

MAGAZINE

# RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake — But to learn the truth for the good of our State!

№3 (16) SEPTEMBER 2026



**“WORLD OCEAN RESOURCES  
WILL MAKE A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF OUR CIVILIZATION”**

MINISTER OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
ALEXANDER KOZLOV

M. E. OSEEVSKY: “THE IMPORTANCE  
OF DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY IS  
GROWING EVERY DAY”

OUR MEN IN SPAIN.  
HOW SOVIET INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICERS SAVED DEMOCRACY

CHARACTER: NORDIC.  
ON THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF WRITER YULIAN SEMYONOV

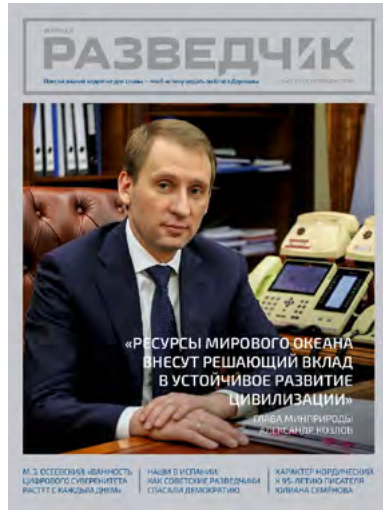
Вартанян, Станислав Алексеевич Ваупшасов, Леонид Романович Квасников, Моррис и Леонтина Коэн, Иван Данилович Кудря, Николай Иванович Кузнецов, Виктор Александрович Лягин, Дмитрий Николаевич Медведев, Владимир Александрович Маркович Рабцевич, Надежда Викторовна Троян, Александр Семенович Феклисов. // ГЕРОИ-РАЗВЕДЧИКИ

RUSSIA IS PERHAPS  
THE ONLY COUNTRY  
IN THE WORLD THAT IS CAPABLE  
OF COMPLETELY PROVIDING ITSELF  
WITH NATURAL RESOURCES.

V. V. PUTIN

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**“Razvedchik” magazine**  
№3 (16) 2026

16+

**Founder**  
“Soglasie” — charitable foundation for promotion of social protection of the officers and veterans of the foreign intelligence Russia, 119034, Moscow, Ostozhenka Str., 51, building 1

**Publisher**  
Club for assistance in conservation of historical and cultural legacy

**Chief editor**  
Mikhail Pogudin,  
chairman of the Veterans council of the SVR of Russia, chairman of the board of the “Soglasie” charitable foundation

**Photos**  
“Razvedchik” magazine, RIA Novosti

The magazine is registered by the Federal service for supervision of communications, information technology and mass media.  
Registration No.: ПИ № ФС77-83469  
from June 24, 2022.  
Published four times a year.

Manuscripts are not reviewed or returned.  
Authors’ opinion may not coincide with the position of the editorial board.  
In case of reprinting of the materials or using them in any form, including in electronic media, reference to the “Razvedchik” magazine is obligatory.

ISBN 978-5-7164-1244-6  
Circulation: 3000 copies  
Date of publishing: June 10, 2026

**Printed in:** JSC “Order of October Revolution, Order of Labour Red Banner Pervaya obraztsovaya tipografiya” Printing house, “Chekhovsky pechatny dvor” branch 142300, Moscow region, Chekhov, Poligrafistov Str.,1  
Order No.: 4274

# World Ocean resources will make a decisive contribution to the sustainable development of our civilization

Text: Alexander Alexandrovich Kozlov,  
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (MNRE)

**The World Ocean is mysterious and unexplored. It covers over 70% of the Earth's surface, but its seabed has been studied by no more than 5%. Today, this terra incognita is gradually beginning to reveal its secrets. For decades, geologists around the world have been studying the ocean floor, and they all unanimously declare that its resource potential is immense.**

The mineral resources contained within the ocean depths — specifically ferromanganese nodules (FMN), cobalt-manganese crusts (CMC), and deep-sea polymetallic sulphides (DPS) — are complex sources of strategic mineral raw materials. Moreover, there is no need to search for them extensively or extract them as byproducts: everything is already concentrated in one place. Based on studied territories alone, it can be stated with confidence that cobalt resources in the World Ocean exceed 350 million tons — 7.5 times more than on land; manganese resources are five times greater, exceeding 70 billion tons; and nickel resources are 1.5 times greater, amounting to over 650 million tons.

Activities related to the exploration and development of mineral resources in the international seabed area of the World Ocean, which lies beyond the jurisdiction of coastal states, are governed by international maritime law and based on the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter referred to as the Convention). In accordance with this, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) was established in 1994.

The ISA is the only international organization that oversees the exploration of the World Ocean's subsoil and has the authority to enter into contracts for exploration work in the international seabed area. According to established practice, these documents are signed for a 15-year term with the possibility of a five-year extension. To date, 20 countries hold 31 active exploration contracts.

FMN are the most valuable in terms of extraction, with 19 contracts signed for their exploration. Eight contracts are for the search for polymetallic sulphides (PS), and four for cobalt-rich crusts. Nodules are also more popular because

they are easier to retrieve from the seabed, despite being located at greater depths. FMN lie directly on the surface of the seabed, and their hemispherical shape allows them to be captured by a manipulator and brought to the surface without the need for preliminary rock excavation.

As the successor state to the Soviet Union and a responsible member of the international community, Russia supports the UN-centric international legal system. Our country signed the Convention in 1982 and ratified it in 1994. Since then, three contracts have been concluded with the ISA. Let us examine them in more detail. The first one was signed back in 2001 and involves the exploration of FMN in the northeastern part of the Pacific Ocean, within the Clarion-Clipperton Zone ([see map](#)). The depth of these nodules in this area ranges from 4.7 to 5.4 kilometers.

Over the past 25 years, specialists from JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya (a subsidiary of the Rosgeologiya holding) have conducted large-scale prospecting and evaluation work, which has made it possible to identify specific sites for FMN extraction and determine other important characteristics of the underwater deposits. According to the regulations, the contract with the ISA must be extended to continue exploration activities in international waters. And we have succeeded! The extension procedure took place on August 31 of this year, for which the ISA Secretary-General, Leticia Reis de Carvalho, visited Moscow. The contract granted Russia the exclusive right to continue the exploration of FMN in an area covering 75,000 square kilometers.

I would like to note that FMN contain nickel, cobalt, manganese, and rare-earth elements all at once. These are vital components!

For instance, cobalt and manganese are widely used in metallurgy to improve the quality of steel. Furthermore, these metals are “battery metals,” meaning they are used in the manufacturing of various types of electric vehicles. Copper is the third most in-demand metal in the world after iron and aluminum. It is essential for the production of computers, televisions, microwave ovens, and the installation of drinking water supply systems. It is a crucial component for parts in aircraft, trains, and ships. Indeed, almost all modern electrical wiring is made of copper.

The second Russian contract — for the exploration of PS in the Atlantic Ocean — was concluded by the Ministry of Natural Resources in

2012 and is valid until 2027. Next year, we also plan to extend it for a five-year term. To date, work on assessing the resource base has been completed, and detailed geological exploration lies ahead. The depth of the DSPS in the Russian exploration area reaches four kilometers, and its area covers 2,500 square kilometers. This is a vast territory. Fourteen ore occurrences have already been identified within the area. Two of them, “Korallovoye” and “Molodezhnoye”, discovered in 2019, are characterized by chalcopyrite-bornite ores. Chalcopyrite, it should be noted, is a critical industrial mineral and the primary source of copper.

The third contract, signed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in

2015 and valid until 2030, involves the exploration of cobalt-rich crusts in the Pacific Ocean, also covering an area of 2,500 square kilometers at depths of up to three kilometers.

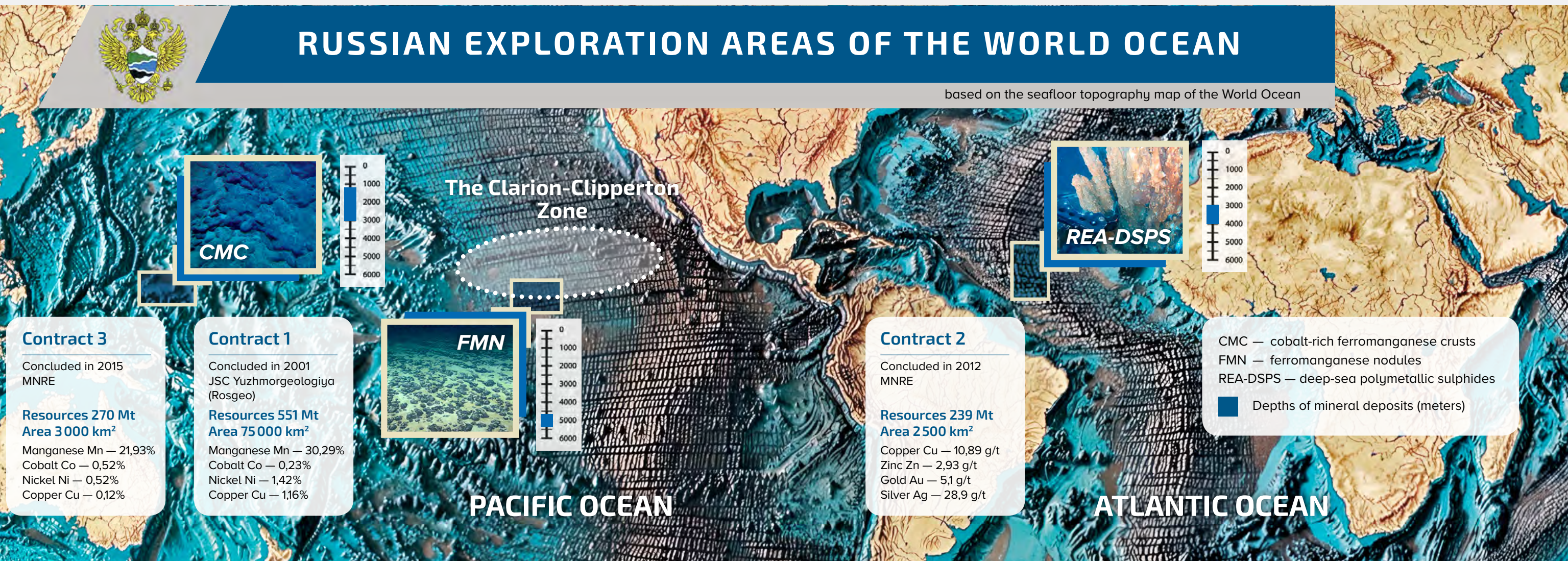
To the casual reader, all this probably sounds simple and straightforward. In reality, however, marine geological exploration is an incredibly complex process — technically challenging and extremely labor-intensive. Each stage requires different objectives, specialized technical means, and high-tech equipment. To put this in perspective: beyond geological exploration of ore fields, it is necessary to collect data on seabed characteristics and conduct baseline environmental studies. To achieve this, marine geologists use echo sounders of various

“According to the regulations, the contract with the ISA must be extended to continue exploration activities in international waters. And we have succeeded!”

types and modifications, side-scan sonars, acoustic profilers, and deep-sea photo-video systems. Sampling of the seabed and ore formations is carried out, among other things, using tools such as drilling rigs, while the study of hydrophysical, hydrochemical, and other properties of water masses requires the use of specialized probes.

## RUSSIAN EXPLORATION AREAS OF THE WORLD OCEAN

based on the seafloor topography map of the World Ocean





Why am I detailing this? Because our country possesses significant scientific and industrial potential, which allows us to promptly meet all the needs of the marine geological service for operations at great ocean depths. This is evidenced by a number of cutting-edge domestic developments. Overall, in terms of technical and technological support for exploration tasks, we are at a fairly high level. However, maintaining this level, not to mention further expanding our technical potential, requires the combined efforts of government agencies, domestic businesses, and design and engineering organizations.

I believe that today, we must prioritize the development of robotics. This is especially true for underwater technical systems designed for

remote exploration of the geological structure and ore potential of the ocean floor. A case in point is the current fleet of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), which are five to six times more efficient than manned submersibles. The robotization of technical equipment will significantly improve both the cost-effectiveness of geological exploration and the quality of the data collected.

Returning to our contracts with the ISA (International Seabed Authority), I would like to emphasize that all of them involve pilot mining. However, to begin this process, we need prototypes of deep-sea equipment. Certain developments in this area have already been made. I am confident that our colleagues from the Ministry of Industry and Trade will do everything possible to ensure these prototypes are ready on time.

Furthermore, we should begin preparing for the industrial extraction of seabed minerals today, even though the ISA currently only issues contracts for exploration. Extraction will commence once the Exploitation Regulations for mineral resources are adopted at the international level. According to Leticia Carvalho, this will not happen before 2027. Discussions

“Our country possesses significant scientific and industrial potential, which allows us to promptly meet all the needs of the marine geological service for operations at great ocean depths.”

regarding royalties and environmental standards are already underway.

The transition from exploration to development of the solid seabed minerals will undoubtedly pose fundamentally new technological challenges for scientists and engineers worldwide. However, there are also a number of issues, primarily of a legal nature, that require increased attention from the international community. I am referring to the unilateral actions of the United States (which, incidentally, is not a party to the Convention, having never ratified it), which run counter to established practice and undermine the Convention's objectives ensuring the orderly, safe, and sustainable use of ocean resources for the benefit of all mankind.

Let me recall that in December 2023, Washington, in violation of established procedures, arbitrarily expanded its continental shelf boundaries beyond the generally recognized 200-mile zone. Subsequently, in April 2025, President D. Trump issued an executive order “authorizing” American companies to conduct deep-sea resource extraction in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Together with other parties to the Convention, which include the vast majority of the world's nations, we consider these actions unlawful and intend to press the United States to return to the legal framework.

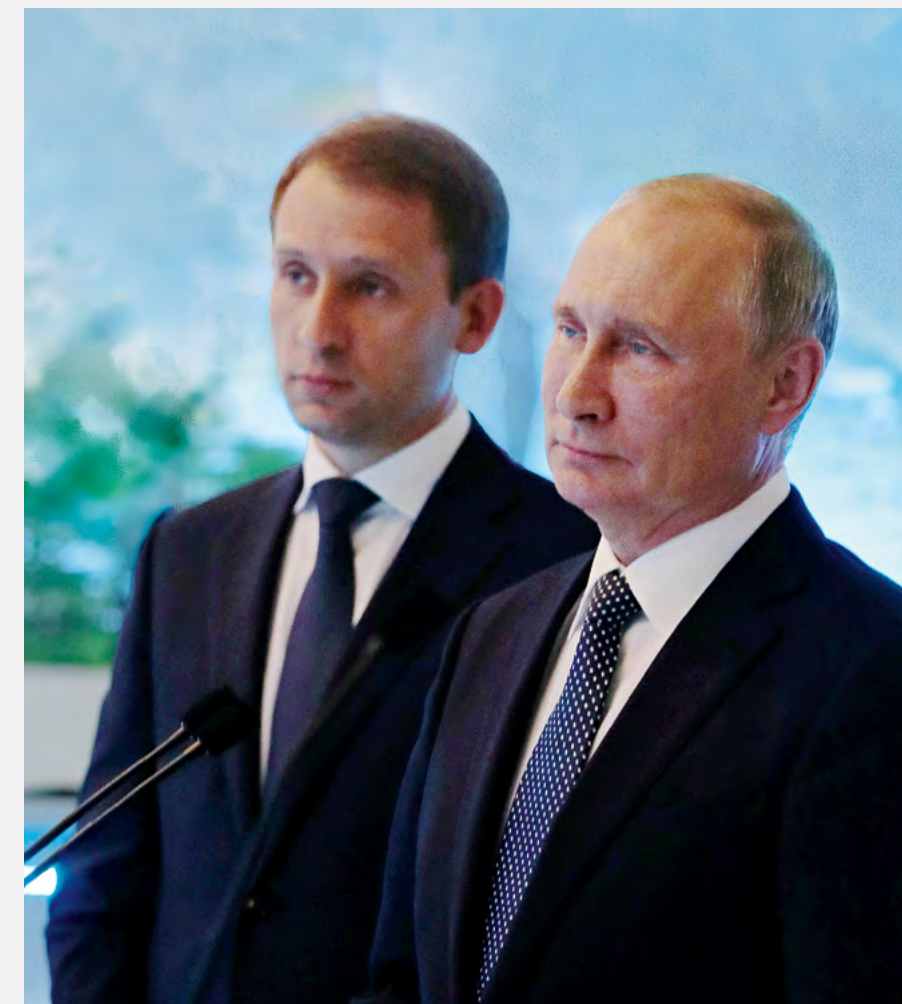
But let us return to Russia. I believe it is time for us to identify the companies interested in seabed mining and willing to act as extraction operators. This would allow them to directly address issues related to cost-effective technologies. Specialized equipment and technology, including vessels, mining complexes, laboratories, and processing facilities, are also critically important. Their creation takes considerable time, so we need to start now.

Based on data obtained during the prospecting and evaluation phase, we can estimate, that once commercial seabed mining begins, these new raw materials will increase our land-based resources by 93% for cobalt, 13% for manganese, 8% for copper, and nearly 4% for nickel. Of course, this is a long-term perspective. It is difficult to assess exactly how, or rather to what extent, marine reserves will impact

“Today, we must prioritize the development of robotics. This is especially true for underwater technical systems designed for remote exploration of the geological structure and ore potential of the ocean floor.”

global markets at this stage. However, experts agree that the consumption of nickel, cobalt, and manganese will grow steadily. Therefore, despite all the pitfalls — both literal and figurative — deep-sea mining will eventually become a priority, and the World Ocean, with its vast mineral deposits, will make a decisive contribution to the sustainable development of our civilization.

On the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum, Vladivostok, September 5, 2019



“Russia's mineral resource base, concentrated both offshore and onshore, is one of the most robust in the world! It is capable of meeting both the needs of the domestic economy and foreign demand.

At a meeting of the Board of the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic. Moscow. July 3, 2019



to 21 million tons of oil, over 53 billion cubic meters of gas, and nearly 2.5 million tons of gas condensate annually.

In general, Russia's mineral resource base, concentrated both offshore and onshore, is one of the most robust in the world! It is capable of meeting both the needs of the domestic economy and foreign demand. Russia's subsoil contains 236 types of minerals, meaning it has virtually the entire periodic table. In addition to traditional and well-known resources, there are also completely unique ones. For example, reserves of synnyrite ores (a source of aluminum raw materials) have been explored only in Russia: the Kalyumnoye deposit in Buryatia and the Golevskoye deposit in the Zabaikalsky Krai.

Possessing resources is not enough; one must know how to use them rationally. It is encouraging that over the past ten years we have consistently replenished more than we have extracted. Sustainable growth dynamics are being demonstrated, for example, by gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ores, coal, and platinoids. Regarding the first half of 2026, we have seen significant reserve increases (in tons): 176.6 tons of gold, 1,400 tons of silver, 340,000 tons of copper, 48,800 tons of lead, 273,000 tons of zinc, 133 million tons of iron ore, 163 million tons of coal, and 12 tons of platinoids. We have also seen an increase in reserves of zirconium, which is in short supply for the Russian economy, amounting to nearly 12,000 tons.

Naturally, we'll sum up the final results in December; as geologists are still working. But I can already say that 162 new deposits have been added to the state reserve balance. Among the main discoveries of the year are the Televeyem gold deposits in Chukotka, with 30 tons of gold and 292 tons of silver reserves, and the N.I. Grigoriev gas condensate field in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, which holds approximately 50 billion cubic meters of gas.

We're expecting good news regarding uranium. Starting this year, we have increased funding for its exploration by nearly seven times (!): from 900 million to six billion rubles. Uranium is exceptionally important not only for nuclear



power but also for the development of technologies. Today, uranium geological exploration is underway in Buryatia, Yakutia, Transbaikalia, and the Jewish Autonomous Region. Geologists are primarily focused on detecting deposits accessible for development using the low-cost and environmentally efficient method of in-situ leaching. In Buryatia, the focus remains on the Vitimsky uranium ore district, one of the key uranium mining centers in the country. Here, prospect evaluation survey is being carried out at several sites: Baytakhsкая, Dulesminskaya, and Muyasynskaya.

In Yakutia, we are focusing on the Elkon uranium ore district. Its unique feature is the presence of gold-uranium ores, some of which are classified as off-balance reserves: currently, extracting uranium from these deposits is not economically viable due to the complex mineral composition and the depth of the occurrence. However, in the future, new processing technologies may make the extraction of these resources profitable. Work will continue over the next three years, with at least 13 billion rubles invested in it, funded by surplus revenues from auctions. Why are we paying so much attention to uranium? Because it is necessary to prepare promising sites for its development, as a global shortage of this raw material is expected after 2040.

The most critical tasks in the field of subsoil use are taking into account the demands of the economy and anticipating what the country will need in 10, 15 or more years. Exploration and development of mineral resources contribute to the growth of GRP, create new jobs, and foster infrastructure development. And, of course, they generate additional tax revenues. Every year, the federal budget receives more than 9 trillion rubles from the Mineral Extraction Tax (MET), and the mining sector, along with related industries, accounts for one-fifth of the gross value added structure. In monetary terms, this amounts to more than 35 trillion rubles.

Subsoil use is, without exaggeration, the foundation of the country's economic development. The geological sector proudly upholds this honorable status and successfully addresses all the strategic challenges it faces. Because you can always rely on geologists. 🇷🇺

Oil extraction at the offshore ice-resistant stationary platform "Prirazlomnaya" in the Okhotsk Sea

“Exploration and development of mineral resources contribute to the growth of GRP, create new jobs, and foster infrastructure development. And, of course, they generate additional tax revenues.

# Dear friends!

By decision of the President of Russia Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, the International Youth Festival 2026 will be held in Yekaterinburg, a city located on the border between Europe and Asia, from September 11 to 17. Thousands of young people from all over the world, passionate about common idea of changing the world for the better will come to our country to take part in the event.

I am sincerely glad and proud that it is Russia, with its centuries-old history of respectful international and cross-cultural dialogue, that has once again opened its doors to the participants of such a vibrant and large-scale event, as it did in Moscow in 1975 and 1985, and in Sochi and Sirius in 2017 and 2024. We are creating a space where the image

of a common multipolar future is taking shape — an open and fair future, filled with equal opportunities for everyone.

The festival's motto, "Follow your dream. Together with Russia," perfectly reflects its essence. Today for many foreigners including young people, our country truly serves as an example of how one should treat the history and traditions, as well as such major institutions as family, motherhood and childhood. Here, in Russia, the concepts of "patriotism," "devotion to duty," "supreme service" have a specific practical meaning embodied in thousands of destinies of our compatriots, not only ancestors, but also contemporaries.

Getting acquainted with their labor and military feats, with what Russian servicemen and scientists, astronauts and intelligence officers, engineers, doctors, and representatives of many other respected and in-demand professions have done and continue to do for the benefit of the fatherland helps to form a strong value-based foundation and moral fibre among youth and allows to distinguish lie from truth and not to give in to enemy manipulations. It is based on honesty and diligence, faithfulness to the word and deed, respect for elders and selfless love for the motherland.

It is gratifying that most of our teenagers are not indifferent and are true patriots. They declare their civil position by their actions: they volunteer at the front line, support families of the victims, restore the borderlands, develop the science, and work to preserve historical memory and traditional values. It is in this kind of creation, in concrete deeds and actions for the common good, that a

true Russian character manifests itself. That enduring strength that moves our country forward.

Children and teenagers have always been Russia's absolute national priority. We are proud of our young citizens and especially of those who do not just wait, but take action, develop themselves, and contribute to the rise of the state. We are doing everything to give our children the best opportunities to realize their potential in Russia, a country with a strong character and a big heart.

I wish you new achievements, success in finding yourself and your true calling. And remember: Victory has always been and will always be ours — on the side of Russia, truth and justice.

Sincerely,  
Grigory Gurov,  
Head of the Federal Agency  
for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodyozh)



5  
July  
1941

By Order N°00882 of the NKVD of the USSR, a Special Group was established under the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs to train and deploy reconnaissance and sabotage units and detachments behind enemy lines. The special forces of the Special Group included highly experienced Soviet intelligence officers, as well as a number of Foreign Intelligence (INO) veterans who had been released from the Gulag. In October of the same year, the Special Group was transformed into the 4th Directorate of the NKVD of the USSR, and the special forces were reorganized into the Separate Special Purpose Motorized Rifle Brigade (OMSBON). The permanent head of these structures until Victory was the Deputy Chief of Foreign Intelligence, Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov (*pictured*). Over the years of the war, more than a thousand of the OMSBON members were awarded orders and medals, and 24 of them were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.



24  
July  
1916

Boris Semyonovich Ivanov was born in Petrograd into a working-class family. In 1937, six months after beginning his studies at the Leningrad Electrotechnical Institute, he was transferred to the Leningrad NKVD School under a Komsomol assignment. During the war, he took part in the liquidation of enemy sabotage groups. He was recruited into foreign intelligence in 1949 and travelled abroad several times, including as a station chief. From 1966 to 1979, he was First Deputy Chief of Foreign Intelligence. From 1982 until his retirement in 1987, he headed a group of consultants to the Chairman of the KGB of the USSR. Lieutenant General. He was awarded two Orders of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, two Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, the Order of the Red Star, and numerous medals.

27  
July  
1911

The legendary intelligence officer Nikolai Ivanovich Kuznetsov was born into a peasant family in the village of Zyryanka, in what is now the Sverdlovsk Region. He studied at a Forestry Technical School and, through communication with fellow countrymen who were native speakers, mastered German perfectly. From the mid-1930s until the start of the war, he participated in a series of Soviet counterintelligence operations in Sverdlovsk and Moscow. In August 1942, following a year of training, he arrived at the base of the NKGB USSR special detachment "Pobediteli" (The Victorious) on the territory of German-occupied Western Ukraine. Operating under the guise of Wehrmacht officer Paul Siebert, he conducted successful reconnaissance and sabotage missions in the enemy's rear for 18 months. He died in March 1944 in an unequal battle with Ukrainian nationalists. He was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union (posthumously).



1  
August  
1931

By decision of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), Artur Khristianovich Artuzov (Frauchi), a career Chekist and metallurgical engineer who came from a family of Russified Swiss cheese-makers, was appointed head of the Foreign Department of the OGPU of the USSR. As head of the INO until May 1935, he significantly strengthened its illegal and scientific-technical work, initiated the recruitment of promising agents, including the legendary Cambridge Five, and substantially bolstered the intelligence service's personnel and operational-technical support.

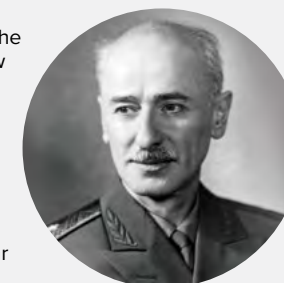
19  
August  
1981

By decision of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the "Vypel" Special Forces Unit was created within the structure of the First Chief Directorate (PGU) of the KGB of the USSR to conduct operational-combat missions abroad. The detachment's core personnel consisted of veterans of the KGB non-staff special task forces "Zenit" and "Kaskad," which had fought in Afghanistan since 1979. Like their successors from "Vypel", they were trained at the Advanced Training Courses for Officer Staff (KUOS), which had been operating since 1969 in Balashikha, near Moscow, at the same closed facility that had housed the Special Purpose School (ShON) since 1938.



28  
August  
1911

Ivan Ivanovich Agayants was born in the city of Yelizavetpol (now Ganja, Azerbaijan) into the family of an Armenian priest. At the age of 19, he followed his two elder brothers to Moscow and began his Chekist service. In 1936, he was enlisted in the Foreign Department of the OGPU, and a year later he was sent to Paris for operational work. In 1939, he participated in the operation to evacuate the leaders of the Communist Party of Spain to the USSR following the rise to power of General Franco's military junta. From 1941 to 1945, he served as a chief of station in Iran, and from 1946 to 1947, in France. Upon returning to Moscow, he held senior position in the central office. In 1967, he was appointed Deputy Chief of the PGU of the KGB of the USSR. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, the Order of the Patriotic War (2nd class), two Orders of the Red Star, and numerous medals.



22  
September  
2016

By Decree N° 491 of the President of the Russian Federation, Sergey Yevgenyevich Naryshkin was appointed Director of the SVR of Russia, *effective October 5, 2016*. Personally introducing him to the staff at the Service's headquarters in Yasenevo, the head of state emphasized: *"Sergey Yevgenyevich has always been distinguished by high professionalism, responsibility, and a serious approach to any task entrusted to him; he also proved himself well in intelligence when he worked there. In this sense, he is returning home."* The past years have been marked by the active introduction of new technologies into intelligence activities and the strengthening of cooperation with foreign partner structures. Considerable attention is also being paid to popularizing the profession: new books are being published and films about intelligence are being made based on declassified documents. In 2024, S.E. Naryshkin became a full holder of the Order "For Merit to the Fatherland."

24  
September  
1896

Ivan Andreevich Chichayev was born in the village of Usklyai, Insarsky District, Penza Governorate (now the Insarsky District of the Republic of Mordovia) into a peasant family. In 1915, he was recruited into military service; from 1919, he was a Cheka officer. Having begun his service in foreign intelligence in 1924, he worked abroad almost continuously until 1947, including serving as a Station Chief of the INO (Foreign Department) in six different countries. During the Great Patriotic War, with the start of partnership between the intelligence services of the USSR and Great Britain, he served as the official representative of Soviet intelligence in London. After retiring in 1952, he published memoirs: "Unforgettable Years," "Pages of Bygone Days." He was awarded the Order of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, the Badge of Honor, and numerous medals.



29  
September  
1936

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), in response to an official request from the Spanish government led by Francisco Largo Caballero, approved a plan to provide assistance to the Spanish Republic. Under this plan, thousands of Soviet volunteers went to fight against Franco's fascist regime, and weapons and military equipment were also supplied. For more than two years, many career Cheka intelligence officers served as advisers to the leadership of the Republicans and to the commanders of the volunteer international brigades being formed in the country, including future Heroes of the Soviet Union: Stanislav Alekseevich Vaupshasov, Vasily Zakharovich Korzh, Kirill Prokofievich Orlovsky, Alexander Markovich Rabtsevich.

30  
September  
1991

By Decree N°2632 of the President of the USSR, Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov was appointed First Deputy Chairman and Head of the First Chief Directorate of the KGB of the USSR. He was instructed to submit proposals within one week to separate intelligence agencies from the KGB. As the first and only Director of the Central Intelligence Service of the USSR (November 6 — December 18, 1991) and the first Director of the SVR of Russia (December 18, 1991 — January 9, 1996), Yevgeny Maksimovich did everything possible to uphold the Service's autonomy, preserve its personnel, and maintain its unique operational and analytical potential.





# Meeting of heads of CIS intelligence agencies

On September 4, 2026, the 22nd meeting of the heads of security and intelligence agencies of CIS member states took place at the "Palace of Congresses" state complex in Strelna, St. Petersburg. Delegations arrived from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Events in this format have been held since 1992, when the Agreement on the Basic Principles of Cooperation between the Intelligence Services of the Security Agencies of CIS Member States was signed in Alma-Ata. Since the early 2000s, substantive professional interac-

tion at the level of intelligence agency heads has become systematic.

In his welcoming address to the participants, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted: *"Over the years, your meetings have convinc-*

*ingly proven their effectiveness. Cooperation in the sphere of intelligence is a significant factor in strengthening the sovereignty and security of each CIS member state and in creating conditions for stability and development across the entire Commonwealth."*



During the plenary session, the main focus was on improving cooperation among CIS intelligence agencies amidst rising geopolitical instability and the continued escalation of threats to the Commonwealth's interests. It was pointed out that the actions of certain "collective West" states, aimed at maintaining global dominance, lead to undermining the international legal system and significantly destabilizing the military-political situation along the CIS borders.

Sergei Yevgenyevich Naryshkin, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service



(SVR) of the Russian Federation, delivered a report at the forum, emphasizing that European elites are attempting to revive the *"spirit of the Wehrmacht"* in Europe and are making significant efforts to destabilize the situation within CIS countries. *"Hundreds of millions of euros are allocated annually — through the European Endowment for Democracy alone — to fund the activities of so-called humanitarian NGOs in the post-Soviet space. Their primary, unadvertised role is to maintain a state of constant societal division and unrest, while fostering a consumerist attitude toward the authorities and stoking protest sentiment,"* stated S.Y. Naryshkin.

Warning of the risks of a full-scale conflict, the Director of SVR noted: *"According to our data, European leaders believe in 'controlled escalation' — a strategy of 'brinkmanship' devised by Western intelligence agencies back in the Cold War era. <...> Our task — without waiting for the spiral of escalation in Eurasia to reach its breaking point — is to strengthen our own collective security system and develop mecha-*

*nisms for dialogue and cooperation, free from the interference of external forces or the imposition of alien development models and values. In this regard, security agencies and intelligence services bear a heightened responsibility."*

The meeting took place in a traditionally warm and friendly atmosphere. Afterward, S.Y. Naryshkin spoke to the press, briefly summarizing the discussion: *"My colleagues and I have reached a consensus that the existing risks and threats require our agencies to coordinate their intelligence activities more closely. Under these circumstances, we have agreed to step up joint efforts to ensure the sustainable development and security of all Commonwealth nations, as well as to uphold their interests on the international stage."* 🚩

Full text of  
S.E. Naryshkin's  
address



# Unveiling the Formula for Success

## "For Impeccable Service Abroad"

The Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) has recently established a new departmental award — the medal "For Impeccable Service Abroad." Mikhail Vitalievich Pogudin, Editor-in-Chief of Razvedchik magazine, Chairman of the SVR Veterans' Council, Lieutenant General (Ret.) was one of the first to be honored with the medal from the hands of SVR Director Sergey Yevgenyevich Naryshkin.

