, School No. 2070, Moscow





From the operational arsenal of the legendary «Henri» and «Anita»

Text: Pavel Smelov

In this column, we many times talked about subjects related to the names of deep cover intelligence officers. This time we will talk about Gohar Levonovna Vartanyan, the legendary "Anita", and her husband and partner, Hero of the Soviet Union, Gevork Andreevich Vartanyan, the elusive "Henri". For many years, this married couple was contributing to the work which was full of risk in "special conditions", the details of which still remain classified. Today we will open a little bit the veil of secrecy and make you acquainted with two objects related to the life of these extraordinary people.

«Women-intelligence officers are the most dangerous adversary, it is the most difficult to expose them».

Charles Russell, American counterintelligence officer

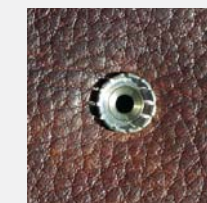
CAMERA WALLET

To begin with, we suggest you to have a look at a slightly shabby ladies' wallet. At the first glance, it is quite ordinary, able to attract attention only of a pocket thief. The thing is quite practical and is well adapted for both bank notes and small change. It has a vintage appearance which is an echo of a bygone era of the 1950s and 1960s.

But everything is not so simple. Let's take it in hands and have a closer look. Let us open one of the compartments. However we will be able to separate a piece of the lining from the leather base fixed with a velcro only after a hint of a specialist. After that we will find some kind of microsized device hidden under it, in which you can identify a special photo camera (which you cannot buy in a store) only after a more careful study.

If you have a close look at the wallet you will see an opening for the lens. Here it is, in the center of the clasp, right under the opening button. Without opening the wallet, but only unfastening and slightly raising the flap, we will be able to click (by the way, the click is practically soundless) the camera's shutter button carefully hidden under the leather and imperceptibly to others take quite a high-quality shot. The shutter speed and the aperture are set in advance. The shutter is automatically cocked.

Here is such a unique device for secret photographing. Bright evidence of the high quality of domestic special equipment! And although it has long been outdated, we will not remove it from camouflage and demonstrate it in all details. Let its details continue to remain a mystery, you never know ...



The opening for taking pictures



Gohar Levonovna Vartanyan

Gohar Levonovna Vartanyan was born on January 25, 1926 in the Armenian Leninakan (Gyumri). In the early 1930s her family moved to Iran. At the age of 16 she joined the anti-fascist group of her future husband and colleague Gevork Andreevich Vartanyan. In 1943, as a member of the group, she took part in the operation to ensure the security of the Tehran Conference. In 1951, the Vartanyan couple was withdrawn to the USSR, in 1956 they graduated from the Yerevan Institute of Foreign Languages. Then there followed a period of many years of their work in "special environment". In 1986 the couple returned to their homeland and continued to work in the Center. They were training young intelligence officers.

The merits of Gohar Levonovna were marked with the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Great Patriotic War of the 2nd degree, many medals and honorary badges as well as one of the highest awards of the Republic of Armenia. The legendary "Anita" passed away in 2019.

Moments of relaxation



But that's not all the secrets of the wallet. As we said above, it was part of the operational equipment of the deep cover intelligence officer Gohar Levonovna Vartanyan. It accompanied her in many countries and regions of the world. And she used it very successfully, first of all, for secret photographing of various objects and persons, as well as of obtained secret documents. The technical features of this, without exaggeration, unique device made it possible to do both..

Here I would like to note that, while working abroad, the Vartanyan couple used not only the special equipment mentioned above. Being inveterate amateur photographers they also shot a lot with the help of ordinary photo cameras. In one of the archival photograph, we, for example, can see these intelligence officers couple on board of a river pleasure boat. On the other, Gohar Levonovna is photographed by her husband on vacation.

Somewhere in Europe



Looking at these pictures, one might think that the life of intelligence officers "in the field" was a continuous holiday, a kind of funny and carefree adventure. But it wasn't. The work of deep cover intelligence officers abroad is closely connected with constant risk and stress, hardly visible for uninitiated.

Here, for example, is a curious photo in which a smiling Gohar Levonovna is sitting at a table of a street cafe in one of the countries. In the background, you can see a "Coca-Cola" advertisement ... And to the left of a tree you can see a man who has a classic "spy" appearance: a raincoat, a hat and black glasses. He looks with suspicious attention towards the intelligence officer and Gevork Andreevich who was taking picture. Who is it? Maybe just a curious stranger or maybe an "outdoor surveillance" officer who accidentally got into the focus of photo camera (we can't exclude that in those regions foreigners might be under surveillance). It was such a "vacation" of our couple which lasted for 30 years...

After coming back to the Motherland the legendary female agent returned that rather shabby camera wallet, which served her faithfully, back to the technical support unit of the Service. Now it is one of the exhibits of the museum of deep cover intelligence.

CASE FOR AUDIO TAPES

We should say it was much more difficult with the second object. For a long time we could not decide what to choose. The fact is that Gevork Andreevich was a versatile developed personality. He took an interest in many things. There were also interesting household and purely operational items in his arsenal.

As always it was just an ordinary accident that helped us. It turned out that the audio archive of the Vartanyan family was preserved. Gevork Andreevich was personally responsible for filling it. There are more than seventy audio tapes in this collection. Gevork Andreevich acquired a special box in order to take some of them on his trips.

The thing is practical and quite nice. Looking at it and its contents we thought about a possibility to describe our intelligence officer as an ordinary man who was collecting, like many of his contemporaries, tape records of popular musical groups and exchanging them with his friends. In such situations the list of songs was written on the tape box in pen. And there are many of such tapes.

So, we have a nice and convenient attaché case with several audio tapes inside it which have traces of frequent use. We may say with confidence that the Vartanyan family took them abroad and it morally supported them in times of trouble. It happened so that this case refers to the final stage of the mission of our deep cover intelligence officers.


In front of us, of course, there is only a small part of the Vartanyan music library, which contains their most favourite musical compositions at that time. It is interesting that among them there are some popular sound tracks of various directions: classics, pop, rock and rhythm and blues. They liked rock ballads and even such a genre as the West Coast Sound which was little-known in the USSR.

But an intelligence officer always remains an intelligence officer. It's known for certain that the musical attaché case had a "twin" equipped with a container and used by Gevork Andreevich to store and transport the obtained secret materials.

Everyday life of a deep cover intelligence officer, as well as his cover story, consists of many, sometimes insignificant, elements like the attaché case mentioned above. Just imagine, our heroic family couple was working

far away from their homeland for many years. If only they could at least sometimes listen to familiar melodies in their native language to raise the spirits... but they had to restrict themselves and listen only to foreign rhythms.

The Vartanyans themselves did not consider this something out of the ordinary. They considered it as exceptionally forced measures to temporary divert attention from everything that could harm their activity and nothing more.

They've always been like this - "Henri" and "Anita" - and so they will forever stay in our memory. 



Portable case for audiotapes



«Beautiful Red orchestra»

In commemoration of the immortal exploit of women

Text: Andrey Kudrin

I am destined to die like Christ: for people

Libertas Schulze-Boysen

**No one can say about me without lying
that I cried or clung to life and therefore trembled. Laughing,
I end my life, just as, laughing,
I loved life more than anything
in the world and continue to love it.**

Erica von Brockdorf

There are a lot of works describing in details the anti-fascist organization Red Orchestra, primarily its Berlin branch headed by Arvid Harnack (pseudonym "Corsican") and Harro Schulze-Boysen ("Foreman"). Having devoted their lives to unequal struggle against fascism, working for Soviet foreign intelligence, they daily put themselves at mortal risk. The information obtained and transmitted by the Orchestra in the pre-war years was truly invaluable and, with due attitude towards it, could have protected our country from many sufferings and victims.

The leadership and most of the members of the organization were men, but in this article we would like to focus on the invaluable contribution that women made to the activities of the Red Orchestra. Their destinies are especially touching. After all, war, civil resistance is not a woman's business at all. And in the case of the Red Orchestra, the representatives of the "weaker" sex turned out to be so bold, brave and strong in spirit that they became not only faithful assistants of their husbands and comrades-in-arms, but also showed unparalleled courage in the face of inevitable death.

They were different in social status, education, vital interests and hobbies, but all of them were united by a sense of categorical rejection of fascism and a great desire to be useful in eradicating this absolute evil. Their struggle cannot be called otherwise than a feat. They voluntarily opposed themselves to the Gestapo moloch, that did not know mercy, and, unfortunately, almost everyone found death in this unequal confrontation. And those beautiful women were deprived of life in the most barbaric way: on the guillotine in the Berlin convict prison Plötzensee.

In the archives of the SVR of Russia there is a copy of the verdict of the Imperial Military Court ([see Document 1 in the section "Declassified Archives"](#)), as well as information about the presence of operational pseudonyms for many women who were part of the Red Orchestra, which is an additional evidence of their participation not only in anti-fascist, but also directly in intelligence activities. Due to the limited format of a magazine article, we cannot tell in details about everyone and we offer you brief stories of only some of them. Here are their names.

Berlin. 1941



MILDRED HARNACK
(09/16/1902–02/16/1943)

Mildred Fish, an American of German origin, was born in Milwaukee (USA) in a merchant's family. She studied at Madison University, where she met Arvid Harnack, whom she married in 1926. Three years later, the couple moved to Germany, where Mildred continued her studies. In 1939 she received a Ph.D. She taught modern American literature at the University of Berlin, was an associate professor at the faculty of foreign countries. She translated Goethe's poems and works of other German authors into English.

She supported her husband's decision to carry out intelligence activities in favour of the USSR. She helped process the received political, economic and military information, performed the functions of a cut-out and courier with Harro Schulze-Boysen.

On September 3, 1942, the Harnacks were arrested during a vacation they

spent on the Baltic Sea. At the first hearing of their case on December 19, 1942, the imperial military court sentenced Mildred Harnack to six years of prison, but Hitler considered the punishment too soft. On February 13, 1943, the brave anti-fascist was sentenced to death. Mildred listened to it calmly and with self-control. While being in death penalty cell she translated Johann Wolfgang Goethe's poems into her native language:

*Who lived, will not turn into nothing!
Eternity moves everywhere.
Those involved in existence be
blessed!*

The last words of Mildred Harnack before the execution were: "I loved Germany so much!»

Libertas Schulze-Boysen

Arvid («Corsican») and Mildred Harnack

Libertas
Schulze-Boysen
(11/20/1913–12/22/1942)

Libertas Haas-Heye was born in Paris in the family of an art history professor Otto Haas-Heye and Countess Victoria Eulenburg und Hartenfeld. The girl turned out to be creatively gifted, she was fond of music, wrote poetry.

Libertas got an excellent education in Germany and Switzerland, for some time she lived in England, where she mastered English to perfection. From 1933 to 1939, she worked as a press assistant of the Berlin branch of the American film company Metro-Goldwin-Mayer, wrote articles for the newspaper National Zeitung. Then she became a referent on art, local history and ethnography at the German Center for Popular Science Films, which was subordinate to the Imperial Ministry of Propaganda.

In 1936 she married Harro Schulze-Boysen. Having learned about



Draft scheme of «underground connections»
of the Red Orchestra from the final report
of the Reich Security Main Office

her husband's participation in intelligence work she began to help him actively: she copied and distributed illegal materials, attracted new members to the organization, and carried out courier assignments.

She was captured by the Gestapo on September 8, 1942, a few days after her husband's arrest. Before that, she tried to destroy all the available evidence so that they would not fall into the hands of the police. On December 19, 1942, together with H. Schulze-Boysen, she was sentenced to death. Shortly before her death, in a letter to her mother Libertas wrote:

I don't suffer at all anymore, everything has become humanly joyful and there is no more horror... And since no one will die before fulfilling own task in life, then I will be able to overcome the duality of my nature, exactly with my own death commit a great deed. I love the whole world, there is no hatred in me, eternal spring blooms in me!

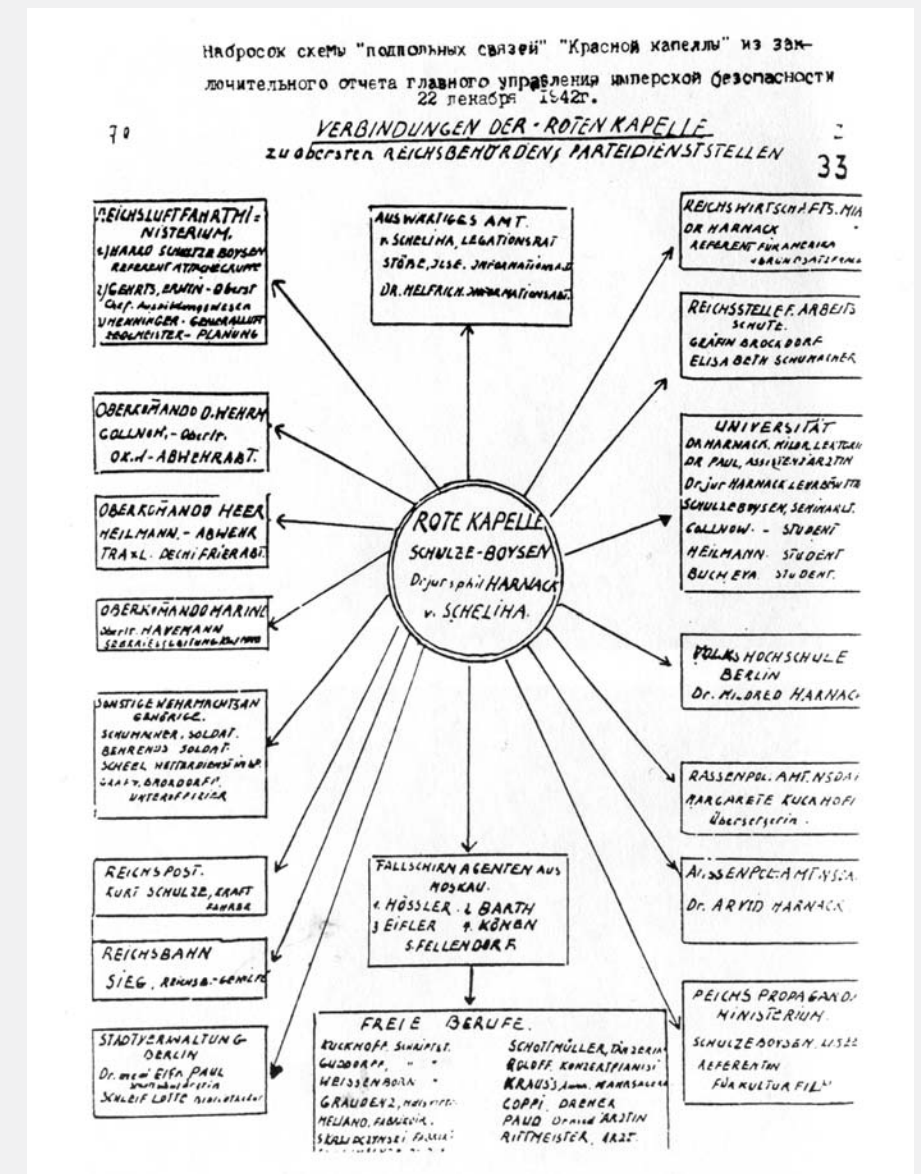


Erika von Brockdorff
(04/29/1911–05/13/1943)

Erika Schönfeld was born in the city of Kolberg (Pomerania) in the family of a postal employee. She graduated from high school, then a vocational school in Magdeburg. She moved to Berlin, where she worked as a housekeeper. Studied in shorthand courses. Shortly after Hitler came to power, she joined the Resistance Movement.

Harro Schulze-Boysen («Starshina»). 1942

In 1935, Erika's husband Count Kai von Brockdorff got her involved in cooperation with the German Communist Party in the underground. In their apartment, which turned into a meeting point, communists from the Schulze-Boysen-Harnack organization also held meetings. Together with them, Erika studied Marxist-Leninist literature, participated in anti-fascist propaganda events. Since the end of 1941, the apartment has been repeatedly used for radio communication sessions with the Soviet intelligence. Arriving in





Countess Erika von Brockdorff

August 1942 from the USSR, the radio operator of the group Albert Hössler went on the air from the von Brockdorff apartment. The comrades-in-arms, who knew Erika closely, called her "Red Countess". After the start of the war Erika along with her friend Elizabeth Schumacher joined the service of the Imperial Bureau of Labor Protection, where she gained access to confidential materials, which were subsequently used as intelligence information.

On September 16, 1942 Erika von Brockdorff was arrested by the Gestapo and sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Imperial Court, but the case was reviewed on Hitler's order. In January 1943, as a result of new hearings, she was sentenced to death. The realization that she was giving her life for a just cause did not leave Erika until the last day. She managed to give one of the prisoners a note with words from Egmont by Goethe: "If I knew that my blood would shed for the sake of many people and bring peace to my nation, I would shed it willingly".

Clandestine newspaper of the Communist Party of Germany with the final words of the «Communist Manifesto».

Elizabeth Schumacher

(04/28/1904–12/22/1942)

Born in Darmstadt. Her father, chief engineer Fritz Hohenemzer, came from a family of Jewish bankers. Elizabeth spent her childhood in Miningen. In 1925 she graduated from the School of Art Crafts in Offenbach am Main, then worked in the arts and crafts studio. Having moved to Berlin, she worked at the State Unified School of Free and Applied Art, then in the State Museum of Industrial Safety. There she met Libertas Haas Haye (Schulze-Boysen).

She married a sculptor and artist Kurt Schumacher. After the establishment of the Nazi regime in the country, the Schumachers joined the anti-fascist circle of H. Schulze-Boysen. During the Spanish Civil War, Elizabeth copied the obtained secret



Elizabeth Schumacher

documents on the participation of the German Armed Forces in operations against the republican government. With the beginning of the Second



World War, the Schumachers began to manufacture and distribute underground materials. In the spring of 1941, the couple expressed their readiness to carry out intelligence activities in favor of the USSR. By directions of the Centre, Elizabeth joined the Imperial Bureau of Labor Protection, where she collected valuable information for Soviet intelligence. In June 1941, the Soviet intelligence officer A.M. Korotkov handed over to Elizabeth the updated radio communication conditions and new encryption keys.

In September 1942, Kurt and Elizabeth Schumacher were arrested and sentenced to death by the Imperial Military Court.

From Elizabeth's farewell letter to her mother and mother-in-law:

Ah, my dears! How I would like to thank you in a completely different way, and not with this miserable letter. And to console you. The hardest thing for me is to be the cause of such huge heartaches. But I ask all of you for one thing: may you not be ashamed of us. You know that we are not scums at all, that we - you really do not know all the circumstances - followed our best beliefs, sacrificing security, peace, comfort for their sake.

Oda Schottmüller

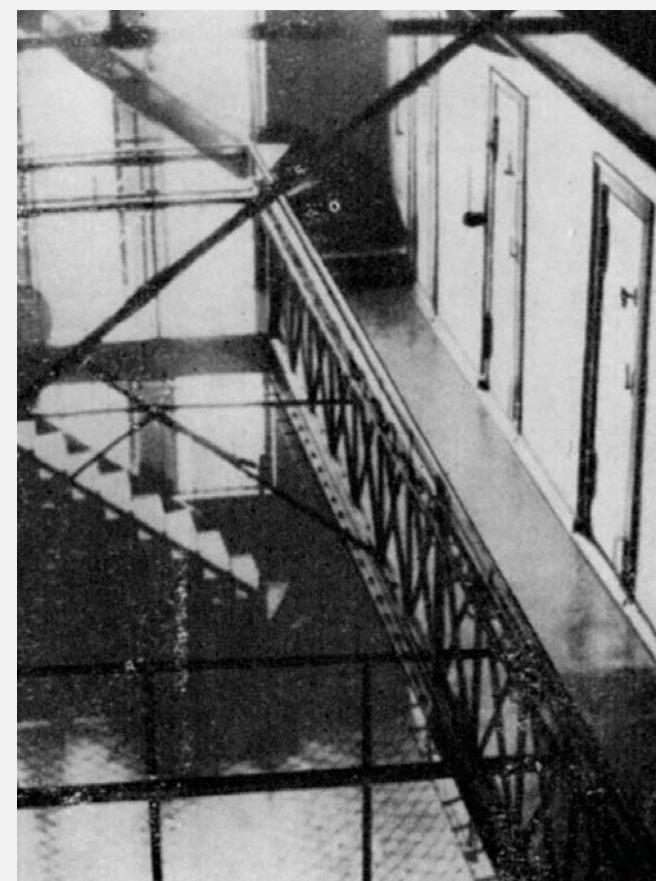
(02/09/1905–08/05/1943)

She spent her childhood in Danzig. After graduating from school, she studied jewelry craft in the village of Oberbrambach (Germany), acquired the speciality of a master in the manufacture of silverware. She studied at the School of Artistic Crafts

in Frankfurt am Main, at the Higher Art School in Berlin. In 1931 she entered a group of young dancers at the Berlin Folk Theater. Already during the period of study, Oda felt an acute rejection of fascism, then she began to seek contacts with cultural workers who were in opposition to the ruling regime. Thus she became friends with the sculptors Elizabeth and Kurt Schumacher, who were part of the anti-fascist organization Schultze-Boysen-Harnack organization.

Oda used her frequent trips around the country (dance performances, sculpture exhibitions) for communication between the participants of the Red Orchestra. She distributed illegal literature. H. Schulze-Boysen, G. Coppi and other members of the organization regularly met in her apartment. From there, secret radiograms were transmitted to Moscow.

In September 1942, Oda Schottmüller was arrested, in January 1943 sentenced to death by the Imperial Military Court. The prison note, which, after the announcement of the verdict, Oda managed to hand



Plötzensee Prison, death row



Oda Schottmüller

over to her comrade-in-arms said the following:

There can be no question of any justice here. Forces are not at all equal and legal proceedings are carried out according to the principle: whoever is strong is right. Any state should protect and defend itself, but what I had to go through is the bandit manner of desperately defending tyranny. My last word was bad, everything important suddenly jumped out of my head, but none of us showed cowardice.

Hilde Coppi

(05/30/1909–08/05/1943)

Born in Berlin. After graduating from school, she worked as an assistant to a foreign language teacher. In 1933, she became close with German communists, joined the Communist Party, and participated in underground work. In 1939, she entered the Imperial Institute of State Insurance of Employees.

In 1940 she met a turner Hans Coppi, member of the Communist Youth Union. In June 1941 they got married. Hilde's husband took an active part

in creating anti-fascist groups at military factories, hid underground workers who were in illegal position. Having joined the Red Orchestra, Hans expressed his readiness to participate in intelligence work for the USSR as a radio operator, which was fully welcomed by his wife.

The Coppis were arrested on September 12, 1942, when Hilde was late in pregnancy. On November 27, 1942, in prison, she gave birth to a son, Hans. According to the verdict of the Imperial Military Court of December 19, 1942, Hans Coppi was executed. A month later, the Nazi judges passed the death sentence for the young mother too, delaying the execution only for a while because of the need to feed the child.

From Hilde's letter to her relatives, written a few hours before the execution:

The last hearty greetings to everyone who cares about us. Be courageous, hold your head high and be as happy as possible with our little Hans - after all, he is a child of our great and happy love. We still love each other very, very much, and we bequeath this love to you.

Rose Schlösinger

(30.05.1909–05.08.1943)

Born in Frankfurt am Main in a working-class family. At the age of 16, she got a job as a kindergarten teacher, at the same time she studied at an evening school. She managed to pass the exam for the title of a teacher of charitable institutions, but due to her mother's participation in the Social Democratic movement, she could not work in her specialty. Having studied typography and shorthand, she got a job at a plant for the production of tourist equipment "Wanderer", where she later became the secretary of the directorate.

In 1936, Rose married Bodo Schlösinger, a German Foreign Ministry translator, and moved to Berlin. Her husband, a member of the Communist Party, belonged to the organization of Schulze-Boysen-Harnack. Under his influence, Rose also joined the anti-fascist movement, and with the beginning of the war, she began to provide assistance in intelligence activities. In particular, she was a communications agent, transferring the collected secret information to the radio operator H.Coppi for it to be sent to Moscow.