The purpose of any award is to immortalize a person's achievements, merits, and victories, and to embody decades of labor, strength of spirit, and personal heroism in metal. According to S.Y. Naryshkin, the "For Impeccable Service Abroad" medal is "unique and invaluable, as it can only be awarded to those who have spent many years of their professional lives abroad, literally on the front lines of a special secret front, while

*demonstrating outstanding results in operational and official activities."*

*"Personnel of our foreign apparatus are the primary combat unit of our Service. They are the key to addressing the complex challenges faced by foreign intelligence — challenges related to safeguarding Russia's security and protecting its national interests abroad. In doing so, they must operate in extremely difficult*

*conditions under intense pressure from hostile intelligence services, often in openly adversarial environments, far from home, and for long periods without seeing their families and loved ones,"* the head of the SVR emphasized. He urged those receiving the award to generously share their wealth of experience and professional skills gained abroad with younger officers, and to reveal their formula for success.

For obvious reasons, we cannot disclose the names of most of those who were honored with this award. In the pages of this magazine, in addition to M.V. Pogudin, we will mention another distinguished intelligence officer who dedicated many years to working abroad. This is the Chairman of the Board of the Regional Public Organization "Veterans of Foreign Intelligence," Lieutenant General (Ret.) Sergey Vasilyevich Kotenko.

In his speech in reply, M.V. Pogudin thanked the Service leadership for the high recognition of his work, noting that the medal serves as a summary of his career abroad: *"Looking back at those 23 years and 3 months spent abroad, one realizes that not everything went as planned, and unfortunately, some things were missed. However, much was indeed accomplished — for the country and for the intelligence service. During my very first assignment, I had the opportunity to work as the chief of station. I immediately realized that the most important thing is caring for the team, for the people and their safety. It was a heavy burden: difficult, full of responsibility, and vital. I am glad that over these years, both I and the entire team managed to achieve significant operational*

*results, although there were critical situations — we faced quite a few of them. I am proud that I received both of my general's stars there, on the front line. I must note that only close contact with the Center allowed me and my comrades to achieve our set goals."*

Despite his venerable age — Mikhail Vitalievich Pogudin turned 80 this August — his professional and life

experience remains actively utilized in various areas of the Service's work. The editorial board of Razvedchik magazine congratulates Mikhail Vitalievich on his prestigious award and joins in all the warm words expressed on the occasion of his jubilee by the Service's leadership, colleagues, and like-minded people. We wish him many years of life, and we are proud to be by his side and learn from him! 🇷🇺

### The Medal for Impeccable Service Abroad

This decoration is awarded to SVR of Russia personnel for excellence in operational and official duties during long-term foreign assignments and service at the Center. The medal is issued in three classes: 1st Class (the highest) for 20 or more years of service abroad, 2nd Class for at least 15 years, and 3rd Class for at least 10 years.





# Lessons from the past, a look to the future

## The CIS's contribution to the fight against international terrorism

Text: Evgeny Sergeevich Sysoyev, Head of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center (CIS ATC), Colonel General

This December, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will celebrate its 35th anniversary. From its very first day, the organization's mission was to promote the preservation of the common economic, humanitarian, and political-diplomatic space created during the Soviet time. Security issues, including countering terrorism, have been and still remain one of the main areas of joint work.

Following the collapse of the USSR, the formation of the CIS took place against the backdrop of a profound systemic crisis. The paralysis of governance mechanisms, the exacerbation of socioeconomic and ethno-political contradictions, and the weakening of control at external borders created fertile ground for the rise of separatists, radical extremists, and criminal organizations.

Internal conflicts, particularly the civil war in Tajikistan and the Chechen conflict in Russia, have become the most tragic examples of this instability and have contributed to the radicalization of a part of population, the influx of foreign fighters, and the strengthening of armed groups operating with the participation of emissaries and mercenaries from the Middle East and South Asia.

The resurgent terrorist groups in the post-Soviet space sought to provoke widespread public outcry through bloody attacks that claimed numerous civilian lives. One of the first large-scale terrorist attacks, which happened in Budyonnovsk in 1995, involved hostage-taking by Chechen militants under the leadership of Basayev. The attack killed 129 people. The explosion of an apartment building in Kaspiysk, Dagestan (1996) claimed the lives of 68 people, among them 20 children. The explosions of multistory buildings in Buynaksk, Moscow, and Volgograd in 1999, which killed over 300 civilians, became a tragic milestone.

The Beslan tragedy (2004) is one of the gravest chapters in Russia's recent history. Assessing the consequences of this terrorist attack,

**Left:** CIS Secretary General S.N. Lebedev (second left) and CIS ATC head E.S. Sysoyev (second right) at the 19th Conference of heads of main anti-terrorist bodies of the CIS member states. Moscow. June 9, 2026

Russian President Vladimir Putin said, *"We are dealing with a direct intervention of international terror against Russia, with a total, cruel and full-scale war that again and again is taking the lives of our fellow citizens."*

Terrorism has not spared other Commonwealth countries. The events in Batken of 1999–2000 were one of the first major terrorist incidents in Kyrgyzstan during the post-Soviet period. The armed invasion of the southern part of the country by militants from the international terrorist organization Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (now the Turkistan Islamic Party\* — *Editor's note*) was accompanied by fighting and hostage-taking. Bishkek also suffered from explosions and attacks, such as the attack on the Dordoi market on December 27, 2002, as well as attempts on foreign officials' lives. In 2005 Atyrau, Kazakhstan experienced an attempted terrorist attack, and in 2011 there was a series of armed attacks. Terrorist and extremist activity was also reported in other Commonwealth countries.

The tragic events in the CIS territory reflected global trends. Since the beginning of the 21st century, terrorism acquired cross-border nature, continuing to escalate and spreading beyond individual states and

\* Designated as a terrorist organization in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

continents. On September 11, 2001, the most notorious terrorist attack in human history occurred in New York City, killing nearly 3,000 people and injuring over 6,000. While the number of terrorist attacks remained between 1,000 and 2,000 per year from 2001 to 2004, then the number began to rise sharply, driven by conflicts in the Middle East and South Asia.

It was the terrorist attacks in the United States that prompted the international community to build a collective counter-terrorism front. Recognizing the global nature of the terrorist threat, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution N° 1373 (2001) on September 28, 2001, requiring states to *"work together urgently to prevent and suppress terrorist acts."* Seven years later, the UN General Assembly, by Resolution A/RES/60/288 of September 8, 2006, approved the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, setting systemic guidelines.

It is worth noting that within the Commonwealth of Independent States, comprehension of the need to join efforts and coordinate actions to counter terrorism had settled long before the events in New York. Back in 1997, the CIS heads of state decided to establish a Council of Heads of Security Agencies and Special Services. In 1999, at a meeting of the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth, ideas for developing a unified strategy to combat international terrorism and for establishing of a separate spe-

The tragic events in the CIS territory reflected global trends. Since the beginning of the 21st century, terrorism acquired cross-border nature, spreading beyond individual states and continents.



cialized body in this area were first voiced. These proposals were soon implemented. In January 2000, the development of the first three-year target program for the Commonwealth of Independent States member states to combat international terrorism and other manifestations of extremism was launched, and subsequently adopted at the meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State in June 2000. At the same meeting, a decision was signed to establish the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center (ATC).

Today, the ATC is the primary coordinator of counterterrorism coop-

eration among the Commonwealth countries. Over the past years, at the initiative and with the active participation of the Center, a sustainable organizational and legal framework has been established in the CIS for coordinating the actions of security agencies, special services, and other interested entities in countering terrorism and extremism. Its key elements are:

- Concept of Cooperation for Combating Terrorism of the CIS member-states (2005);
- The Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism Act (2007);

The first CIS conference on combating terrorism. Bishkek. September 20, 2023

- Agreement between the CIS members on Protection of Classified Information (2013);
- Agreement on Information Exchange between the Competent Authorities of the CIS member-states (2017).

The ATC is the leading developer of a medium-term counterterrorism cooperation program that addresses current challenges. With the Center's assistance, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly has adopted over 150 model legislative acts in the security sphere.

An important element of the established cooperation system is the joint counterterrorism exercises coordinated by the ATC. The exercise scenarios take into account the current operational situation and the new threats, including in the areas of cybersecurity and countering terrorist financing.



The ATC serves as a common information hub for the entire Commonwealth. A unified database and online access by competent authorities to the information on wanted individuals form the basis for operational analysis and risk forecasting.

It should be noted that the multilateral anti-terrorism cooperation system established within the CIS allows to consolidate resources and capabilities and, ultimately, has a positive impact on the effectiveness of the measures taken. This is evidenced by the results of the coordinated investigative measures "Trawl-Anti-terror", operations "Search", "Identification", and joint special border operations. Operation "Barrier" alone, for which the ATC also provides information support, has shown significant results in recent years: almost a thousand individuals involved in terrorist financing have been identified.

Rising international tensions and the expanding geography of terrorist threats have prompted the search for new forms of coordination and interaction, as well as the involvement of international organizations and civil society representatives in counterterrorism activities.

During counterterrorism exercises

The ATC serves as a common information hub for the entire Commonwealth. A unified database and online access by competent authorities to the information on wanted individuals form the basis for operational analysis and risk forecasting.

At the initiative and with the support of the Center, Commonwealth countries are holding rotating CIS Conferences on Countering Terrorism and Extremism. High-level events held in the Kyrgyz Republic (2023) and the Republic of Uzbekistan (2024) demonstrated the demand for this platform among competent authorities and the expert community, and the Dushanbe Counterterrorism Forum, organized in 2025, provided the first opportunity to host a specialized UN event, confirming the possibility of constructive dialogue beyond the CIS.

It should be noted that, over the quarter-century of its existence, the Center has seamlessly integrated into the international counter-terrorism system: professional contacts have been established and key actors have signed memoranda of co-

operation, including Interpol and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

We are also steadily building ties with UN structures, particularly the Executive Directorate of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTED), the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committees, and the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). ATC representatives participate in CTED assessment visits to Commonwealth countries to monitor the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. In 2016, the CIS ATC joined the CTED's Global Research Network, and in 2021, the UN Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Threats.



The prevention of terrorism and extremism among young people remains an absolute priority of our joint work.

However, the most intensive interaction is being developed with the main, “*natural*”, as Russian President Vladimir Putin put it, partners of the CIS — Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO and the CSTO. Recognizing that our goals, objectives, and areas of responsibility largely coincide, we signed a trilateral Memorandum on Cooperation and Interaction, within the framework of which we regularly hold meetings of the standing expert group. A significant outcome of this work became the adoption of a Joint Position on Countering Terrorism and Extremism in 2022.

2023 marked a new stage in the development of cooperation between the CIS ATC and its regional partners. The first joint CIS and SCO counterterrorism exercises were held in Kyrgyzstan. In 2024, the CIS and SCO joined forces to host a counter-terrorism conference in Tashkent. In 2025, the final stage of the counter-terrorism exercise was held jointly with the CSTO Joint Staff in Tajikistan. We are preparing for the next conference and exercises, scheduled to take place in Minsk this October, jointly with the SCO RATS and the KGB of the Republic of Belarus.

The prevention of terrorism and extremism among young people remains an absolute priority of our joint work. The promotion of destructive ideology, especially online, poses serious risks of radicalization of the younger generation. The ATC sup-

ports initiatives aimed at fostering an anti-terrorist worldview in young people. A significant project in this area is the international Student Shield contest, held jointly with the Moscow State Linguistic University, the leading CIS organization for languages and culture. Hundreds of students from CIS and other countries worldwide participate annually.

Unfortunately, the politicization of the counterterrorism agenda is undermining the effectiveness of international cooperation. In a number of areas, interaction with Western partners has effectively been halted, abandoning the principles of broad professional cooperation that was actively strengthened after the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. It is worth recalling that 25 years ago, Russia sincerely extended a helping

hand to the American people. President Vladimir Putin was the first foreign leader to call the White House with words of support, after which the Russian side took unprecedented measures, including sharing intelligence data with Washington.

In the recent years, the activities of a number of key discussion platforms, including the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Conference, have been de facto suspended. Attempts are being made to oust Russia, a key member of the Commonwealth, from certain international structures (for example, Russia's membership in the FATF has been suspended). Meanwhile, some states are once again openly resorting to the use of international terrorism to achieve their geopolitical goals.

For these and other reasons mentioned above, we are currently seeing a rise in terrorist threats both in separate regions and globally. These developments raise serious concerns about a further deterioration of the situation: radical groups are increasing their activity and consolidating. These groups are exploiting



Terrorist attack in the US. September 11, 2001



migration flows to infiltrate the Commonwealth and are actively spreading propaganda through the media landscape.

Competent authorities in the Commonwealth are taking the necessary measures to ensure adequate overall control of the situation. Last year alone, more than 2,500 terrorist and extremist crimes were prevented in the Commonwealth. Nearly 4,000 members and accomplices of terrorist organizations were detained. Nearly 900 sources of terrorist financing were eliminated, and nearly 19,000 information resources containing radical content were blocked. Over 100,000 preventative measures were implemented to deradicalize individuals influenced by extremist ideology.

Nevertheless, in our assessments, global and regional conflicts will continue to negatively impact the security of CIS countries in the foreseeable future. The main threats will be related to the increased activity of

international terrorist organizations in the Middle East and Afghanistan-Pakistan area, as well as the growing numbers of groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the Islamic State — Khorasan Province, which are capable of carrying out major terrorist attacks. Furthermore, attempts by militants from Central Asia to return to their countries of origin and integrate into the terrorist underground cannot be ruled out, thus increasing security risks in the region.

In the current situation, it is crucial to further strengthen coordinated cooperation between the competent authorities of the Commonwealth

countries — both bilaterally and within existing coordination structures. This will enable timely prevention of terrorist and extremist incidents and prompt identification and suppression of the funding channels for illegal activities.

It is gratifying that over the past decades, despite the geopolitical turbulence in the CIS space, the counterterrorism potential has not only been preserved, but also increased, creating conditions for the sustainable economic and social development of the Commonwealth. 🚩

In the current situation, it is crucial to further strengthen coordinated cooperation between the competent authorities of the Commonwealth countries—both bilaterally and within existing coordination structures.

# The Tokyo Tribunal

## Between Law and Politics

Text: Alexander Grigoryevich Zvyagintsev, writer, publicist, Deputy Director of the Institute of State and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Honored Lawyer of the Russian Federation, member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation

**This year, all those concerned about the future of humanity are once again turning their attention to the work of two international military tribunals — the Tokyo and Nuremberg trials, as May marked the 80th anniversary of the commencement of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (the Tokyo Tribunal), while this autumn marks the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of the Nuremberg Trial. It is through the prism of these very proceedings that the lessons of the Second World War are best understood today.**

These lessons require meticulous legal reflection and analysis, as well as a profound moral and historical understanding in light of contemporary challenges and threats. And not only because the chronicle of military actions and geopolitical clashes conceals an archive of nightmares, cold-blooded crimes, and humanity's struggle against the horrors of

aggression. It is also because the West, including Japan and many other countries within its orbit, seeks to erase these events from history and consign them to oblivion.

This is evidenced, in particular, by the results of the plenary meeting of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly (December 15, 2025), where, at Russia's

initiative, a resolution "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" was adopted. Although the overwhelming majority of the world's countries — 119 — voted in favor of the document (with 10 abstentions), 51 (!) states voted against it.

**Left:** Opening of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, Tokyo, May 3, 1946

The dock at the Khabarovsk war crimes trial, December 1949

This is happening not as a result of historical amnesia, but because the West no longer views Nazism as the primary threat to civilization and seeks to transform it from an enemy into an ally. We are witnessing how countries that previously condemned the crimes of national fascism now openly support regimes that glorify its ideology. They justify Nazi crimes and try in every way to silence the genocide committed by the Nazis in Europe and by the Japanese in the Far East.

We also see many similarities between the German and Japanese Reichs and can draw direct legal and ideological parallels. Today, just as 80 years ago, it must be clearly articulated: national fascism has no human face. But it does have names: those of the murderers and organizers, the instigators and accomplices. And we know them! We know those who are once again persistently imposing Hitler's "Aryan ideals" and the Japanese "Yamato race standards" under the guise of "democratic values." We know all those who, through color revolutions, illegal sanctions, and proxy wars, are attempting to bury historical truth.

Let me remind you that the global conflict unleashed by Nazi Germany and militaristic Japan drew over 80% of the planet's population into its orbit. 62 states participated in it, and over 110 million people were called to arms. From June 22, 1941, while waging a war of liberation against the German fascist aggressors, we fought against 607 enemy divisions, 500 of which were elite Wehrmacht units. Our allies, combined, faced



3.5 times fewer — 176 divisions. How can one not recall the "bloody tablets" — 9 million Soviet citizens fought for the liberation of 16 European countries from the "Brown Plague"! A million of them remained there forever, lying in the damp earth...

We faced the Kwantung Army almost entirely alone and defeated it in less than two weeks, taking 600,000 soldiers prisoner, led by Commander Otozo Yamada, thus freeing China, Korea, Mongolia, and other countries from the Japanese yoke.

Looking back, it's clear that the Tokyo Trials, just like the Nuremberg Trials, might never have happened. The world still remembers the horrors of Auschwitz and Majdanek, but has almost forgotten Harbin, Pingfang, and Nanjing. In the West, people know about Hitler, Himmler, and the "Black

Doctor" Mengele, but they remain silent to this day about Shiro Ishii — the "Plague General," the creator of death factories where horrific experiments were conducted on living people. Nor is there any mention of the name of the man who stood above the likes of him — Emperor Hirohito. Although the path charted by the Emperor himself led his generals to the gallows...

This silence, cloaked in geopolitics and the silken veil of Japanese politeness, evokes the silence of hell. But be that as it may, the ideology of the Japanese Reich is consonant with the ideas of fascism and is just as deadly as German National Socialism. The Japanese were convinced that they had no moral obligations toward other peoples, that they were permitted to do whatever they pleased. This, in many ways, explains

**The global conflict unleashed by Nazi Germany and militaristic Japan drew over 80% of the planet's population into its orbit. 62 states participated in it, and over 110 million people were called to arms.**



the atrocities committed by the soldiers and officers of the Imperial Army, not only on the battlefield but also in occupied towns and villages.

Crimes against humanity, which became a legal term at Nuremberg, were recognized only partially and selectively in the Pacific theater of justice. Meanwhile, behind these laconic formulations lurked horrors comparable to those of the Nazis, and sometimes even surpassing them in sophistication.

The Tokyo Tribunal opened on May 3, 1946, and was conceived as an Eastern analogue of Nuremberg, but it never fully became one. Twenty-nine criminals were indicted, primarily among the highest military and civilian leaders of the Japanese Empire. Seven of them were sentenced to death.

While the Charter of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg was developed on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement between the four Allied powers, the International

Military Tribunal in Tokyo was created differently. Its organization was entrusted to American General Douglas MacArthur, the Governor-General — or “Caesar” of Japan, as he was then known. He personally handled virtually all matters, including procedural ones.

Here, law directly collided with politics, and justice became hostage to compromise. To support my argument, I cite the opinion of Peter Kuznick, a professor of history at the University of Washington: *“The United States set the rules for this trial, determined the composition of the panel of judges, and made the decisions. In other words, it was largely a US-orchestrated performance... The trial was actually run by the American prosecutor, and overseen by General Douglas MacArthur. The U.S. was interested in a dominant role in the proceedings, partly because certain information was not supposed to surface during the trial. Ultimately, the tribunal effectively split into two camps. The Americans*

*Emperor Hirohito after visiting Yasukuni Shrine. Tokyo. 1935*

*went about their business, the USSR went about its own. Cooperation gradually petered out.”*

Thus, sophisticated atrocities committed with extreme cruelty were attempted to be buried under grave-stones — far from all ended up in the dock. Many architects of the war, ideologues of Japanese militarism, and the “zaibatsu” financial elite remained beyond reach. Emperor Hirohito, under whose name the bloody aggression was unleashed, also escaped responsibility — the Americans deliberately excluded him from the list of defendants. However, the shadow of Hirohito, as a symbol of supreme impunity, loomed over the entire Tokyo Trial.

Governor-General Douglas MacArthur made no secret of his position on this issue. He believed that Hirohito had to be preserved to stabilize

A. G. Zvyagintsev (right) at a meeting with American historian and writer P. Kuznick. Moscow. April 2025

the internal political situation in post-war Japan. In his opinion, the Emperor possessed a sacred authority that could be used to carry out reforms and suppress potential uprisings. *“If we were to put the Emperor on trial, we would have needed millions of soldiers to hold Japan,”* MacArthur asserted.

Nevertheless, even though the iron-clad walls of Western censorship, the truth broke through. Witnesses spoke out. Documents were released. The trial uncovered facts directly implicating the guilt of monopolists and bankers, although none of them were ever brought to trial. The world was shown only the tip of the iceberg, concealing a planned system of violence built in the name of the ‘Yamato race’ and the glory of the emperor cult.

The Tokyo Tribunal either did not wish or did not dare to speak aloud about these monstrous crimes. Experiments on living humans, whom the Japanese called “maruta” (“logs”), their use as vivisection material, the mass use of biological weapons, and secret biological laboratories — all of this was not just part of the Japanese war machine but a direct threat to humanity. Only the Soviet Union’s lightning-fast Manchurian Strategic Operation (August 1945) deprived the Japanese of the opportunity to continue their satanic crimes. For millions of people across Asia, this meant salvation from extermination.

Tokyo’s silence forced Khabarovsk to speak out. The Khabarovsk trial, held in the USSR in December 1949, became the first and only trial in history to openly acknowledge the development and use of biological weapons.

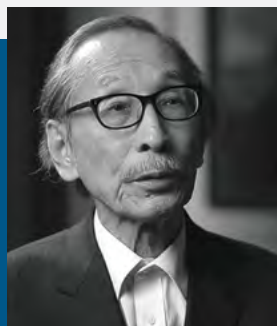


Then, 12 former members of the Japanese Kwantung Army were finally prosecuted for creating and using biological weapons in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. All of them pleaded guilty and were sentenced to lengthy prison terms (the death penalty was not used in the USSR at the time).

Unfortunately, the main villain — the aforementioned military microbiologist and “plague general” Shiro Ishii — was absent from the Khabarovsk trial. The Americans did not hand him over to us. In exchange for handing over to the United States all of his materials and findings, obtained through inhumane

Unit 731

A unit of the Japanese armed forces, created in 1932 by order of the Emperor to prepare for bacteriological warfare against the USSR, China, Mongolia, and other countries. It was stationed in the occupied territory of China in the village of Pingfang near Harbin. It specialized in conducting inhumane experiments on living humans (primarily Chinese and Russian prisoners), studying the effects of various pathogens and the limits of the human body. According to various estimates, the unit’s victims numbered approximately 10,000.



**“The existence of Unit 731, as well as the criminal nature of its activities, has still not been acknowledged by the Japanese government to this day. This is a deeply shameful fact. It is still being pretended that Unit 731 never existed in Japanese history. I am convinced that this circumstance must be corrected clearly and unequivocally.”**

Haruki Wada, historian, Professor at the University of Tokyo

experiments in Units 100 and 731, Shiro Ishii, like several of his other henchmen who came to the attention of American intelligence in 1945, not only escaped punishment but also continued to work in his field — this time in the United States. As it later became known, the Japanese data was used to create the secret Fort Detrick military base in Maryland, which became the core of the American biological weapons program. A real blood barter!

Zachary Kaufman, a senior research fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School, whom the author approached for comment, stated: *“The U.S. government granted broad amnesty, provided food, supplies, and leisure for more than 3,600 Japanese scientists, doctors, and other personnel involved in human experimentation... The United States was extremely interested in information obtained from medical experiments, and with the Cold War looming, chose this data over the triumph of justice. In exchange for papers containing the results of valuable experiments, Shiro Ishii and his colleagues received immunity from prosecution from the United States. The Soviet*

*government's demand to bring the members of Unit 731 to trial before the International Military Court was rejected.”*

The Tokyo Trials irrefutably demonstrated that aggression against the USSR was an integral element of militaristic Japan's foreign policy. In preparation for the seizure of Soviet territory, Japanese strategists meticulously developed the forms of a “new order” to be forcibly imposed on Soviet soil. The territory of our country was planned to be divided between Japan and Germany, with a demarcation line not far from Omsk.

The establishment of a military administration was planned for the occupied areas. *“Japanese, Korean, and Manchurian colonists will be sent to these territories if economic and national defense requirements dictate. <...> Our goal must be to exert our power, and to achieve this, we must exert every effort, without stooping to so-called paternal tutelage.”* Overall, the plans of the Japanese imperialists differed little

Commander of the Unit 731 Shiro Ishii

from the bloody regime of terror and suppression established by the Nazi invaders during their occupation of the western part of our country.

Unfortunately, post-war realities and the escalating Cold War allowed many Nazis to escape responsibility. Less than 20 years after the end of the war, 20 members of the government, approximately 200 generals, admirals, and officers of the Bundeswehr, 244 senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, and more than 1,100 employees of the Ministry of Justice, the prosecutor's office, and the courts had Nazi past in West Germany.

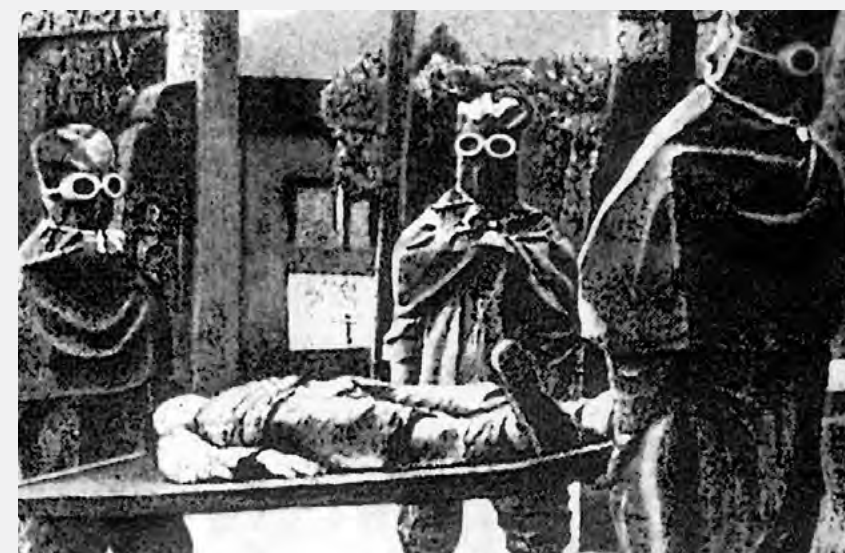
In Japan, the situation was no less egregious: just 14 years after the surrender, on August 16, 1960, a monument to the seven major Japanese war criminals hanged in 1948 was unveiled on Mount Mikenoyama near Nagoya. It bears the inscription, *“Grave of the Seven Samurai Martyrs.”* At the unveiling ceremony, they were given full honors. How quickly Nazism emerges from the shadows!

The memory of the Nuremberg, Tokyo and Khabarovsk trials is not



only a historical necessity, but also a special occasion to think over what happened and what came after that. And finally, a great sorrow about the fact that some modern “history killers” try to pervert the conclusions of the trials. In that concern, today we should first of all speak about the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal and assert that it has proved to be an important milestone in development of the international law and national legal systems, an influential, unbiased chronicle that the future historians, lawyers and journalists, as well as all those anxious for the future of the humanity, should turn to in search of the truth, and foreign politicians and public figures — in search of a warning.

At the same time, conducting an impartial analysis of the Tokyo and Khabarovsk trials, one should recognize a striking contrast between them. While in the Khabarovsk trial one country (the USSR) revealed to the world the murderous deeds of the Japanese military clique, the other one (the US) tried to bury the truth and benefit from the malicious practices of hellish butchers putting them to use in their homicidal bioprograms.



Experiments on humans in the Unit 731



**“As for the sentiments of the Japanese people, especially the youth, they know almost nothing about the war. And this is one of the main problems of Japanese society. What Japan was doing, what it did in other Asian countries—this is almost never discussed in Japan today. As a result, when an average Japanese tries to imagine what war was, they come away with the feeling that we, the Japanese, were victims.”**

Akina Kobayashi, political scientist, lecturer at Hosei University (Tokyo)

Therefore, speaking about the lessons of those tribunals, one can confidently ascertain that they still haven't been consumed by time. The Tokyo trial is relevant today in the situation of growing neonationalism, revanchism and the policy of force. It reminds: the threat to the world issues not only from power, army or militarized business, but also from the ideology placed at the service of death. The Khabarovsk trial is relevant against a background of

bioterrorism, pandemics, the danger of “military viruses”, as well as professing postulates of national exclusiveness. It is a warning against technocratic cynicism and militarization of scientific research, against an aggressive neofascist rhetoric. 🚩

# Illusions

## in foreign policy, or the International Circus

Text: Alexander Sergeevich Pastukhov, leading expert of the SVR of Russia  
in the field of international law, colonel of justice

**At the 14th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum, which took place in June 2026 and, according to the President of Russia, is “one of the most representative and significant platforms for direct, comprehensive discussion of current professional topics,” a representative of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service identified one of the most pressing problems in modern international relations: Western nations are causing damage to other countries while remaining legally unpunished. How they manage to do this (for now!) is what “Razvedchik” found out from the author of the report.**

An illusion is a distorted perception of real objects or phenomena, mistaking appearance for reality. This concept is often associated with a circus performance, with the show of an illusionist performing tricks. Can illusions be created in international relations? Of course, yes. Especially by those who have mastered them perfectly and made them their favorite trick — Western politicians. Under

the influence of such “magic,” the objects of influence, of their own accord, become gullible, forget the lessons of history, and make mistakes. The truth lies on the surface, but it is either overlooked or perceived differently due to deception. If the trick is not unraveled in time, the consequences may be irreparable not only for individual countries but for the entire world.

After World War II, the West almost immediately continued its aggression against the Soviet Union. The Cold War began, splitting the world into two camps. To prevent new global bloody conflicts, the United Nations was established — the foundation of the entire modern international legal system, and troops from the victorious countries were deployed on the territory of the once-enemy states.

In the early 1980s, actor Ronald Reagan, who had appeared in hundreds of films, took to the stage of the international circus stylized as a “great chessboard.” Such extensive acting experience allowed him to easily switch from the persona of a fighter against the “Evil Empire” to

**After World War II, the West almost immediately continued its aggression against the Soviet Union. The Cold War began, splitting the world into two camps.**



US President R.Reagan  
answering questions from the press.  
Chicago. August 12, 1986

invested huge amounts of money for that. The military bloc is a very profitable mechanism for implementing political ambitions. From a legal perspective, it is not an independent subject of international legal activity and bears no responsibility for anything, so it can get away with anything that would be punishable for the participating countries individually.

Perhaps the alliance will be reformed to cover up the tracks, but the essence will remain the same. Why is this illusion needed? First and foremost, it is intended for an outside observer. The West allegedly eliminates contradictions: if NATO visually “disappears” from the political map, then Russia’s problems will also disappear, and it will have to withdraw its claims regarding the geopolitical agenda. And if Moscow does not do this, it will be accused of not wanting to live in peace. But if one believes in the illusion of NATO’s imminent collapse, then why do the calculating Western countries invest in the projects listed below?

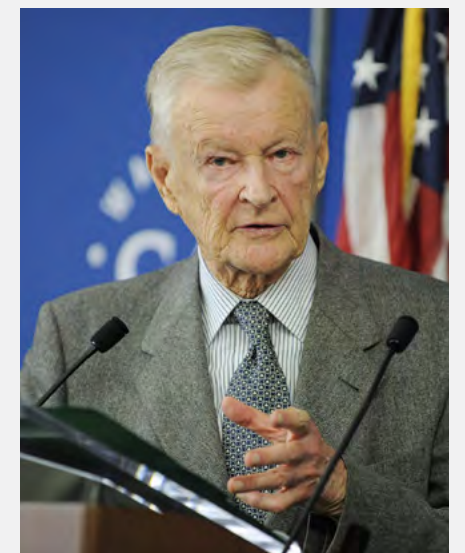
that of “Friend Ronnie.” His assistant was a “fakir,” and at the same time the chief ideologist of US foreign policy, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who tamed an enormous anaconda that was quietly tightening the noose around our country. Meanwhile, an illusion was prepared for the audience: the West supposedly wanted peace and no longer considered the USSR an enemy. To the sound of the incantation about “collective security,” the audience was tricked into believing that everything had changed and there was no longer any hostility. In fact, “collective” security worked in only one direction.

With the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe and the collapse of the USSR, Brzezinski’s anaconda did not loosen its grip and continued its stranglehold. No one in the West even considered dismantling NATO “as unnecessary.” On the contrary, former members of the Soviet bloc were quickly admitted into the Alliance, and their pro-Western politicians began to actively rewrite history, convincing the population that during World War II, it was Soviet troops, not Wehrmacht soldiers, who

were the occupiers. For Europeans, it was as if, at the wave of a magic wand from across the ocean, all memory was wiped clean. Literally, everything was turned upside down.

In March 2025, the Bundestag made a historic decision to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany, allowing restrictions on defense spending to be lifted. This was done so that the financial burden of maintaining troops and the costs of a potential new war on the eastern borders would not fall on Washington — which has carefully studied Russia’s nuclear doctrine — but on Berlin. The tamer in the star-striped suit releases the hungry animals from their cages, including an old lame lion from foggy Albion. The owner will no longer feed them — it’s too costly — but he will continue to control their actions.

The talks and démarches by individual performers in the arena about NATO supposedly falling apart are just another trick. They haven’t gathered under one umbrella and



Z.Brzezinski

Today one can confidently say that, despite an extremely aggressive policy aimed at ensuring its own dominance, the US positions in the world are growing weaker steadily.

Germany is strengthening its presence on the eastern flank — the German military has joined the Polish operation “East Shield”, which is directed against Russia under the guise of defense-related slogans. The Pentagon intends to redeploy five thousand American military personnel from Germany to Poland. At the same time, frank statements are coming from London: “The UK is currently at war with Russia.” And there are many similar facts. They point out that while experienced political tricksters are diverting the world’s attention with the illusion of NATO’s collapse, a more aggressive European association — and perhaps more than

one, — with even greater ambitions, is being created in the background.

For decades, we have also been hearing that the UN is outdated. To maintain this image, approved managers are periodically sent to the organization’s leadership, and when the West unleashes wars, they either remain inactive or *“express concern.”* It was precisely *“peacekeepers”* of this kind who tried to convince everyone that the invasion of Yugoslavia was not aggression, but a *“humanitarian intervention”*.