In October 1942, Rose Schlösinger was arrested and sentenced to death on January 20, 1943

Ilse Stöbe

(17.05.1911–22.12.1942)

She grew up in a family of workers in Red Wedding, a proletarian district of Berlin. After graduating from school and trade school, she began working as a secretary-typist at the Berlin Publishing Concern Mosse. After that she was a correspondent of German and Swiss newspapers

Hans and Hilde Coppi



Rose Schlösinger

in Warsaw. Since 1931, she joined the intelligence activities in favor of the USSR. In 1939, she returned to Berlin and joined the information department of the German Foreign Ministry. In fact, she headed an intelligence group with an attached radio operator Kurt Schulze.

On September 12, 1942, Ilse Shtöbe was arrested and was subjected to brutal torture for several weeks. She heroically endured the torture and did not say a word that saved the lives of many other German patriots. On December 14, 1942, the Imperial Military Court sentenced her to death.

Ilse's mother, thrown by the Gestapo to the Ravensbrück women's concentration camp, kept her letter, written on the eve of the execution. Here is what Ilse wrote in it:

My dear mother! Thank you, mommy, for the fulfillment of my last wishes. Don't be sad! In such cases, there is no place for sadness. And, please, don't wear a black dress.



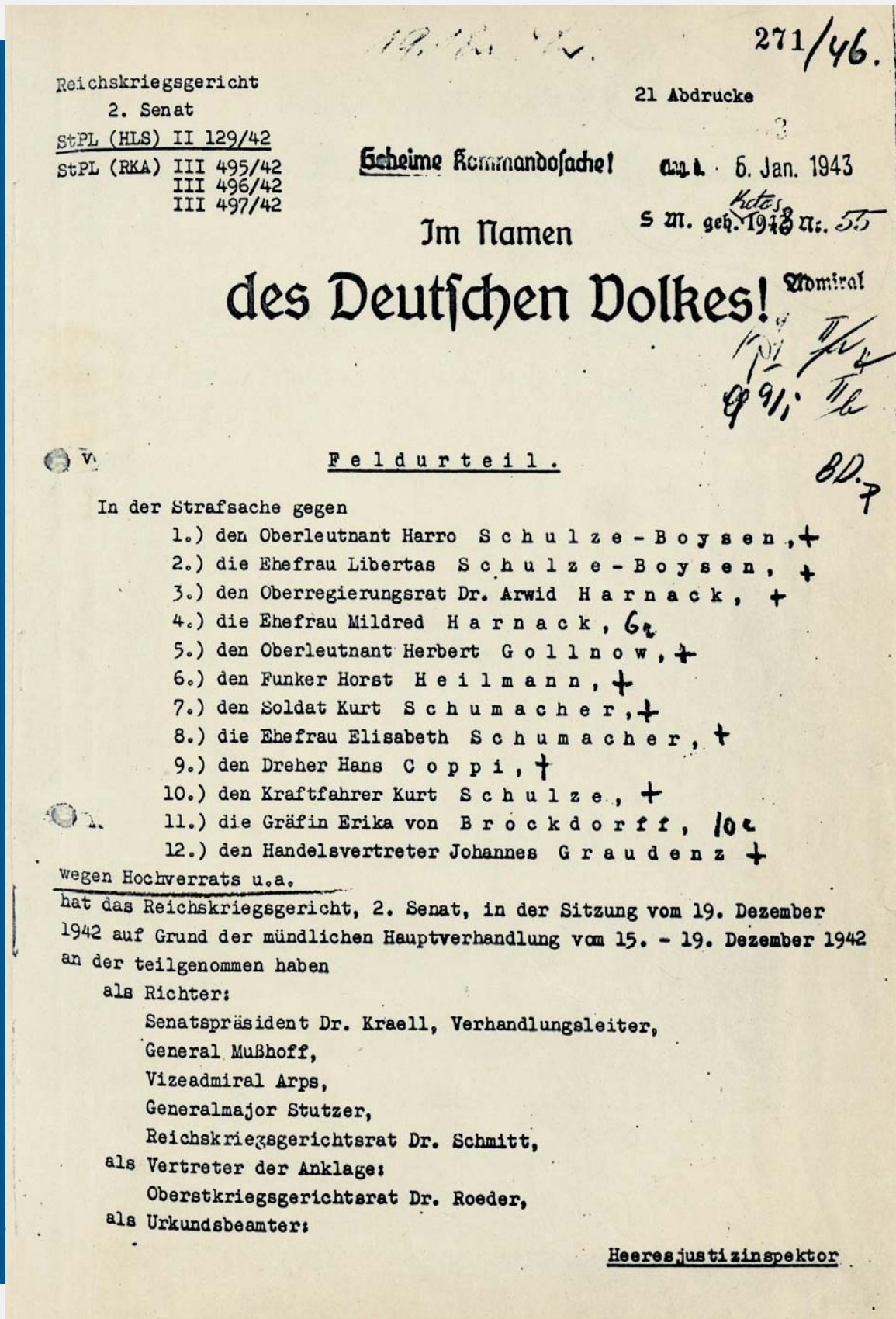
Ilse Stöbe

For active participation in the fight against fascism, assistance to the Soviet Union during the Great Patriotic War, and for the courage, initiative and perseverance many members of the Red Orchestra were awarded Soviet orders by the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR by decree of October 6, 1969. The list of awardees also included the heroines of our essay: Mildred Harnack, Erika von Brockdorff and Elizabeth Schumacher were awarded the Order of the Patriotic War of the 1st degree, Hilde Coppi — the Order of the Patriotic War of the 2nd degree, Oda Schottmüller, Roza Schlösinger and Ilse Shtöbe — the Order of the Red Star. All orders were awarded posthumously. 🚩

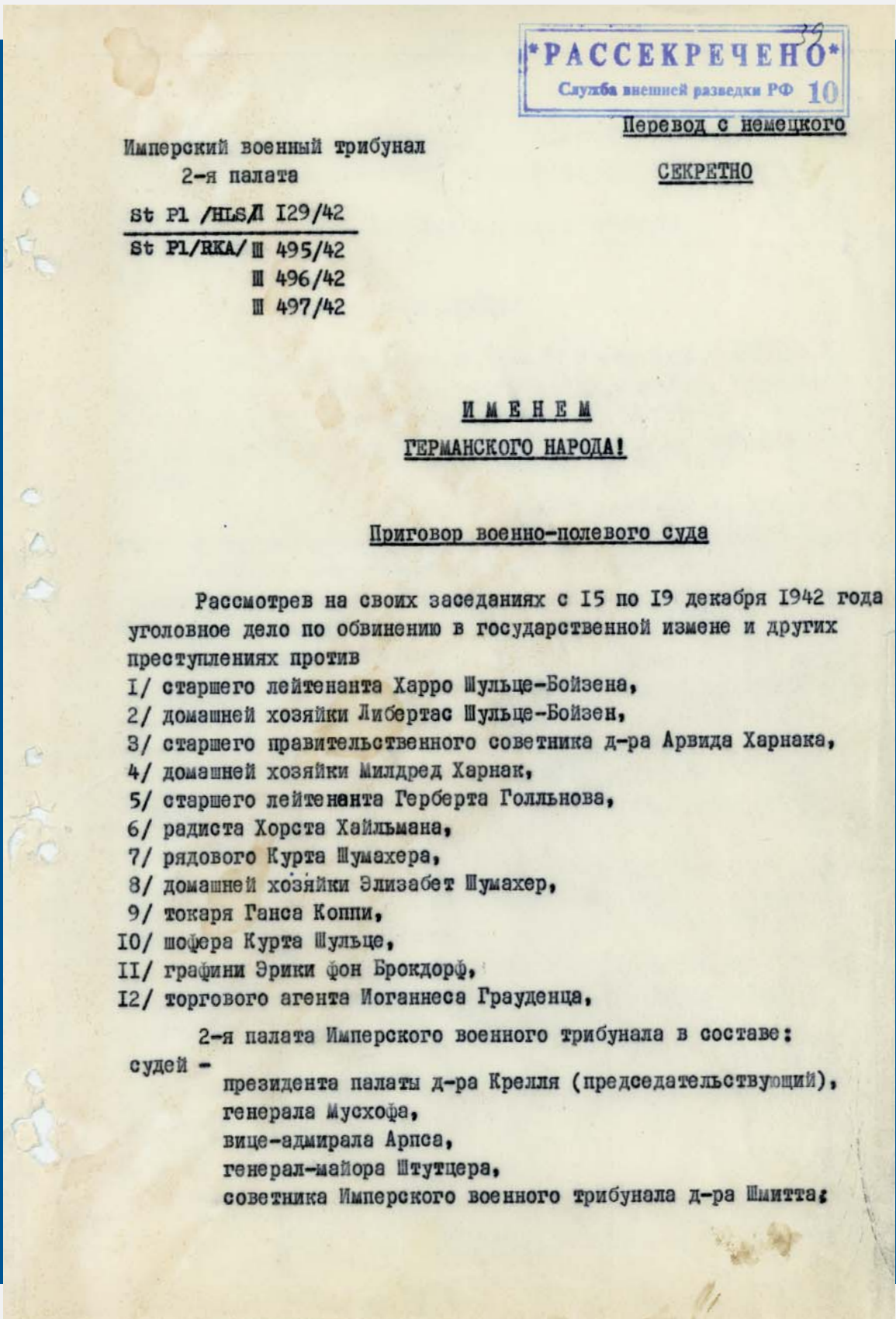
In the last days of life, while in prison, one of the leaders of the Red Orchestra, Harro Schulze-Boysen, wrote heartfelt lines that can be attributed to all the executed members of the organization.

Cell No. 2

*The wind knocks on my window,
And howls, and sounds the alarm.
Germany has become a land of shadows,
But it's so warm here, by God.
They call this house a prison.
Although my body is in humiliation,
I do not cry over its fate –
The heart tortures are worse.
It is like I am in a cell of a monastery
In a square of white walls,
That were built firmly, the work was not in vain
So that people's souls were taken in prison.
But the souls' flight cannot be held,
The shackles do not scare them –
They fly through the walls of prisons
In the transparent light of the moon.
We are here so firmly separated
From all worldly worries,
And in the book of life,
Parish and expenditure are already summed up.
Before the last boundary line,
Let's summarize.
Ask yourself: what is the meaning of life?
After all, the last threshold is visible.
Ask yourself at this fatal hour:
Was it worth it to go like this?
There is only one answer, it is so simple:
We were on the right track.
When death keeps you in his claws,
You want to live as ill luck would have it.
But there are no regrets either in thoughts
or in dreams:
We were led by a just cause.
We may die. But faith is alive:
Our sowing will soon sprout.
In prison, you will not see the words of truth –
All our people will hear them.
The axe and the rope do not frighten us
They have not won the dispute.
Let the judges pass their wrong judgements,
Their sentence is not eternal!*



Documents 1, 2.
The sentence
of the Imperial
Military Tribunal
of December 21,
1942 (original and
translation)



Documents 1, 2.
The sentence
of the Imperial
Military Tribunal
of December 21,
1942 (original and
translation)

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2.

представителя обвинения –
старшего советника военного трибунала д-ра Редера;
секретаря –
армейского инспектора юстиции Гюльднера
п о с т а в л я е т :

Приговорить

1/ Обвиняемых старшего лейтенанта Харро Шульце-Бойзена и рядового Курта Шумахера – за государственную измену, предательство, подрыв обороноспособности государства и шпионаж – к смертной казни, лишению воинских званий и пожизненному лишению гражданских прав.

2/ Д-ра Арвида Харнака, Либертас Шульце-Бойзен, Элизабет Шумахер, Ганса Коппи и Курта Шульце – за государственную измену, пособничество врагам Германии и шпионаж – к смертной казни и пожизненному лишению гражданских прав; кроме того, Ганса Коппи – к лишению воинских званий.

3/ Иоганнеса Грауденца – за государственную измену, пособничество врагам Германии, подрыв обороноспособности государства и шпионаж – к смертной казни и пожизненному лишению гражданских прав.

4/ Радиста Хорста Хайльмана – за предательство и шпионаж – к смертной казни, лишению воинских званий и пожизненному лишению гражданских прав.

5/ Старшего лейтенанта Герберта Голльнова – за неповиновение в строю и разглашение государственной тайны – к смертной казни и лишению воинских званий.

6/ Графиню Эрику фон Брокдорф – за пособничество измене и шпионажу – к 10 (десяти) годам строго тюремного заключения и лишению гражданских прав на 10 (десять) лет.

7/ Милдред Харнак – за пособничество измене и шпионажу – к 6 (шести) годам строго тюремного заключения и лишению гражданских прав на 6 (шесть) лет.

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3.

Имущество обвиняемых Харро Шульце-Бойзена, д-ра Арвида Харнака, Курта Шумахера и Иоганнеса Грауденца конфискуется.

Кроме того, конфискуется у обвиняемого Ганса Коппи 2500 имп.марок, у обвиняемого Курта Шульце – 2100 имп.марок.

Во имя справедливости!

О б о с н о в а н и е

Установлены следующие факты преступной деятельности обвиняемых в целом:

Некоторые из обвиняемых являлись членами бывшей КПГ, однако большинство из них склонялись к различным субъективно окрашенным социалистическим идеям, что в 1933 году поставило их в оппозицию к национал-социалистскому государству. Вначале они обсуждали свои идеи в небольших кружках с привлечением марксистской и ленинистской литературы, готовили доклады и писали статьи, служившие целям воспитания кадров в своем узком кругу, а затем перешли к изданию и распространению явно подрывных материалов коммунистического характера. Когда в 1939 году был заключен пакт между Германией и Россией, они на время смирились с создавшимся положением. Однако с началом русской кампании их активность возобновилась и даже усилилась. Было подготовлено и распространено большое количество подрывной литературы в виде брошюр, рассчитанных на массовое влияние, причем особо стремились охватить круги интеллигенции, полиции и армии. Параллельно с этой деятельностью теперь была установлена непосредственная связь с Москвой. Вначале эта связь была весьма несовершенна, пока русские разведорганы со своей стороны не приступили к заброске парашютистов и обеспечению данной группы обвиняемых радиопередатчиками. Незадолго до того как радиосвязь была готова к развертыванию в широком масштабе, государственной тайной полиции (гестапо – прим.перев) удалось арестовать всех участников этой группы.

Ставка Фюрера, 21.12.1942г.

Утверждаю приговор Имперского военного трибунала от 14 декабря 1942 года по делу

бывшего легационного советника Рудольфа фон Шелла и редактора Ильзы Штебе,

а также приговор Имперского военного трибунала от 19 декабря 1942 года по делу старшего лейтенанта Харро Шульце-Бойзена и других, кроме его части, касающейся Милдред Харнак и графини Эрики фон Брокдорф.

Ходатайства о помиловании отклоняются.

Приговоры привести в исполнение. Для Рудольфа фон Шелиа, Харро Шульце-Бойзена, Арвида Харнака, Курта Шумахера и Иоганнеса Грауденца предусматривается смертная казнь через повешение. Для остальных лиц, приговоренных к смерти, предусматривается смертная казнь на гильотине.

В отношении Герберта Голльева приговор в исполнение не приводить до моего особого распоряжения.

Отменяю приговор Имперского военного трибунала от 19 декабря 1942 года в отношении Милдред Харнак и графини Эрики фон Брокдорф. Рассмотрение дела поручить другой палате Имперского военного трибунала.

Подпись: Адольф Гитлер

Главнокомандующий вооруженными силами

Подпись: Кейтель

More documents on the website of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service

Documents 1, 2.
The sentence
of the Imperial
Military Tribunal
of December 21,
1942 (original and
translation)

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durch den Antritt der Reise unternommen und damit bereits das Verbrechen des Spionageunternehmens vollendet. Einen Rücktritt von diesem Verbrechen kennt das Gesetz nicht.

Der Angeklagte war demnach sowohl aus den oben angeführten gesetzlichen Bestimmungen wie auch aus § 2 KSSVO, zum Tode zu verurteilen. Die bürgerlichen Ehrenrechte wurden ihm auf Dauer aberkannt.

13.) Der außergewöhnlichen Schwere der von den Angeklagten Harro Schulze-Boysen, Arwid Harnack, Kurt Schumacher und Graudenz begangenen Tat hat der Senat dadurch Rechnung getragen, daß er auf Einziehung des Vermögens dieser Angeklagten erkannt hat (§ 92 RStGB.). Im übrigen wurden die zur Durchführung der Verbrechen erhaltenen Gelder den gesetzlichen Bestimmungen entsprechend eingezogen (§ 93a RStGB.).

gez. Dr. Kraell Mußhoff Arps Stutzer Schmitt.

Der Führer Führerhauptquartier, den 21.12.1942.

I.

Ich bestätige das Urteil des Reichskriegsgerichts vom 14. Dezember 1942 gegen
den ehemaligen Legationsrat Rudolf von S c h e l l i n g und
die Schriftleiterin Ilse S t ö b e
sowie das Urteil des Reichskriegsgerichts vom 19. Dezember 1942 gegen
den Oberleutnant Harro S c h u l z e - B o y s e n und andere,
soweit es nicht die Ehefrau Mildred H a r n a c k und Erika Gräfin
von B r o c k d o r f f betrifft.

II.

Einen Gnadenbeweis lehne ich ab.

III.

Die Urteile sind zu vollstrecken, und zwar gegen Rudolf von Scheliha, Harro Schulze-Boysen, Arwid Har-
nack, Kurt Schumacher und Johannes Graudenz
durch Erhängen. Die übrigen Todesurteile sind durch Enthaupten zu voll-
ziehen.

Die Anordnung der Vollstreckung gegen Herbert G o l l n o w
behalte ich mir vor.

IV.

Ich habe das Urteil des Reichskriegsgerichts vom 19. Dezember 1942 gegen die Ehefrau Mildred Harnack und Erika Gräfin von Brockdorff auf. Mit der Hauptverhandlung ist ein anderer Senat des Reichskriegsgerichts zu beauftragen.

gez. Adolf Hitler.

Der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht

gez. Keitel.

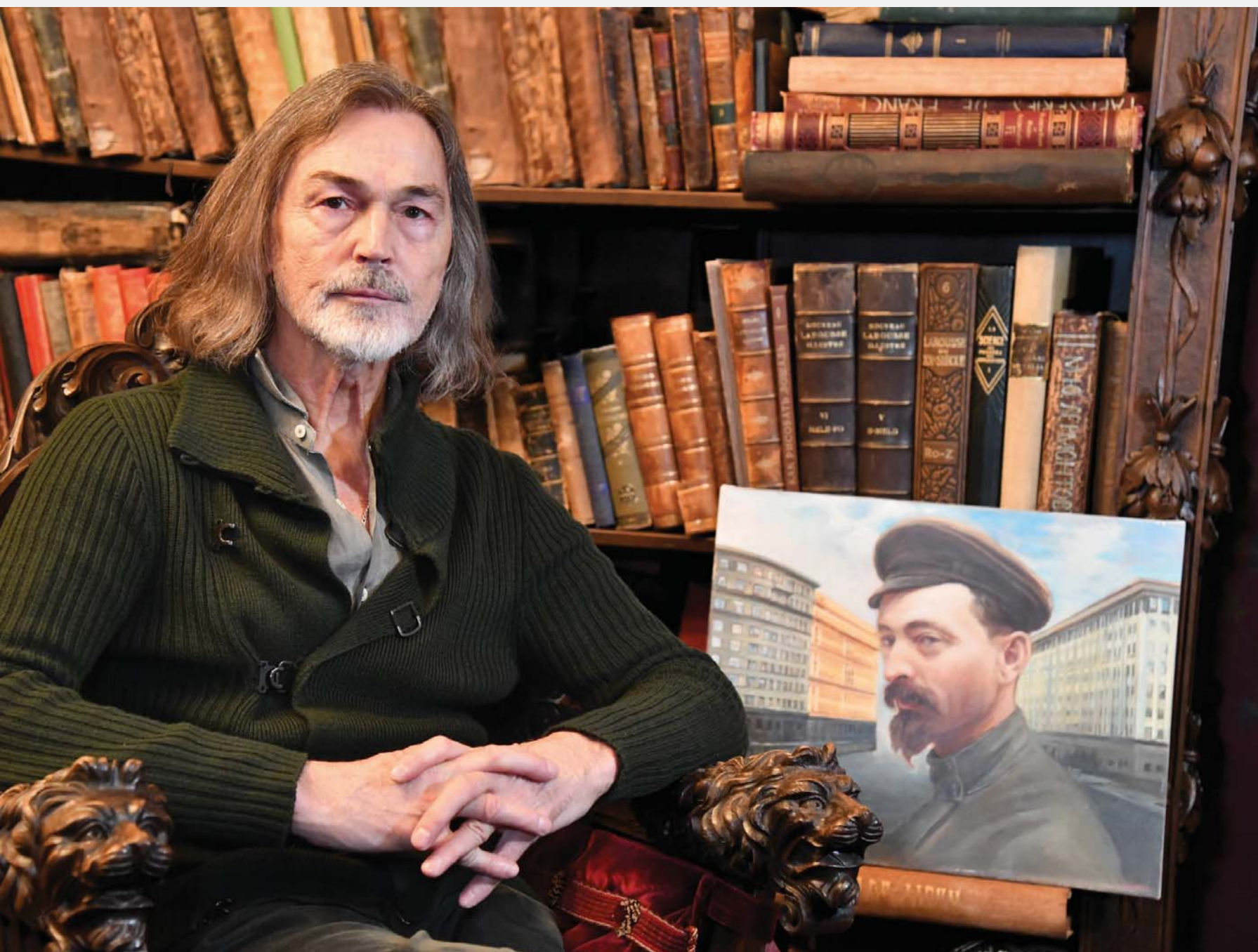
Geschäftsstelle
2. Senat

Berlin, den 5. i. 43

Entscheidung des Senats:

... zur Stellung vorgeschlagen.
... geeignet.

benzene



Nikas Safronov:
«I have always treated intelligence officers as special people with exclusive knowlege...»

An exhibition “Without the right to glory, for the glory of the state” organized by the All-Russian Public Foundation for Promoting the Patriotic Education of Citizens “Serving Russia” was held from December 2023 to February 2024, in Moscow, in the Victory Museum on Poklonnaya Hill. The exhibition included 37 graphic portraits of outstanding Soviet and Russian intelligence officers drawn by Nikas Safronov. The Intelligence Officer magazine decided to find out from the artist himself about the idea of their creation.

Nikas, tell us how long ago the theme of intelligence appeared in your works?

Of course, this theme has always been out there: these are both films and famous intelligence officers. We, the Soviet people, had an inner feeling since childhood that we owe much to them. We respected intelligence officers and appreciated their contribution. I have always treated them as special people, devoted to their profession.

Once I saw a series of documentaries about Pavel Fitin. He won me over so much that I decided to create his portrait. Some time later (this was a few years ago), an old friend Ivan Ivanovich Gorelovsky, a veteran of the SVR, a colonel general, called me and said that the foreign intelligence service was interested in drawing a series of such portraits. It was a great honour for me. Now the series has 37 works and continues to grow.

Nikas, you are one of the most famous artists in modern Russia, your works are exhibited in many galleries, including the Hermitage and the Tretyakov Gallery, there are world celebrities, politicians and even kings among your friends. How did a boy from a large family who grew up in barracks in Ulyanovsk manage to achieve such a success? Is it enough just to be born talented?

I am convinced that all people are born talented. Further on, it all depends on whether this talent reveals itself, and here a lot depends on the circumstances. For example, a family can contribute to the development of talent, or it can direct a child along a path in which his talent will never be revealed. We know a lot of actors, singers, artists, whose children, as it is said, were abandoned by nature. In my opinion, the point is not in nature, but in the fact that the sphere of implementation of their abilities was initially chosen incorrectly, was set from outside.