It was an experiment. Based on it, Western countries continued their

aggressive policy. The illusionist Colin Powell stepped onto the UN stage with a deadly trick. This “daredevil,” in violation of the rules for handling samples of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), “juggled” a test tube containing a “dangerous substance from Iraq” in front of the audience. The magic was so strong that in none of those present in the hall the instinct of self-preservation kicked in. Under this pretext, the Americans destroyed a sovereign state, although they later admitted that there were no WMD in Iraq.

Then the magician Nicolas Sarkozy appeared on stage and, to the sound of the mantras about defending democracy, told the audience that he had not taken money from Muammar Gaddafi for his election campaign. To make himself look more convincing, he even used precision weapons and destroyed the Jamahiriya. However, in September 2025, by a decision of a French court, he was sentenced to five years in prison exactly on charges of receiving funds from Libya.

In the arena of the international circus, the predators have already caught the scent of blood. Taking advantage of the UN’s inaction, they established biological laboratories on the territories of other countries. The World Organization was skeptical about the results of the Russian parliamentary investigation into this matter, and the Joe Biden administration called them Russian propaganda. However, in the summer of 2026, Tulsi Gabbard, the Director of the U.S. National Intelligence, presented facts before leaving office, showing that more than 120 American biolaboratories had been operating abroad for decades, funded by American taxpayers.

US Secretary of State C.Powell’s speech at the UN Security Council session. February 5, 2003



The former German Minister of Foreign Affairs A.Baerbock swearing as President of the UN General Assembly, 80th session. New York. September 9, 2025

Johann Wadephul has either confused the eras or genuinely regrets the defeat of the Nazis: *“We know how World War II was ended. The military said that weak politicians agreed to a peace treaty that was not necessary at that time. And this was always a burden for the Weimar Republic.”* He is echoed by Swiss diplomat, former ambassador to Georgia and Armenia, and OSCE special representative Günther Bächler: *“Europe should have put Russia in its place 20 years ago.”*

If western countries have such unambiguous goals, then it becomes clear why they need the illusion that the UN is useless. The UN Charter ties their hands, as even without the authority of the Security Council, it contains a mechanism to restrain the aggressive policies of so-called enemy countries that fought on the side of the Hitler coalition (see Article 53, paragraph 2 of the Charter). And those who are planning to share nuclear weapons with Berlin should go back to school and open a history textbook. First, it would be useful to recall the atrocities committed by Nazi Germany on the continent and how quickly Europeans surrendered to the Wehrmacht. They should also refresh their memory regarding their own country’s status during the Second World War (for example, the Vichy regime in France) and compare it with the aforementioned Article 53, Paragraph 2 of the Charter.

It’s time for western countries to understand: sooner or later, all their illusions burst like soap bubbles. Next in line is the admission of the rehabilitation of Nazism. For now, the grandchildren of Nazi criminals have pulled harmonicas from the pockets of their grandfathers’ uniforms and are blowing the familiar notes of anti-Russian hysteria with all their might. The current Chancellor of Germany Friedrich Merz easily signed an act banning the use of Victory symbols. The lips of Steffen Meyer, the deputy spokesperson for the German government, were so tired of the reed instrument that he couldn’t even answer the question about who had liberated Germany from fascism.

Today, the direct descendants of members of criminal organizations, as defined by the Nuremberg Tribunal, are once again pursuing an aggressive policy. Annalena Baerbock, whose grandfather served in the Wehrmacht and even received Hitler’s “War Merit Cross”, became the President of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. In the

post-war years, such a thing was impossible, at least for moral reasons. By appointing to the UN a representative from a country that unleashed two bloody world wars, western countries are dealing a blow to the authority of the World Organization. This is the essence of their next illusion, designed to instill in the minds of people the idea that the world is different, that Germany does not seek aggression, and that it has long since atoned for its guilt.

Against this backdrop, there are even calls in the Bundestag for the UK and France to grant Germany access to nuclear weapons. President Emmanuel Macron is willing to share, justifying this by the fact that the Americans are “leaving” Europe. Meanwhile, German Foreign Minister

If western countries have such unambiguous goals, then it becomes clear why they need the illusion that the UN is useless. The UN Charter ties their hands.

Illusionists are trying to convince the whole world that the UN is no longer needed. Reforming of the organization is being put on the agenda, based on the idea of replacing the veto power of the permanent members of the Security Council with a simple majority vote.

Illusionists are trying to convince the whole world that the UN is no longer needed. Reforming of the organization is being put on the agenda, based on the idea of replacing the veto power of the permanent members of the Security Council with a simple majority vote. However, this is just another trick. The veto power has repeatedly allowed the USSR/Russia, as well as China, to block the implementation of the West's hostile ideas. So, for whom the UN is unprofitable? Who finds the veto power like a bone in their throat? Obviously, it's neither Moscow nor Beijing.

And now you can hear the trombone part — in an orchestra, it is used to enhance expressiveness and capture the audience's attention at key moments of the performance. Donald Trump's voice sounds in the arena: *"I don't need international law!"* Some hastily agree with him, saying that it has been dead for a long time. However, Trump's words are also an illusion.

I'll ask a number of questions. They may be uncomfortable, but they help to shed light on the truth. If international law is unnecessary, then why

did Trump establish the Peace Board in early 2026, whose functions include international judicial proceedings? If international law is outdated, why didn't American warships seize the tanker *Marinera* immediately, but waited for its crew to change the flag while the ship was in motion — which would allow to suspect the vessel of lacking nationality (Article 110 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea)? If it's time to throw international law into the dustbin of history, then why do western countries create international tribunals to convict "war criminals" after invading other countries? And such questions, essentially rhetorical, can be asked endlessly. The answer is the same: international law exists, but it is a problem only for the West, and precisely in its current format.

The Anglo-Saxons are well aware that if they completely abandon international law, they will dig their own grave. But if we believe in their illusions and violate international norms, we will be accused of all sorts of serious crimes and they will certainly use our mistake as a precedent to justify their own crimes.

An analysis of modern international legal acts shows that many of them contain gaps. And this is natural, as the bulk of the documents were drafted in the post-war years, when international lawyers could not even imagine that a foreign warship might, under the orders from its government, commit piracy against civilian vessels of other states. No one also thought that politicians would be so cunning as to impose blockades, including water and energy ones,

Prime Minister of Denmark M.Frederiksen, President of the European Council A.Costa and President of the European Commission U. von der Leyen. Brussels. December 19, 2025



US President D. Trump at the press conference on the results of NATO summit. Brussels. July 12, 2018

against other countries in peacetime, under the pretext that formal prohibition of such acts applies only to wartime.

Lawyers working for the West thoroughly examine international agreements, identify lacunas in them, and try to fill them with precedents which subsequently get presented as rules binding for everyone. For example, western countries create and actively employ mechanisms of hostile actions that are similar in their goals to aggression, but do not fall under the definition of UN General Assembly Resolution No. 3314 of December 14, 1974, which allows them to evade international legal responsibility.

If such illusions are not exposed in time and if we continue to trust those "in the ring," we may find ourselves in a situation where the scale of the deception becomes too vast and it would be impossible to change

anything. The greatest illusion of the West is its much-vaunted "democracy" which, in its true sense, exists only on paper.

Western countries had better stop their infernal war machine. Too much blood has been shed through their fault! And now, they push the planet towards another world war, as usual, in a vile and cynical manner, presenting lies as truth. They resort to disinformation, manipulation, and other favorite tricks in an effort to preserve their hegemony.

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But no matter how hard the circus orchestra tries, the sound of wooden spoons — the simplest Russian percussion instrument — can already be clearly heard in the hall. A shiver has run down the spines of the circus performers, dressed in their grandfathers' black-and-silver uniforms. Evidently, their genetic memory has been triggered, and their brain, obsessed by a sense of impunity, has realized that their ancestors already heard such sounds — in 1760, in 1812, and in May 1945.

The instinct of self-preservation had prompted them correctly. After all, power lies in truth. It is always on our side, and sooner or later, it allows us to punish the liars, to slap their insolent and cunning faces. In the year of the 250th anniversary of the United States, I will recall the words of Abraham Lincoln, one of the Founding Fathers: *"You can fool some of the people all of the time. You can fool all of the people some of the time. But you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."*

The West's illusions have been exposed; the circus performers can no longer be trusted. And our cause is just and in accordance with international law! 🇺🇸

**"Razvedchik" has spoken with Mikhail Eduardovich Oseevsky, President of PJSC Rostelecom, about the digitalization of government structures, information security issues and import substitution in the IT sector.**

**Mikhail Eduardovich, first of all, tell us, what is Rostelecom today?**

It is a huge diversified digital holding company, which includes almost 300 companies employing 120,000 people. Ten years ago, Rostelecom was perceived only as a telephone operator. Indeed, telephony occupied a significant share of the portfolio at that time, although the segment of Internet services, pay television, and various high-tech services were already developing.

We've come a long way over the years. Initially, we set the task of transforming from a purely telecommunications company into a digital company, and now, as part of our new strategy for the period up to 2030, we intend to turn into a world class IT corporation.

**What are you planning to focus on?**

We have chosen several key areas. In addition to fixed and mobile communications, which is handled by our subsidiary T2, we will continue to develop our business related to data centers. Today, we are the leaders in this segment in Russia.

Information security represented by our subsidiary Solar is a set of solutions that are critically needed by both the state and private structures. Rostelecom provides protection for

the absolute majority of government information systems (GIS) and government agencies.

Another priority is participation in the digitalization of the state. The President and the government have formulated a task: to make the lives of our citizens and businesses modern and comfortable, and appropriate solutions are needed for this.

**Are the Gosuslugi website and application also Rostelecom?**

Yes, initially we were developers and operators of only the Gosuslugi portal and the corresponding e-government systems. But over the past years, we have took up the position of — I'm not afraid of this word — a monopolist (in a good sense) in the state's digitalization market. The job is difficult and demanding. We have a large team — about 10,000 people are employed in this segment.

We have also built other large federal IT systems. In particular, the Social Treasury is a platform for joint social and pension funds, including their regional divisions. We have created and maintain a Unified state information system in the field of healthcare, operating in all regions. We act as a contractor for Rosreestr. It is a highly loaded system that is used by hundreds of thousands of people and companies every day. In total, we are developing more than 100 GIS.

#### **Mikhail Eduardovich Oseevsky**

Was born on November 30, 1960 in Leningrad. After graduating from the Kalinin Leningrad Polytechnic Institute, he worked at the D.V. Efremov Research Institute of Electrophysical Equipment. In 1993, he became one of the founders of CJSC St. Petersburg Currency Exchange. Since 1999 – Deputy Chairman, since 2001 – First Deputy Chairman of OJSC Industrial and Construction Bank. From 2003 to 2011 he was the Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg. In 2011–2012 – Deputy Head of the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia. From 2012 to 2017 – Deputy President and Chairman of the Management Board of VTB Bank. Since March 2017, he has been the head of Rostelecom PJSC. Doctor of Economics. He was awarded the medal of the Order "For Merit to the Fatherland", 2nd class, the Orders "For Merit to the Fatherland", 4th class, of Alexander Nevsky, Friendship and Honor.

**Mikhail Oseevsky,  
Head of Rostelecom:**

**"The importance of digital  
sovereignty is growing  
every day"**

Photo: Gleb Shchelkunov / Kommersant



At a plant producing optical cable.  
Perm. August 29, 2017

Particularly, I would single out the work on digitalization of law enforcement agencies. We have been working comprehensively with the Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation in this regard for several years, and we have developed the infrastructure and a large set of application solutions. We have begun the digitalization of the Judicial Department of the Supreme Court, we are preparing to start in the Investigative Committee, and we are discussing similar projects with the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation. The fact that such serious government agencies choose us underlines Rostelecom's reputation, experience, and expertise.

**It turns out that almost all the work on digitalization of government agencies lies with you?**

We have become a key government contractor. On the one hand, this high status imposes a great responsibility on us, on the other hand, it forces us to improve all the time in order to offer the best practices. We constantly monitor what new products appear on the market in order to make our solutions more efficient, faster and cheaper. We are currently actively testing the possibilities of using artificial intelligence technologies — various AI agents.

Every year, we look through hundreds of Russian startups in search of new ideas and projects, those innovative gems. We start to work with a dozen of them and invest. Subsequently, three to five demonstrate viability, one to two give unique results. These are normal statistics for a venture business.

A few years ago, we started using AI to process huge amounts of unstructured data to search for and predict technological breakthroughs and trends on a global scale. We are talking about the analysis of millions of scientific articles, patents, requests on labor exchanges, mergers and acquisitions around the world. This allows us to literally anticipate the future of critical digital technologies.

**You mentioned Gosuslugi — a vital digital service that regularly comes under attacks of cybercriminals. What is being done to minimize threats like that?**

The Gosuslugi portal is part of the e-government system, with more than 120 million Russians registered on it. There's a lot of sensitive

information out there, and new services are constantly appearing. Our enemies' interest in it continues unabated. Although the wave that was a couple of years ago is no longer there today. Much is being done by the government, telecom operators, and banks to prevent fraud, which in most cases is conducted from contact centers in Ukraine. And people are becoming more literate.

Nevertheless, we regularly record attempts to penetrate the infrastructure of Gosuslugi, this is the subject of our constant concern. Our cybersecurity operations center monitors the situation around the clock. The peculiarity of the information security is that it is not enough to implement advanced hardware and software solutions, round-the-clock monitoring is needed to see the beginning of attacks and detect suspicious actions in time. We also use AI tools to analyze various signals and identify potential threats.

**Are the threats coming mainly from Ukraine today? What do you estimate is the percentage of attacks attributed to this country?**

Fraud aimed at the finances of individuals should be separated from large scale attacks on the digital infrastructure of state-owned or large companies. In the latter case, it is 99% the activity of not only Ukrainian hackers, but also the Western intelligence services behind them, primarily the NATO cyber center. Our specialists analyze the tools and are able to determine, by characteristic details, who the organizer of the attack is. Tools are constantly being improved on the enemy's side, and in general, the enemy is serious.

But our employees, like the guys who are on the front line, have accumulated a huge practical, one might even say, combat experience, only in the cybersphere. Therefore, today we are offering our solutions to a number of friendly countries for which this topic is also relevant.

**What are you ready to transfer to foreign partners: hardware, software, experience, or everything turnkey?**

Rather the latter — creation of sovereign operational information security centers for government



agencies. Of course, a national partner is needed everywhere, because the sphere is sensitive. But considering that we are "practicing surgeons", we are treated with great attention.

Launching a telecom equipment production line. St. Petersburg. June 14, 2023

However, political aspect is always present: some traditionally focus on the United States, others on China. But, definitely, in our person, the partners receive an additional alternative. Information security is a living process, the landscape is constantly changing, and new solutions need to be continuously implemented. Speaking of the future of information security, I believe that everything is moving towards a struggle between artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence.

**“ Fraud should be separated from large-scale attacks on the digital infrastructure. In the latter case, it is 99% the activity of not only Ukrainian hackers, but also the Western intelligence services behind them, primarily the NATO cyber center.**



## PJSC Rostelecom

The company was founded in December 1992 on the basis of 20 state-owned enterprises providing long-distance and international telecommunication telephone services. In 1993, it was transformed into a joint-stock company (today 38% of the shares belong to the state). Russia's largest digital service provider, the leader of the Russian broadband Internet access market (more than 14 million subscribers). It implements a number of major federal projects and programs, including the operation and development of the Gosuslugi portal, connecting remote and small settlements to the Internet, and providing video surveillance of the Unified State Exam and elections. By the end of 2025, revenue amounted to 872.8 billion rubles, net profit — 18 billion rubles.



At the AvtoVAZ factory. Tolyatti. October 30, 2024

#### On the issue of combat experience. Is Rostelecom present in Crimea and Novorossiya?

Our partner, the company Miranda Media, which came to Crimea and Sevastopol even before 2022, conducts work in historical territories, which is difficult, responsible, and sometimes dangerous. In total, today it has more than two million subscribers — individuals, government and business structures. We help to develop all those digital technologies that are available in other regions. Of course, the situation is not easy, we are in constant contact with our teams, we try to resolve all issues in real time, including for those who are on the

front line. A large army of our signalmen in the border regions also works in the risk zone. We consider this work to be an important part of our global mission.

Since 2022, on behalf of the head of government, Rostelecom has been responsible for developing import substitution solutions in the telecommunications sector. What has been done and what "bottlenecks" remain in terms of ensuring digital sovereignty?

The importance of digital sovereignty is growing every day. Like many Russian companies, Rostelecom experienced the impact of sanctions when almost all foreign vendors left the domestic market in one day. Therefore, the development of our own production cluster has become a priority. Today we produce a whole range of different telecom equipment that we use ourselves and supply to other market actors.

Until 2022, most of the IT solutions and telecom equipment in Russia were foreign. When the former so called partners sent us to hell, if you'll excuse the word, Russian companies from all IT industries had to rebuild in a hyperdynamic mode. It was a difficult path. Experiments on the implementation of our own developments were carried out literally on a living body, by trial and error. But the entire community involved in this segment — developers, contractors, suppliers, consumers — have shown awareness and cooperation.

Now it can be stated that Russia feels stable in most hardware and software. For example, in recent years, only Russian servers and data storage systems have been installed in our data centers. And the "bottlenecks" are well known. These are, first of all, microelectronics — processors and other components. It takes time to catch up with the leaders here.

The most important direction in terms of ensuring digital sovereignty is the development of domestic mobile communication technologies. This primarily concerns the core of the network — the most complex software that, like a human brain, provides traffic processing and management of all services. Together with our

partners we have created the first mobile network core in Russia, which really works and is not inferior to its foreign counterparts. Thus, all T2 subscribers in the Volga Federal District are served by the Russian core.

At the same time, we are developing our own mobile communication base stations — our subsidiary Bulat is engaged in this. Two thousand such stations have already been delivered to the regions. We are moving towards increasing their productivity and transition to the next — fifth — generation of communications (5G). In addition, we produce various subscriber equipment: routers, switches, video cameras. In general, we have managed to overcome the critical dependence on imports that existed five years ago.

#### Are there any plans to release a domestic iPhone analogue?

The iPhone is a special device. It is not only the phone, but it also has its own operating system, which Apple no longer gives to anyone (unlike the Android OS, which is used by many). Apple behaves unfriendly in our market. And although the iPhone has its own circle of "fans" in Russia — about 20–25% of the population, it is important to understand that any foreign smartphone, no matter whether it operates on the iOS or Android platform, is a threat to the interests of the user. Always. The amount of proprietary information that is automatically transferred from each device outside the country is huge. At any moment, for one reason or another, the West can turn everything off, and devices operating on foreign operating systems will turn into "bricks".

That is why, on behalf of the President, we are developing the domestic Aurora mobile OS. This is a huge, titanic effort — tens of millions of lines of code. But we can firmly say that Aurora is a truly sovereign Russian OS, a proven and certified solution by the Federal Service for Technical and Export Control and the Federal Security Service. All its components — the core and control systems — are located in Russia. Already, Aurora smartphones are used by Russian law enforcement agencies, and in the civilian sector by such large

“The most important direction in terms of ensuring digital sovereignty is the development of domestic mobile communication technologies.

companies as Russian Railways, Aeroflot, and Russian Post. In addition, a joint project with AvtoVAZ has been launched to develop the Aurora Automotive platform for vehicle control systems. There are also the first Russian "smart" Aurora TVs.

Will the smartphone be popular with ordinary users, is the Aurora comparable to its global counterparts?

In the cybersecurity centre "Rostelecom-Solar". Moscow. February 10, 2023





A working meeting  
in the Kremlin.  
Moscow, June 7, 2023

We need to look at things honestly. Of course, it still lags behind in terms of functionality, but not catastrophically already. It has many mobile applications, including banking ones. I would like to emphasize one important thing: today only three countries in the world have their own mobile operating systems — the USA, China and Russia.

As for popularity, it's like with cars. Everyone has a choice which one to buy. It is impossible, and needless, to force everyone to switch to Russian analogues. Currently, Aurora is focused on the needs of government agencies, but we believe that the product will find its niche on the open market, too.

The media have written about another large scale project, the construction of the Trans-Eurasian fiber-optic backbone. Tell us more about it.

Interviewed by  
Vladislav Ilyin  
and Tatiana Ogneva

“One must never stop developing and rest on one's laurels. If we talk about the current situation, I would like to have more modern digital products for the population.”

This is a very capital-intensive project that we are implementing jointly with Alfa-Bank. We are laying a 96-fiber cable from the Russian border in the Pskov region up to Mongolia and further to China. This data transmission route to Asia is much shorter than the underwater one that skirts India and passes through the troubled Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Our cable is laid almost in a straight line, which allows to reduce ping and signal delay — this is important for digital services and AI work. The construction of the backbone is almost completed, and commissioning is underway. A number of sections are already being used by Russian operators, which is very important in the context of the rapid growth of Europe-Asia Internet traffic.

#### Won't the Europeans block it like Nord Streams?

The project concerns not only our relations with the EU, but also Sino-European ties, and this is a more complex structure. In addition, traffic is also increasing within our country, and the transfer of information to and from the Far East requires new capacities.

#### In 2027, you will have a personal anniversary — 10 years as the head of the company. Has everything worked out as planned?

One must never stop developing and rest on one's laurels. If we talk about the current situation, I would like to have more modern digital products for the population. But on the other hand, it's impossible to do everything. Excellence or leadership in one field does not guarantee success in others. Differentiation should be treated carefully and rationally.

#### What is the main secret of a successful leader?

I've worked in many different fields. I can say that I am a proponent of a strong team and strategic management. It is impossible to effectively manage a large holding company by controlling everything at once. The president's task is to select managers, formulate strategies and long term development goals.

In addition, psychologically, you need to be prepared for the fact that every day something happens, all kinds of difficulties and problems arise. And in any situation, you need to maintain a calm and balanced approach. 🚀



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СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО  
СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ. № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 07/284



18.07.2026 04:41

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

ОБ ОБЕСПОКОЕННОСТИ БРЮССЕЛЯ ЯДЕРНЫМИ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯМИ ФРГ

ПО ИМЕЮЩИМСЯ СВЕДЕНИЯМ, ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛИ ФРАНЦИИ И РЯДА ДРУГИХ КЛЮЧЕВЫХ СТРАН СЕВЕРОАТЛАНТИЧЕСКОГО АЛЬЯНСА ОБЕСПОКОЕНЫ АКТИВНО ВЕДУЩИМИСЯ В ГЕРМАНИИ НАУЧНО-ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИМИ РАБОТАМИ ЯДЕРНО-ОРУЖЕЙНОЙ НАПРАВЛЕННОСТИ.

КАК СООБЩАЮТ ИСТОЧНИКИ, НАТОВЦЫ ОБРАЩАЮТ ВНИМАНИЕ НА МАСШТАБНОСТЬ РАБОТ ПО ТАКИМ ЧУВСТВИТЕЛЬНЫМ НАПРАВЛЕНИЯМ, КАК СПЕЦИАЛЬНОЕ МАТЕРИАЛОВЕДЕНИЕ, ФИЗИКА УДАРНЫХ ВОЛН, ЯДЕРНАЯ И НЕЙТРОННАЯ ФИЗИКА, В КОТОРЫЕ ВОВЛЕЧЕНЫ ПОРЯДКА 30 НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ УНИВЕРСИТЕТОВ ФРГ. В ИХ ЧИСЛЕ - ТЕХНОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ ИНСТИТУТ КАРЛСРУЭ, РУРСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ В БОХУМЕ, МЮНХЕНСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ЛЮДВИГА-МАКСИМИЛИАНА, РЕЙНСКО-ВЕСТФАЛЬСКИЙ ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ АХЕНА, БЕРЛИНСКИЙ ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ И ДРУГИЕ. НА ШЕСТИ ФУНКЦИОНИРУЮЩИХ В ГЕРМАНИИ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИХ РЕАКТОРАХ ВЕДУТСЯ ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЕ ЭКСПЕРИМЕНТЫ.

ОТМЕЧАЕТСЯ ТАКЖЕ, ЧТО В ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКУЮ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ ВОВЛЕЧЕНЫ КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ ГЕРМАНСКИЕ ВОЕННО-ПРОМЫШЛЕННЫЕ КОНЦЕРНЫ - RHEINMETALL AG, DIENL STIFTUNG GMBH, KNDS GROUP, UMAREX GMBH. ПРОИЗВОДИМЫЕ ИМИ ВЫСОКОЭНЕРГЕТИЧЕСКИЕ ВЗРЫВАТЕЛЬНЫЕ ВЕЩЕСТВА И СИСТЕМЫ ЭЛЕКТРОННОГО ПОДРЫВА РЕГУЛЯРНО ИСПЫТЫВАЮТСЯ НА ПОЛИГОНАХ СУХОПУТНЫХ ВОЙСК ФРГ.

С УЧЕТОМ НАЛАЖЕННОЙ В ГЕРМАНИИ ПЛОТНОЙ МЕЖВЕДОМСТВЕННОЙ КООРДИНАЦИИ В ДАННОЙ СФЕРЕ ВОЕННЫЕ ЭКСПЕРТЫ НАТО ПОЛАГАЮТ, ЧТО БЕРЛИН СПОСОБЕН САМОСТОЯТЕЛЬНО В ТЕЧЕНИЕ 1 - 3 МЕСЯЦЕВ НАРАБОТАТЬ НЕОБХОДИМЫЙ РАСЩЕПЛЯЮЩИЙСЯ МАТЕРИАЛ И В СРОК ДО ГОДА БЕЗ ПРОВЕДЕНИЯ НАТУРНЫХ ИСПЫТАНИЙ СКОНСТРУИРОВАТЬ ДЕЙСТВУЮЩЕЕ ЯДЕРНОЕ ВЗРЫВНОЕ УСТРОЙСТВО.

НР 167 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ДЖОН 17.07.26 21.22

СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ. № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 07/341



24.07.2026 07:17

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ПОДДЕРЖКЕ ЕВРОСОЮЗОМ ПРОЕВРОПЕЙСКОГО КУРСА ЕРЕВАНА

КАК ОТМЕЧАЮТ ИСТОЧНИКИ, БЛИЗКИЕ К РУКОВОДСТВУ ЕС, В БРЮССЕЛЕ СОЗНАЮТ НЕИЗБЕЖНОСТЬ ГЛУБОКОГО ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО КРИЗИСА В АРМЕНИИ В СЛУЧАЕ ВЫХОДА РЕСПУБЛИКИ ИЗ ЕВРАЗИЙСКОГО ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО СОЮЗА. ПРИ ЭТОМ НАРАСТАЮЩИЕ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ В САМОМ ЕВРОСОЮЗЕ НЕ ДАДУТ ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ КОМПЕНСИРОВАТЬ ЕРЕВАНУ ВЫПАДЕНИЕ МИЛЛИАРДНЫХ ДОХОДОВ ОТ УЧАСТИЯ В ЕВРАЗИЙСКОЙ ИНТЕГРАЦИИ, ЧТО, В СВОЮ ОЧЕРЕДЬ, МОЖЕТ СКАЗАТЬСЯ НА УСТОЙЧИВОСТИ НЫНЕШНЕЙ АРМЯНСКОЙ ВЛАСТИ.

ПО ИМЕЮЩИМСЯ ДАННЫМ, РЯД СТРАН ЕВРОПЫ УЖЕ СИГНАЛИЗИРОВАЛИ В ПРОФИЛЬНЫЕ СТРУКТУРЫ ЕВРОКОМИССИИ О НЕГОТОВНОСТИ ОТКРЫВАТЬ СВОИ РЫНКИ ДЛЯ ТОВАРОВ ИЗ АРМЕНИИ В УЩЕРБ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫМ ПРОИЗВОДИТЕЛЯМ. ТЕМ НЕ МЕНЕЕ БРЮССЕЛЬСКИЕ ЧИНОВНИКИ ПРОДОЛЖАЮТ УБЕЖДАТЬ ЕРЕВАН В "БЕЗОГОВОРЧНОЙ ПОДДЕРЖКЕ".

ПРИ ЭТОМ ОТ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА Н. ПАШИНЯНА УЖЕ СЕЙЧАС ТРЕБУЮТ СОКРАЩЕНИЯ ПРИСУТСТВИЯ РОССИЙСКОГО БИЗНЕСА В СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКИХ ОТРАСЛЯХ, РАЗРЫВА ГУМАНИТАРНЫХ СВЯЗЕЙ С РФ И ЖЕСТКОГО ПОДАВЛЕНИЯ ВЫСТУПАЮЩИХ ПРОТИВ ПОДОБНЫХ МЕР ВНУТРЕННИХ ОППОНЕНТОВ. ПООЩРЯТЬ ПРОЕВРОПЕЙСКУЮ ЛИНИЮ АРМЕНИИ ПРЕДПОЛАГАЕТСЯ ПУТЕМ ФОРМАЛЬНЫХ ОБЕЩАНИЙ "СКОРОЙ ЛИБЕРАЛИЗАЦИИ ВИЗОВОГО РЕЖИМА ДЛЯ ГРАЖДАН РЕСПУБЛИКИ И АКТИВНОГО СОДЕЙСТВИЯ РАЗВИТИЮ ДВУСТОРОННИХ СВЯЗЕЙ". ПРОБУКСОВКУ С ОКАЗАНИЕМ КОНКРЕТНОЙ ПОМОЩИ ЕСОВЦЫ НАМЕРЕНЫ ОБЪЯСНЯТЬ ТЕМ, ЧТО ПРИСОЕДИНЕНИЕ К ЕС "ПОЛНОСТЬЮ ЗАВИСИТ ОТ САМОГО ЕРЕВАНА" И ЕГО "ДОСТИЖЕНИЙ" НА ПУТИ ЕВРОИНТЕГРАЦИИ.

НР 211 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР АЛЕН 23.07.26 19.54

СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ. № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 08/23



01.08.2026 06:35

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ПЕРСПЕКТИВАХ ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЙ ИНТЕГРАЦИИ УКРАИНЫ

ПО ИНФОРМАЦИИ ИЗ ОКРУЖЕНИЯ ГЛАВЫ ЕВРОКОМИССИИ, НЕСМОТРА НА ПУБЛИЧНУЮ РИТОРИКУ О БУДУЩЕМ ВСТУПЛЕНИИ УКРАИНЫ В ЕВРОСОЮЗ, В ЗАКРЫТЫХ ДИСКУССИЯХ РУКОВОДСТВО ЕС КАТЕГОРИЧЕСКИ ОТРИЦАЕТ ТАКУЮ ВОЗМОЖНОСТЬ. ПОДЧЕРКИВАЕТСЯ, ЧТО ДЛЯ ЕДИНОЙ ЕВРОПЫ ЕВРОИНТЕГРАЦИЯ КИЕВА НЕСЕТ "НЕПРИЕМЛЕМО БОЛЬШИЕ" ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ И ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ РИСКИ.

В БРЮССЕЛЕ ПРИЗНАЮТ, ЧТО У ЕС НЕТ РЕСУРСОВ ДЛЯ УДОВЛЕТВОРЕНИЯ "ЗАВЫШЕННЫХ ЗАПРОСОВ" УКРАИНСКИХ ВЛАСТЕЙ, А СДЕЛАННОЕ ГЛАВОЙ ЕВРОСОВЕТА В ИЮНЕ С.Г. ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЕ О НАЧАЛЕ "ПРЕДВСТУПИТЕЛЬНЫХ ПЕРЕГОВОРОВ" ПРИЗВАНО НЕ БОЛЕЕ ЧЕМ "ПРЕДОТВРАТИТЬ РАЗОЧАРОВАНИЕ УКРАИНСКОГО ОБЩЕСТВА И ВОЗМОЖНЫЙ АНТИЕВРОПЕЙСКИЙ РАЗВОРОТ КИЕВА". В ЭТИХ ЖЕ ЦЕЛЯХ В.ЗЕЛЕНСКОМУ ПЛАНИРУЕТСЯ ПРЕДЛОЖИТЬ УЧАСТИЕ В ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЙ ПОЛИТИКЕ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ, ХОТЯ И БЕЗ ПРАВА ГОЛОСА.

ИСТОЧНИКИ ОТМЕЧАЮТ, ЧТО КИЕВ ОСВЕДОМЛЕН ОБ ИСТИННОМ ПОЛОЖЕНИИ ДЕЛ. ИЗ УКРАИНСКОГО ПОСОЛЬСТВА В БРЮССЕЛЕ РЕГУЛЯРНО ПОСТУПАЮТ СИГНАЛЫ О "СТРЕМЯЩИХСЯ К НУЛЮ" ПЕРСПЕКТИВАХ ЕВРОЧЛЕНСТВА. ТЕМ НЕ МЕНЕЕ В СИЛУ ВЫСОКОЙ ЗАВИСИМОСТИ ОТ ФИНАНСОВОЙ И ВОЕННОЙ ПОМОЩИ ЕС РУКОВОДСТВО УКРАИНЫ СОГЛАСНО НА ЛЮБЫЕ УСЛОВИЯ, ОЗВУЧИВАЕМЫЕ ЕВРОЧИНОВНИКАМИ.

НР 288 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ФЕЛИКС 31.07.26 17.19

СВР РОССИИ  
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСРЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ. № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 08/119



08.08.2028 13:50

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О НОВОМ ВИТКЕ АНТИРОССИЙСКОЙ КАМПАНИИ В СПОРТЕ

ПО ИМЕЮЩИМСЯ СВЕДЕНИЯМ, ВЛАСТИ ЕВРОСОЮЗА КРАЙНЕ ОБЕСПОКОЕНЫ РЕШЕНИЕМ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО ОЛИМПИЙСКОГО КОМИТЕТА (МОК) СНЯТЬ САНКЦИИ С ОЛИМПИЙСКОГО КОМИТЕТА РОССИИ И РОССИЙСКИХ СПОРТСМЕНОВ, ПОСКОЛЬКУ ТАКОЙ ШАГ ФАКТИЧЕСКИ СВОДИТ НА НЕТ МНОГОЛЕТНИЕ УСИЛИЯ ПО ИЗОЛЯЦИИ НАШЕЙ СТРАНЫ В МИРОВОМ СПОРТЕ. ОСОБУЮ ОЗАБОЧЕННОСТЬ ЕВРОБЮРОКРАТОВ ВЫЗЫВАЕТ ПЕРСПЕКТИВА УЧАСТИЯ АТЛЕТОВ ИЗ РФ В ОЛИМПИЙСКИХ ИГРАХ 2028 ГОДА В ЛОС-АНДЖЕЛЕСЕ С НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫМ ФЛАГОМ И ГИМНОМ.