A person must consciously or even unconsciously move in different directions, try himself in different spheres and roles. Here I can refer to my experience. Since childhood, I was fond of drawing, mainly reproducing illustrations from books. At the same time, my father was a military man and a military career awaited me, since dynasties were always welcomed in our country. But I wanted to become a sailor and went to Odessa, where there was a nautical school.

After studying for a year, I realized that this was not my cup of tea, and I left for Rostov-on-Don to enter an art school. I was accepted there, but with conditions: the admission board highly doubted in me, since I did not have an elementary art education. Then there were

Nikas (Nikolai) Safronov

Nikas (Nikolai) Safronov was born on April 8, 1956 in Ulyanovsk. Studied painting at the Rostov Art School named after M.B. Grekov and Moscow Art Institute named after V.I. Surikov. Full member of the Russian Academy of Arts (2012). People's Artist of the Russian Federation (2021). Laureate of the Academician E.M. Primakov SVR Prize in the field of literature and art (2022) for creating a series of portraits of intelligence officers



Soviet Army soldier.
1975

two years of compulsory military service in the army, where my attempts to draw were severely suppressed. Almost everything I drew there was destroyed there.

After demobilization, I got a job as an artist in the drama theater of the Lithuanian city of Panevezys. The theater was provincial, but widely known in the country, since it was headed by Donatas Banionis, incredibly popular in those years. In 1979 I moved to Vilnius, and in 1983 I moved to Moscow, where I later graduated from the Surikov Institute. In 1985, my first solo exhibition in Rome took place, in 1988 - in Toronto, in 1989 - in Zurich. After that, I began to cooperate with many fashionable glossy magazines, began to paint portraits of political and public figures, theater and cinema artists, which brought me wide fame both in Russia and abroad.

In other words, my path to painting was indirect. Moreover, in this area I tried different genres and styles, and this required a long and thorough study of all kinds of techniques and schools. That is, there was a constant search for myself. In general, in my opinion, it is not enough to be born talented - this, as I said, is

given to many - you need to always look for yourself and work, work, work. After all, who is a genius? I believe that this is a talented person, endowed with perseverance. Genius is hard work first of all.

At what age did you realize that being an artist is your calling?

In childhood, when the first contact with painting took place, it, of course, was mere interest. At a young age, after all, everything is interesting and many, by the way, show great abilities to draw, but parents either do not notice it, or consider it foolish. The real understanding of my calling, I think, came, oddly enough, in the army. Everything there was against my drawing, up to penalties. But I stubbornly found time and place for that.

Only when the recognition of the public and success came, this understanding was entrenched, but still, at the beginning of creating each new picture and before the opening of each exhibition, I have a strong feeling that I am just starting, that I still need to learn.

What is the most important thing for you in the artist's work and where do you draw inspiration from?

There are many important things. First of all, it is to be a professional and be responsible. It is also important to be spiritual, which means love your country and dedicate your creative work to it. In addition, it is important not to think about what and how to paint in order to sell the picture faster. Not to think about what critics will say. When you work on a portrait, try to make it not so that the customer rather like it, but so that the latter see his true essence in it. It is important to let in less instrumental motifs, and more to give in to emotions.

As for inspiration, you don't have to think about it either. It comes along by its own. The main thing is to start, and then work will capture you. I always start as an artisan, but I finish as an artist. I pick up a palette and a brush, come up to the easel - and go ahead. This is the simplest, but at the same time the most difficult thing. As a poet said: "And again a blank sheet of paper,

and again a field is ahead. But there is neither strength nor courage for me to cross this field." There is, I remember, this ending: "Anxious, you will instantly freeze from the red sun, then you will make a step in complete abandon and you will cross this field." Inspiration can be drawn mainly from yourself. It rarely comes from the outside, but your own resources should be used as efficiently as possible.

What, in your opinion, is the role of art in modern life? And is it appropriate to talk about it in the present difficult time, when the whole world is literally blazing?

A lot has been said about art and its role, and by many, but there is still no unambiguous answer to this question. In my opinion, the role of art is to reveal to a person the beauty: of the world, the nature, the man himself, his soul. Secondly, real art contributes to the harmonious development of an individual and, to one degree or another, softens temper. And, finally, art is an opportunity for self-realization for a huge number of people, both professionals and amateurs.

As for the fact that the world is blazing, art is not to blame. There is a point of view that peace is just a gap between wars. But art must live in peace and in war. Heinrich Heine once said: "The world has split, and the crack passed through the poet's heart." Everything passes through the artist's heart, war too, because it is a high spirit tension, this is heroism and self-sacrifice. If the artist can reflect this, is able to show the heroism of people, then all honour to him.

In November 2023, at the opening of the 9th St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum, President V. Putin said that the attempts of the West to "cancel" Russia and its culture are fundamentally anti-cultural. Do you think it is possible in principle to exclude everything Russian from the world culture, and what consequences such a policy will have?

I heard these words of our president and I want to note that culture and art have one fundamental feature - they cannot be canceled, forgotten, a barrier can't be put in front of them. Of course, you can burn books, hide paintings for some

« I want to note that culture and art have one fundamental feature - they cannot be canceled, forgotten, a barrier can't be put in front of them.

time in storerooms, cancel exhibitions and tours, but in the end everything will definitely come back, and interest in Russian art will only increase, since it was previously inaccessible. This will be the result of "cancellation".

In conditions when culture becomes one of the main spheres of cognitive war unleashed against Russia, the question of cultural sovereignty is increasingly raised. How do you see the implementation of this idea, and is Russian culture able to exist and develop in isolation from the world?

Yes and no. In the past, Russia really enriched itself at the expense of the West. Under Peter I, Catherine II and other tsars, new technologies were brought here from Europe. And the 19th century was a period of flourishing, it was the greatest period in our history. At that time we gave to the world everything: from Mendeleev to Sikorsky, from Tolstoy to Tchaikovsky, from Chekhov to Stanislavsky. We enriched the whole world... But today we are self-sufficient.

With mother Anna
Fedorovna and sister
Tatyana. 1960s



« Patriotism is probably one of the most intimate feelings of a person that permeates almost all aspects of his life.

You know, I would close Russia with a dome so that we would not see all the harmful and anti-human things that are now happening in the West. And after 15 years, when we open it, we probably would see that there is no Western world.

I sincerely believe that Russia has a great potential for a separate development in the field of culture. We have everything for this: people, resources, right human values. At the same time, I want to note that sovereignty can be understood in different ways. It can be absolute and relative, complete and partial, total or selective.

Moscow, Kremlin. 2021



With regard to the culture and art, there can be no absolute sovereignty, especially seeing the development of the Internet and other modern technologies. At the same time, there are such basic things as conscience, morality, spiritual and moral values that are formed in a person, including under the influence of art, and it is at least dangerous to let it take its course. We all remember the 1990s...

Now the question of the right cultural policy is on the agenda. In my opinion, it is the state that should determine the degree of our involvement in world culture and the level of foreign presence in our cultural space, regulate the scale of foreign influence on the Russian population, first of all on young people. After all, the concept of "world", or "Western", culture is very vague, and lately that very West has been producing a lot of shallow, and sometimes indeed harmful "cultural content".

Your loved ones speak of you as a staunch patriot. In your opinion, what makes painting patriotic? Do you think it is possible to be a patriot and a citizen of the world at the same time?

Patriotism is probably one of the most intimate feelings of a person that permeates almost all aspects of his life: from family and home to professional and public. I believe that Motherland is, first of all, people, your friends and comrades, your biography, the places where you lived and worked. I am often referred to as a "citizen of the world". This is nothing more than a metaphor that reflects only the fact that I travel a lot, communicate with colleagues and visitors to my exhibitions in different countries.

I am a citizen not of the world, but of Russia only, and I cannot imagine my life in any other country. I do not speak or think in any language other than Russian. How is this shown in my painting? I don't know. Apparently, it somehow manifests itself, since it appeals to my compatriots who come to my exhibitions in different cities. Abroad, they also write about me precisely as a Russian artist. In principle, I repeat the path of many of our artists from the past, who often traveled, lived sometimes for years in Italy, Germany, France. But they

always returned to their homeland and painted Russian nature, pictures of Russian life. Perhaps this is patriotism.

Nikas, you are a famous connoisseur of female beauty, what can you say about Russian women, how do they differ, for example, from European ones? And what is the beauty of a woman for you as a man and a creator?

Good question, it is internally connected with the theme of patriotism. I believe that our women are the best in the world. What makes them different from women from other countries? Almost everything. First of all, their beauty is both external and internal. Only our women are capable of self-sacrifice, such actions that seem irrational to many in the West, but which are caused by love. Women in Europe and America are too pragmatic, they always look at a man as a means of achieving their goals.

It seems to me that the essence of a Russian woman is well expressed in a famous song. In it, a woman addresses her beloved:

*My sweetheart
Take me with you...
To your far land
I will be your wife there.*

*He answers:
Oh, my sweetheart
I would gladly take you with me,
But there in my far land
I have got a wife.*

But she agrees to be at least a sister to him, and even a stranger. That's a real tragedy! No European woman can understand or sympathize with the main character of this song. This is such an inner beauty that is difficult to express in painting, but I try to do it.

And finally. What would you wish our women on the eve of March 8th?

I wish them to be always and everywhere respected and loved: in the family, at work, in the street. I wish to our women to have a covered back and to value their beauty, not



seeking to remake themselves to the standards imposed from outside. This is also a kind of sovereignty. The sovereignty of the beauty of the Russian woman, which they must protect and preserve.

And, of course, I wish them love. It gives meaning to work, creativity and all your life! 🇷🇺

Interviewed by
Vladislav Ilyin
and Anna Michurina

Video version
of the interview



Vladimir Medinsky: «We have a common past with the citizens of Ukraine and, I am convinced, a common future»

A year ago, in the March edition of "Intelligence officer" magazine, the Deputy Chairman of the Russian Military Historical Society (RVIO) Nikolai Pavlovich Ovsienko spoke about the work of the RVIO on the restoration of monuments in Novorossia. Today we decided to talk about activities of the society with its chairman Vladimir Medinsky.

Vladimir Rostislavovich, what has been done over the past period?

A lot has been done over the past year, I will only tell you about the most significant projects.