В ЦЕЛЯХ НЕДОПУЩЕНИЯ ПОДОБНОГО РАЗВИТИЯ СОБЫТИЙ ЕВРОПЕЙЦЫ ПРОРАБАТЫВАЮТ ОТВЕТНЫЕ МЕРЫ. В ЧАСТНОСТИ, ПЛАНИРУЕТСЯ ОГРАНИЧИТЬ ФИНАНСИРОВАНИЕ МОК И ДРУГИХ СПОРТИВНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ, КОТОРЫЕ СОГЛАСЯТСЯ ДОПУСТИТЬ РОССИЯН ДО СОРЕВНОВАНИЙ. БРЮССЕЛЬ НАМЕРЕН ТАКЖЕ АКТИВИЗИРОВАТЬ ПРОПАГАНДУ СРЕДИ КОНСТРУКТИВНО НАСТРОЕННЫХ ПО ОТНОШЕНИЮ К МОСКВЕ СТРАН И СПОРТИВНЫХ ФЕДЕРАЦИЙ С ЦЕЛЬЮ ПОВУДИТЬ ИХ САВОТИРОВАТЬ "АПОЛИТИЧНОЕ" РЕШЕНИЕ МОК.

КРОМЕ ТОГО, ИЗУЧАЕТСЯ ВОЗМОЖНОСТЬ ВВЕДЕНИЯ ВИЗОВЫХ ЗАПРЕТОВ И НОВЫХ АДРЕСНЫХ ОГРАНИЧЕНИЙ В ОТНОШЕНИИ ШИРОКОГО КРУГА РОССИЙСКИХ АТЛЕТОВ И ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ СПОРТИВНЫХ СТРУКТУР РФ. ДЕЙСТВЕННЫМ СПОСОБОМ "ВЫВЕСТИ РУССКИХ ИЗ ИГРЫ" В ЕС СЧИТАЮТ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЮ ПРОВОКАЦИЙ ПРОТИВ ЧЛЕНОВ РОССИЙСКИХ КОМАНД НАКАНУНЕ СОРЕВНОВАНИЙ. ЭТОТ ВАРИАНТ БЫЛ АПРОБИРОВАН В НАЧАЛЕ ИЮЛЯ С.Г. В МОНХЕНЕ, КОГДА ПОЛИЦИЯ ПО ПОДОЗРЕНИЮ В "ШПИОНАЖЕ" ЗАДЕРЖАЛА ЧЛЕНОВ ЮНИОРСКОЙ СВОРНОЙ РФ ПО СИНХРОННОМУ ПЛАВАНИЮ.

НР 72 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР БЕН 08.08.26 09.32

СВР РОССИИ

СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАСРЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО  
ЭКЗ. № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 08/394



28.08.2026 18:58

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ УСИЛИЯХ ПО ДЕСТАБИЛИЗАЦИИ СИТУАЦИИ В РОССИИ

ПО ПОЛУЧЕННОЙ ИНФОРМАЦИИ, ВЕДУЩИЕ СТРАНЫ ЕВРОПЫ В ПРЕДДВЕРИИ ВЫБОРОВ В РОССИИ В СЕНТЯБРЕ С.Г. РЕАЛИЗУЮТ МАСШТАБНУЮ КАМПАНИЮ ПО СОЗДАНИЮ ПОМЕХ ЭЛЕКТОРАЛЬНОМУ ПРОЦЕССУ И ДИСКРЕДИТАЦИИ ЕГО РЕЗУЛЬТАТОВ.

НА ПОЛЯХ ПРОШЕДШЕГО В ПАРИЖЕ 13 ИЮЛЯ С.Г. САММИТА "КОАЛИЦИИ ЖЕЛАЮЩИХ" КИЕВСКИЙ РЕЖИМ ОРИЕНТИРОВАЛИ НА ИНТЕНСИФИКАЦИЮ ДИВЕРСИОННО-ТЕРРОРИСТИЧЕСКИХ АТАК И УДАРОВ ПО ГРАЖДАНСКИМ ОБЪЕКТАМ КАК НА ОСВОБОЖДЕННЫХ ТЕРРИТОРИЯХ, ТАК И В ГЛУБИНЕ РОССИИ. ПРЕДПОЛАГАЕТСЯ, ЧТО ЭТО ДОЛЖНО СПРОВОЦИРОВАТЬ ПАНИКУ СРЕДИ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ И ДЕМОРАЛИЗОВАТЬ РОССИЙСКИЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЕ И ПРАВООХРАНИТЕЛЬНЫЕ ОРГАНЫ. В ХОДЕ НЕДАВНИХ ВИЗИТОВ НА УКРАИНУ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛИ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СПЕЦСЛУЖБ ОБСУЖДАЛИ СОВМЕСТНЫЕ ПЛАНЫ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ КИБЕРАТАК НА ИНФРАСТРУКТУРУ ВЫБОРОВ.

КРОМЕ ТОГО, ДЛЯ РАСПРОСТРАНЕНИЯ ДЕЗИНФОРМАЦИИ О "НЕЛИГИТИМНОСТИ И НЕЗАКОННОСТИ" ГОЛОСОВАНИЯ ЗАДЕЙСТВУЮТСЯ БАЗИРУЮЩИЕСЯ ЗА РУБЕЖОМ АКТИВИСТЫ РОССИЙСКОЙ НЕСИСТЕМНОЙ ОППОЗИЦИИ. ИСТОЧНИКИ СООБЩАЮТ, ЧТО В ИЮНЕ С.Г. "ПЛАТФОРМА ПАСЕ ДЛЯ ДИАЛОГА С РОССИЙСКИМИ ДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКИМИ СИЛАМИ" ПОЛУЧИЛА ОТ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ КУРАТОРОВ СРЕДСТВА ДЛЯ РАСПРОСТРАНЕНИЯ В СОЦСЕТЯХ ПРИЗЫВОВ К РОССИЯНАМ БОЙКОТИРОВАТЬ ВЫБОРЫ. СХОЖУЮ ПОВЕСТКУ ОТРАБАТЫВАЮТ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛИ ДЕЙСТВУЮЩЕГО НА ПЛОЩАДКЕ ЕВРОПАРЛАМЕНТА ФОРМАТА "БРЮССЕЛЬСКИЙ ДИАЛОГ". ПОМИМО ИНСПИРИРОВАНИЯ АКЦИЙ ГРАЖДАНСКОГО НЕПОВИНОВЕНИЯ ОППОЗИЦИОНЕРАМ СТАВЯТСЯ ЗАДАЧИ ФАБРИКОВАТЬ КОМПРОМАТ НА КАНДИДАТОВ ОТ УЧАСТВУЮЩИХ В ВЫБОРАХ ПАРТИЙ, ОРГАНИЗОВЫВАТЬ ПРОВОКАЦИИ НА ИЗБИРАТЕЛЬНЫХ УЧАСТКАХ В РОССИИ И ЗА РУБЕЖОМ.

ПО ЗАВЕРШЕНИИ ЭЛЕКТОРАЛЬНОГО ЦИКЛА ПАСЕ И ЕВРОПАРЛАМЕНТ ГОТОВЯТСЯ ВЫСТУПИТЬ С ЗАЯВЛЕНИЯМИ О НЕПРИЗНАНИИ РЕЗУЛЬТАТОВ ВЫБОРОВ В РОССИИ В СВЯЗИ С ЯКОБЫ "ГРУБЫМИ НАРУШЕНИЯМИ ВО ВРЕМЯ ИХ ПОДГОТОВКИ И ПРОВЕДЕНИЯ".

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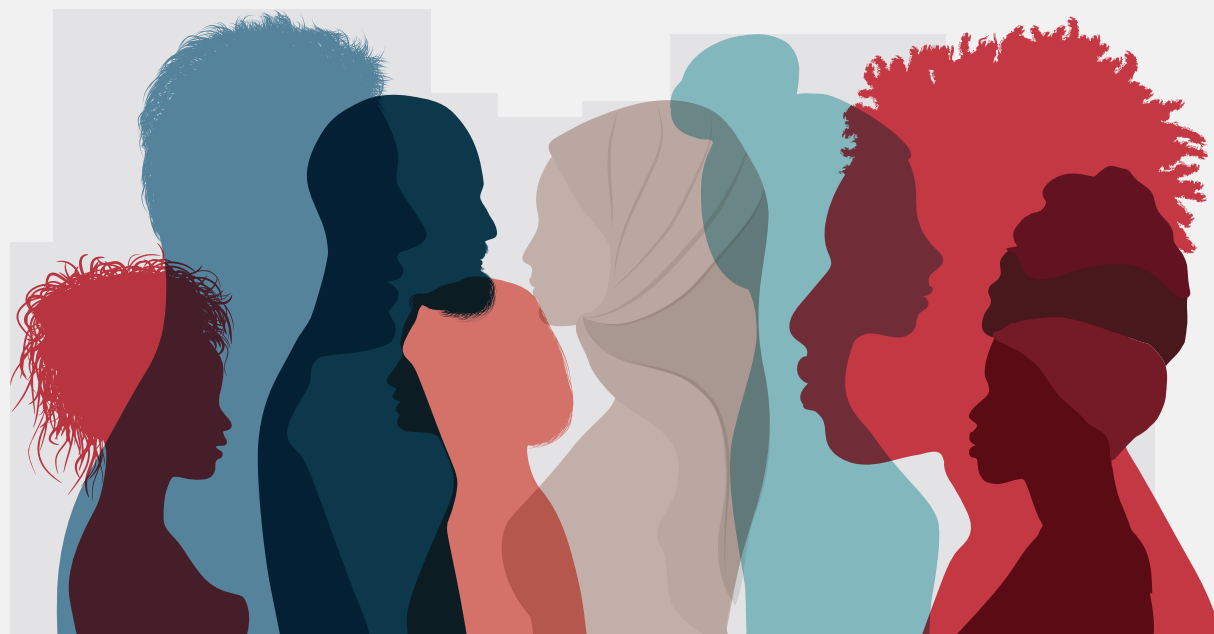
# Intercultural competence

## How to avoid stepping on a “cultural rake”

Text: Miroslava Morozova

When the word “intelligence officer” (or “spy”) is mentioned, one immediately imagines a professional who is fluent in several foreign languages and well versed in the customs and traditions of different countries, which makes them indistinguishable from the locals in their manners and behavior.

But is deep linguistic and regional knowledge enough to become a true Stierlitz? Rather, we're talking about a broader concept of intercultural competence — the ability to interact effectively with representatives of other cultures, understand their values and norms of behavior, avoid conflicts and misunderstandings, and quickly adapt to alien cultural contexts.



Intercultural competence includes the following key components:

- **cognitive** — actual knowledge about other cultures;
- **behavioral** — flexibility in communication, ability to adapt to unfamiliar realities;
- **emotional** — interest and readiness for intercultural interaction, empathy, tolerance to different norms and values.

Let's try to figure out how it looks like in practice by completing a couple of tasks.

**Exercise 1.** Imagine you're a foreigner learning Russian. Try to come up with as many interpretations as possible for what might cross your mind if you hear these common Russian idioms:

- *He вешай нос (Keep your chin up!)*
- *Себе на уме (To know on which side one's bread is buttered)*
- *He подмажешь – не поедешь (Wheels don't run without oil)*
- *Зимой снега не выпросишь (He will grudge you snow in the middle of winter)*
- *На воре и шапка горит (If the cap fits, wear it)*
- *Комар носа не подточит (There's not a weak spot anywhere)*

You can 'rack your brains' over this puzzle on your own, but it's much more fun to do it in pairs or groups, where everyone voices their own interpretation. This exercise helps you decenter your perspective on the situation and feel that your interlocutor may perceive the statement differently than you think. Furthermore, letting go of preconceived interpretation helps you see the picture from a new angle.

Language is the key to understanding a cultural code, as behind every word there may lie a subjective impression of reality, often unique to a specific nation. Even similar idioms sound completely different in every country. For comparison:

- *Яйца курицу не учат (lit. Eggs don't teach a hen)*

The English equivalent involves a grandmother who shouldn't be taught: *“Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs”*. In French, Jean making remarks to his parish priest: *“Gros-Jean en remontre à son curé”*. Puppies and an old dog appear in the Spanish version: *“Los cachorros quieren enseñar a un perro viejo”*. And in German - an egg that strives to be smarter than the chicken: *“Das Ei will klüger sein als die Henne”*.

- *У семи нянек дитя без глазу. (lit. Seven nannies leave the child without an eye)*

The English and German versions feature too many cooks: *“Too many cooks spoil the broth”* and *“Viele Köche verderben den Brei”*, respectively. In French, it's too many pilots steering the boat: *“La barque qui a plusieurs pilotes court droit au naufrage”*, and in Spanish it's too many shepherds: *“A muchos pastores oveja muerta”*. You must agree, there is a certain similarity. But most likely, speakers of these European languages, even if they speak Russian, will interpret the expression literally.



**Exercise 2.** Different cultures have different communication norms. In Japan, for example, it's not customary to say “no”. If a Japanese person is unwilling or unable to fulfill someone's request, they will respond evasively and try to avoid a direct refusal. This trait stems from the nation's inherent desire to avoid confrontation for the sake of maintaining harmony. Would you like to know what it's like? Find a partner: one of you will be the “European” and the other the “Japanese”. Let the “European” ask the “Japanese” for something very important. The latter's task is to refuse, but without saying it outright.

Thanks to these exercises, you can, as we say, “walk in someone else’s shoes,” and feel what it’s like to think differently, in a way that’s unfamiliar to you. The foundation of intercultural communication is the recognition of cultural diversity. In today’s world, full of problems and contradictions, the value of communication lies in the opportunity to build intercultural contacts based on dialogue and partnership. Can an ordinary person, with no long experience of living abroad, develop intercultural competence? Definitely, it is possible! But only with regular practice.



Above all, remember that we are dealing not with abstract cultural archetypes, but with particular live individuals. Every person is unique, shaped by their own life experience, among other things. You should take any recommendations regarding “national traits” with a grain of salt and never rely on stereotypes.

**After finishing, answer the following questions:**

- Have you ever interacted with people from other cultures?
- How did you feel about it?
- What helped you achieve success in your communication?
- How did you notice that you and your interlocutor had different ideas about how to conduct a dialogue?

## “Razvedchik” recommends:

- 1.** Regularly immerse yourself in another culture. For this purpose, visit themed exhibitions and festivals, eat at ethnic restaurants, preferably those «for locals» — there you'll meet real representatives of the culture you're interested in, rather than just a trendy, stylized flavor. Engage in virtual online immersion: study content from foreign bloggers, local media, and listen to podcasts. All this will help you understand how other societies live.
- 2.** Watch films and read books with “cultural context” paying attention to the author and the intended audience. Popular cinema, typically Western, is accessible to the general public, but is often full of stereotypes, prone to oversimplification, and tends to “exoticize” traditions by introducing elements that are not actually characteristic of specific ethnic groups. Authentic works may be more challenging to perceive, but they convey social norms and values more accurately. It's advisable to discuss your impressions with native speakers, or with experts in the field; it will significantly enrich your knowledge.
- 3.** Communicate more often with people of other nationalities, religions, and cultures. If possible, make friends among them, and gently inquire about their traditions and views on various issues. You don't necessarily need to travel abroad to get contacts, as Russia is one of the most multi-ethnic countries in the world.

Getting to know at least one culture different from your own, gaining a deep understanding of it, and being willing to see the world through different eyes will broaden your horizons and make you more receptive to intercultural differences.

4. When speaking with people from other cultures, ask clarifying questions more often: *“Do I understand correctly that...?”* or *“Could you explain why this is so significant to you?”* At the same time, try to avoid assumptions and stereotypes, otherwise you risk getting into an awkward situation.
5. If your communication breaks down, analyze what went wrong, what norms were violated, and how you could have acted differently. Use these unintentional errors as a foundation for further growth.
6. Study your own culture more deeply and be prepared to acknowledge that you have your own “cultural filters”. A fish is unaware of the water until it is taken out of it.
7. Keep a «culture observation diary» and write down how people from different cultures greet each other, how they express emotions, and what their specific verbal and non-verbal communication patterns are. Analyze how their norms of behavior differ from those you're accustomed to.

**Accumulate knowledge about the customs, traditions, etiquette, and mentality of other nations. Be prepared to adapt to their realities — it will help you avoid “cultural pitfalls”. For example, do not interpret a Latin American’s regular twenty-minute delay for meetings as a personal sign of disrespect, a Japanese’s lack of emotional engagement in a conversation as a total lack of interest, or an American’s permanent white-toothed smile as a sign of insincerity or hypocrisy.**



# Intellectual Special Forces

## On the 45th anniversary of the legendary "Vypel"

On August 19, 2026, active members and veterans of the Russian special forces celebrated the 45th anniversary of the creation of the Vypel Special Purpose Group — a unique unit designed to conduct operational combat operations abroad. "Razvedchik" couldn't ignore such a significant occasion, speaking with the Group's first commander, Hero of the Soviet Union Evald Grigorievich Kozlov, and the head of the Officers' Advanced Training Courses (KUOS), where Vypel soldiers were trained, Sergei Aleksandrovich Golov.

The starting point for the creation of Vypel is considered to be one of the most famous operations of the Soviet special forces — the assault on the Tajbeg Palace in Kabul on December 27, 1979. You took part in it. Tell us about it.

**Evald Kozlov:** We were wearing Afghan military uniforms. We were supposed to identify each other by our white armbands. In reality, in the smoke and darkness, we could barely distin-

guish each other by our Russian speech and familiar silhouettes. By coincidence, I found myself among the attackers without a bullet-proof vest or helmet, not even an assault rifle, armed only with a Stechkin pistol.

Only isolated moments of the battle, small episodes, emerge in my memory. For example, the sudden, deafening drumming of enemy bullets on the armor of our infantry fighting vehicle.

When we were about 30 meters from the palace steps, the order came, and we began to climb out, finding ourselves caught between two fires: assault rifles and machine guns were firing accurately from every window and opening, a veritable hail of fire, while two Shilka anti-aircraft guns were firing at the palace from behind. Many shells bounced off the thick walls and ricocheted, including back at us. We had agreed to give the cease fire signal — two white flares — but hadn't taken into account that no one would see them in the smoke.

From the outside, the palace resembled the mouth of an erupting volcano: exploding shells sent myriads of sparks, chunks of brick, concrete, and marble flying from the walls. Smoke and dust were everywhere, through which flashes of gunfire glittered. Inside, it was eerie, like the underworld: screams, explosions, bursts of automatic and machine gun fire, curses, and groans merged into a continuous roar. It seemed as if even the walls were firing.

At that moment, I felt as if we were climbing endless, wide staircases. Later, it turned out there was only one staircase, and not particularly large, almost like the entrances to ordinary apartment buildings. We walked in a tight group of seven or eight. We ran, fell, crawled, ran again, hid. Every step, every corridor, and corner was a battle. We fired, reloaded, fired again. The stench of gunpowder and a pile of spent cartridges filled the air.

The battle was swift and brutal. There wasn't a moment to be afraid or relax. Many of those who survived that day consider December 27, 1979, their second birthday.

**Sergey Golov:** The unique Operation "Storm 333" had been prepared for several months and involved more than just seizing Amin's palace. Our guys successfully operated at a dozen locations: they blew up a communications center, took control of the General Staff and Interior Ministry buildings, and the Pul-e-Charkhi prison in Kabul.

**The Vypel Group was called a special forces intelligence, a force of four elements, an intellectual spetsnaz (special forces). KGB Chairman Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, signing the documents establishing it, said, "Let there be no equal." How did you achieve this goal?**

**E.K.:** Most of the Vypel members were originally operatives. They were physically resilient, well-trained, and had considerable experience. And only officers. Not necessarily from intelligence or counterintelligence. The group included paratroopers, border guards, pilots, sailors. This is how a high level of combat training was achieved. Out of a hundred of candidates, no more than a dozen were selected. Many had two or three higher education degrees, and 90% spoke foreign languages. These were thoughtful people, capable of independently understanding any problem and making the right decision.



### Operation "Storm-333"

On December 27, 1979, at approximately 7:00 PM, two USSR KGB combat groups, "Zenit" and "Grom," each consisting of 30 officers, reinforced by fighters from the Muslim Battalion, supported by several armored personnel carriers, stormed the heavily fortified Tajbeg Palace in central Kabul. The palace was defended by Afghan Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin's personal guard and several regular army battalions, totaling approximately 2,000 troops. The operation lasted less than 45 minutes and resulted in the capture of the palace. Losses among the special forces fighters amounted to 8 killed. On the Afghan side, over 300 were killed, and the remainder surrendered. Many participants in the assault were awarded orders and medals, and five were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, including the commander of "Zenit," Grigory Ivanovich Boyarinov (posthumously).



Y.I.Drozdov (first row, centre) and E.G.Kozlov (rightmost) after the assault on the Tajbeg Palace, Kabul, December 28, 1979

Each had a specialization: parachutist, diver, sniper. At the same time, we always adhered to the principles of universality and interchangeability in combat. Group members not only constantly improved themselves but also helped their comrades master necessary skills. They adopted the experience of their predecessors, both in our country — primarily the fighters of the legendary OMSBON — and abroad. We had materials obtained by intelligence on the training methods of potential enemy special forces — Rangers, Green Berets, and Navy SEALs.

We regularly traveled to friendly countries to exchange experience: we trained local specialists and learned ourselves. In Laos, for example, we mastered survival techniques in the unfamiliar jungle environment; in Vietnam, stealth swimming and silent walking techniques; and in Nicaragua, the art of flash shooting (two quick shots in a row — Editor's note.). A mandatory part of the training was familiarization with local traditions, customs, language dialects, and the peculiarities of national psychology and behavior.

The Vympel men were truly called special forces scouts. For us, secrecy, inconspicuousness, and silence were paramount. We meticulously prepared every operation, rehearsing every last detail, figuring out how to carry it out effectively, covertly, and with a 100% escape route. So to say, solve the problem so no one knew who they were or where they'd disappeared to.

**S.G.:** The guys were able not to just run and shoot, but also independently develop operations. That's the essence of intelligent special forces. During the courses, we trained them in conditions close to combat — at real sites, in harsh climatic conditions. We practiced tactics, taught radio operations, the basics of mine-blasting, parachute-landing, medical, firearms, mountain, naval, physical, psychological, as well as language and regional studies training.

Incidentally, the first computers in security agencies, including those used for profiling in preparation for operations, also appeared at our KUOS. Even if we had to work today, in the modern digital landscape, where cameras are

on every corner and everyone you meet on the street has a cell phone, I'm sure we would have found effective methods.

**The hardest thing is losing fighters. How did you cope with losses?**

**E.K.:** Our work has always been associated with serious risk. To my deep regret, losses did occur, although we tried our best to avoid them. The Vympel group was like a close-knit family, and the loss of a comrade was deeply felt by everyone.

Anyone who has chosen the path of professional military service and taken the military oath must, without hesitation, accept the obligatory condition of that choice — the willingness to give their life for the Fatherland. The soldiers in our unit were acutely aware of this.

**S.G.:** Casualties were minimal, even simulated ones — during training missions. We did everything we could to achieve this during training: we taught them to endure heat, tolerating hunger, to operate at night, to sleep in the snow, and never to abandon their comrades. We monitored their psychological reactions in difficult situations: for example, during night exercises, in icy mountains, or in the desert, where it's 50 degrees in the shade and packs of wild dogs roam.

Every forced march was deliberately turned into hard labor: not only did the guys have to walk 45 kilometers at night with full gear — weapons, radios — they were also faced with various traps along the route, and to simulate moving with a wounded man, they were forced to carry a 70-kilogram wrestling dummy. I remember how, after reporting on the mission's completion, the cadets relieved stress by giving a hearty kick to the "wounded" soldier they had had to drag on skis across the virgin snow.

Particular attention was paid to psychological preparation. The KUOS developed special methods for identifying individual strengths and weaknesses and correcting them, ensuring rapid adaptation to any emergency. The soldiers learned to turn their weaknesses into strengths and overcome all fears, even hidden ones.

“The Vympel men were truly called special forces scouts. For us, secrecy, inconspicuousness, and silence were paramount. We meticulously prepared every operation, rehearsing every last detail.

This is possible, because it is the mind that controls a person's psycho-emotional state. Fear can become an obstacle to completing a given task and even lead to losses in the unit. It happened that during a training descent in the mountains, cadets who were afraid of heights would panic and tangle the ropes. Or they would grip the carabiner so tightly that they would hang suspended in the middle of a canyon at an altitude of 1,500 meters. We explained to them how to control themselves. In hot weather, we taught self-hypnosis skills: convincing the brain that the body was cool, making it easier to endure the heat.

Paratrooper training



### Special Forces Group "Vympel"

By decision of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, it was created on August 19, 1981, within the First Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR to conduct operational combat operations abroad. Structurally, it was part of the 8th Department of Directorate "S" and reported to the head of the directorate, Major General Yu.I. Drozdov. The unit's core personnel consisted of veterans of the KGB special forces groups "Zenit" and "Kaskad" who fought in Afghanistan. They, like the "Vympel" group later, were trained at the Officers' Advanced Training Courses (KUOS) in Balashikha, near Moscow. Initially, the group's size did not exceed 200 members, but by the early 1990s, it had reached 700. In 1994, by decree of the President of the Russian Federation, it was transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 1995 — to the FSB. At present, the legal successor of "Vympel" is considered Directorate "V" of the Special Purpose Centre of the FSB of Russia.



### Evald Grigorievich Kozlov

Was born on June 23, 1938, in Kuibyshev (now Samara) into a military family. In 1956, he was drafted into the navy. In 1960, he graduated from the F.E. Dzerzhinsky

Leningrad Higher Naval Engineering School and served in the Northern Fleet and the Caspian Naval Flotilla. In 1970, after graduating from the Military Academy of the Soviet Army and the Military Diplomatic Academy, he was accepted to the First Chief Directorate of the KGB of the USSR, where he taught at the Advanced Officer Training Courses (KUOS). From 1980 to 1981, he headed the KUOS. On August 19, 1981, he was appointed the first commander of Vypmel, a position he held until 1985. He is a Hero of the Soviet Union and was awarded the Order of Lenin.

Incidentally, sending our unique psychologist, Maina Petrovna Polyachenko, ahead of the boys proved to be an effective method for combating altitude sickness. The men were ashamed to be afraid when they saw an older woman cope calmly. And if a person can overcome a problem even once, it ceases to exist for them.

**In the 1990s, the decision was made to transfer the Vypmel group to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, after which 80% of the unit's personnel left, including you...**

**E. K.:** At one time, I compared Vypmel to a nuclear bomb. We are also, in a sense, a last resort, to be used only in extreme cases. There was no explosion in the 1990s. Whether that was fortunate or unfortunate, I can't say. The foreign policy situation was rapidly changing at that time, and the confrontation between the two poles gave way to a "détente." Our unique unit was effectively liquidated; during the perestroika years, its entire core, a proven and well-coordinated team of highly professional employees, left.

**S. G.:** Some continuity still remains: in 1998, the name "Vypmel" returned; today it is Directorate

The instructor always demonstrated by personal example how to overcome the challenge. All course instructors underwent the same rigorous training as the students. They participated in all tactical exercises and drills, combat and special operations. We all remember head of the KUOS, Grigory Ivanovich Boyarinov, who died heroically during the assault on Amin's palace.

Interviewed by  
Tatiana Ogneva  
and Pavel Smelov

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Dear readers! Dear friends!

45 years ago, fate introduced me to great people and true patriots. Together, we created a unique combat unit – Special Forces Group "V," capable of operating in any conditions and carrying out any task of the commanders. Unfortunately, with the collapse of the USSR, "Vypmel" became a thing of the past. But today, the Fatherland once again needs those who value concepts like duty, honor, and conscience above all else, and who are ready to stand up for its defense. This is the only way to preserve the power and greatness of Russia for our descendants, to save our hardworking and long-suffering people. For the officers of my generation, almost gone, the most important thing was to carry out the orders of the Motherland. At any cost, even at the cost of life. I'm sure you have been raised no worse.

I have the honor!

Hero of the Soviet Union,  
Captain 1st Rank Evald Kozlov



### Sergei Aleksandrovich Golov

Was born on July 6, 1941, into the family of an NKVD border troops commander. He joined the state security agencies in 1969. He has a medical and physical education

background. A Master of Sports in Sambo. From 1974 to 1980, he served in Group A of the KGB of the USSR, and in 1979, he became a squad commander in Alpha. In March 1979, he incapacitated, with a sniper shot, the terrorist who had seized the US Embassy in Moscow. He participated in the operation to storm Amin's palace in Afghanistan, and was wounded several times. From 1983 until his retirement in 1993, he headed the KUOS. He was awarded the Order of Lenin.

"V" of the Special Purpose Centre (SPC) of the FSB of Russia. Its main areas of work are the fight against terrorism, including international terrorism, and ensuring the security of strategic facilities. Vypmel personnel also worked in this area. For example, after the Chernobyl accident in 1986, Vypmel officers studied the operating principles of nuclear power plants, the process flow diagrams of nuclear fuel production plants, and conducted exercises at virtually all Soviet nuclear power plants, nuclear ice-breakers, and other critical facilities to identify vulnerabilities in security systems.

When the KUOS was disbanded, we transferred all the unique materials we had accumulated to our colleagues at the FSB SPC. I dare say we had the strongest special forces training school in the world. I see that the practices we used are still in demand, not only for counterterrorism tasks but also in the special military operation zone. For example, we had an underground training range where we trained in flooded and smoke-filled conditions. Many cadets who completed the KUOS are now participating in the special military operation. Our generation is going, but we hope to pass on the baton of professionalism and love for the Motherland. 🇷🇺



Diver training of «Vypmel» soldiers  
of the FSB SPC of Russia

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Over the years of its existence and continuous improvement, Vypmel has become one of the best special forces in the world, for which there were no impossible missions, regardless of where it had to operate: under water, on land or in the air. Was it difficult? You bet! But the word "impossible" was not in the vocabulary of these guys!

Yuri Ivanovich Drozdov,  
Head of Directorate "S" (illegal intelligence)  
PGU KGB USSR in 1979-1991, lieutenant general

# Under the codename “Mongol” The story of the intelligence officer Karl Gursky

Text: Lana Gennadievna

The immortal generalized character of the outstanding undercover intelligence officer from the cult film "Seventeen Moments of Spring" encompasses dozens of stories of career officers of the Russian foreign intelligence service and their volunteer assistants who worked in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s. Among them is Karl Valdemarovich Gursky. Today, we disclose for the first time the details of his amazing biography.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Germany was experiencing a severe economic crisis, and many Germans were moving from place to place in search of work. The Gursky family — a lathe operator, an orphanage worker, and their two sons — found themselves in this situation as well. Born in 1902 in Braunschweig, Karl attended eight-year elementary school in Hamburg. In 1917, he enrolled in the commercial school at the Klapper wholesale trading firm, and in 1920, he became its employee.

In 1924, in search of a better life, Karl decided to leave Germany and travel to Shanghai, where his elder brother, Kurt, had founded a business the year before. He couldn't afford a ticket, so to pay for his passage, Karl took a job as an assistant stoker on a steamship bound for Shanghai. Upon arrival, the sociable and intelligent young man quickly found employment with the German firm Telge & Schröter.

Karl shared a boarding house with his elder brother. Also living there was Erich Albert Tacke, an employee of the Shanghai station of the Foreign Department (INO) of the OGPU of the USSR, who immediately recognized the energetic German's operational potential. For the latter, the attention of the intellectual E. Tacke and his proposal to work with the Soviet intelligence in early 1926 became a gateway to a new, mysterious and enticing, world.

It should be recalled that in those years, the Chinese focus of work was one of the most important and active in the INO. In May 1924, the agreement "On General Principles for the Settlement of Issues between the USSR and the Republic of China" (China's first international treaty on equal terms) was signed in Beijing, and in September, a similar document was signed with the authorities of Northeast China in Mukden. Based on these agreements, the Soviet Union provided China with a loan of 10 million yuan and began arms shipments. *"To put China on a socialist path as quickly as possible"* — that's how the Kremlin formulated the task at the time, assigning a significant role to foreign intelligence.

K. Gursky moved to Harbin, where he joined the local INO station. There he met Sergei Mikhailovich Spigelglas, who became Karl's mentor. He was five years older and had considerable operational experience. A true friendship developed. The two even became related: Karl married Sergei's wife's sister, Emma Mikhailovna Ravkina. His fiancée also worked at the INO, Harbin was the site of her first assignment. The nineteen-year-old stenographer became not only Gursky's wife but also his trusted partner.

During those years, the Gurskys worked at the USSR Consulate General, which was housed in a beautiful neoclassical mansion. It resembled



General Consulate of the USSR in Harbin  
in the former mansion of G.I. Kroll. 1924



Harbin streets. 1930s

Soon, Karl and Emma were transferred to Chita, and then to Vladivostok, where they underwent accelerated special training for their upcoming work under challenging conditions. Both already spoke foreign languages: he (in addition to German) spoke English and Russian, and she (in addition to Russian) spoke German and English.