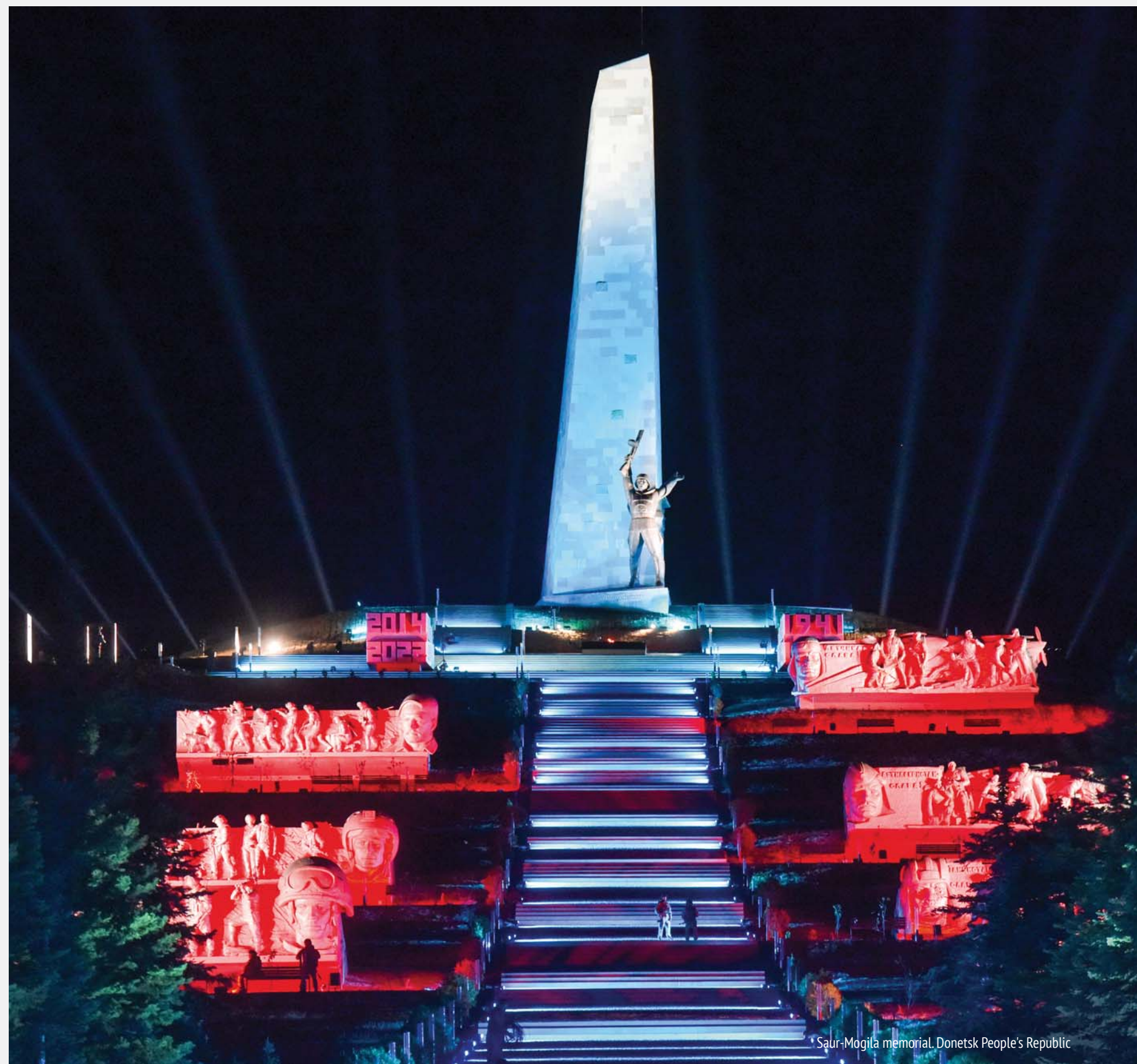
When we literally recreated the memorial of Saur-Mogila lying in the ruins, its opening became a national celebration, and the renewed memorial became a place where people come to honor the memory of the fighters who fought with Nazism during the Great Patriotic War. But the heroism of those voluntary people's squads who countered Ukrainian punitive forces in 2014 is equally valuable to us, and the memory of them is equally holy. We continued to work on the memorial, directing our efforts to immortalize these brave people, who followed not the order, but the call of their hearts to stand up for the protection of their native land. They were very different people, of all ages and professions: a 16-year-old girl with the call sign "Nona" and her partner "Hutsul", who died from the sniper's bullets; Oleg Grishin, who had gone through the Afghan war, with the call sign "Bear", he led a handful of people who had been repelling the attacks of punitive forces on Saur-Mogila for two weeks; and many others. Now monuments have been erected in memory of them, the graves of the militias buried near the mound are decorated with obelisks – this is the little thing that we can do in gratitude for their heroism and courage.

Equally important for us was the project of reconstruction of the Sharp Grave memorial

near Lugansk. It so happened that several eras converged in this place – fratricide battles of the Civil War and the fiercest battles with the German fascist invaders. Here, the LPR (Lugansk People's Republic) militias held the defense against Ukrainian sabotage and reconnaissance groups that fired at peaceful Lugansk, and it was here that the Russian flag rose when the long-awaited reunion with Russia occurred. In memory of this, by the RVIO initiative at the foot of the 20-meter obelisk, the figures of warriors of four epochs were installed. In addition to this, we restored two monuments of the USSR era and fixed the burial place of the Soviet soldiers, carefully preserving the original appearance of the memorial. Time worn and neglected, it aroused shame for how carelessly they treated the memory of the dead in Ukraine.

Now the inhabitants of Lugansk have not only a reason to be proud of the heroism of their ancestors, but also the stimulus to visit a beautiful modern memorial more often, getting in touch with the history of their land and people who gave their lives for its freedom.

Any human death is grief, and when civilians die, it is doubly heavier. In 2014, hundreds of civilians died due to mortar fire of the Armed Forces of Ukraine against Lugansk. It was impossible even to bury them since all four city cemeteries were under fire. So, the spontaneous burial of the "Non-healing Wound of Donbass" arose outside the city – rows of graves with homemade crosses, photos of dead



Saur-Mogila memorial, Donetsk People's Republic

« People are the main wealth of our country. In the tragedy of the war, the best features of our national character were manifested: loyalty to the memory of their ancestors, readiness for self-sacrifice, unwillingness to put up with lies and violence.

women and children, sometimes just numbers, since not all the dead were identified. All these years, the Investigation Committee of Russia has been working to identify the remains, thanks to which hundreds of inconsolable people whose relatives passed without a trace were able to bow to the grave of their loved ones. We, on our part, tried to turn an ordinary countryside cemetery into a majestic pantheon with four hundred gravestones, the figures of a grieving angel on a 16-meter column and an inconsolable mother holding a child's body in her arms.

People are the main wealth of our country. In the tragedy of the war, the best features of our

national character were manifested: loyalty to the memory of their ancestors, readiness for self-sacrifice, unwillingness to put up with lies and violence against the weak and defenseless. Thousands of residents of Donbass of all ages showed that the blood of real heroes flows in their hearts. As in 1941, divisions were formed from volunteer miners who successfully beat the enemy, so in 2014 their descendants stood up to defend their Motherland. In their honor, monuments were erected in Donetsk – on Alexander Zakharchenko Square, and in Lugansk – in front of the Agricultural University. Both monuments are united not only compositionally, but also ideologically: to create images of a warrior of the Great Patriotic War and a contemporary soldier who salute each other, we found real families where grandfather fought against the Nazi invaders, and the grandson defended his house from modern Nazis. One would think, what could be handed over to grandchildren and great-grandchildren? Several carefully stored awards and yellowed photographs? It turns out that you can convey non-material things – faith in the rightness of your cause, understanding that there is no one to protect relatives and friends except you, an example of heroism and self-sacrifice. It was with this idea that we created monuments to militia miners.

Another area of work is to perpetuate the memory of outstanding native citizens of Novorossia. By order of the President, on the Greek square of Mariupol, the memorable place of Arkhip Kuindzhi, a landscape painter, a native of the city, was restored. The monument was created back in 1984, but in 2014, during fierce battles, the Armed Forces of Ukraine almost completely destroyed it. The surviving fragments were taken out by the RVIO to Rostov-On-Don, where they were then restored in their original shape.

It's funny that the Ukrainian media are really vigilantly watching our work: as soon as the bust disappeared, a true hysteria followed: "The occupiers dismantled the Kuindzhi monument!" Of course, when the restored bust was returned to the inhabitants of Mariupol, there was not a word about this in the Ukrainian press. This is the characteristic feature of the current Kiev regime – to take credit for the merits of people

who had any relation to the territory of modern Ukraine, but do nothing to preserve the memory of their life and creative works.

Further plans include the completion of the reconstruction of the memorial "Shurf Mine 4 / 4-bis" at the place of execution of civilians in Donetsk during the Nazi occupation.

This is a very important issue, because it contributes to the preservation of the historical memory of our people. And how do you interact with the Russian Historical Society?

If we talk about Novorossiya, then in the course of the implementation of our projects related to the restoration of memorial complexes, a specific problem often arises. The former Ukrainian government took out or destroyed all the documentation. Under these conditions the RVIO together with the RIO (the Russian Historical Society) are working in archives to search for photographs, newspaper articles or documents describing the characteristics of memorials, ideas and concepts of artists. That is, we collect information literally bit by bit, and the RIO helps us a lot in this business. So we work together.

I can't help but ask a question about the Special Military Operation. Two years ago, at the very beginning of the special operation, you negotiated with the Ukrainian side on the conditions for the termination of hostilities. In your opinion, was there a real chance then to negotiate with Kiev?

Agreements on the main issues were reached, agreed upon and put on paper. But immediately after that the Western emissaries raided Kiev: the then British Prime Minister Johnson, the head of the American State Department and the Pentagon. They insisted — I am alluding to the well-known quotation of Johnson — that "it is necessary not to negotiate with Russia, but to fight."

Considering that the current government in Kiev is not independent, this meant a ban on the practical implementation of the agreements reached. The result is known — these gentlemen and their Kiev puppets doomed hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens to deprivation and death.



There is no doubt that Russia will hold out in the global confrontation with the West. In your opinion, what will happen to Ukraine after our victory? Do you believe in the possibility of reconciliation of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples?

We are the same people with the inhabitants of Ukraine, we have a common past and, I am convinced, a common future. I have no doubts that over time, the wounds will be healed. And the main medicine for this is truth. After all, for the West, Ukraine is not about people, but about a war tool against Russia. For many years, the people there have been living under monstrous propaganda pressure, the brainwashing mechanism is working at full speed, and the West is doing everything to make the military confrontation continue until the Second Coming. More precisely, to the last Ukrainian.

But sooner or later people will find out the truth. As the US President Abraham Lincoln said: "You may deceive part of the people all the time, and all the people part of the time, but not all the people all the time". Apparently, in the West these wise words are forgotten. Very much to the Western regret. 🇷🇺

At the opening of the memorial in Gatchina. January 27, 2024

Interviewed by Mikhail Pogudin

Memorial complex in Gatchina dedicated to civilians of the USSR who died during the Great Patriotic War



Acquaintance

Text: Sergey, deep cover intelligence officer, Hero of Russia

Pictures: Sergey Dorozhenko



In many movies and books about the intelligence, officers are usually portrayed as cold and soulless. In fact, those who work in the intelligence are live human beings with their emotions and true feelings, which they have to put aside in the name of Motherland.

By the time of the described here events, I had been a true foreigner for several years. I became a foreigner not only outwardly, but also inwardly: in my thoughts, habits, interests, reactions to people and events. Not to mention the language. I was completely a true representative of the culture and mentality of that country, out there! But even with all these changes, one thing remained stable, under all circumstances at a particular time, forgetting everything, I would sit down, according to the schedule, to receive radio telegrams from the Center. After many years of work, communication sessions had become not only a habit for me, but also a necessity. A stream of figures turned into an invisible bridge connecting me with my country. It was amazing how these sessions became real and desirable. I felt their physical touch, calming and encouraging effect. It was a vivid reminder of the people I left in the "past life".

One day in mid-August, I read a ciphered telegram from the Center. There was something unusual in the Center's request to come home at the end of October for a period noticeably exceeding the time of usual trips of this kind. For several years of my clandestine work, I went to my homeland several times. And every trip was a challenge that required complete dedication.

The reason for my presence in that country was caused by the escalation of confrontation and violence. I already had several good

sources of information. The data received from them sometimes was contrary to our traditional perception of this region. I was fully aware that the information that contradicts the one that comes from our traditional allies would be considered biased and accepted with a great portion of cautiousness. But I also knew something else: in case of its authenticity, it will be supported and taken into work. It is what made this work so important, and that is why our adversaries were afraid of it.

Under these circumstances, the departure from the country to the homeland was unexpected for me and required some thought. I had two assumptions in my head.

First: perhaps, there was need for clarification on some data and their sources, but which in particular?

Second: It might have been necessary for me to master a new technique to transmit information. In any case, before my departure, it was necessary to analyze the quality and authenticity of the information received from my contacts.

In addition to this some other organizational problems of the journey appeared. I worked in a big company and just recently we launched a project which everyone had been waiting for a very long time. I needed to arrange my unscheduled and long-term vacation with my boss.

I also needed to prepare an explanation for many of my friends from the new environment, who liked to "put their noses into other people's business." It was typical for the local population. The world was already more accessible and therefore it became more

and more difficult to fall out of the sight of my friends for a long time.

For an outsider, those details might seem unimportant, but I clearly realized that for me this could create a serious and unsafe situation. As the consequence of the prolonged political struggle and acts of terrorism, several highly effective security services with an expanded agent network were organized in the country. They were constantly on the alert and paid attention to any strange or suspicious behavior. They monitored the movements of citizens, their contacts and the mail. They were looking for terrorists, saboteurs, opposition members, criminals, unfriendly representatives of the mass media and many others who they instantly added on the list of "unreliable elements". At the same time, they acted professionally, roughly and not always legally.

"Death squads" were a reality, as well as imprisonment without a charge. In such circumstances, even a single opinion of someone about my strange behavior in the presence of a special services informant could lead to me being shadowed and to unpredictable consequences. It was necessary to behave like everyone else and not to stand out from the crowd. In particular, I had to keep in touch with my friends during the trip. In

addition, one of them was preparing for the wedding which was planned for the very end of my alleged "vacation". He asked me to be a witness from the side of the fiancé and a participant in all the wedding events. Of course, I could not ignore such a significant event due to a sudden trip.

Working out various options in my search for solutions, I remembered that once the boss, with great sympathy, in the company of colleagues, mentioned his distant relative, who was left without an inheritance, because he had missed the family discussion. I decided to use this idea, kindly "provided" to me by my own chief. I invited him to a dinner and mentioned the problem with the inheritance and the need to settle the legal side of the case. To my surprise, he showed genuine understanding and allowed me to take an unscheduled vacation on condition that I take an obligation to work hard on Christmas holidays and finish an important project for the company in January. I told the same story with minor changes to my friends, who also sympathized with me, realizing that I was in trouble and it was not the most pleasant process of resolving property relations with my relatives. I told them as well that due to business and my quite probable irritation, they should not count on frequent contacts with me during my absence.



Ironically, my friend, who planned a wedding party, jokingly warned me before my departure: "My friend, don't get married there accidentally."

In Moscow in the airport my colleges met me and took me to a flat which soon became a dear place for me. After discussing my situation in the country, we made a schedule of events for the coming two weeks. As my colleagues explained to me it was not worth planning longer than this period due to the likelihood of unforeseen events. Definitely I was surprised a little bit by such secrecy and, of course, felt a certain tension of the situation. I had a whole day to recover myself from the trip, acclimatize and properly prepare for the upcoming important meetings and discussions. The first morning at home is always filled with inner happiness and tranquility, everything seems festive, and you gradually release the internal "brakes". Despite the hard trip, I did not spend time just lying on the couch. The day flew by very quickly as I walked around the city.

The next three days passed in the discussion of my working situation, prospects, environment, possible difficulties, threats and much more. During one of these meetings, I learned that I would get to know someone "very special" and for this it would be a wise thing to dress up better than usual.

The next day, at a working meeting with my supervisor, we were unexpectedly joined by a colleague who during our conversation noticed that the analysis done in the Head Quarters shows that my position in the country would become much stronger if I work in a pair. He told me that colleagues had found and were training a beautiful young girl for me who, according to their estimates, "completely suited my character."

Despite the seriousness of the situation, I could not hold my smile. I recalled a catch phrase from the movie "Prisoner of the Caucasus": "An athlete, a Komsomol member, a beauty." Paying respect to the colleagues who, like me, had chosen the path of serving our country, I thought that either I would meet my destiny, or I would acquire a

smart and devoted partner for the work. In any case, I understood that my bachelor life should end sooner or later. But my answer that "I should try it" was either unexpected for my colleagues or sounded unconvincing. They continued persuasion, insisting on the benefits of this offer. I didn't resist, I just repeated it again, this time louder, that I was ready to work in pair. After hearing that, the representative of the Center was delighted and said that in that case he would invite the young girl to join us.

Fifteen minutes later he returned with a girl, all covered with snow. She took off her coat and turned to me, and I saw huge beautiful eyes. "Lyubov" ("love" in English), she said and gave me her hand. I held her cold hand in mine for a long time, being absolutely spellbound and thinking, "She's the one!" We know about the existence of love at first sight, read about it in books, but when this happens to you, it is impossible to prepare for the emotional outburst that overwhelms your soul.

At that very moment, I made the only right decision. After escorting the guests to the room, I apologized and went to the kitchen to prepare a cup of hot tea for our guest. The supervisor, who, most probably, had not understood my intention, immediately followed me and began to ardently convince me of all the virtues of the young girl, her beauty, intelligence, and talents. Apparently, despite the feelings that overwhelmed me, outwardly I looked calm, even indifferent, and my colleagues decided that I did not like the girl. Surprisingly, the curator, who easily read my thoughts between the lines of encrypted messages, this time, was so far from the truth. After some confusion, I did manage to convince him of my strong determination to win the heart of this beautiful girl.

We spent together 31 absolutely magical days and stunned our relatives with the news that we were getting married. We held three weddings, one - in my home town, then officially registered our marriage in Lyuba's native city. Finally, we celebrated it in Moscow with our colleagues from the office. We were a normal loving couple. We constantly had

not enough time to tell everything, to ask, to find out and to discuss. I shared with Lyuba some of my experience of getting used to the image and character of a foreigner. She was very observant, clever, artistic and inventive. We had surprisingly much in common. The time spent together seems unrealistic to us till now and sometimes we argue, trying to restore the full picture of the events. Because of the fact that we were able to do this only many years later, after our mission was over, the truth, apparently, will remain shrouded in mystery.

It was hard to part: Lyuba had to finish training and we were able to see each other again only after many months. Because of the upcoming long separation, one can imagine how painful it was for me to return to the target country. Before my departure, I asked the curator to buy 31 roses, according to the number of the days of happiness spent together, and pass it to her together with a note. The next day early in the morning, the door bell of Lyuba's apartment rang. When she opened the door, she saw a huge bouquet of scarlet roses and immediately realized that it was from me. As soon as Lyuba took the bouquet, tears flowed from her eyes. It was so unexpected that it surprised not only the curator who brought this bouquet, but also usually steady Lyuba herself. Holding the bouquet, for reason only she could understand, she began to count the flowers. It turned out that it was very difficult to count through tears which refused to stop flowing. She lost count and started all over again. When she finally managed to count 26 roses, she, foreseeing the finite number, suddenly felt such a bright joy that her tears as if on command dried up, the smile of happiness appeared on her face, and she whispered: "Thirty-one. There will be thirty one! He remembered our every day together..."

As for me, I managed to go to the friend's wedding, successfully completed the project and resumed intelligence activities. The legend we had worked out about my trip and supported by carefully selected gifts worked perfectly, without causing even a bit of doubt. The amount of work was increasing, and only the memories of the days spent with Lyuba

helped me to cope with stress and tension. I smiled, remembering our days together, our easy communication and our hopes for the future.

I tried to make messages so that there was room for a few words to my wife. I wrote a note in another language, which Lyuba also began to study. It seemed to me more personal and intimate. Lyuba was at the very initial stage of learning the language, and sometimes she needed help in translating the text. In such cases, she took my messages with her to her tutor's classes where they analyzed every word and cried together in a good way. Lyuba is sure that those notes helped her in many ways to learn a foreign language. Today I am proud to listen to her speak it so joyfully and cheerfully that no one would even think how many tears she shed while studying it.

Despite a lot of work, the time dragged painfully slow for me. And then one day, quite unexpectedly, I was instructed to send the conditions of the meeting for Lyuba. It was clear that fortune smiled to us, as my



wife was arriving a couple of months ahead of schedule. I had prepared long ago a list of recommendations for places to visit and behavior of Lyuba in the country. For the meeting I had chosen a popular local restaurant. I came up with a reason to get together with my friends in it and sort of accidentally get acquainted with Lyuba in the presence of comrades. The day before the scheduled day, I went to a fitness center located near the meeting place to check

once again that the restaurant was open and nothing would prevent our long-awaited meeting. After the end of the workout, going outside and turning the corner, I suddenly saw Lyuba sitting in the restaurant with a cup of coffee.

I was excited and delighted, but, unfortunately, I could not join her at that moment, because our "acquaintance" was bound to happen in front of witnesses. "But it's possible to try to organize such a meeting today!" A sudden thought flashed through my mind. I walked by the restaurant and glanced at my wife, who was frozen with a cup of coffee near her lips. This picture is imprinted in my memory forever. I could feel her hesitation; she wasn't sure if I noticed her or not. I walked as if in a daze, frantically trying to figure out which of my friends to drag here today. I decided to call a good friend of mine and ask him to come to discuss an important matter. But as soon as I began to dial his phone number, I noticed a friend from the club. He was a popular designer who was more than suitable for the role of a gossip. I literally forced him to join me for dinner. It was difficult to describe the joy on my wife's face when she saw me coming back. We chose a table near the place where Lyuba was sitting, and I noticed aloud that we were very lucky that there were few people in the restaurant. The trick worked, and the designer drew my attention to the fact that a very beautiful girl, alone, was sitting next to him. In the best local traditions, I stated that I would certainly get to know her and approaching her table, asked her a question which only an odd sort of person could ask: "Are you eating a cake? Would you recommend anything for me?"

Even now, after many years of happy life together, it seems that Lyuba's answer was a revenge for my promenade in front of her, when I didn't even give a sign that I noticed her. She said, "You mean I'm so fat that I have to be a cake expert?" Any married man will understand what risk I put myself by asking such a provocative question. For the next five minutes, I bombarded her with compliments, making inhuman efforts to look witty and charming to charm a "stranger". My efforts brought fruit, and Lyuba, cheering up, forgave

me, advising me to order apple cake. Then she agreed to join us, and about an hour later the designer, feeling an odd man out, left us alone. Taking into account what happened, I think he should still remember that meeting. After we remained alone, we walked around the city for a long time, "making acquaintance" with each other but already from the positions of our cover stories and acting like a couple who had just met. We had so much to tell each other. I experienced awe, which even now cannot be described, taking into account all the trials that my wife had to overcome in order to come to me. And at the same time, the delight, which was filling me with the realization of how quickly and easily Lyuba managed to reincarnate and became the person that she should be according to the legend, completely fitting into a new world for her. Next to me was no longer the amazing Soviet girl that I had met there, in Moscow, but an absolutely real, natural foreigner who was difficult to distinguish from other similar young ladies around, and outwardly stood out from them only with her charm, charisma and elegance. I must say that only now we fully realize how much skill and perseverance, love and care our instructors in intelligence had demonstrated. They had made almost impossible to transform us and cultivate necessary qualities in us. It was not just a job; they had given to us particles of their souls and hearts.

Our happiness with Lyuba had no limit. We finally became one team. The next day, as it was planned, we met with my friends in the same restaurant and told them in the most colorful details how "in this very place, that very fashion designer" introduced us. Lyuba made a very pleasant impression on all those present. And all the guests were surprised and delighted not so much with the appearance of a wonderful new acquaintance, but with the fact that we were "blessed" by such a famous person. Later they were talking to all their friends about that with delight. Thus, the task of planting the necessary information about the "accidental" acquaintance to a wide range of people was successfully completed.

Together we are able to achieve everything. Today this can be judged by the results of our

work. We worked for more than a decade. Our path to the set goal was not fast and easy, we had to overcome many difficulties and dangers. Sometimes it seemed that there was no more strength left, but our trust in each other, our team work and the ability to use correctly our best qualities helped us to overcome all obstacles. Did we have any disagreements and quarrels? Of course. Like any couple. But we always sought to see the best in each other, consciously avoided the temptation to be self-assertive in the course of our disagreements, always looked for a compromise, and, most importantly, protected our happiness. Lots of times we raised a toast to our colleagues who had once so successfully introduced us to each other.

Now we have a completely ordinary family life: grown-up successful children, devoted friends, many pleasant and interesting events. Every year on the day of our "acquaintance" our children, knowing our story and some unclassified details of the past, come to visit us. They bring with them our favorite apple cookies we had eaten when we got acquainted. For a couple of minutes, we keep silence paying respect to the past and then savour the brought dainties with aromatic tea, discussing the current events of our life and rejoicing with them.

Gevork Vartanian, a legendary intelligence officer, a Hero of the Soviet Union told me once that at least three out of five rays of "the Gold Star of the Hero of Russia" were gained by his wife Goar. Taking into consideration everything that my wife had to endure, I think he is one hundred percent right. 🚩





The power of the word on the front line

First of all, we want to congratulate you on receiving of the SVR award, you have already been a laureate three times and, of course, deservedly. Your creative works are very popular and appreciated in intelligence. Could you tell us more about the Victory Wind club, how long does it exist?