In 1927, the Gurskys were transferred to Mukden. They had many assignments. More than two thousand Russian émigrés lived in the city, the majority of them former White Army officers and soldiers. The Far Eastern branch of the Russian All-Military Union, the largest White émigré organization, was actively engaged in subversive activities. The Japanese were waiting to see if the Whites could provoke the Soviet authorities into an offensive, hoping to intervene later. In 1929, an armed conflict for control of the Chinese Eastern Railway erupted: border fighting ensued, local police broke into the

a seaside home, with its huge windows, terraces, and greenhouse. The façade was adorned with sculptures of eagles, symbols of power and nobility. The furnishings had remained virtually unchanged since the departure of the previous owner, Girsch Kroll, one of Harbin's leading entrepreneurs: the same carpets, tapestries, and tulle curtains. After the revolution, only a few pieces of furniture were removed, and portraits of Soviet leaders appeared on the stucco walls. The consul general hosted receptions in the luxurious drawing room on the first floor, and Karl and Emma got workspaces in what had been guest rooms during the Tsarist era.

The INO station in Harbin was then headed by Fyodor Yakovlevich Karin. E. Tacke was also transferred there. The consulate was frequently visited by Russian émigrés, who — thanks to their extensive connections among the local military and police — assisted Soviet intelligence in uncovering the plans of Japan and local militarists in Northeast China. Gursky

participated in covert taking pictures of secret Japanese correspondence circulating between Harbin and Tokyo. In 1925, Karin wrote to the Center: *"The Japanese military clique, undoubtedly reflecting the plans of its command, is becoming extremely brazen and dreams of war with Russia."*



Erich Albert Tacke

Was born in 1894 in Lauterberg, Germany, into the family of an artisan harness maker. He graduated from a technical school and worked in banking from 1911 to 1913. In 1914, he arrived in St. Petersburg as an employee of the Russo-Asian Bank. At the outbreak of World War I, he was a civilian prisoner of war. In 1918, he was evacuated to Germany. From 1919, he became a member of the German Communist Party and spent three years working illegally for the Comintern. From 1923 to 1924, he worked for the Intelligence Directorate of the Red Army Headquarters in Moscow. In 1924, he was admitted into service in the INO, and that same year, he went abroad, where he spent some ten years, including as deputy head of the INO's illegal station in Germany.

Soviet consulate general in Harbin and confiscated some documents, and many employees were detained. Only in December of that year, after successful operations by the Red Army, was the Khabarovsk Protocol signed, which was favorable to the USSR and settled the situation on the Chinese Eastern Railway. Karl and Emma were recalled to Moscow.

After further retraining, Gursky was sent to Hamburg under the code-name "Mongol." There, he was tasked with ensuring smooth operation of the communications channel with the United States: special messages from our American illegal station to the Center and back passed through the intelligence officer's hands. To receive and send secret mail, he had to travel regularly from Hamburg to Berlin.

Emma played little role in her husband's intelligence work for some time, as their daughter Ruth was born in September 1930. One of the operational reports kept in Karl Gursky's personal file noted: *"E.M. Ravkina is well-versed in intelligence techniques; before the birth of their*

*daughter and two years after, she actively assisted her husband in all his affairs."*

In 1932, Karl was transferred to Berlin, where he received six valuable sources, two of whom were connected to influential circles in the United States. In the German capital, he was welcomed by E. Tacke, whom he knew well through the work in Harbin. Gursky quickly integrated into operational work in his new position. In any case, already in 1933, the head of the Berlin station, Boris Davidovich Berman, wrote about him to the Center: "'Mongol' and '...' are our only people who can work for us even in more difficult circumstances." Vasily Mikhailovich Zarubin, who became head of the illegal station in 1934, also called Gursky *"a very valuable person"* in one of his letters.

In addition to managing the agent network, Karl devoted considerable effort to creating and maintaining front companies for himself and his colleagues, and repeatedly traveled from Germany to third countries to carry out important assignments. He also found time for creative initiatives

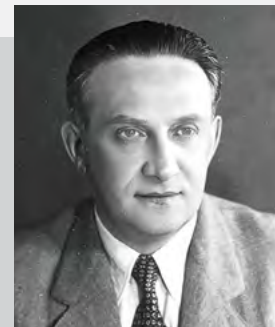


Emma and Ruth Gursky (a photo from the Danish passport). 1937

in the field of secret writing, experimenting with various chemical reagents and media. Two methods he invented were successfully tested in 1933.

It was during this period that Karl personally worked with the man considered one of the main prototypes for Isayev-Stierlitz — Willi Lehmann (codename "Breitenbach"). For 12 years, he was one of the most effective Soviet foreign intelligence agents in the Gestapo, informing Moscow about secret military plans and the latest technical developments of Nazi Germany. He even gave the exact date of the German attack on the USSR: on June 19, during an emergency meeting with his contact man, he excitedly announced that the corresponding order had been given and the invasion would begin on June 22, 1941, at 3:00 AM Berlin time.

The archives of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service contain a report on Lehmann's work, prepared in the late 1930s: *"During our collaboration, 'Breitenbach' provided us with*

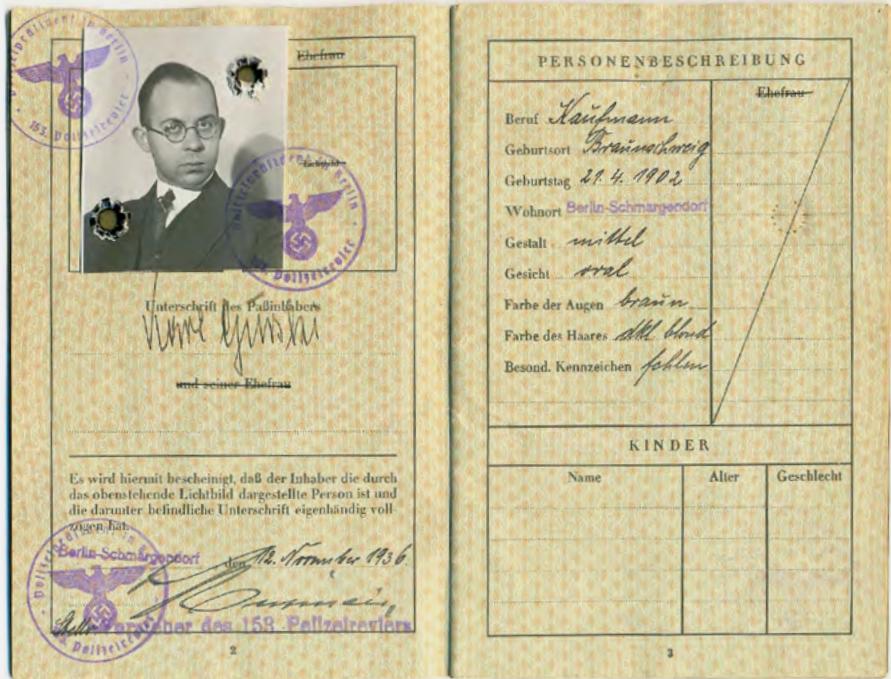


Sergei Mikhailovich Spigelglas

Was born on April 29, 1897, in Mosty, Grodno Governorate, into the family of an accountant. He graduated from the 1st Warsaw Technical High School and entered the law faculty of Moscow University. In 1917, he was drafted into the army in his third year. After the October Revolution, he served in the Military Control Service, then in the Special Department of the Cheka. From 1922, he joined the INO. He spoke French, German, and Polish. He spent several years abroad, including as an undercover agent. From October 1936, he was deputy head of foreign intelligence, and from February 17 to June 9, 1938, he was acting head of foreign intelligence. He also taught at the GUGB Special Purpose School.

an exceptionally large number of authentic documents and personal communications, illuminating the structure, personnel, and activities of the political police (subsequently the Gestapo), as well as the German military intelligence. He warned of impending arrests and provocations against both illegal and legal agents of the Berlin residency. He also made inquiries about the Gestapo investigations that interested us..."

Lehmann had developed a sympathy for the Russians back during his service in the German navy — he had witnessed the cruiser Varyag heroically resisting the Japanese in Port Arthur. Perhaps this is what prompted him to collaborate with the Soviet foreign intelligence. He acted cautiously. In 1929, he first suggested establishing contacts with the OGPU to his acquaintance, Ernst Kuhr, who had been dismissed from the police for disciplinary violations. The latter was recruited on a financial basis and given the operational designation A/70.



Tacke was assigned to maintain contact with Lehmann through Kuhr. But Kuhr was a spendthrift, overindulged in alcohol and women, and was often excessively talkative. Lehmann learned that the police were interested in his friend, and Kuhr was removed from the chain to avoid risking "Breitenbach." In 1932, Ernst was transferred to Karl Gursky for communication and his cover was changed, him becoming a co-owner of a café. Zarubin sent a message to the Center regarding this: *"Telegraph consent for the transfer of A/70 to 'Mongol.' A/70 is being separated from the group with the consent of both him and 'Breitenbach.' He has a cover and will work on identification data and individual developments."*

According to operational documents, on Zarubin's instructions, Gursky regularly prepared information for the Center based on documentary materials received from "Breitenbach," including information on the rearmament of the German army and signs

of its preparation for war. Specifically, a July 1935 report from "Mongol" contains detailed information on the work of the aircraft production workshop at the Hamburg shipyard "Blohm & Voss": the progress of the assembly of three-engine Ju-52 military transport aircraft, the creation of secret prototypes of a long-range seaplane, and a high-speed single-man fighter.

In November 1935, "Breitenbach" participated in a secret meeting on advanced developments in the German military-industrial complex. Those present were greatly impressed by the testing of liquid-fuel rockets conducted by a young German professor Wernher von Braun (the future creator of the V-1 and V-2). Lehmann described these missiles in detail in his report, which formed the basis for a special message prepared by Gursky and submitted to the Soviet leadership.

An excerpt from Zarubin's letter to the Center illustrates how closely Karl worked with "Breitenbach": *"Mongol has known about Breitenbach's existence for even longer. Of course, Mongol knows both Breitenbach's location and the nature of his materials. We have not raised and do not raise the question of trusting Mongol."*

In another letter addressed to the intelligence leadership, Zarubin writes: *"I consider it necessary to raise the question of a reward for Mongol on the anniversary of the holiday (November 7) or our anniversary (December 20). This will inspire him, and he deserves to be officially recognized..."*

The genuine German foreign passport of K.V. Gursky. 1936



V.M. Zarubin

Mongol's archival file contains an award sheet signed in December 1935: *"For 10 years, Comrade Gursky has been operating on a crucial and dangerous position in our foreign operations, setting an example of dedication and discipline. Based on the above, it has been deemed appropriate to recommend Comrade K.V. Gursky for a reward with an arm."*

But the reward never took place. Problems arose when Gursky accepted a seventh source, whose behavior attracted the attention of the Gestapo. Furthermore, in May 1937, the station chief Boris Moiseevich Gordon ("Rudolf") was recalled to Moscow. A month later, "Mongol" received instructions from the Center to urgently shut down the illegal agent network. On July 22, 1937, Gursky and his family returned to the USSR.

During the ensuing discussions, the leadership explained that his recall was due to "Rudolf"'s "betrayal." At the same time, the question of Karl Valdemarovich's Soviet citizenship



Willi Lehmann ("Breitenbach")

arose; although a career foreign intelligence officer, he had remained a German subject. On September 17, 1937, the application was approved by M.I. Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, and Gursky received a Soviet passport. At the end of that year, he began preparing to transfer to Great Britain as an illegal resident. But his departure was soon postponed indefinitely.

The couple, of course, felt the clouds gathering over them. Emma found herself without a job or salary, and she unsuccessfully appealed to the leadership of the INO for assistance. Karl was devastated by the cancellation of his trip. He saw that most of his colleagues and superiors had either been arrested or, like himself, were in a state of limbo. But the couple hoped for the best, sought renewals of various documents, including food stamps, and took care of their daily routine. Gursky gave his superior letters addressed to his mother in Hamburg, so that they could be sent via Berlin when possible. But these messages were never sent.

In November 1938, Gursky's relatives and closest family friends, Spiegelglas and his wife, were arrested. On December 25 of that year, the repressions, which had already begun to unfold, also caught up with the Gurskys. Based on a false denunciation, Karl Valdemarovich was accused of espionage. After nearly a year of interrogation, in November 1939, he was sentenced to be shot. The intelligence officer spent nearly two months on death row. On January 5, 1940, the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR reconsidered the sentence, commuting it to ten years' imprisonment.

There is very little information about the subsequent fate of "Mongol" and his family. In the archives of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service there is a certificate from the MGB Office for the Krasnoyarsk Krai dated 1952, which states: *"Gursky K.V. has served his sentence and is settled in Krasnoyarsk."* In 1956, the intelligence officer's case was reviewed, and he was completely rehabilitated. In 1965, by order of the Chairman of the KGB of the USSR Vladimir Efimovich Semichastny, Gursky was awarded a valuable gift. This means that the most difficult trials had not broken him, and after everything he had experienced, he continued to work for the good of our country. In 2026, by the decision of the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia Sergei Evgenievich Naryshkin, the name of K.V. Gursky was made public, which made it possible to talk about him in details for the first time. And I would like to end the story with the words of Karl Valdemarovich himself: *"I consider it my duty as an intelligence officer to selflessly serve the ideas of Soviet Russia and to fight together with my comrades against its enemies and traitors."*

# ¡no pasarán!



## Our men in Spain

How Soviet intelligence officers saved the Spanish democracy

Text: Alexandra Khakimova

In 1936, the USSR entered its first battle against fascism in Spain, becoming the only world power to provide assistance to the legitimate Republican government in its struggle against the nationalist forces of the rebel General Franco, who was supported by Nazi Germany and Italy. Soviet intelligence officers worked on the front lines of this confrontation.

The Spanish Civil War of 1936–1939 became the prologue to World War II. The political crisis on the Iberian Peninsula in the mid-1930s quickly escalated into a bloody conflict that took on an international dimension. Its outcome was largely determined by military aid from abroad. The USSR strongly opposed the intervention of fascist powers in Spain's internal affairs, demanding from the League of Nations to take urgent measures to curb the aggression, withdraw Italian and German troops, and stop the supply of weapons to the rebels. Moscow unsuccessfully tried to convince the West of the danger of Spain's "fascistization" and proposed the formation of an anti-fascist coalition.

Immediately after the Francoist coup on July 18, 1936, the legitimate Republican government of Spain appealed to democratic France for assistance. However, Paris, followed by London and other Western capitals, proclaimed a policy of non-intervention, ostensibly distancing themselves from the internal Spanish conflict, but in reality, abetting pro-fascist forces. Dolores Ibárruri, a member of the Spanish parliament and the legendary Pasionaria, author of the Republic's defenders' motto ¡No pasarán! (*"They (the fascists) shall not pass!"* — Editor's note), called for preventing the suppression of democracy, prophetically stating that the defeat of the Republicans would inevitably lead to a world war. *"If we allow the fascists to continue the crimes they are committing in*

*Spain, fascism will befall other nations as well."*

The Soviet Union initially joined the International Committee on Non-Intervention in Spanish Affairs, established in September 1936 under the leadership of the British Lord Plymouth. However, having become convinced of the declarative nature of this initiative, which had turned into a *"useless, torn piece of paper,"* the USSR responded to Madrid's requests for assistance as early as September 29. A letter from the Soviet leadership to the head of the Spanish Republicans in December 1936 stated: *"We considered and continue to consider it our duty, within the limits of our capabilities, to come to the aid of the Spanish government, which is leading the struggle [...] of the entire Spanish democracy against the military-fascist clique that acts as an agency of international fascist forces."*

The plan for Operation X, prepared by the Intelligence Directorate of the Red Army and the Foreign Department (foreign intelligence) of the Main Directorate of State Security of the NKVD, provided for the covert delivery of Soviet military and civilian specialists, weapons, and equipment to Spain. In October 1936, Soviet military experts began arriving in the country incognito, in civilian clothes, carrying passports issued in other names, so as not to give grounds to accuse Moscow of violating "non-intervention." Among them were future Marshals Rodion Yakovlevich Malinovsky and Kirill Afanasyevich Meretskov. In total, three thousand of our volunteers fought for the Republicans: pilots, sailors, artillerymen, tank crews, signalmen, translators, and engineers. Nearly 200 of them died, 59 became Heroes of the Soviet Union, including 18 posthumously.



Adult games of Spanish children.  
Suburb of Barcelona. 1936

A wave of anti-fascist rallies also swept across many Western countries. Campaigns to collect funds, food, and equipment were launched as part of a mass solidarity movement. With the start of Soviet aid, at the initiative of the Comintern, foreign volunteers also began arriving in Spain. International Brigades were formed, comprising some 50,000 fighters from 54 countries; 7,000 of them died, and more than 500 were taken prisoner.

However, having proclaimed a policy of non-intervention, the official authorities in the West did everything they could to hinder the volunteer enthusiasm, fearing the unifying and coordinating role assumed by the Comintern. For example, the US government deliberately tightened legislation, making any trips to Spain illegal for Americans. Starting from March 1937, a stamp was placed in all American passports: "Not valid for entry into Spain." For the first time in the history of the United States, federal authorities restricted the geography of travel for their own citizens!

Following this example, a month later Canada adopted a similar law prohibiting residents of the country from participating in military operations outside its borders.

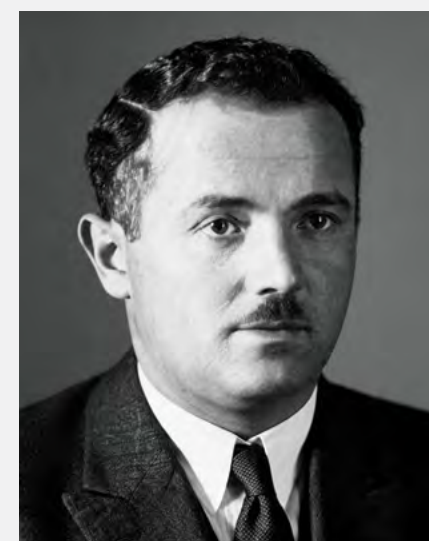
Under these circumstances, the committees supporting Spanish democracy in Western countries were forced to curtail their open recruitment of volunteers. Although there was no shortage of applicants, obtaining documents, finding funds for transportation to Spain, and developing routes became a serious challenge. Enthusiasts often endured long and arduous journeys, traveling without money on freight trains, in crates under railway carriages, or in the holds of steamships. In various countries along the way, they were frequently pursued by border guards, police, gendarmerie, and counterintelligence services.

Most volunteers first arrived in Paris, where the Coordination Center for the formation of the International Brigades was located. Even those who managed to reach the city via

clandestine routes had to exercise the utmost caution and secrecy. For example, a group of American volunteers in the French capital, including the future Hero of Russia and illegal intelligence officer Morris Cohen, was secretly housed by trusted comrades in workers' homes in one of the city's poorest districts. They slept huddled together on the floor or four to a bed, and their meals were meager. Soon, these modest, inconspicuous, and neatly dressed young men, each carrying identical cheap suitcases, were on their way to a town near the Pyrenees to be guided across rocky mountain passes and remote gorges into Spain.

Thus, while the "democratic West" effectively abandoned Spain to the mercy of obvious predators — fascist Italy and Germany, the USSR managed to organize extensive and multifaceted assistance for its Spanish comrades. The coordination of Operation X, which was conducted under the highest level of secrecy (all tasks were assigned orally or via encrypted telegrams that were subsequently destroyed), was entrusted to the foreign branches of military and foreign intelligence.

The main burden predictably fell upon our station in Madrid, which had been led since 1936 by Senior Major of State Security Alexander Mikhailovich Orlov. With the outbreak of the war, he was appointed chief advisor on internal security and counterintelligence to the Republican government. Naum Isaakovich Eitingon became his deputy. In total, about 40 Soviet Chekist intelligence officers worked in Spain during those years, including such experienced figures as Grigori Sergeyevich Syroyezhkin, Naum Markovich Belkin, Stanislav Alekseevich Vaupshasov, and Lev Petrovich Vasilevsky. Sergey Mikhailovich Spigelglas, the First



Chief of the INO station in Madrid A.M. Orlov

Deputy Chief of Foreign Intelligence, also visited the country on several occasions.

Intelligence officers handled an extremely wide range of tasks. First and foremost, they had to organize the covert supply of weapons from abroad. For instance, the group led by Yakov Isaakovich Serebryansky, who was operating illegally in France at the time, used a front company to purchase 12 Dewoitine fighter aircraft. The French were convinced that the planes had been bought by the neutral country of Hejaz (in reality, this kingdom no longer existed at the time; since 1932, Hejaz had been a province of Saudi Arabia — Ed.). The fighters were delivered to an airfield near the Spanish border, from where our pilots, disguised in French uniforms, boldly flew them to Barcelona under the pretext of conducting flight tests.

Safe maritime routes for delivering humanitarian and military aid were also developed, as the blockade of the Spanish coast by Germany and Italy, coupled with the hostile policy of the "neutral French government," which repeatedly closed the border,



Deputy chief of station N.I. Eitingon

seriously complicated logistics. For example, between October 1936 and July 1937 alone, fascist pirates intercepted 96 Soviet vessels, sinking three of them. Consequently, unprecedented measures were taken to camouflage the ships: changing flags, names, and even silhouettes, turning off lights, and disguising crews as tourists.

The most famous maritime transport operation within the framework of Operation X was the transfer to the USSR of the bulk of the Spanish gold reserves (about 73%; the Spaniards transferred the remaining 27% to the Bank of France). During the first weeks of the war, the gold was kept in bank safes in Madrid, which was under siege by the rebels. Later, the gold was hidden in a huge cave carved into the rock on the territory of the naval base in Cartagena, in southern Spain.

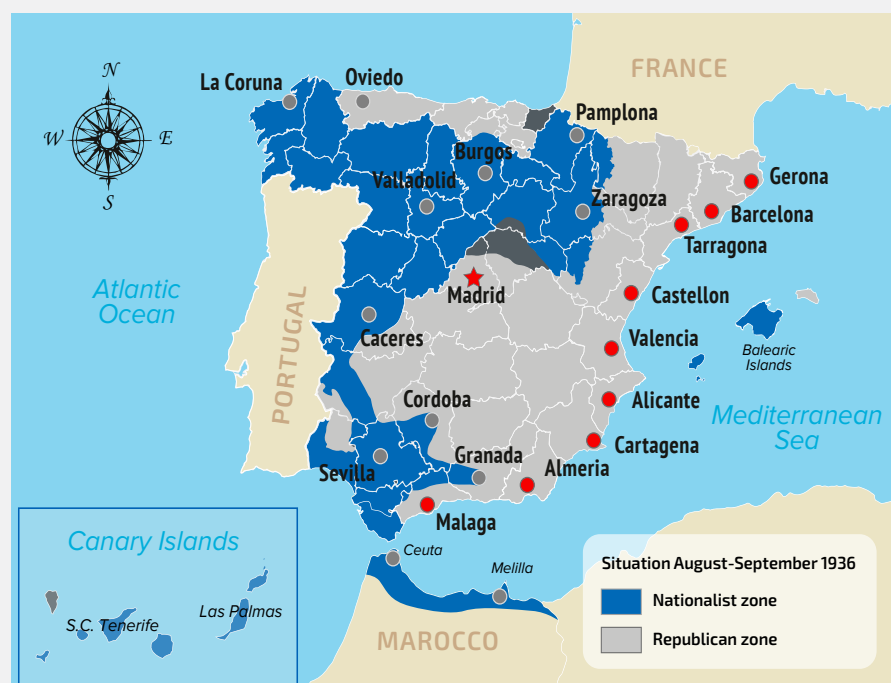
A.M. Orlov met repeatedly with both Prime Minister Francisco Largo Caballero and Minister of Finance Juan Negrín, persuading them of the

feasibility of exporting the gold and depositing it in the State Bank of the USSR, including as a prepayment for future arms shipments. Eventually, these arguments were heeded, and on October 15, the Republican government appealed to Moscow with a request to take 500,000 tons of the precious metal into safekeeping (at current prices, it is 20 billion dollars).

On October 20, 1936, Orlov received a coded telegram from Moscow with instructions to provide for the delivery of the valuable cargo to the USSR. Later, our chief of station who, for the sake of secrecy, was referred to as "Mr. Blackstone from the U.S. National Bank," allegedly authorized by President Roosevelt himself to transport the cargo to Washington — described his first arrival at the base in Cartagena: *"In the dim electric light, I saw that the cave was choked up with thousands of neat wooden crates of the same size and thousands of sacks stacked on top of each other. It was the treasure of Spain, accumulated over centuries. The whole scene inspired a superstitious fear: the strange atmosphere of the cave, the dim lighting, and the flickering shadows..."*



Inventory of the crates with gold. 1936



The gold was packed into wooden shell crates. Over the course of three nights, under heavy bombardment, it was secretly transported — in trucks with their headlights off, driven by our tank crews dressed in Spanish uniforms — to the ports, where it was loaded onto four Soviet ships: the Kuban (2,000 crates), the Neva (2,697), the KIM (2,100), and the Volgoles (983). In early November 1936, all the crates arrived safely in Odessa. Shipments of weapons and other military materials purchased for the Republican Army in the USSR and other countries were paid for with this portion of the gold reserve. However, it lasted only two years. In the autumn of 1938, the Soviet government, which continued to reliably supply the Republican authorities with requested weapons and military equipment, granted Madrid an emergency loan of 85 million dollars (about two billion in today's currency) at their request.

No less valuable “cargo” sent to the Soviet Union with the direct assistance of Chekist intelligence officers were the children of Spaniards who fought on the side of the Republic. In the spring of 1937, the first steamship



Dolores Ibárruri

arrived from Valencia carrying the future Soviet Spaniards, or Niños de Rusia, as they were called in Spain. In total, 2,895 Spanish children were saved from the horrors of war, famine, and the imminent reprisals by the Nationalists.

Some of these Soviet Spaniards and their descendants became part of our history. For instance, the son of La Pasionaria, Guards Senior Lieutenant Rubén Ibárruri, took command of a battalion near Stalingrad in August 1942 and died a hero's death, echoing his mother's words: *“No pasarán — the fascists shall not pass!”* Upon learning of her son's death, Dolores Ibárruri addressed his fellow soldiers: *“When you defeat fascism and the Red Banner flies over Berlin, I will know that there is a drop of my Rubén's blood on that banner.”* In the peaceful 1970s, the son of another Soviet Spaniard, Carmen Orive-Abad, the legendary hockey player Valery Borisovich Kharlamov, defended the honor of our country on the ice rinks of the world.

Another crucial aspect of the Soviet Chekist intelligence officers' work was assisting the Republicans in forming intelligence and counter-intelligence structures, which had to be created virtually from scratch. From Orlov's report to the Center in October 1936: *“General assessment: there is no unified security service, since the government considers such matters not entirely moral. Each party has created its own security service. The institution that the government does have is full of former police officers with pro-fascist leanings. They accept our help graciously, but they sabotage the work vital for the country's citizens.”*

NKVD officers took part in the reorganization of the counterintelligence service, the Military Information Service (SIM) (Spanish: Servicio de Información Militar — Editor's note.), and by the end of 1937, they helped form the Peripheral Intelligence Service (SIEP), the Army Counterintelligence (SE), and the Special Service of Foreign Intelligence (SIEE). Under the leadership of Orlov and Eitingon, all these agencies successfully waged a secret war against German, Italian, French, and British intelligence services. In just one year, pro-German and pro-Italian underground organizations were uncovered, and Gestapo agents and British spies were exposed. Furthermore, the station in Spain was actively engaged in operational work, including recruitment and infiltration into enemy ranks. The leaders of the Francoists, as well as the means and methods of warfare of Franco's army and the fascist regimes allied with it, were studied closely.

Significant progress was also achieved in conducting guerrilla operations. Their preparation began modestly, with the establishment of two guerrilla schools for 200 saboteurs. Soon, similar institutions appeared in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, and Archena, with training camps springing up across the country. The units grew not only in number but also in the complexity of their operations, penetrating up to 300 km behind enemy lines. Both young Spaniards and members of the International Brigades were trained by future legends of the Great Patriotic War, such as the aforementioned Stanislav Alekseevich Vaupshasov, Kirill Prokofyevich Orlovsky, Nikolay Arkhipovich Prokopyuk, and Alexander Markovich Rabtsevich. All of them were later awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for their successful raids behind the

fascist lines, though back then, in Spain, they could not have imagined that their experience would be in high demand so soon.

It should be noted that the Spanish International Brigades became a true forge for illegal intelligence personnel: among their diverse and multinational, yet battle-hardened ranks, there were many truly reliable individuals. In particular, it was in Spain that Africa de las Heras, Ramón Mercader, Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich, and many other outstanding intelligence officers began their cooperation with the USSR. Even those who perished were “put to work”: their personal documents were utilized for the cause.

As the future Cold War hero and illegal intelligence officer Morris Cohen recalled, in 1938 he was brought as part of a group to a villa, where he was interviewed by *“a solidly built, dark-haired, round-faced man with a small mustache, refined manners, and a piercing, attentive gaze, who spoke impeccable British English.”* This was how the NKVD station chief Orlov (as it was him) recruited the American for voluntary cooperation,



The future Soviet deep-cover agent, Hero of Russia Morris Cohen. Spain. 1937

to which Cohen would dedicate his entire life. A staunch anti-fascist, Cohen underwent special training at the Barcelona “School D,” where he acquired the necessary skills. Soon after, he was already participating in operations on Spanish territory, and then he returned to the United States *(for more information about the “souvenir” Morris Cohen brought back from Spain, see the “History of One Object” section).*

Many of our invaluable helpers were graduates of the intelligence school called “Construction,” that selected the most promising anti fascist fighters. The best graduates, having mastered the methods of conspiracy, communication, and intelligence work, were deployed through France to Western Europe and, after receiving their assignments, dispersed around the world. Among them was the future radio operator of the Berlin branch of the Red Orchestra, Albert Hössler.

The famous Kim Philby went to Spain in 1937 to cover the civil war as a special correspondent for the British newspaper The Times. Having built a reputation as a Germanophile — on the Chekists' orders — he easily

gained access to the upper circles of the Francoists, where he successfully gathered the necessary information. On the eve of 1938, while travelling from Zaragoza to Teruel with a group of journalists, he got under fire. He was seriously wounded, and later General Franco himself awarded him an order. His vivid reports and demonstrated composure earned Philby a reputation that, upon his return to Britain, allowed him to switch from journalism to intelligence work and launch a successful career in MI6.

The USSR provided assistance to Republican Spain until early 1939. After the completion of Operation X, the work of the station was wound down. The last successfully completed mission of the Chekist intelligence officers was the evacuation of the Communist Party leaders to France, and of the Soviet specialists and volunteers — to their homeland. The confrontation in Spain was an important, but only the first milestone on the road to the ultimate victory over fascism in 1945. 🚩

Fighters of an international brigade. 1936

# The mysterious bullet

## A Spanish “souvenir” of intelligence officer Morris Cohen

Text: Pavel Smelov

**The contribution of Russians of American origin, Morris and Leontine Cohen, to the security of our country is invaluable; one needs only to recall their role in the atomic project. Yet Morris's work for the Soviet intelligence began during his participation in the Spanish Civil War, where the future Hero of Russia was severely wounded, literally riddled with bullets. One of them was kept in the Cohens' home as a family heirloom.**



In Moscow, at 2/6 Bolshaya Bronnaya Street, in the memorial apartment of the illegal intelligence officers and Heroes of Russia Morris and Leontine Cohen, among the many items preserved in their memory, there is a small, worn plastic box. Inside, there is a bullet and an aluminum badge commemorating the 30th anniversary of the International Brigades that fought in the Spanish Civil War.

The badge, made in the GDR in the late 1960s, was evidently a gift to Cohen from one of the veterans. The bullet is more of a mystery. It appears to be from a standard old 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridge for the Gewehr 98 rifle the Spanish army was armed with. Judging by the

marks, it passed through a rifle barrel. However, the rifling marks are faint, it was clearly a gunshot from a worn-out weapon. Morris's friends noticed that he often turned the bullet over in his hands, carrying it with him as a talisman. Perhaps this was the very bullet which the Francoists wounded Cohen with, and which was later extracted by surgeons, or perhaps it was one of those that became lodged in his belongings and gear. In any case, it is a silent witness to the history of the American Morris Cohen — an idealist, a communist, and an anti-fascist — and his participation in a war on another continent.

As the intelligence officer recalled, following Franco's coup and the

outbreak of hostilities, *“in America, as elsewhere, there was a polarization of forces. On one side were the forces of peace, progress, and democracy; on the other, the adherents of reaction, oppression, and tyranny. Everyone had to make a choice: whose side they were on. For me, there could be no choice other than to voluntarily stand in defense of the Republic; it was in line with my convictions. At a rally in Madison Square Garden, without a moment's hesitation, I was among the first to sign up for the Abraham Lincoln International Brigade.”*

On July 21, 1937, Cohen, with a group of communist comrades, left the U. S. aboard the RMS Berengaria under

the pretext of “medical treatment”. Looking at the ship's smokestacks, painted in black and red, one of the Americans made a grim joke, comparing the vessel to a hearse. Morris would often recall that episode later. The joker was not far from the truth: many of the volunteers would remain in the Spanish soil forever.

Traveling through France and the mountain passes of the Pyrenees, the Americans reached the recruitment center in the ancient fortress of Figueres, where, in exchange for their surrendered documents, they were issued identification papers under assumed names. Morris became Israel Altman, a Jew from New York. Such a person actually existed and was well known to Morris. Unbeknownst to himself, Cohen was then, for the first time, trying on the role of an illegal intelligence officer using someone else's identity.

Morris was enlisted as a private in the “Canadian” MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion of the 15th International Brigade. In addition to Canadians and Americans, the battalion included volunteers of German, Finnish, Russian, and even Ukrainian descent. On October 13, 1937, a month after Cohen's arrival, the “Mac-Paps” took part in the offensive at Fuentes de Ebro. The battle went down in history as the first time of tank borne infantry — infantry riding on the armor of tanks — being used in combat. The Republican 35th Division, which included the 11th and 15th International Brigades, was supported by 43 of the latest Soviet BT-5 tanks. For Morris Cohen, the offensive at Fuentes de Ebro was both his baptism by fire and his final battle of that war.

While other units were pinned down in the midground, the first company of the “Mac-Paps” surged forward and stormed the enemy trenches, where a fierce hand-to-hand struggle

immediately broke out. The “Moors” (as the Moroccans were called in Spain) defending the positions retreated in a panic. Soon, the entire high point dominating the town was under Republican control.

However, enemy fire intensified, and there were many wounded and killed among the International Brigade fighters. The tanks ran out of ammunition and began to withdraw to the rear. At some moment, the internationalists launched a bayonet counterattack against the Moors, who were attempting to retake the positions. It was then that Morris was severely wounded — a burst of machine-gun fire lashed through his legs. He fell, but he was quickly picked up, hastily bandaged, and hoisted onto the armor of one of the tanks. The BT-5 was already piled high with bodies, it was evacuating the wounded and the dead from the front line.

As the vehicle backed away, firing its machine gun, enemy bullets continued to shriek, pinging off the steel hull and tearing into the bodies of the soldiers clinging to its sides, including Morris, who was already losing consciousness. The wounds he got that day would haunt him for the rest of his life, both through his scars and the persistent dull pain.

It was the intelligence officer's fate to survive yet another great war. During the World War II, as a member of the U.S. Army, he would march with the Allied forces through France, Belgium, and Germany. But he would never again face an inferno like the one he had endured in 1937 at the walls of Fuentes de Ebro.

Morris barely remembered being treated at the dressing-station or the jolting ride in an overcrowded truck along rocky Spanish roads, surrounded by dying comrades. He

regained consciousness in a hospital in the city of Murcia. There, in a ward saturated with suffering, he fought for his life for four long months.

One of the wounded soldiers later recalled Cohen: *“Wrapped in bandages like an ancient Egyptian mummy, he never lost his optimism; despite the pain, he tried to cheer others up with a witty joke or an interesting story.”* Men would gather around his bed to hear him talk about Ancient Rome and the Middle Ages — before the war, the 27-year-old Morris had been a history teacher. He was highly respected by both patients and medical staff; they came to him for advice, to unburden their hearts, or simply to talk.

In February 1938, after recovering from his injuries, Cohen was reassigned to a base of the International Brigades in the town of Tarazona. The courageous American anti-fascist caught the attention of Soviet intelligence. Following a conversation with Alexander Mikhailovich Orlov, the NKVD station chief in Spain, Morris Cohen agreed to selflessly assist the USSR in its fight against Nazism.

He returned home via France, accompanied by fifty other Americans who had also served in the International Brigades. On December 20, 1938, the transatlantic liner arrived in New York, where the war veterans were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of their fellow countrymen.

The following day, Morris Cohen called Leontine Petke, whom he had met in May 1937 in New York at that very rally in support of the Spanish Republicans where he had first signed up as a volunteer. They would soon marry and become a highly effective operative team of Soviet illegal intelligence agents. But that is an entirely different story... 

# Dragon's teeth

## How denazification was conducted in post-war Germany

Text: Maxim Aleksandrovich Vaskov, Professor at the Institute of Sociology and Regional Studies Southern Federal University, Doctor of Sociological Sciences, Candidate of Historical Sciences

Today, the question of Germany's denazification after the Great Patriotic War is once again at the center of political debate. Among Europeans, there is a widespread belief that Nazism was defeated and eradicated as a mass phenomenon in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), becoming the preserve of marginal and persecuted groups of political extremists. Recently declassified documents from the archives of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) show that the West's actual policy toward Germany was quite different, and the seeds of Nazism, once abundantly sown in German soil, still produce dangerous shoots like dragon's teeth from the ancient myth of the Golden Fleece.

The legal basis for denazification was laid by the Allied Control Council in Germany. Law No. 1 of September 20, 1945, repealed all Nazi legislation. Law No. 2 of October 10 banned the NSDAP and liquidated other similar organizations. Law No. 10 of December 20 of the same year introduced punishment for persons *"guilty of war crimes, crimes against peace and humanity."* Furthermore, Directive No. 24 of January 12, 1946, provided for the removal of Nazis and other persons hostile to Allied goals from institutions and positions of responsibility, as well as Directive No. 38 of October 12, 1946, *"On the arrest of war criminals, National Socialists, militarists and the internment, control and surveillance of possibly dangerous Nazis."* The guidelines outlined universal principles for denazification in all four occupation zones: American, British, Soviet, and French. But the results varied.

Even before the surrender of the Third Reich, American troops conducted tours of the Buchenwald concentration camp to show Hitler's atrocities to the German population. However, geopolitical realities almost immediately led Western allies to the idea of using the Nazis to confront the USSR during the Cold War, which, as was then believed, could escalate into World War III at any moment. This ambivalence had a profoundly negative impact on the

course and results of denazification in West Germany.

The process was to proceed in three directions: condemnation and eradication of Nazi ideology, repentance of the German people; destruction of any institutional structures relying on which Nazism could revive; removal of former Nazis from power, depriving them of their ability to influence society, criminal prosecution depending on their official position and the degree of their involvement in crimes.

The number of those released compared to the total number of detained Nazis serves as a clear illustration of the difference in approaches to denazification between the USSR and Western countries. Here are the figures (data for 1947):

- US occupation zone — 44,244 released out of 95,250 (46%);
- British occupation zone — 34,000 out of 64,500 (53%);
- Soviet occupation zone — 8,214 out of 67,179 (12%);
- French occupation zone — 8,040 out of 18,963 (42%).

As we can see, denazification was carried out consistently and systematically only in the Soviet occupation zone. The goal was to build a new socialist society, and to this end, traditional political and social institutions were completely dismantled. To successfully establish a socialist state, it was necessary to exclude former Nazis as much as possible from all significant spheres of life and implement radical changes, following the Soviet model, in private property, the church, and socio-political relations.

East Germany had the lowest rates of former NSDAP members being released and allowed to return to work, although such appointments could not be completely outlined. Moreover, in the Soviet zone, denazification, as a system of targeted measures, proceeded quickly. By order of Marshal V.D. Sokolovsky, Commander-in-Chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and Head of the Soviet Military Administration, dated February 26, 1948, denazification measures were declared completed.

Geopolitical realities almost immediately led Western allies to the idea of using the Nazis to confront the USSR during the Cold War.

The Americans completed denazification on March 31, 1948, roughly around the same time. But even then, unlike in the future GDR, the foundation of their attitude toward former Nazis was principles such as continuity of leadership and a pragmatic approach. NSDAP functionaries and active members were massively appointed to positions in the FRG in accordance with their qualifications and professional competencies in the Third Reich, including in defense, intelligence services, the courts, the police, the prosecutor's office, education and culture, and the economy.

One of the first agencies to recruit significant numbers of former Nazis was the FRG's security, intelligence, and counterintelligence service. According to recently declassified Russian SVR materials (*see Document 1 in the Declassified Archives section*), the head of the German intelligence service was approved in Washington by none other than Allen Dulles, then head of the US CIA and an active participant in separate negotiations with Berlin during the war. He first appointed General Heinz Guderian to the position, and a little later, Reinhard Gehlen.

The tasks that the Americans set for the German intelligence were quite revealing: *"1. Contact underground fascist organizations and gain influence among them. 2. Infiltrate all workers' organizations. 3. Reorganize and restore German*

*intelligence cells both in the country and abroad."* The document also noted that the German agent network abroad had already been restored, and the United States had handed over the Abwehr agent database to the Germans.

However, R. Gehlen, as the former head of the 2nd Department of the General Staff, the so called "Foreign Armies East," had his own spy network, which was also of great interest to American intelligence agencies. It's notable that Gudrun Burwitz-Himmler, the eldest daughter of Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler, worked under a false identity in the "Gehlen Organization," which later formed the modern-day Federal Intelligence Service (BND). Naturally, with her boss's consent.

Declassified foreign intelligence archives also indicate that after the Great Victory, the British and Americans prepared for a new war with the USSR, employing former Nazi officers and generals. To this end, the Anglo-Saxons called back to service not only Guderian, under whose leadership the Wehrmacht's tank armies had rushed toward Moscow, but also Franz Halder, the former Chief of the General Staff of the Army High Command, who had developed Operation Barbarossa and personally presented it to Hitler. Halder was appointed Chief of the General Staff of the reconstituted German armed forces, and Guderian



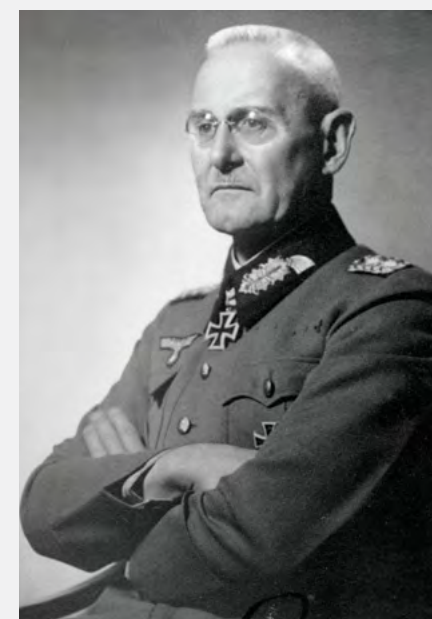
Reinhard Gehlen

was tasked with forming new military units. Moreover, even at that time, West Germany was experiencing a surge in the popularity of Nazi ideology as *"among many Germans who had not previously been Nazis."* The reason for this was the harsh attitude of the Anglo-Saxons towards them, as well as *"speculation and corruption among the officers of the occupation authorities"* (*see Document 2*).

By May 1950, F. Halder had developed a detailed plan for the creation of a West German army *"of 100,000 to 150,000 men,"* which was to become *"a component of a unified European armed force."* That same year, the plan was presented to the first post-war Chancellor of the FRG, Konrad Adenauer, and at that very time it was also obtained by Soviet foreign intelligence (*see Document 3*). It should be noted that only in September 1950 Halder succeeded to clear himself completely of the charges of collaborating with the Nazis, after which he was appointed expert in the West German government. In this position, he worked to whitewash the German army,

creating the myth of the so-called clean Wehrmacht. In parallel, until 1959, he worked a lead consultant for the U.S. Army Historical Division. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy awarded F. Halder the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

As practice has shown, actual denazification was virtually nonexistent in West Germany. Since 1946, the Allies transferred the organization of this process to the Germans themselves. Special tribunals — troikas — were established: a chairman, a prosecutor, and an expert. However, rather than becoming an effective tool for combating Nazi ideology and punishing criminals, they instead became a mechanism for their de facto legitimization, as most judges in such tribunals had themselves recently been NSDAP members. As a result, many high-ranking party officials easily passed the necessary procedures and were allowed to return to government service, while sanctions were applied to rank-and-file NSDAP members who did not hold leadership positions and whose role was often limited to attending party events.



Franz Halder

Since 1946, the Allies transferred the organization of this process to the Germans themselves. Special tribunals — troikas — were established. However, they failed to become an effective tool for combating Nazi ideology and punishing criminals.

A telling illustration in this regard is the fate of the prominent German lawyer Hans Globke, author of the infamous racial laws of the Third Reich. Under these laws, Jews, Roma, and other minorities were deprived of their rights, which subsequently led to their genocide as "inferiorities." After the war, Globke, assumedly with the assistance of the US CIA, managed to avoid a tribunal, and in "denazified" West Germany (again, not without the help of his American patrons), he received the influential post of Chief of Staff of West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, a position he held for 10 years (1953–1963), effectively becoming the number two man in the country.

As the Soviet foreign intelligence discovered, Konrad Adenauer himself, in early 1951, reached a full understanding with the commander of American forces, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, on the issue of Germany's remilitarization, which supposed restoring its military potential with offensive weapons and targeting it against the USSR (*see Document 4*). The latter, in particular, promised *"to make every effort to overcome the sentiments against Germany's remilitarization that exist in the United States and Western European countries."* D. Eisenhower also assured the German Chancellor that America *"will ensure the defense of Western Europe against the East,"* but without German participation,

it was impossible to organize an effective European defense, therefore it was necessary to take measures and eliminate pacifist sentiments in Germany.

In declassified materials from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, we see interesting facts: attempts by the West German leadership to "sell" itself to the Americans as a military force against the USSR, as well as the use of such "proven" Goebbelsian ideologemes as Germany being "Europe's shield against Bolshevism" and "the civilized world's front line defense against the Bolshevik threat." To become a "useful asset" in the eyes of the United States, the Germans needed to prove their belligerence and operational value in a war against the Soviet Union, which was then considered inevitable. This could be achieved in two ways. The first was to remilitarize and rebuild a capable armed force ready to fight on the side of the Americans and their allies. Experienced personnel for this could only be found among former Wehrmacht personnel.

The second path involved sharing their intelligence capabilities with the CIA and MI6, including lists of dormant SD and Abwehr agents on the Soviet territory, and surviving files containing information on traitors and collaborators working for the Nazis who could be re-enlisted to collaborate, this time with the Anglo-Saxons. This second path also supposed integrating former SS and Abwehr officers with access to such information into

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Hans Globke

the new German intelligence services and army. Therefore, I repeat, denazification in West Germany was carried out formally, and the desire to instill in Germans a lasting sense of guilt for the crimes of the Reich was quickly replaced by the accelerated implementation of the required procedures.

It is worth noting, while pursuing a policy of remilitarization, the Adenauer government and its American handlers were forced to contend with a section of the German intelligentsia who did not want West Germany drawn into a new cycle of revanchist confrontation with the USSR. Foreign intelligence reports submitted to Stalin in 1952 specifically mentioned the formation in West Germany of an "Extraordinary Fellowship for Peace in Europe," which consisted of representatives of Christian democratic political forces, including a number of members of the CDU/CSU, as well as of prominent representatives of the Protestant church who rejected the idea of remilitarization (*see declassified documents on the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service website*).



Konrad Adenauer

At the same time, the West German leadership, which had embarked on a path of revanchism, managed to secure public support, primarily from the so-called soldiers' and officers' unions, which began to appear in large numbers in post-war Germany. Among the largest structures of that sort was the "Mutual Aid Society for Former Members of the Waffen-SS" (HIAG, German: *Hilfsgemeinschaft auf Gegenseitigkeit der Angehörigen der ehemaligen Waffen-SS*) established in 1951. As a matter of fact, it was a union of Nazi veterans, the stated goals of which were to provide material and legal assistance to former SS members, as well as to carry out "historical rehabilitation." Through such organizations, many leading members of the NSDAP and SS returned to active social and political life. Among them, for example, were SS-Oberstgruppenführer (the highest rank, equivalent to a colonel general in the Wehrmacht) Josef Dietrich and Paul Hausser, SS-Obergruppenführer (General) Felix Steiner, and thousands of other Nazis of lesser ranks. It is noteworthy that

the activities of HIAG was formally banned in Germany only in 1992, although it continues to operate locally even today.

There were, I repeat, dozens, if not hundreds, of similar organizations. I'll mention a couple more. The charitable organization "Silent Help" founded in 1951, also provided support to former Nazis, and one of its most active members was the aforementioned Frau Burwitz-Himmler. Despite a number of high-profile scandals, such as its defense of Nazi executioners who worked in concentration camps, the organization still exists in West Germany. And in 1952, Himmler's daughter contributed to the creation of the neo-Nazi youth movement "Wikingjugend" modeled after the well-known "Hitlerjugend". The movement was banned only in 1994, although de facto structures of the "Wikingjugend" continue to function.

To be fair, it should be noted that post-war Germany was not populated solely by revanchists and militarists. There was also a fairly large pacifist movement, those who did not want a new war with the Soviet Union. Moreover, peace advocates were found not only among civilians but also among former military personnel, as evidenced by declassified documents of the Soviet foreign intelligence. As an example, we'll cite excerpts from a 1951 memorandum by Colonel Karl Gümbel, chairman of the Bavarian "Union for the Protection of Former German Soldiers" (*see Document 5*). These words are quite relevant today: *"We, former officers, know the scale of destruction that would follow in the event of a third world war. The development of energy and biological weapons will leave the mark of Cain on those who, in a third world war, would serve the forces driven mad by their dreams of world domination."*



*The only path to peace is to divert the enormous resources currently being spent on global armaments, which serve only to destroy life, toward social recovery and economic and moral restoration. That is why we appeal to wives and mothers, to rising youth, to teachers and educators, to those who shape public opinion, and to clergy of all faiths: 'The people do not desire war; they want to live!'"*

As we can see, there were genuine fighters against neo-Nazism in the FRG, typically activists from left-wing or Christian parties, whose pressure the authorities could not completely ignore. But the demands of the ruling elites were different. Beginning with Konrad Adenauer, despite rare periods of seeking normal relations with the USSR/Russia, the political leadership of West Germany, which had

close ideological and organizational ties with the Anglo-Saxons, embarked on a course of revanchism. Moreover, its ideological foundation was the most reliable neo-Nazism policy, ingrained in Germany since the fight against the "Bolshevik threat." Therefore, the denazification of the FRG, despite its apparent activity, turned into a farce. It is enough to look at the punishment meted out

to big businesses — Thyssen, Krupp, Quandt, Siemens — who used slave labor of concentration camps' prisoners. Compared to the gravity of the crimes they committed, the punishment was close to nothing. The fact that a significant portion of Germans rejected and still rejects Nazism is not thanks to, but rather in spite of, the actions of the official German authorities. ▮

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**\*РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО\***  
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

Приложение к № 11 письма № 14 от  
28 июля 1948 года

## СПРАВКА

### ✓ О РАЗВЕДКЕ ГУДЕРИАНА (по данным из Праги).

✓ Бывший начальник американской разведки в Швейцарии Аллен Даллес (брат И.Форстера Даллеса – республиканского советника при Маршалле) назначил ГУДЕРИАНА начальником новосозданной германской разведки.

✓ ГУДЕРИАН разместил свой штаб в Аллерсдорфе и в качестве помощников подобрал себе офицеров по особым поручениям: б.ад'ютанта адмирала Канариса – Ляхузен и б.майора немецкой армии Шэффера.

Задачей этого штаба является:

1. Связаться с подпольными фашистскими организациями и завоевать себе влияние в них.
2. Проникнуть во все рабочие организации.
3. Реорганизовать и восстановить ячейки германской разведки, как в стране, так и за границей.

✓ ГУДЕРИАН уже восстановил агентурную сеть немецкой разведки в Западной Германии. Американцы передали ему находившийся в их распоряжении архив германского "АБВЕРА". Он, вероятно, получил также сеть Демеля "Маль-Вурф-Аktion" (кликка), которая была создана сразу же после окончания войны, как разведорган против Чехословакии и Польши. Это даст ему возможность активизировать всех немецких агентов, оставшихся после падения гитлеровского режима. С этим агентами ГУДЕРИАН должен развернуть разведывательную деятельность, направленную против стран народной демократии и СССР. ГУДЕРИАН рассчитывает на большую материальную поддержку со стороны своих американских покровителей.

Document 1.  
Note on Guderian's  
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✓ Сотрудниками ГУДЕРИАНА являются:

1. ЛЯХУЗЕН – в настоящее время срочно изучает списки бывших офицеров гитлеровской армии, СС и СА, а отобранных, в зависимости от их способностей, направляет в различные учреждения, заведения или в так называемую "промышленную полицию".

2. Фон АЙНЕН Мария – жена графа, известная разведчица, являлась подружкой адмирала КАНАРИСА. В 1936 г., вместе с группой гестаповцев, была выслана в Чехословакию для убийства немецкого эмигранта – антифашиста инженера ФОРМИС. Во время первой и второй мировых войн действовала на территории Франции.

3. РАЙТЦЕНЕР Рихард – немец, выселен из Чехословакии, в настоящее время – заместитель секретаря по делам беженцев при баварском Министерстве внутренних дел в Мюнхене. Он организует немцев, выселенных из Чехословакии, Польши и Венгрии в т.н. унии выселенных немцев. Из числа этих немцев подбирает себе людей, способных вести разведывательную работу. Работавший у РАЙТЦЕНЕРА некий ПАСТУШЕК, происходящий из Фривальда, направляет этих отобранных людей к некоей ЛИХТБЛЮ, проживающей в Абштадт (провинция Бруксаль). ЛИХТБЛЮ ведет разведывательную работу против славянских государств и уже имеет картотеку, по которой проходит 400 немцев, которые уже состоят на разведывательной службе.

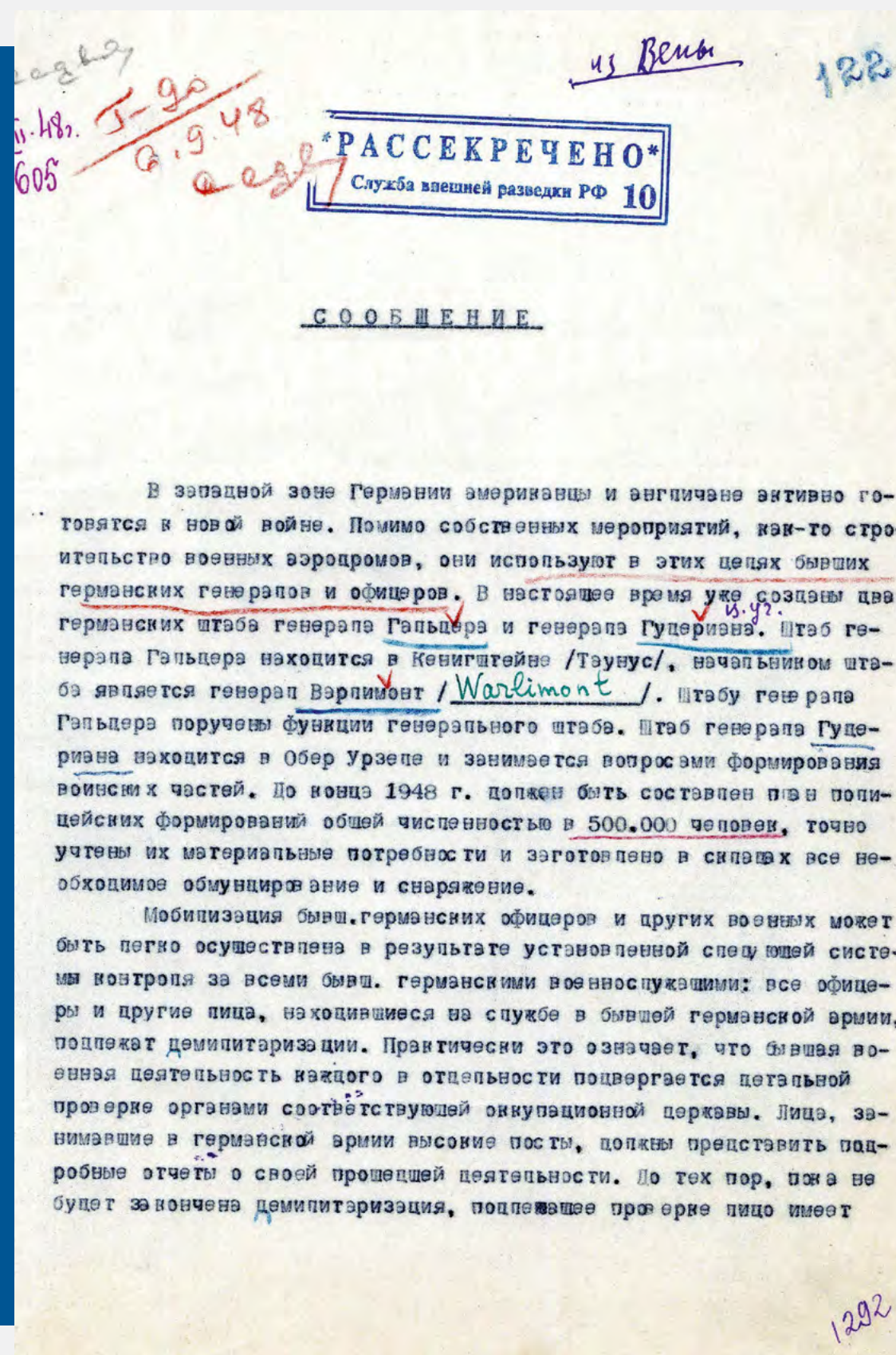
Судя по всей деятельности ГУДЕРИАНА, его штаб может быть расширен и может приступить к организации новой германской армии. К этому штабу должен быть прикомандирован бывший немецкий маршал РУНШТЕДТ, который до сих пор находится в Англии.

В своем штабе ГУДЕРИАН организует разведывательный отдел, который под контролем американцев, должен вести разведывательную работу, направленную против стран народной демократии. Таким образом, ГУДЕРИАН старается использовать на разведработе бывших немецких агентов, соответствующим образом проверенных американцами и при их помощи начать борьбу за восстановление довоенных границ Германии.



More documents on the  
SVR of Russia web-site

Document 1.  
Note on Guderian's  
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July 28, 1948



право свободного передвижения на расстояние не более 10 км от места своего жительства. Для выезда за пределы этой зоны необходимо получать в каждом отдельном случае особое разрешение соответствующего офицера оккупационных властей. Демилитаризация считается законченной только в том случае, если офицер поступает на службу в оккупационным властям, предварительно выполнив определенное задание, связанное с его прежней военной деятельностью. Лица, подлежащие демилитаризации, периодически приглашаются для сдачи новых справок.

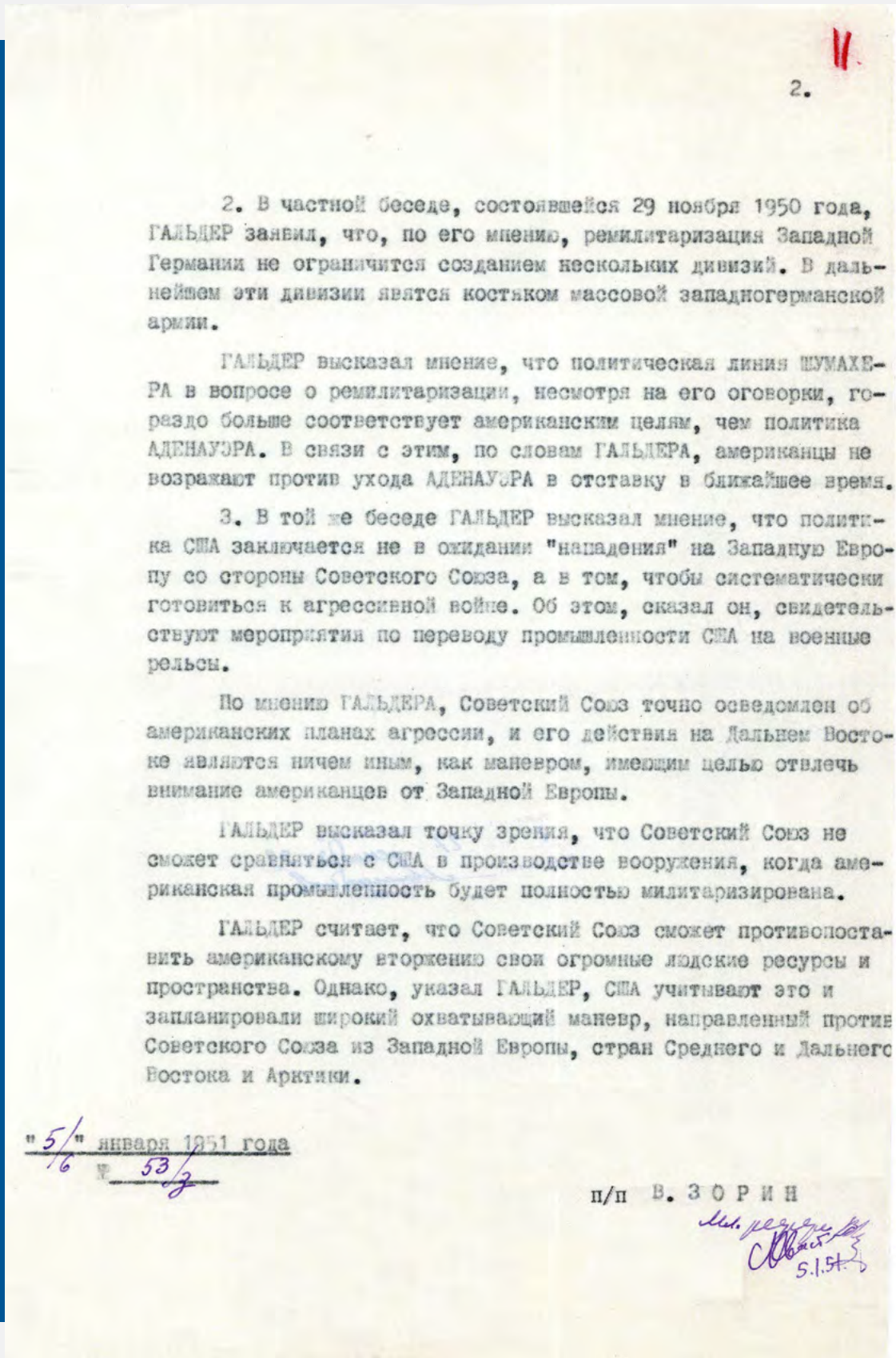
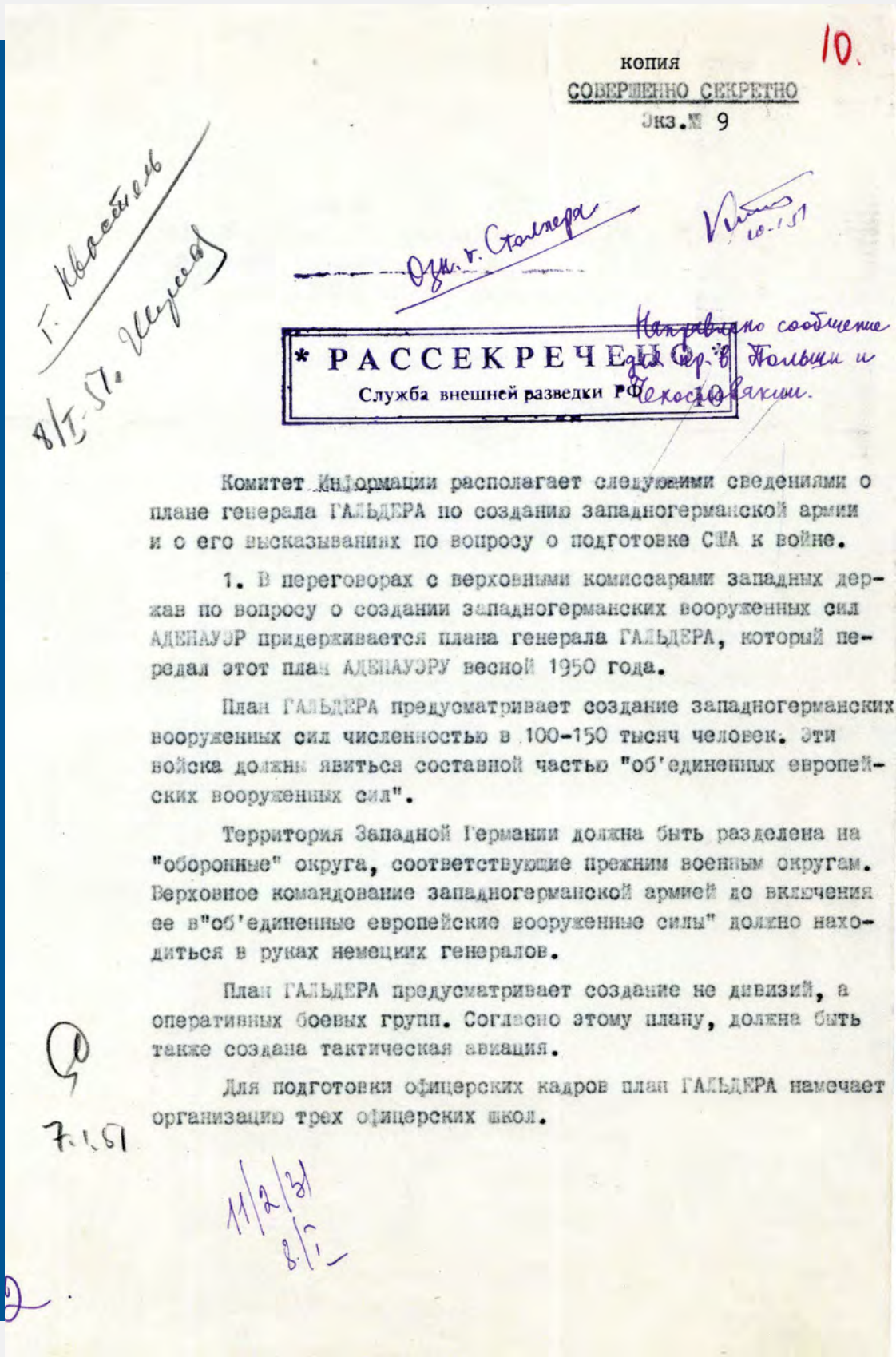
Моральное состояние более молодого поколения бывш. германских офицеров весьма удрученное, они все считают, что в случае их мобилизации им придется воевать против немцев же. Кроме того они еще находятся под впечатлением плохого отношения к ним англичан в 1945-1946 г.г. К этому следует добавить, что все бывшие нацисты еще больше укрепились в своей нацистской идеологии и находят поддержку многих немцев, не бывших ранее нацистами. Это объясняется тяжелыми условиями жизни в Западной Германии. И те и другие сожалеют, что во время нацизма они не все сделали для того, чтобы удержать третью империю от разгрома. Спекуляция и коррупция среди офицеров оккупационных властей стали в Западной Германии бичом для населения и являются козырем в руках нацистских агитаторов.

Население с напряженным вниманием следит за происходящей борьбой за Берлин. Если западные оккупационные державы будут вынуждены оставить Берлин, они потеряют в Западной Германии всякий престиж и коммунистической партии удастся собрать не 10%, как это было в Южной Германии, а от 25 до 30%. Значение коммунистической партии в Руре уже сейчас растет из дня в день.