Our club appeared three years ago on the platform of the Central Museum of Victory, whose leadership actively supports our activities. The club includes authors and performers of poems and songs, many of whom have a combat past. Among them are Sergey Kuznetsov, Sergey Pestov, Dmitry Yurkov. They are famous enough in the military environment. They were engaged in creativity on their own before the club was founded, and then the idea to unite them under one roof, the roof of the Victory Museum, appeared. In my opinion, you can't imagine a better place! Today there are about 25 participants in the

Victory Wind. We held the first performances even before the beginning of the SMO (Special Military Operation), we visited Syria and other hot spots. And now, when the special operation begun, our authors are almost constantly on the front line: they give concerts from trucks, tank pedestals. In addition, the members of our club travel a lot across Russia, speaking at defense enterprises and universities.

What is the mission of the Victory Wind club?

The club members contribute to preserving and transferring history through the art of the author's military song. No other army in the world has such a war song as Russia's. These musical and poetic works are filled not only with talent, but also with a deep understanding of the painful experience of war. The main task of the club in this period is to support and solidify, with musical and poetic means, the motivation of Russia's unconditionally correct actions in the current international situation. It is no coincidence that the cycle of our concert programs is called "Why do we need a world without Russia?" - the famous phrase of our President, which became the refrain of one of the songs of the Club.

The cornerstone of our creativity is that good songs can only be written on good poems, not just texts. The words that sound in compositions become true anthems of courage, taking us to the epicenter of military events.

The Club has been working hard to produce compact poetry collections and audio albums on the subject of the SMO, which are sent to soldiers on the front lines and intelligence officers serving on combat missions abroad.

Since the first days of the SMO the members

Anatoly Grigoryevich Pshenichny

Anatoly Grigoryevich Pshenichny was born on February 13, 1948 in the village Klyuchevka, Troitsky district of the Chelyabinsk region. After graduating from the Faculty of Philology of the Ural State University, he worked as a teacher of literature and Russian language. In 1978, on a recommendation, he was admitted to the First Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR (foreign intelligence). Repeatedly went on long mission trips, has a number of rewards and decorations. After retiring in the rank of colonel, he took to creative and social activities. Author of more than 20 books and collections of patriotic poems. Secretary of the Board of the Union of Writers of Russia, head of the Wind of Victory club. Laureate of many literary and musical awards, including the Lenin Komsomol Prize (1994) and the All-Russian Literary-Historical Prize "My Russia" (2023). Three times winner of the SVR Award (2005, 2016, 2023).



At the ceremony of presentation of the SVR of Russia awards. January 24, 2024

of the Club started to fulfill their creative and humanitarian mission: they hold creative events at the Victory Museum and regularly go to the combat zone with concerts. This is a natural move for them, because most of them have real combat experience gained in counter-terrorist operations and local conflicts, both on the territory of Russia and abroad. As a rule, trips to the front line are accompanied by the delivery of medicines, food, tools to make life easier for the fighters. And, by the way, great support in this matter is rendered by the Council of SVR Veterans of Russia

The artistic director of the club, Dmitry Yurkov – I would like to mention him separately – devoted himself to a special mission: the completion and delivery of mobile churches to the SMO zone. Familiar to everyone "UAZ" and "GAZ" vehicles are equipped with icons and church utensils, necessary for performing rituals. This has a deep meaning, because, as you know, there are no atheists in war. Priests who are part of the crew of such temples provide moral support to the fighters, helping them to cope with stress and difficulties. Military personnel confess, take communion and go into battle, feeling filled with faith and understanding clearly that truth is on our side.

What are the creative plans for the near future?

On February 18, a big concert will be held at the Victory Museum dedicated to three events: Defender of the Fatherland Day, the 35th anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the second anniversary of the beginning of the SMO. Participants are veterans of hot spots from Afghanistan to Donbass, as well as Russian pop stars. We are also preparing a new book of poems and songs to send to the front line along with our "combat" artists ...

Our future plans are to continue our work, to expand the horizons. The SVR award for creating a cycle of songs about intelligence, sounding as well in the programs of the Victory Wind club, consolidated the confidence that our creativity was in demand. Undoubtedly, poems and songs about intelligence will continue to be heard at different venues. After all, our glorious intelligence officers deserve the highest appreciations and to be written about them! 🇷🇺

Interview
by Anna Michurina



Dmitry Yurkov in the SMO zone.
2023

Valery Khatyushin
To finish off the enemy

In the victorious nineteen forty-five
The enemy was defeated,
but not finished off.
And here again in the damned year
Nazi flag is sewn from shreds.

The disconnected country
Will cry over the Belovezhsky year
The enemy is not finished, and this means,
That the war is not over.

European miserable hucksters
Dream of driving us into darkness...
In Warsaw, in Kiev and in Riga
The enemy came out of all the cracks.

There are no fewer fighters for Russia.
And their army will be fearless.
And yet — there are many underhumans,
Those who do not want to fight...

They, blind homebodies,
Want to hide their vile disposition.
And the victory is not worthy of
Who wants to be known as a peacemaker...

And for centuries we will be right
(And let their hand not tremble!),
When the descendants of Russian glory
Will finish off the enemy!
Will finish off the enemy!

Vladimir Skobtsov
Apostle

Hold on, hold on, let's break through,
brother,
We'll still tear them with our teeth,
Because in the war — it is not on the bed,
Bullet goes through, but does not hit down.
Life is hard, and death is winged,

It doesn't give a damn about who is
Ukrainian, and who is Russian,
To whom Russia is to blame,
And who owes Donbass.

Heaven alcoves are waiting for us,
And snipers, you see, are unexperienced
And bullet songs are not new for us,
And we don't speak with death politely.

You smoke, and I will cover you,
Look: following the first star,
Humanitarian convoys are led
By tired Magus.

And Herod is intact and still alive,
Judas makes his own profit,
And you and I do not believe in a miracle
And in war, as in war...

The atom of the world is torn to pieces,
Mercilessly speaking dirty words
Apostle in the position of paramedic
Drags the messiah on his back.

Dmitry Darin

My fire did not go out,
My tobacco did not get wet,
Who is not among us —
For them we drink the third toast.

A flask, like a talisman,
From the palm — to palm,
The first snow falls down
Into the yellow-eyed fire...

The first snow on the temples
Did not lay down yesterday,
To worry is not suitable —
Pour alcohol in glasses,
infantry guys!

Bottoms up, sergeant,
Bottoms up, private,
To breakthrough of boundary line
To those who stayed alive.

REFRAIN

We are the kings of fields,
We tore the ridge and backbone —
We tore as best as we could,
The human weed,

What is more harmful than cannabis
And more dangerous than a bindweed ,
War blooms in the dark zone
Of the earth.

So far I smoke
A cigarette in my fist,
I will watch dusk
Just like that, just like that...

So that I remember
Under the warmth and under the quiet,
How you stand on that crowded
Platform station,

Your shawl with fringe,
Blue tear,
The eyes promised
To wait homecoming with victory.

Donbass will be Russian land,
A good lesson will be given...
My fire did not die down,
My tobacco did not get wet.

Elizaveta Khaplanova

We go

The roads are dusty for centuries.
Passing them is endless work.
We go, from now on we are like gods,
Our angels are angelically strict,
Directing us to Bakhmut.

Through the fog, under the explosions of shells
The battalion breaks into the center.
Though we are caressed by spitting lead poison
like a reward —
Anyway, we go to Kherson.

Far away above the bridge there will be sparkles,
Shatters of hundreds of pieces —
The Dnieper icy water
Will be disturbed, waving ...
Odessa and Lvov will be ours!

The final edge is far away,
It fells stuffy under the enemy fire.
Do you hear the song "Dugout" playing?
We will sing it, brother, on a halt.
But now, we go, we go...

Nina Popova

Soldier

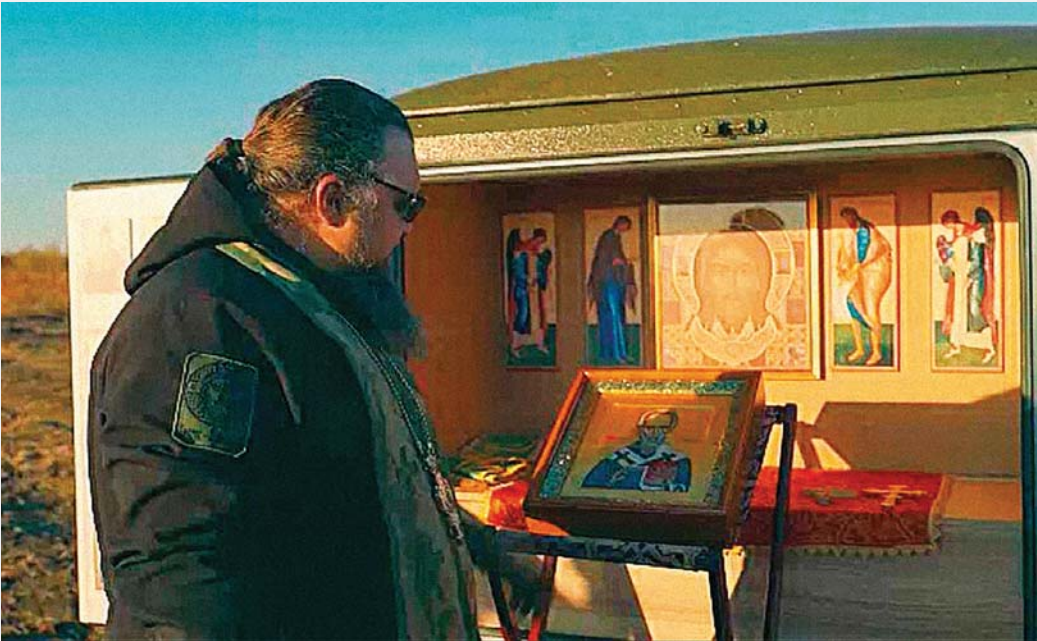
A fierce enemy attacks the borders,
Mines howl and bullets whistle.
For villages, auls, stanitsas,
Soldiers are fighting for their fatherland.

Columns in a clear formation
Of those who did not sit out in the rear,
Pass through Moscow, Khasavyurt, Kolomna,
Kazan, Ufa and Orel...

Behind the broad back of a soldier,
Through fires, confusion and lies,
Dawn flies into the sky
Dawn that you will find very native to you.

The many-faced predatory pack
Came again to conquer the Russian world —
Our space, our glory and word
Haunt them again.

The soldiers will fight until victory,
Protecting both the house and the heart,
Because the overcoat on the soldier is from
the grandfather,
And under it — the "Afghan uniform" of the father!..



Mobile temple



Picture:
Vladimir Mochalov

As a gift at the meeting, M was presented with a Russian souvenir - a colorfully designed "Russian woman", which caused a stormy delight and words of gratitude from the target object.

Selected moments of operational correspondence

«M» is not married and is not going to marry. He says that after his trip to Paris, his views on life and, in particular, on women, have changed radically.

Upon arrival at the meeting, "Esmeralda" was depressed, but after some proven measures were taken by the operation officer, her mood greatly improved.

The source has assured the operational officer that neither his wife nor his colleagues know anything about the money he receives from us, since he spends all these sums exclusively on the maintenance of his mistress.

The object shows great sympathy for our country, is interested in Russian literature, which, however, he doesn't read.

In the statements and reasoning of the foreigner were evident elements of uncertainty, on the edge of desperation.

As the source figuratively put it, love sometimes pushes people to reckless actions. For example, once love forced him to make a decision to marry.

As the foreigner admitted, for the first time he married out of pure curiosity, the second time — out of a professional interest, and for the third and subsequent times - rather by inertia.

In the next issue:

Head of Rossotrudnichestvo Yevgeny Primakov:

«We will show the real Russia — a great country with an amazing future»

«The station chief has not reached his destination...»

120th anniversary of Arnold Deutsch

Declassified archives

British intelligence reports

«Mission „Amethyst“»

Heroes of our time



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