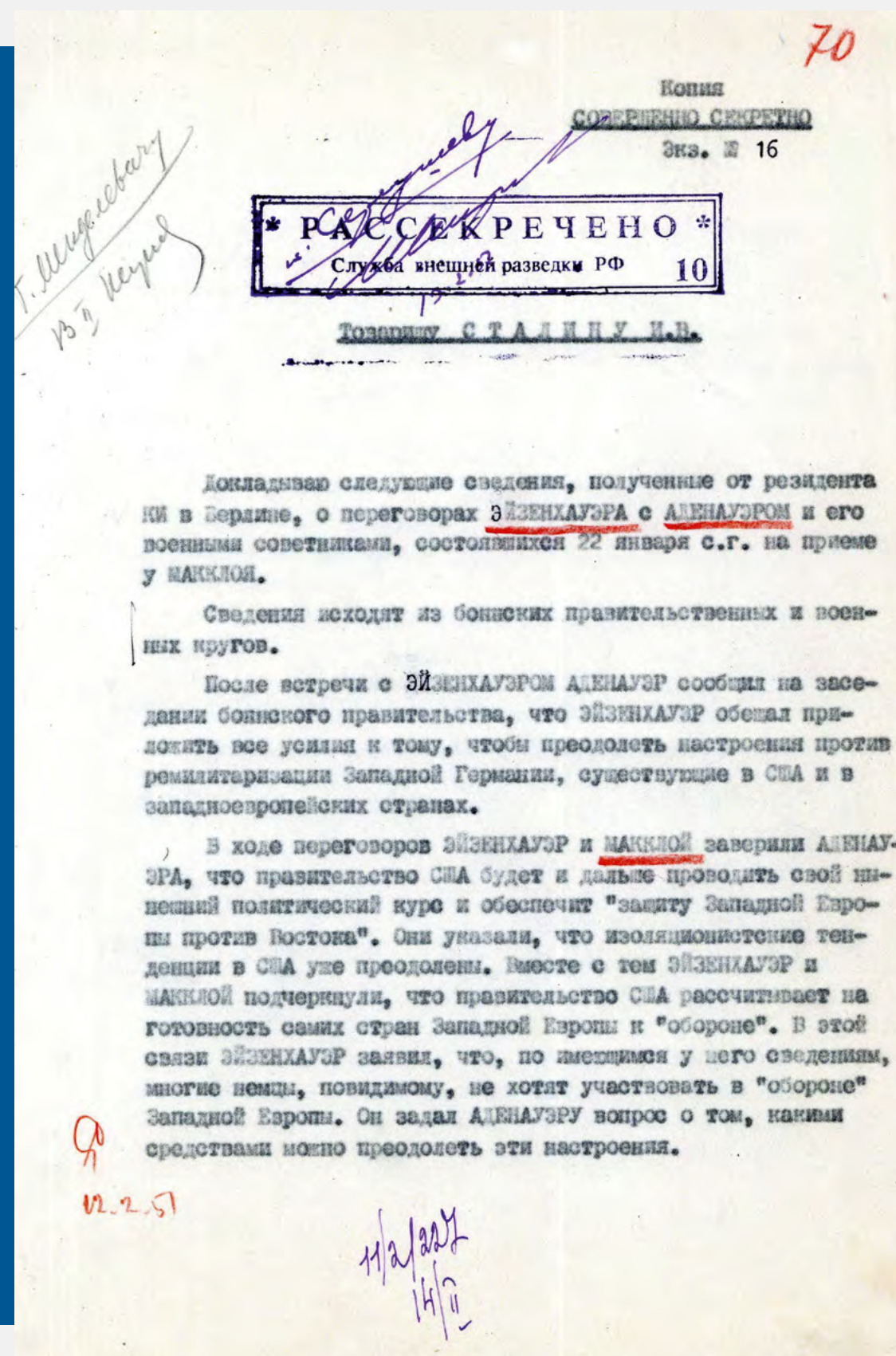
Баварская партия в Южной Германии является чисто нацистской сепаратистской партией, которую американцы категорически отвергают и которая, якобы, не входит в военные планы англичан.

Взнос: Вульф

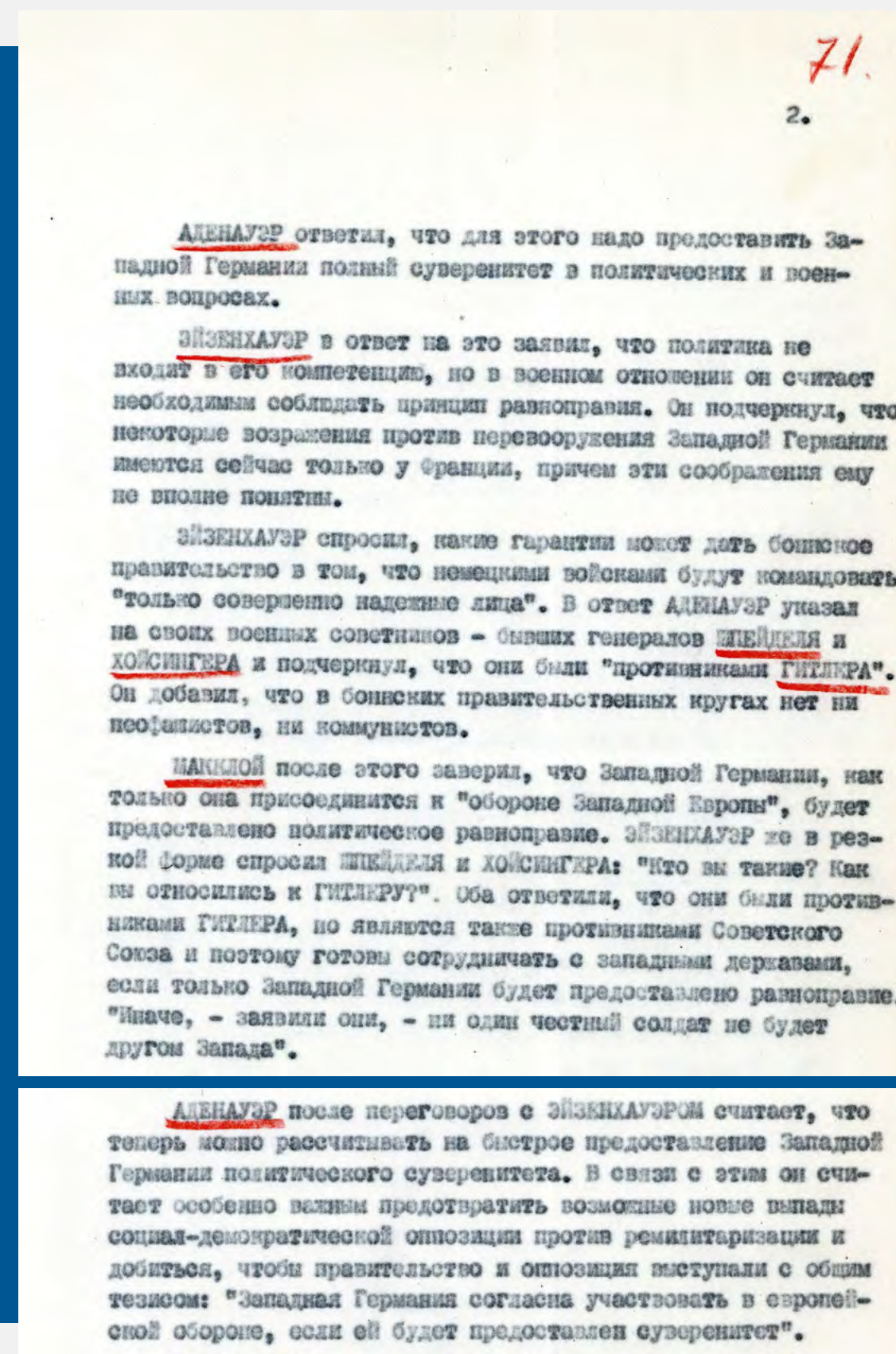
Document 3.  
Special report of the  
Information Committee  
of the Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
of the USSR.  
January 5, 1951



Document 3.  
Special report of the  
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January 5, 1951



Document 4.  
Special report of the  
Information Committee  
of the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the  
USSR (collage).  
February 7, 1951



The full version of the  
document is on the SVR  
of Russia web-site

Document 4.  
Special report of the  
Information Committee  
of the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the  
USSR (collage).  
February 7, 1951

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СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО  
ДОКУМЕНТАЛЬНО  
Перевод с немецкого

**\* РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО \***  
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

МЕМОРАНДУМ ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ БАВАРСКОГО "СОЮЗА ЗАЩИТЫ БЫВШИХ  
ГЕРМАНСКИХ СОЛДАТ" ПОЛКОВНИКА ГОМБЕЛЯ ПО ВОПРОСУ О РЕМИ-  
ЛИТАРИЗАЦИИ ЗАПАДНОЙ ГЕРМАНИИ

Бывшие германские солдаты и предложения Брюссельской  
конференции

Германские солдаты должны знать главное содержание решений Брюссельской конференции: создание 25 германских боевых групп приблизительно по 6 тысяч человек каждая, тактическая несамостоятельность этих групп, непосредственное подчинение этих групп главнокомандующему армией Северо-атлантического союза.

Поскольку мы, бывшие солдаты, наряду с подрастающей молодежью, должны непосредственно испытать на себе последствия осуществления этих решений, "Союз защиты германских солдат", являющийся единственной организацией, в задачи которой, наряду с оказанием юридической помощи, входит обеспечение и защита идейных и политических прав всех бывших солдат, считает своим долгом высказать мнение по этому решающему вопросу.

Вопрос о ремилитаризации, по характеру своих последствий исключает возможность неопределенного к нему отношения. Как германский народ, так и все цивилизованное человечество должны дать определенный ответ на этот вопрос – вопрос о войне или мире, о жизни или смерти.

Смерть десяти миллионов немцев и все жертвы других народов, участвовавших в последней войне, обязывают нас обратиться со следующим призывом ко всем политическим и государственным деятелям, на которых лежит вся моральная ответственность:

– Не пропускайте мимо своих ушей призывов народов к справедливому компромиссу и к обеспечению прочного мира во всем мире!

– Долой частные интересы исчезающего меньшинства, все для предотвращения нового, еще невиданного массового уничтожения людей, пробьем дорогу возрождению подлинного гуманизма, подлинной культуры!

– Мы, бывшие солдаты, прекрасно знаем, какие масштабы примет уничтожение в случае третьей мировой войны. Развитие энергетических и биологических средств уничтожения наложит родимое пятно Кайна на тех, кто в третьей мировой войне пойдет на службу сил, дошедших до безумия в мечтах о мировом господстве.

– Единственный путь к миру – это обратить на дело социального оздоровления и экономического и морального восстановления те огромные средства, которые расходуются сейчас на всемирное вооружение, служащее лишь делу уничтожения жизни.

– Именно поэтому мы обращаемся с призывом к женам и матерям, к подрастающей молодежи, к учителям и воспитателям, к тем, кто формирует общественное мнение, к духовенству всех вероисповеданий:

Народы не желают войны, они хотят жить!

В Е Р Н О:

С. Н О В О С Е Л О В

" февраля 1951 года  
Приложение к № 1062/2

*РМВ* 2802.51



More documents on the  
SVR of Russia web-site

# Character: Nordic

On the 95th anniversary  
of Yulian Semyonov

On the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the birth of the world-famous master of political detective and author of a series of novels about the deep-cover Soviet intelligence officer Vladimirov-Isaev-Stierlitz, "Razvedchik" has talked with the daughter of the classic, also a writer, publicist and keeper of her father's legacy Olga Yulianovna Semyonova.

Olga Yulianovna, Stierlitz is one of the most recognizable and popular artistic images of an intelligence officer. Books about him continue to be republished, and not only in our country. What do you think is the reason for such popularity?

Stierlitz, of course, is an amazing image. The charm of this character is that he is a truly Russian intellectual and patriot, ready to give his life for the Fatherland. Besides, it's also good literature — Yulian Semyonovich wrote well. When he conceived the idea of a novel about an intelligence officer who spends his whole life in a foreign land, forgetting about himself, it could not but find a response in the hearts of both Russian and foreign readers.

In addition, while in Russia we take care of the past, while there's an opportunity to work in archives, get acquainted with primary sources, in the West the situation is very tense. History is being rewritten and falsified. And this is not only my opinion, I've been told so by foreign acquaintances who complain that archives have started to disappear. If today a Western scientist, researcher, or student wants to find information about the Second World War, he is often told: *"There are no documents."*

Which country are you talking about?

About France. I spend a lot of time there, and I have many French friends. They are mostly thinking people, and they are very worried. Under these conditions, Stierlitz, which, thanks to numerous reprints, has found its way into every home (the novel is in many bookstores and has long been considered classic), provides an opportunity to touch the true history, since Yulian Semyonovich wrote his works based on archival documents. That's why I think books about Stierlitz will be a success for a long time.

It is known that Stierlitz is a fictional character, many Soviet intelligence officers served as his prototype. But there is also a point of view that Yulian Semyonov partly based him upon himself. No wonder he "gave" his beloved hero his birthday — October 8th. In your opinion, is there much of your father in Stierlitz?

There is, of course, something from my father, but more from Korotkov, Zarubin, Sorge, Kuznetsov.... And from Semyonov, there is not only October 8th, but also a reverent attitude towards the Russian language. For example, Stierlitz says in the novel: *"I wish I could go*

## Yulian Semyonovich Semyonov

Was born on October 8, 1931 in Moscow into the family of Soviet journalist and publisher Semyon Alexandrovich Lyandres. He graduated from the Middle East Faculty of the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies. He worked as a journalist for Ogonyok, Literaturnaya Gazeta, Pravda and Komsomolskaya Pravda, and repeatedly traveled abroad as a staff correspondent for these periodicals. He is the author of more than 40 works of fiction, including a series of novels about the intelligence officer Isaev-Stierlitz. Based on his books, such films and TV series as "TASS is authorized to declare ...", "Petrovka, 38", "Ogareva, 6", "17 moments of spring" and many others have been shot. Honored Art Worker. He was awarded the Orders of the October Revolution and Friendship of Peoples. Winner of the KGB USSR Prize in Literature and Art (1978).



13-year-old Yulian (centre) near the walls of the destroyed Reichstag. Berlin. June 1945

*back to my homeland as soon as possible, I could read Dahl's dictionary there. It's such a treasure!*" By the way, Dahl's dictionary was Dad's reference book.

In addition, Stierlitz is a highly educated person, an intellectual. Like all our intelligence officers, though. Anyway, I haven't met any different (*laughs*). Yulian Semyonovich also had encyclopedic knowledge. Like Stierlitz, he spoke several languages: Pashto, Farsi, English, German and Spanish. This was common in them.

“When novels about Stierlitz gained popularity and my father began to be recognized abroad, foreign journalists came up with the nicknames "Russian James Bond", "Soviet Agent 007". Dad was offended: "Why 007? 001! Soviet means the best!"

And, of course, my father's love for the Motherland was also very strong. He often traveled abroad, and when he returned, he always said: *"Good heavens — what a bliss!"* When I asked him why, he replied, *"Olechka, everyone speaks Russian here!"* When novels about Stierlitz gained popularity and my father began to be recognized abroad, foreign journalists came up with the nicknames "Russian James Bond", "Soviet Agent 007". Dad was offended: *"Why 007? 001! Soviet means the best!"*

**Did your father think about becoming an intelligence officer?**

Sure. Like all boys, stories about intelligence fascinated him from childhood. But fate decreed otherwise. After graduation, he met my mother. It was Andrei Sergeevich Mikhalkov who introduced him to her. He fell in love, began composing short stories, poems, and then began writing reports for Ogonyok. That's how Yulian Semyonovich came to journalism, and then to writing.

But his paths crossed more than once with intelligence as well. It is known that he was on good terms with the chairman of the KGB of the USSR, Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov. He appreciated my father's talent, and often became the first reader of his manuscripts. And at the Institute of Oriental Studies, my father studied in the same year and became very close friends with Evgeniy Maximovich Primakov, the future great scientist, diplomat and the first director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. They carried this friendship through their whole lives.

**Yulian Semyonovich was a prolific writer, with 14 works about Stierlitz alone. What is the reason for such efficiency? Maybe the unique climate of Crimea?**

To some extent, of course (*laughs*), although Yulian Semyonovich was a workaholic from his youth, he worked constantly. When he moved to Crimea, he said that he *"couldn't stop writing in the blessed land of Taurida."* At six or seven o'clock in the morning, after walking with a shepherd dog named Ryzhiy ("red-haired"), given to my father by border guards, he sat

down at the table and did not leave it until almost evening.

He would sometimes swim in the sea only three times during the whole summer. Even when my sister and I came and asked to go to the beach with us, he was sitting there under an umbrella, correcting another manuscript. He was very afraid of not having time to tell the readers everything he knew. It was here, in Crimea, that he wrote three books "Expansion" about Stierlitz in Latin America and other popular novels.

And the Crimean air really became healing for him, because father's lungs were affected. In 1968, when he was in Vietnam as a war correspondent, he came under an American chemical attack. Since then, he wasn't breathing well, and he was literally suffocating in Moscow. When in the early 1980s he was allocated land in Crimea for the construction of a country cottage, it became a real salvation.

**The figure of F. E. Dzerzhinsky occupies a prominent place in the works of Yulian Semyonov. In the 1990s, it was undeservedly blackened, and in 1991, a remarkable monument on the Lubyanka by sculptor Y. V. Vuchetich was pulled down. Now there is an idea to return the monument to its place. What was your father's attitude to Felix Edmundovich?**

Utmost respect and great love. Dad wrote a novel about him, "Burning", in 4 parts, after studying the archives, he knew his whole life thoroughly. He was shocked and fascinated by the power of Felix Edmundovich's personality. He was a man of idea, a great romantic, an altruist who did not think about himself, about material things, sacrificed himself for others. Actually, "Burning" is about this: Dzerzhinsky burned bright and burned out: he passed away at the age of 49.

Regarding the monument... I can't speak for my father, but I think he would be very happy, because it's bad to give up your history, to betray your heroes. And shying away is also wrong. Felix Edmundovich is a great personality, and his monument should definitely be returned to its place. I have no doubt that my father would have welcomed it.

“In June 1945, his father, the war correspondent Semyon Lyandres, took the 13-year-old Yulian with him to Berlin. There he realized the cost of our Victory, and it made a strong impression on him.

**This year marks not only the 95th anniversary of Yulian Semyonov, but also the 20th anniversary of the charitable foundation named after him. Tell us, what does the organization do?**

The main activity of the foundation is the preservation of the creative legacy of Yulian Semyonovich, primarily the publication of his books, which are still in demand among readers. In addition, we provide support to Orthodox shelters, orphanages and other similar institutions, we help small children who need urgent medical care.

*With Vietnamese comrades. 1968*





was shot down in front of Yulian Semyonovich, he was severely concussed then, he picked up the fragment himself and brought it home as a reminder of that terrible war.

He hated wars with all his heart. I think it was ingrained in him from childhood. In June 1945, his father, the war correspondent Semyon Lyandres, took the 13-year-old Yulian with him to Berlin. There he realized the cost of our Victory, and it made a strong impression on him. Perhaps it was then that he had the idea to write a novel about Stierlitz.

**Returning to the favorite character and the favorite series... Channel One is preparing a sequel to "Seventeen Moments...", where artificial intelligence can play a major role. How do you feel about this?**

For our generation, Stierlitz is Tikhonov and only Tikhonov. But, of course, I want this story to have a sequel so that it lives on. There are many wonderful actors in Russia, for example, Daniil Strakhov perfectly played Stierlitz (the TV series "Isaev" in 2009. — Editor's note), he has the necessary subtlety and intelligence.

But Konstantin Lvovich Ernst came up with the idea of using AI, and I understand him. He stands for scientific and technological progress, for new technologies (like Yulian Semyonovich, by the way, who was one of the first Soviet writers to use a computer), insists that they are the future. I've already seen the first screen tests with AI, it seems quite convincing. In general, I can say that I liked it.

Discussing the role of Stierlitz. 1972

The proceeds from the sale of books are used to maintain the Yulian Semyonov Memorial Museum House, which was opened in 2000 on the site of the country cottage in Crimea. The museum is free of charge for everyone. This is both my principled position and the will of Yulian Semyonovich. Before he died, and he felt that he would pass away soon, dad said, *"Olechka, when I am gone, let the people into the house."*

The museum has a lot of interesting exhibits. In addition to rare photographs and books, dad's manuscripts and two typewriters which he used, there is a "souvenir" from Vietnam — a piece of fuselage from an American bomber shot down by Vietnamese partisans. The plane



### Olga Yulianovna Semyonova

Was born on February 2, 1967 in Moscow. She graduated from the B.V. Shchukin Higher Theater School, performed on stage for several years, starred in films, then took up journalism. She collaborated with Ogonyok magazine, Moskovsky Komsomolets, and Sovershenno Sekretno newspapers. She is the author of a number of books, including "Yulian Semyonov" (The Lives of Remarkable People series), "Unknown Yulian Semyonov", "Daily life of modern Paris", "Paris. The history of a Great City." In 2006, she founded the Yulian Semyonov Cultural Foundation. Member of the Union of Writers of Russia and the Union of Journalists of Moscow.

Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin

On the other hand, there is Vyacheslav Tikhonov's daughter, Anna Vyacheslavovna, a good friend of mine, who, let's just say, is not enthusiastic about the idea. And it can also be understood. After all, ethical or, rather, even philosophical and religious questions still remain: is the artificial image on the screen still Tikhonov, or is it not? I hope a solution will be found. It would be a shame to let such a great script go to waste. Its author — Artyom Borisovich Chashchikhin-Toidze — approached the matter very carefully, with great respect for the prose of Yulian Semyonovich (based on his novel "Expansion"). The result is truly worthy of being filmed.

**Today, this story of the search and persecution of Nazis who settled in Argentina is very relevant...**

Definitely. Like another novel by Yulian Semyonovich, The Third Map, which is dedicated

**“Yulian Semyonovich was a workaholic from his youth, he worked constantly. When he moved to Crimea, he said that he "couldn't stop writing in the blessed land of Taurida."**

to the fight against Ukrainian nationalism. The main character, by the way, is also Stierlitz, who opposed Bandera in the post-war years. I think readers will be interested to know that Colonel Isaev is half Ukrainian... The novel was previously published in collections, and this summer it was first published as a separate book. Now we are distributing the novel to schools and libraries, and we have passed it to the Zakhar Prilepin Foundation so that it can reach our fighters in new territories. 🇺🇦



In 2021, for the series of literature works on the activities of the Soviet foreign intelligence, Y.S. Semyonov was awarded the SVR of Russia Prize named after Academician Y.M. Primakov (posthumously)

## World Champion Anatoly Karpov:

# "I took all my peaks at the first go"

This year marks the 75th birthday of the renowned chess genius and 12th World Champion, Anatoly Yevgenievich Karpov. "Razvedchik" has met with this living legend to discuss the prospects for chess development in Russia, current grandmasters, the infiltration of politics into sport, and how it all began in his life.

Anatoly Yevgenievich, 75 years is a significant milestone! A year ago, you celebrated another milestone — 50 years since you won the world chess crown. Do you remember how you began your chess career?

Of course. It all began in Zlatoust, my birthplace. It's an industrial city, but historically a strong chess town. Everyone played back then — in the courtyards, in clubs. I attended a section at the Zlatoust Metallurgical Plant; we had over 50 first-category players!

The USSR encouraged famous grandmasters to tour around the country — to Siberia, the Urals. Botvinnik and Korchnoi visited us. I first played Korchnoi in Chelyabinsk, where he surprised my friend Sashka and me (my friend was the main player; I was sitting next to him, but we thought out the moves together): in the

middle of the game, he retreated with his bishops from C4 to F1 and from F4 to C1. And surprising your opponent often means winning. But we managed to draw.

And who taught you to play?

It was my father who introduced me to chess. Dad even managed to cope with the tears I shed because of the game. We once had a tough battle with him, and I lost and was upset. My father said, *"If you don't lose, you won't win. If you start crying once more, I'll never play you again."* He was very talented and had an excellent memory. For example, as the chief engineer of a large military plant in Tula, employing 13,000 people, he knew the 18-digit GOST codes for all (!) manufactured parts, which amounted to tens of thousands of items.

### Anatoly Yevgenievich Karpov

Was born on May 23, 1951, in Zlatoust, Chelyabinsk Region. At 14, he became the youngest Master of Sports in the USSR, the World Junior Champion in 1969, and an International Grandmaster in 1970. He graduated with a degree in economics from Leningrad State University. On April 3, 1975, he was proclaimed the 12th World Champion, holding the chess crown for ten years. He then became the FIDE World Champion three more times. In total, he played approximately 2,500 games and won over 160 tournaments. From 1989 to 1991, he was a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. From 1995 to the present, he has been a deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. He is also Vice President of the Russian Chess Federation and the founder of the Karpov Chess Schools network. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order "For Merit to the Fatherland", 2nd and 3rd Class, the Order of Friendship, and the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.



“It was my father who introduced me to chess. We once had a tough battle with him, and I lost and was upset. My father said, “If you don’t lose, you won’t win. If you start crying once more, I’ll never play you again.”

He truly had much to be proud of: he participated in the development of the Grad multiple rocket launcher and invented anti-personnel ball bombs. I remember him coming home one day with a small round object in his hand. I asked, “*What is this?*” “*A bomb.*” This invention of his, incidentally, played a significant role during the Vietnam War and was one of the reasons that forced the Americans to withdraw. Besides (few people know this), my father was at the forefront of the production of the first compact refrigerators in the USSR, the Biryusa.

Have you also inherited his perseverance?

And his endurance, his work ethic, and his determination. After all, he completed his higher engineering education in just two years. After the war, the country needed specialists, and to

educate them quickly, courses were organized at the Bauman Technical School; my father was among the first to enroll.

He left for Moscow a couple of years after I was born. He had a small stipend in the capital, surviving as best he could and trying to support his family in the Urals. Things were very difficult for my mother then; she worked nights sewing to support my sister and me. But then, my father quickly rose through the ranks: deputy manager, production manager, chief engineer. In 1964, we moved to Tula, where the Shtamp plant was falling apart. The director and my father, chief engineer Karpov, achieved fantastic results and managed to restore it within a short time.

What did your father say when you became World Champion?

Honestly, I don’t remember. My parents were in Tula at the time, and I traveled everywhere to tournaments and played on my own. I think my father simply said, “Well done!” Those were his favorite words, the highest praise.

When was the last time that you visited your native place?

A long time ago. After becoming champion, I immediately went to Zlatoust, then further into the Urals. On that first trip across the country, I visited more factories and plants than previously in my entire life. It was then that I founded the Karpov Chess Club in Zlatoust. It’s not active now, though, which is a shame...

You held the chess crown for ten years — probably longer than anyone else in the world — and today, champions change so quickly you can’t keep track. Why is that?

Emanuel Lasker held the championship longer than I did. But back then, World War I was going on, so you didn’t have to play or defend your title for years. Now, tournaments are different— they are short, even for the world championship — and the players aren’t as resilient. Our competitions would be too much for them. My match with Korchnoi lasted 110 days, while with Kasparov\* it

\* Declared a foreign agent by the decision of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.



With father Yevgeny Stepanovich, mother Nina Grigorievna and sister Larisa. 1969

took almost five months! Modern chess players don’t have the same level of preparation, and their attitude is different: “*We’ve lost, so what! Never mind, there’ll be another competition.*”

As for me, I took all my peaks at the first go. What’s the secret? My mindset. I always had the inner conviction that I could do it, that I could win. And I won’t reveal Anatoly Karpov’s rules for being a champion — they simply don’t exist. Just like I never had any special psychological preparation. Only the Botvinnik School, where Mikhail Moiseevich was both the main organizer and head coach.

At competitions, I would set myself the task of not getting nervous, even if something went wrong during the game. Once the game is over, it’s best to forget about it for a while, no matter the outcome. A loss may generate anxiety, a victory may lead to euphoria. It’s important to distance yourself from both.

Unfortunately, chess is losing its former popularity today. What do you think is the reason?

The public is drawn to bright personalities and strong characters. One of the last such sportsmen is the Norwegian Magnus Carlsen. He has won dozens of tournaments, he’s a chess genius. He has done a lot, both good and bad, for chess. The bad part is that he has stopped playing and decided not to defend his

championship title. A serious mistake, both for him personally and for the sport as a whole.

Also, I blame computers. Computer chess is a different thing. At some point, it became clear that it was impossible to beat a machine. So what’s the point of playing against a robot? It’s boring — no emotion, no creative solutions, no risk.

In your opinion, what’s the future of chess in Russia?

We lost so much ground in the 1990s! First and foremost, the Soviet chess school. We suffered a terrible setback; we stopped winning team competitions. Now it’s difficult to regain our status as a great chess power. We have a chance, of course, but now not only India and China are ahead of us, but also Uzbekistan (at least in men’s chess). And Indian chess players simply dominate all international tournaments today — here’s the result of a serious state program.

“I took all my peaks at the first go. What’s the secret? My mindset. I always had the inner conviction that I could do it, that I could win.

A school sports day in Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod). 1963



“Chess helps train one's willpower. It promotes memory development and a stable nervous system. It teaches strategic planning and the ability to think several moves ahead.

And once we were leading, winning Olympiads. Even when our personal relationship with Kasparov soured. At the 1986 Chess Olympiad in Dubai, after his loss to the American Yasser Seirawan, we teamed up and got down to business. After that game, I approached him: *"Garry, we need to talk, figure out what to do next."* We had a private meeting and decided: from that day until the end of the tournament, we would be the only two in charge, both playing in every match (before that, back in Moscow, the management had decided to separate us), and we would take full responsibility, including the team composition. We gathered the rest of the guys, told them the news, and then invited the delegation leaders. They were displeased, of course, but they didn't argue.

Celebration in honour of the 12th World champion in the Pillar Hall of the House of the Unions. Moscow. 1975



Did it work out?

Not right away. But in the end, we won the Olympiad and returned home with gold medals.

How can we rekindle interest in chess in Russia?

First of all, the government needs to embrace chess. Currently, I don't see much interest in this from government officials. There's no special program for chess development in our country, not even as a project. There's no funding at the state level either. Yet we need to restore the system of chess schools and actively involve preschoolers and schoolchildren.

Supporting children's chess is crucial. Motivating children is essential. Teaching them that chess isn't just fun, but also hard work. Even when success comes.

Why is it so important for children to play chess? It's unlikely that all of them will become chess players...

Chess helps train one's willpower. It promotes memory development and a stable nervous system. It teaches strategic planning and the ability to think several moves ahead. As in intelligence, there's virtually no room for error. Achieving victory requires endurance, calm, self-control, concentration, and intuition. These qualities must be instilled in our youth and, of course, cultivated in ourselves. I've always placed great importance on this.

In the West, it was long common to say that sport is above politics. But reality turned out to be different...

In ancient Greece, wars were suspended for the Olympic Games. That's how it should be. Now, Western politicians interfere everywhere, dictating their terms. Sport has completely lost its independence. And I don't even want to talk about what the Olympics have become today — I mean primarily the 2024 Games in France. It's disgusting!

Chess is also suffering. According to the decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, FIDE must ensure that the Russian Chess Federation does not conduct any activities on the territory

of the LPR, DPR, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions, as well as in Crimea. But this is not FIDE's business! It also demanded that Crimean chess players pay certain fees so that they could play for the Russian team. Outrageous!

I'll tell you a story on the topic of politics and sports. In the summer of 1976, I was in Crimea, in the Ai-Danil sanatorium, preparing for the next tournament. Suddenly, sports bosses called me from Moscow and offered to sign a collective letter condemning Viktor Korchnoi, who after a regular tournament decided not to return to the USSR and stay in the West.

For me, the only viable option was to write a letter myself. By coincidence, at the same time, the famous international journalist Valentin Zorin was vacationing at Ai-Danil. I met him after dinner on the embankment and asked him to help me. Zorin agreed, but said: *"The task is difficult. We must write a letter that everyone will like, but do it in a way that later, no one, under any circumstances, could reproach you with it."*

We spent a whole day thinking it out, another day was spent editing. I didn't want the text to be too angry. I believed and continue to believe that chess players undoubtedly have the right to their own opinion, but they should not get involved in politics.

Today again there are those who fled abroad and from there they throw mud at their homeland. What would you tell them?

I don't like to repeat myself, but I think I would say the same thing as to Korchnoi, word for word: *"Your decision to betray your Motherland has deeply struck and saddened me. There was and could not be any interference with your creative activity in the country to which you owe everything that helped to fully reveal your talent."*

Looking back, is there anything you regret and wish you could "re-play"?

I don't regret anything. I think my only mistake was agreeing to play the world championship match with Kasparov in 1984 in Moscow. It should have been necessary to insist on moving the game to another country, where



he would not have been able to use the administrative resource — Heydar Aliyev and Alexander Yakovlev, who helped him in everything. I hadn't expected such a nasty thing.

In the Ai-Danil sanatorium. Yalta, Crimea. 1976

Did you dream of becoming an intelligence officer as a child?

No. I didn't see any other path for myself other than chess. I admit, though, that at school I liked to read military memoirs, which, of course, were about intelligence, among other things.

What do you wish to the officers of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service?

Good luck and beautiful victories! 🍀

Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin and Tatiana Ogneva

“I believed and continue to believe that chess players undoubtedly have the right to their own opinion, but they should not get involved in politics.

# On the 85th Anniversary of the OMSBON

At the end of June 2026, commemorative events were held in Moscow to mark the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Independent Motorized Rifle Brigade of Special Purpose of the NKVD of the USSR — the legendary OMSBON, which effectively marked the beginning of the history of Soviet special forces.

The commemorative ceremony, held in the square in front of the VTB Arena — Lev Yashin Central Dynamo Stadium, was attended by the leadership of the Dynamo sports society, prominent Dynamo athletes and sports veterans, relatives of OMSBON veterans, as well as members of the clergy, participants of the Special Military Operation (SVO), cadets, and young athletes.

Speaking to the audience, Anatoly Nikolayevich Gulevsky, Chairman of the Dynamo Sports Club, recalled that it was here, at the stadium, in June 1941, at the height of the massive fascist offensive, that a special unit was formed, tasked with *“crushing the enemy both on the front lines and behind enemy lines.”* It was composed exclusively of strong athletes and highly trained volunteers.

The ranks of OMSBON included the elite of Soviet sports: USSR champions, track and field athletes, brothers Seraphim and Georgy Znamensky,

speed skater Anatoly Kapchinsky, boxer Nikolai Korolyov, weightlifter Nikolay Shatov, wrestler Grigory Pyl'nov, skier Lyubov Kulakova, players of the Football Club Dynamo Minsk, the legendary mountaineer Ferdinand Kropf, and many others. In addition to them, OMSBON included 158 students and 15 professors from the State Central Order of Lenin Institute of Physical Education (now the Russian State University of Physical Education, Sport, Youth and Tourism).

An international battalion was also established within OMSBON. It consisted of anti-fascists who had arrived in the USSR from Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Spain, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Czechoslovakia, France, and Yugoslavia. Many of them had fought in the Spanish Civil War.

On the day of the commemorative event, Dynamo athletes from the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, along with faculty

and students from the Russian University of Sport, honored the heroic deeds of the OMSBON members on the university's grounds, and then participated in a 15-kilometer race to the stadium, where a memorial plaque dedicated to the OMSBON is installed. The current students of the university ran alongside the intelligence officers, symbolically following in their predecessors' footsteps, who enlisted in the ranks of the special forces during the war.

From the first day of the OMSBON's creation, its activities were overseen by Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov, an experienced Soviet intelligence officer and deputy head of the First (intelligence) Directorate of the NKVD of the USSR. During their training, the fighters acquired practical skills that at the time were unparalleled in any other army of the world. The training, conducted under a special program, included training in mine laying, shooting with various firearms, night

parachute jumps, forest warfare tactics, armed or unarmed self-defense, motorcycle and vehicle driving, radio operations, and first aid skills. The soldiers were prepared for the harsh conditions of life and combat in the underground in partisan-held forests.

As one volunteer recalled: *“From the Dynamo Stadium, we marched in formation to Kiselny Lane, where the Higher School of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) was located. In the evening, we were sent to Chelyuskinskaya Station, where we pitched tents, and training in mine laying began at the Dynamo Shooting Range. <...> When the Germans were particularly close to Moscow, we participated in mine laying in several facilities, and when the Nazis were pushed back, we demined those facilities.”* In the fall of 1941, by decision of the country's leadership, mines were laid in the Kremlin, beneath the Bolshoi Theater, and in other locations where Nazi bigwigs might have held celebrations in the event of the capital's capture.

*“The advanced German hordes were rushing toward Moscow and were already 28 kilometers from the capital on the Volokolamsk Highway. A risk of a German paratrooper landing*

*operation in the very center of the city arose. Therefore, in the morning of October 15, 1941, our 1st Regiment was stationed in the House of Unions, and the 2nd Regiment of the brigade was stationed in the GUM Department Store. The situation on the Western Front was critical. Our brigade command received orders from the General Staff to be prepared for street fighting,”* recounted veteran OMSBON member Ivan Fyodorovich Mokropulo. And on November 7, straight from the *“modest but proud parade on Red Square, the OMSBON members headed to the front lines,”* or behind the front lines.

In total during the war, 212 special purpose detachments and groups, totaling 7,316 men, were deployed behind enemy lines. Here's a diary entry from one of the intelligence officers: *“We slept during the day, and at night we carried out ski crossings and operations. Sometimes, when laying mines, our fingers froze to the rails and bridge structures — we would tear them off, bleeding. However, during such operations, a person is under such stress that he doesn't notice such trifles. For a month, we didn't lose a single fighter. Except that we had become so emaciated that we couldn't recognize ourselves in the mirror.”*

According to archival documents, during the war, OMSBON members derailed approximately 1,500 enemy trains carrying troops, equipment, ammunition, and fuel, five Nazi armored trains, and 1,200 locomotives. They also disabled 2,300 enemy vehicles and motorcycles, more than 700 kilometers of telephone and telegraph cable (a third of which was the line of communication between the front command and Hitler's headquarters). They blew up 92 kilometers of rail tracks and 335 bridges. They destroyed 145 tanks and armored vehicles, 51 enemy aircraft, and 136,000 enemy troops, including 90 prominent Nazi officials and 2,000 Nazi spies and collaborators. Behind each figure lies a heroic deed, labor, and sacrifice in the name of a common victory. More than a thousand OMSBON soldiers were awarded orders and medals, including 24 Heroes of the Soviet Union.

After the war, the existence of this unique unit was deemed unnecessary. However, four years later, security agencies of the USSR once again began forming special purpose forces to conduct reconnaissance and sabotage deep behind enemy lines. The most famous, formed within the First Main Directorate of the KGB, is the unique Vypel Group — the intellectual special forces, as it was then known. Today, modern special purpose units exist in Russia. However, their training is based on the reconnaissance, sabotage, and survival techniques honed by OMSBON fighters during the Great Patriotic War. 🚩



“85 years  
of OMSBON” film



# In a united front

## To the 70th anniversary of the Russian Union of Veterans

Text: Vitaly Mikhaylovich Azarov,  
Chairman of the Russian Union of Veterans, Colonel General

In 2026, the Russian Union of Veterans (RUV) celebrates its 70th anniversary. It's a unique organization uniting several generations of defenders of the fatherland: from participants of the Great Patriotic War and home front workers to our contemporaries, those who fought on the fronts of the special military operation.

The history of the RUV began on September 29, 1956 when on the initiative of the Defense Minister of the USSR Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov the first All-Union Conference

of Veterans of War opened in the Central House of the Soviet Army in Moscow. 800 delegates arrived for participation: veterans, partisans, underground fighters, war reporters,

and writers. Many of them had Gold Star medals on their chests, and almost everyone wore military orders. It was they — the victorious heroes — who made the decision to establish the predecessor of the RUV — the Soviet War Veterans Committee (SWVC) that was created not only to address social problems of veterans and to engage in patriotic education of youth, but also to develop connections with foreign organizations in the common struggle against the threat of a new war.

At that conference, Sidor Artemyevich Kovpak, one of the leaders of the Ukrainian guerrilla movement, said the words that remain relevant today: *"After the end of the Great Patriotic War, the Anglo-American aggressors managed to unleash wars in China, Korea, and Vietnam; blood was shed in Indonesia, shots were heard repeatedly in Greece, in the Middle East and even in Latin America. Now, the imperialists of the USA, England and France are reviving the Wehrmacht in West Germany, and want to wage war in Egypt. The voice of the Soviet veterans of war*



*must be heard around the globe: 'Hands off Suez! Down with war!'"*

The famous military commander, Marshal of the Soviet Union Alexander Mikhailovich Vasilevsky was elected the first Chairman of the SWVC, and the legendary pilot Alexey Petrovich Maresyev became his secretary. The significant contribution to the development of the organization was made by Marshals Semyon Mikhailovich Budyonny, Ivan Khristoforovich Bagramyan, Kirill Afanasyevich Meretskov, Semyon Konstantinovich Timoshenko, intelligence officer, partisan Nadezhda Viktorovna Troyan, famous women-pilots Nadezhda Vasilyevna Popova and Valentina Stepanovna Grizodubova, and many other outstanding figures.

In 1992, on the basis of the SWVC the All-Russian Organization of War Veterans was created. In 2013, it received its present name — the All-Russian Public Organization of War Veterans, the Russian Union of Veterans.

The RUV is the rightful successor and the carrier of the fine traditions of the SWVC. Today in our ranks we have over five million veterans of war, military service and combat operations. RUV branches are present practically in all Russian regions. We systematically carry out spiritual and moral education of the younger generation, we actively support the President's course towards strategic socio-economic development of the country and strengthening its safety, we organize assistance to participants and veterans of the special military operation.

In all areas of the work mentioned above we closely cooperate with relevant departmental structures, including the Council of Veterans of SVR of Russia. In particular, last year during the preparation for the celebration



**Dear Mikhail Vitalyevich!**  
**Comrade Lieutenant General!**

*On behalf of the five-million veteran community and your companions in arms we warmly congratulate you on your 80th anniversary!*

*For many generations of defenders, you have been and remain a legendary commander and an indisputable authority. In the most difficult situations, your wisdom and courage allowed you to make decisions that determined the fate of the world. There are no former intelligence officers — you confirm this rule every day with your selfless work — even after switching from the operational front lines to the publishing industry, you continue to hold the line on the crucial information front.*

*We express our gratitude for your life-long feat, loyalty to the veteran movement and that creative energy that you put into the printed word. We sincerely wish you good health and inexhaustible inspiration! Let every day be filled with joy, pride in the years you've lived, and the warmth of your loved ones.*

Chairman of the Russian Union of Veterans  
Colonel General Vitaly Azarov

of the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory, together with foreign intelligence veterans we organized many significant events, acting as a united consolidating force of veteran community in the post-Soviet space.

In addition, we maintain international connections, including with the International Federation of Resistance Fighters, the World Veterans Federation and many other similar associations. 🚩

# Expansion-I

(excerpt from the novel)

Text: Yulian Semyonov  
Drawings: Sergey Dorozhenko

## Food for Thought (June 19, 1945)

Stalin cautiously and with a certain deliberation pushed the folder with the typewritten page away from him and rose slowly from his desk. He paced the office, and stood by the window for a while, watching the pigeons waddling across the Kremlin square; they were the same colour as the paving stones, and if one stared at them for a long time, it seemed as if the cobblestones themselves were moving — some kind of mysticism. Father Dionysius had spoken of something similar during seminary classes: prophetic birds, purgatory, the Garden of Eden.

Turning around, Stalin looked at the head of intelligence, puffed on his pipe a few times to light it up, and, returning to his desk, asked with a nod at the paper:

“Well, how do you explain this to me?”

“I have to check and double check this report. It is of an extraordinary nature, so I must verify its reliability from every angle.”

“And who gave you this information? Is he reliable?”

“Quite reliable. But the whole point of any intelligence game is to give false information precisely to a reliable person.”

“Thank you for the explanation. You’ve made the essence of intelligence work very clear. I’m deeply touched.”

He pulled the telegram closer and read it through once again:

“Over the course of three days, starting in mid-June, secret meetings were held at the Pentagon between the leadership of the US military intelligence and OSS officials, and the head of the Foreign Armies East Directorate, Wehrmacht Lieutenant General Gehlen. During these meetings, an agreement was reached that Gehlen would return to Germany and resume his operations. Gehlen undertook to hand over his network of agents to American intelligence, including the leaders of General Vlasov’s Russian Liberation Movement, activists of Melnyk’s Ukrainian Insurgent Army and Bandera’s militants; furthermore, it was agreed that from then on, the Americans would oversee Gehlen’s work with the agents he had infiltrated into the ranks of the Polish government in London, as well as with Slovak, Croatian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Czech, and Romanian anti communist groups that had emigrated to the West.

“However, the final communiqué noted that once a German government was installed in power in Germany, Gehlen would work only for the new German regime. The Pentagon assured him that he would be provided with assistance in this matter. It was emphasized that Washington would find a way to put pressure on the new German government so that General Gehlen’s organization would be transformed into the intelligence service of a democratic

German regime, integrated into the Western system. He received assurances that he would remain chief of intelligence. It was stressed that it would be risky to create a single intelligence center in Germany at that point; and it would take some time for the Western democracies to truly consolidate their positions in their occupation zones, making them inaccessible to communist infiltration. Therefore, General Gehlen was asked to consider establishing several secret centers, primarily in Spain; his contacts with the relevant services of Generalissimo Franco were authorized.

“After the Pentagon meeting concluded, General Gehlen held a three-hour conversation with Allen Dulles, who is believed to have brought the general here and forced the Pentagon to sit down at the negotiating table with him. The outcome of these talks remains unknown, but it is assumed that they concerned practical steps towards deploying anti-communist activity in Eastern European countries. The possibility that they were working out concrete measures to provide immediate assistance to groups of Ukrainian anti-communist detachments fighting against the Kremlin in the regions of Lvov is also not ruled out.”

Stalin paced his office in silence for a long time, then stopped in front of the head of intelligence, studying his face intently, as if embracing him with his yellowish lynx-like eyes, and asked:

“Now tell me, how am I supposed to sit next to Truman and discuss the problems of post-war Europe after that?” he nodded at the table. “Why are you silent? Don’t know what to answer? Or are you hesitating?”

“More likely the latter, Comrade Stalin”.

“Why? You are not imposing your point of view on me, you’re just answering my question. There is a big difference. So what?”

“As I see it, we are facing two forces in the West. There are sensible politicians — and I’d say there are quite a few of them — who openly advocate for continuing a friendly dialogue with us. And there are opponents. As for them, well, they will remain opponents; there is nothing we can do about it. But the sharper we react to this kind of information, the more difficult it will be for the sensible ones — those who want to be friends with us.”

“But do you, personally, believe this information isn’t fabricated to push us into taking a

hard line? And thus, put our sympathizers in a difficult position?”

“We need to check it. We didn’t have time for that.”

“And what about the means?”

“We’ve got them.”

“Do you think the late Roosevelt’s inner circle will pressure Truman to dissociate himself from his words spoken at the beginning of the war about helping whoever wins the battle: if the Germans win, help the Germans; if the Russians prevail, help the Russians?”

“I think he’s ready to do everything to let those words fade into oblivion.”

“And if we help him with that? If I do everything I can to help him? Do you think he’d be willing to start the dialogue?”

“I don’t know.”

“It’s good that you answered honestly. We’ll ask Gromyko. Tell me this: would you, personally, dare to negotiate with a top Hitlerite commander without informing me first?”

“No.”

Stalin chuckled.

“Perhaps Truman is more lenient? After all, it’s a democracy with free elections and full transparency.”



“That’s precisely why, if I were in the shoes of the head of American intelligence, I’d make sure to get the president’s approval first.”

“That’s precisely why,” Stalin chuckled. “That’s a good answer. Don’t like our democracy, do you? Alright, we’ll get to figuring out what to do. We might end up taking lessons from the directors of the Moscow Art Theatre — let them teach us how to conduct ourselves at the negotiating table discussing the future of the world with someone who lives peacefully in the same city where his military men are welcoming a Hitlerite general... Leave the document with me... And think about how we can get more detailed information... From Spain, evidently? However, I won’t tell you how to do your job; do as you know.”

### Stierlitz-I (Madrid, October 1946)

The American who approached Stierlitz on Avenida del Generalissimo in Madrid with an offer to have lunch and discuss something of mutual interest seemed quite friendly; on his face, there was no trace of the agitation that usually accompanies a kidnapping or arrest operation.

“I promise an excellent menu,” he added. “How does that sound to you?”

The leaves of the plane trees on the wide avenida had already begun to turn yellow, taking on a metallic hue, the colour of Chilean copper; yet there was no sense of autumn in the air; it was warm. Stierlitz turned his face

to the soft rays of the sun and, with a strange shrug, quietly replied:

“Why not have lunch?”

“I somehow thought you’d refuse.”

Stierlitz looked at the American again: a very strong man, he thought, a real sturdy fellow; Americans were generally very robust; no wonder: they had never known war, they lived far from the places where the tragic action was unfolding, and they were young — two centuries of history is not much, it’s like infancy.

He remembered with startling and somehow terrifying clarity that rainy day when the local newspapers printed Churchill’s speech, delivered by the “great elder” in Fulton. The former British Prime Minister had been introduced to the audience of Westminster College by none other than President Truman himself, which gave the speech an extraordinary significance. Protocol is protocol, as they say; a single line sometimes contains a whole program prepared by a whole staff of politicians, economists, military men, scientists, intelligence officers, and philosophers over months or even years.

After reading Churchill’s speech twice, Stierlitz put the newspaper aside, rose heavily from his creaky chair (there were three chairs in his little cubbyhole, called a “hotel room”, and all three creaked in different “voices”) and went outside. A March rain was drizzling, although the sky was cloudless. People were splashing through puddles, sheltering under the parachute-like canopies of umbrellas; only true caballeros strode along without hats, wearing light coats — water isn’t bullets, it’s nothing to worry about. First of all, one should think about one’s appearance; it is shameful to hide from anything, especially from the rain.

He wandered aimlessly through the city, unable to concentrate after what he had read, and so he found himself quite unexpectedly in the center, opposite the American embassy. People were entering the large building; it was nine o’clock, the start of the workday. He stopped at a newsstand and began leafing through the papers and magazines, wincing every time the elderly salesman, wearing an enormous beret pulled down pirate-style over his eyes, one of which had a cataract, shouted in a piercing voice:

“Read Churchill’s historic speech! He has declared war on Stalin!”

Stierlitz looked at the Americans entering the embassy gates. They were tall, strong, dressed as if in uniform: blunt-nosed boots with perforated toes, very tight trousers, tiny finger-nail-sized tie knots, and short, stubby-looking raincoats, usually beige or gray.

They walked along, chatting cheerfully with one another; Stierlitz tried to understand what they were talking about, and it seemed to him — judging by their expressions — that they were chatting about some trivial matters: one was telling how he had spent the weekend in Irati, hunting for trout (in Spain they don’t say “caught trout,” they “hunt” it here); another was sharing his impressions of a trip to the castle of Fina Calderon near Toledo (an absolutely amazing woman, a well of charm); a third was simply saying that his left shoe was pinching and he needed to take it to Pepe, who worked on the street corner — a good cobbler and didn’t charge much for his work.

And none of these people — and they weren’t just ordinary people who walk the streets, sit in cafes, sow grain, sing in theaters, or treat patients in clinics — but special people initiated into the caste of politicians — looked worried, frowning, or depressed. None of them, judging by their faces, seemed to understand what had happened yesterday in Fulton.

“They are clerks”, Stierlitz thought then, “they do not see beyond what’s written in a document, they lack the gift of historical perspective. I have no right to judge all Americans by their faces, although right now I’m most concerned with those who make the decisions. How naive are the attacks of these loyal propagandists”, he thought then, “how helpless is their enthusiasm for the only democracy that exists on Earth — the American one... But even there, everything is determined by the man who was brought to the White House; fortune smiled on the country when Roosevelt came to power, but then God decided to punish it and took him away, putting Truman in his place — a man who could never understand or feel what Roosevelt did...”

Stierlitz even screwed up his eyes, because for a moment a terrifying vision arose: instead of living, clean-shaven faces, he saw skulls, and through gray cloaks appeared skeletons; the possibility of the mass extinction of humanity was tied to the ideas of a single man, who embodied those ideas in Words, which proved to be a turning point in the natural course of History...



What was it that had so disconcerted Stierlitz in Churchill's speech delivered yesterday, far across the ocean, in a beautiful and quiet, Old English-style college building?

Apparently, he realized, he had been stunned by Churchill's words about the need — as a countermeasure to Russia — to create a “fraternal association of English-speaking peoples.” Such an association meant a special relationship between the United States of America and the British Empire. “Fraternal association”, Churchill rapped out, “required not only the growing friendship between two kindred systems of society, but the continuance of the intimate relations between the military advisers and the joint use of all Naval and Air Force bases, which would double the power of the United States and increase the might of the Imperial Armed Forces.”

What hit Stierlitz hardest was that Churchill had used the word “empire” twice, thereby demonstrating that the old order, that is, Roosevelt's anti-imperial policy, was over once and for all. Truman could have expressed a dissenting opinion; he could have separated American democracy from British imperial ambitions, but he hadn't — instead, he had applauded the impetuous Winnie, demonstrating his agreement with every word spoken, along with everyone else.

Being a natural, deep-thinking politician, Stierlitz immediately realized that Churchill's passage about creating an “English-speaking military association opposing Russia” was not only a threat to the Kremlin but also a stern warning to France and Italy: both Rome and Paris were faced with the fait accompli of a qualitatively new alliance. And in the next paragraph, Churchill had struck even more openly: “The Communist parties working not only in Italy, but in a great number of countries, far from the Russian frontiers — throughout the world — constitute a growing challenge and peril to Christian civilization.”

That is, Stierlitz realized, with this phrase Churchill was unequivocally demanding the governments of Italy and France immediately remove Togliatti and Thorez from the cabinet and unconditionally disassociate themselves from those who had made the greatest contribution to the fight against Hitlerism. No one had ever dared to exercise such dictatorship over the sovereign countries of Europe since

May 9, 1945. Such things had happened before, but then it had been done by Churchill's greatest enemy. Is human memory really so short?!

Stierlitz realized that the past was over and done with when he read twice, very slowly, word by word, that part of the speech in which Churchill declared: “We cannot afford to work on narrow margins. From what I have seen of our Russian friends, I am convinced that there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness. A good understanding on all points with Russia must be supported by the whole strength of the English-speaking world and all its connections.”

He understood that Moscow would not be able to remain silent; the response would likely be just as sharp. Churchill knew what he was doing; he had studied Stalin's character quite accurately; in initiating his move, he had clearly calculated the potential opposition from the man who, just a year earlier, had been an equal member of the Big Three and had sat at the same table in Yalta, though back then, in Crimea, there had been another man beside them — Roosevelt.

It was on that March day in 1946, when Stierlitz had only just begun to walk without crutches or a cane, that he realized that returning to his homeland had now become a problem of such complexity that he could never have previously imagined before.

It was then, on that dank spring day in 1946, that he experienced a terrible sense of oppressive hopelessness: he could imagine that the idea he had served all his entire conscious life would be opposed by forces that had traditionally attacked the Soviet Union from the far right; he understood that the leader of the British fascists, Mosley, released from house arrest, would not accept his defeat and would once again begin holding rallies in Hyde Park; he understood that Ford's people, who had openly worshipped Hitler, might emerge from the shadows; but to see someone who Hitler had considered a hateful enemy of the Reich, someone who had contributed to the victory over Nazism, come forward with such a fiercely anti-Russian stance... <...>

## Müller-I (1946)

The sharp sunrays, shuttering against the warm wooden blinds, cut the dark room with yellow-blue lines that seemed cold because they somehow resembled the hidden substance of a mirror; the dead reflection of the true is always cold.

Müller watched for a long time as the rays moved slowly, barely noticeably, yet nevertheless relentlessly across the room, shifting from the massive mahogany table to the gray marble fireplace and to the shelves crammed with books.

He was in no hurry to get up from the large, low ottoman; he relaxed, enjoying the peace and quiet; he smiled whenever the cuckoo bird popped out of his Bavarian clock (a gift from a local Ortsleiter, who had brought it from Germany back in 1937, when he had been sent by the NSDAP's Foreign Department to infiltrate Argentina) and cheerfully count down the irrevocable disappearance of time.

In the first months after Müller arrived in Latin America, on that deserted coast, and, after exchanging silent handshakes with his companions, he got into the waiting car that took him to Enrique Trostheimer's estancia, Villa Nueva, he couldn't sleep; he'd drop off for two or three hours, and only after drinking a glass of the strongest Korn. The supplies were enormous — the entire basement of the large three-story mansion by the ocean was stacked with bottles.

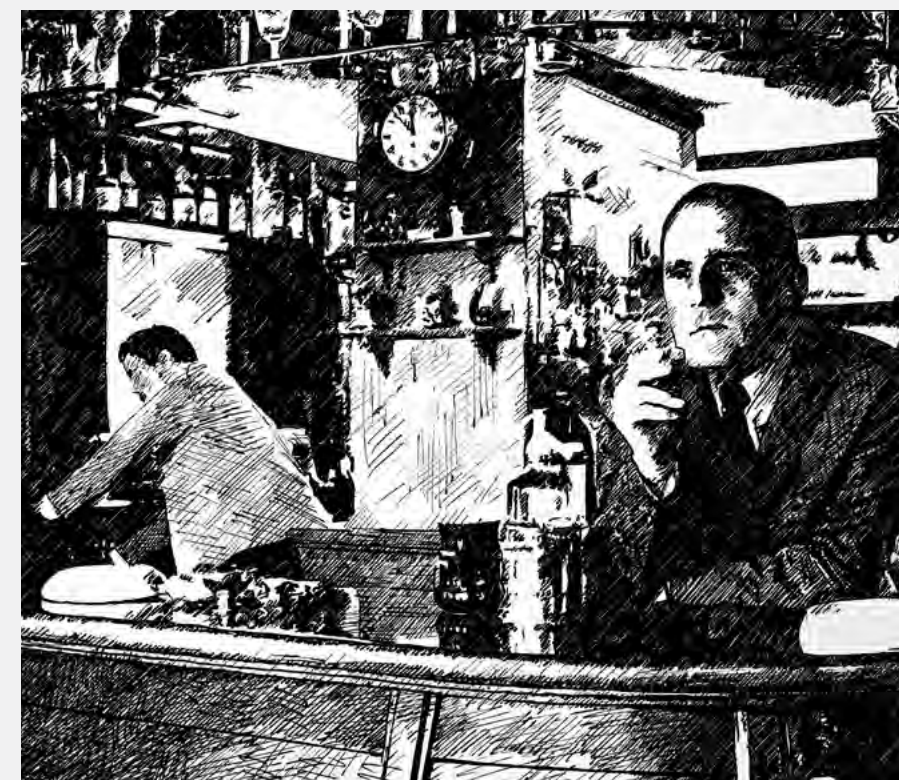
He felt constant tension, because a highway ran two kilometers from his house; there were no fences or guards, nothing like he was accustomed to in the Reich; he had a total sense of vulnerability, and he was constantly bracing himself for the moment when men in plain clothes would show up and ask, “Where is the war criminal Müller hiding?” Although he had a passport in the name of a Swiss citizen, Ricardo Blum, and despite Trostheimer's assurances that there was no danger for him, and that Perón was quite friendly — even though Roosevelt's Jews had forced his country to declare war on the Reich in March 1945 — Müller couldn't find any peace; when he went to bed, he would hide a Parabellum and a grenade under his pillow, but he still couldn't fall asleep, listening to the sound of cars passing in the distance.

“Enrique,” he finally said, “it takes you too long to arrange my transfer deeper into the territory. I understand that people are preparing the operation with the utmost care, but I'm afraid you'll end up taking me to a place where cars do not go, and I'll be a total nut, incapable of anything.”

“Ah, Ricardo,” Trostheimer smiled, “rest easy.” (Not once did Trostheimer call Müller by his former name or surname, let alone the rank to which he had become accustomed over the past few years; the address Gruppenführer was missing; at times it even seemed as though some piece of clothing were absent — as if he weren't wearing a tie, or had forgotten to put on his socks.)

“We value you too highly,” Trostheimer continued, “to take reckless risks. We are currently conducting the reconnaissance necessary in this situation; we are deploying the most important guests across the regions in such a way as to strictly maintain the proper proportion of senior managers, mid level managers, and ordinary employees...”

“And besides we considered it necessary to give you time for quarantine: the place you'll be going to doesn't have good medicine yet;



what if you need an X-ray, serious tests, or a consultation of the best doctors? The strain of the last few months doesn't show itself immediately — you might have a cardiac crisis, and I wouldn't rule out your blood pressure starting to fluctuate. It's better to deal with all this here, close to medical facilities.

"Get used to your new name, learn Spanish. It's not for nothing that I introduced you to my two young friends; they're entirely at your disposal. Sleep, swim, go for walks... I wouldn't dare say so if I weren't absolutely convinced of your complete safety..."

Accustomed over the past few years to having all his orders scrupulously carried out, having learned to see in the eyes of those around him a greedy desire to fulfill his every whim, and strongly convinced that only he knew how to act in any given situation, Müller painfully experienced his new position. Now he had to wait for instructions from someone unknown, appear for breakfast, lunch, and dinner strictly at the appointed time, whenever a copper gong, fixed under a palm tree in the small inner patio, boomed loudly, and make conversation at the table with the host and two "tutors" who also served as his guards. They were precise, attentive, and silent, but they lacked servility, so dear to Müller's heart (one gets used to it quickly, but it takes a long time to unlearn), which distinguished those who ensured his safety in the Reich, cooked his meals, cleaned his mansion and drove him around.

"That's what another continent about!" Müller thought heavily, looking closely at these two silent, sturdy fellows, "That's what it means to be disconnected from the soil! Yes, Germans are Germans, of course, but they are Argentine Germans! The local environment has already left its mark on them; they allow themselves to start a conversation without listening to me to the end, they come out to dinner in short-sleeved shirts, in those disgusting American jeans, as if they were some sort of swineherds; they guffaw while racing in the pool, not realizing that all this could distract me from my thoughts, or even simply irritate me. No, such things would be impossible at home; indeed, native soil disciplines, while foreign soil makes people lax; children raised in the homes of wealthy relatives, especially abroad, lose their unconditional adherence to tradition. It's regrettable."

However, he once thought, such an opinion contradicts our racial theory. According to the Führer, every German remains German, no matter where he lives, or in what environment he was raised; his blood does not allow him to lose himself. The soil, Müller repeated, is different here, even though the blood is German. And what is soil? Mysticism, nonsense. Sandstone or clay. The radio broadcasts are different here; it's all dance music; even I feel like moving to its rhythm. The food is different here; I've never eaten such meat in the Reich; they put several bottles of wine on the table and drink it like water — a constant feeling of artificial affectation impacts people's relationships; this is not like beer with its five percent alcohol, it's something different. They read American, French, and Mexican newspapers; they live alongside Englishmen, Slavs, and Jews, greet them, buy goods in their stores, exchange news. There is a constant diffusion. It is imperceptible at first glance, but the corrupting influence of such contacts is obvious.

He only calmed down when a small Dornier landed on the green field next to the mansion. The silent pilot greeted him with a sharp nod — his neck seemed to lose its firm muscularity for a moment, as if it could no longer hold his head upright. Müller liked that — apparently, the pilot had recently left the Reich. Trostheimer helped him get into the small cockpit, to the right of the pilot.

"Have a safe flight, Ricardo! I'm sure you'll truly enjoy the place you are heading to."

When the plane, having run a hundred meters or so across the field, lifted off easily and began to climb sharply, Müller asked:

"Where are we going?"

"To the mountains. Beyond Cordoba. To Villa General Belgrano. It's our settlement, mostly Germans live there. There is an excellent airfield, but there's no road, we have to travel by horse. Every truck there is an event, so the situation is absolutely under control." <...>

Yalta, Crimea. 1984

# There's no better profession!

On the occasion of the 80th birthday of Mikhail Vitalyevich Pogudin, Chairman of the Council of Veterans of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine, "Razvedchik" has decided to introduce readers to another side of this multifaceted personality and is publishing his poems — about his service in intelligence, mentors on invisible fronts, and the honor and dignity of a Russian officer.

## What is intelligence?

What is intelligence?  
It is those frontiers of fate,  
Where life tests us  
Along the highest lines.

Here intellect and will are needed,  
Here courage is honored,  
To navigate the minefield  
Of the land overseas.

This field, guys,  
Isn't easy to plow.  
Here, you can easily become  
Persona non grata.

Here, a mistake will turn into failure  
In an instant.  
And the whiff of a political scandal  
Will easily arise.

Here, the eyes of counterintelligence  
Catch your every step,  
You fight it  
With every your nerve cell.

An unequal battle, but a just one,  
Not for your own glory,  
But for our country,  
For my Russia.

What is intelligence?  
It's nerves in a fist.  
A tablet of nerve  
Will not help at all.

Heart attacks are common here.  
Friends are lost here.  
What have you become, intelligence,  
In my sinful life?

You're my way of thinking,  
On which I stand,  
The true meaning of my life,  
Both in work and in battle.

In the non-stop routine  
Of endless milestones  
There is no better profession,  
And I am faithful to you.



## I have the honor

I have the honor... What words!  
They hold dignity, pride, and faith,  
They hold the soul and destiny of an officer,  
With them, military glory lives on...

Honor in the enigmatic Russian soul,  
The one that has not been deciphered, -  
A manifestation of high morality  
At that most important point of fate.

The honor of family and the beloved one  
Was defended so fiercely that sabers clanged.  
So many duels there was in Russia!  
Honestly, believe me, countless!

"Life for the Fatherland, honor for no one!" -  
Our ancestors once bequeathed to us.  
Their covenant was with us in '45,  
It is remembered today in Crimea...

With that covenant we'll march to victory,  
What are sanctions or threats to us!  
The armored train still menacingly  
Waits on the siding!

And there is a worthy new generation:  
Operatives of the twenty-first century.  
Let's wish the boys success,  
They will defend the honor of the Motherland!

## In the Museum of Intelligence Service

I enter here as one enters a temple.  
A holy place! I know that for sure.  
I walk through the halls... No, through the time,  
As if retracing the path of intelligence.

It is represented in military awards,  
In yellowed archival documents,  
And in the faces of my mentors  
Staring from photographs on museum stands.

Their faces are bright—like icons,  
Holy heroes of the great country.  
And their eyes... those young eyes...  
Are looking at us!

I thought: if only we could bring them back again  
To our land from the heavenly blue.  
This army would be invincible, steadfast...  
And with it, of course, Russia!

But, alas, the Earth does not turn backwards,  
And having completed the museum program,  
I will say: "Thank you, teachers!"  
And I will bow, as one bows in a temple.



Drawing by  
Vladimir Mochalov

A new tamer appeared in the International Circus, but the old experienced animals quickly got the hang of him.

# Selected moments from operative correspondence

The members of the terrorist organization went underground, and no one ever heard from them again.

The terrorists in the vehicle opened fire. During the skirmish three of them got arrested.

The foreigner holds progressive views and is sympathetic toward our country. In the course of his professional activities, he takes a keen interest in the history of the Second World War and maintains friendly relations with veterans of the French SS Volunteer Division “Charlemagne.”

When “X” was asked, if he wouldn’t let us down, the foreigner said: *“In the East, it is customary: if you give a man your word, he is bound to keep it.”*

“S” looks young, but when it comes to his health, he is surprisingly full of rot.

Identification signal: the subject must be holding a 300-page hardcover book in his left hand; the cover is green with alternating red and purple stripes, and there is a yellow inscription inside a black circle on the spine.

The improvised rocket launchers were disguised as carts for transporting petroleum products and vegetables, which were harnessed by donkeys, as well as hand grenade launchers.

The rebel vanguard troop managed to infiltrate the city under the cover of a flock of sheep.

## In the next issue:

**President of the Kurchatov Institute  
Mikhail Kovalchuk:**  
“Today the demand for innate, natural  
intelligence is high as never before”

**An illegal with French charm**  
On the 90th anniversary  
of the intelligence officer  
Lyudmila Nuikina

**Chrysanthemums at a prison wall**  
The history of one escape

**War in the Pacific**  
Declassified reports of the  
Soviet intelligence



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