

MAGAZINE

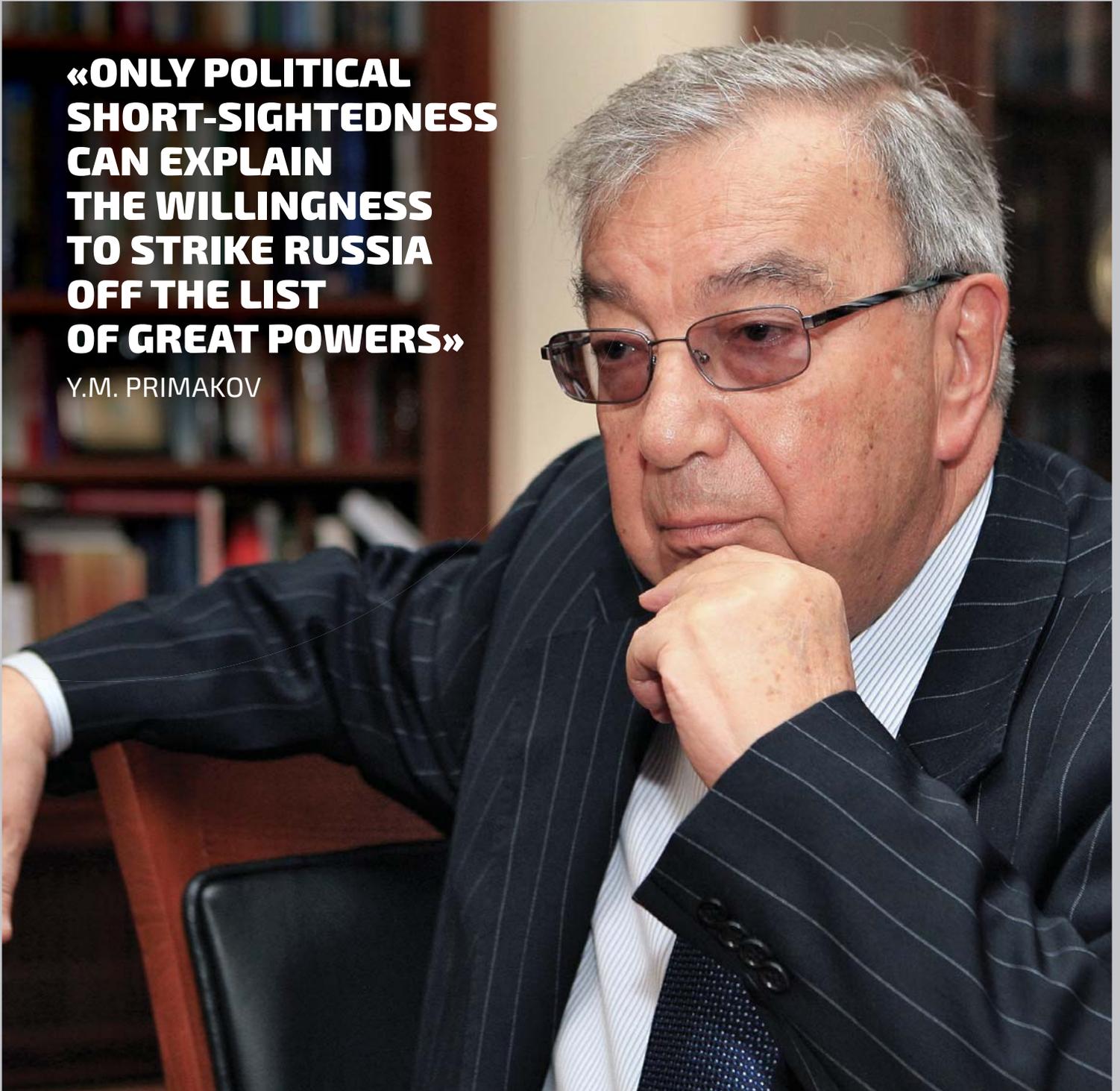
RAZVEDCHIK

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

N° 2(7) JUNE 2024

**«ONLY POLITICAL
SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS
CAN EXPLAIN
THE WILLINGNESS
TO STRIKE RUSSIA
OFF THE LIST
OF GREAT POWERS»**

Y.M. PRIMAKOV



N.S. MIKHALKOV:
«WHAT IDEOLOGY
DOES RUSSIA NEED?»

«GENIUS OF RECRUITMENT».
120TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ARNOLD DEUTSCH

DECLASSIFIED ARCHIVES:
REPORTS OF THE BRITISH
INTELLIGENCE

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THE FORCE OF RUSSIA IS INSIDE OURSELVES.
IT IS WITHIN OUR PEOPLE,
TRADITIONS AND CULTURE,
OUR ECONOMY,
VAST TERRITORY,
AND NATURAL RESOURCES.
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY —
OUR FORCE IS UNDOUBTEDLY
IN THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE.



WHAT IDEOLOGY DOES RUSSIA NEED?

Text: Nikita Sergeevich Mikhalkov,
Hero of Labor of Russia, People's Artist of the Russian Federation,
director, author and host of the BesogonTV program

«Nations sometimes forget about their national tasks, but such nations perish, they turn to compost, to fertilizer on which other, stronger nations wax in size and strength.»

Pyotr Arkadyevich Stolypin said these words at the beginning of the last century, but how relevant they are for us today. Today, when our country has drawn itself up to its full height, so that foreign peoples, values and meanings alien to us do not grow up in its place and become stronger. But we were on the verge of losing ourselves, of abandoning our own, of dissolving in the ideology imposed on us from the outside. How did this happen? Why have we come so close to the precipice and have already lifted one foot to throw ourselves down there, into the abyss?

One of the main reasons, in my opinion, is that the 1993 Constitution banned the very concept of "ideology." They were frightening us that this was necessary in order not to repeat the communist ideology. Ardent young reformers of those years, waging a merciless war against the communist ideology, hastily crossed out the very concept of "ideology" and imposed a ban on it. But I want to ask a simple question: can ideology be only communist? What is "ideology" in itself? And this is only an agreement between people on the rules by which they will live together

in a common country and move towards its well-being, this is an agreement on what is allowed and what is not allowed under any circumstances. It's not allowed because it doesn't fit into the cultural and historical roots of human existence, of a person living and born here in Russia. Awareness of one's national tasks which P.A. Stolypin spoke about – that is what the ideology is.

Let's see what is written in the 13th Article of the current Constitution: "Ideological diversity is recognized in the Russian Federation. No ideology may be established as a state or a compulsory one." What does it mean? It means that in a huge country with several time zones, with different nationalities, religions, languages and so on, in our enormous country, any state other than Russia itself can engage in ideology. Because they are not prohibited from implementing their ideology here, in our state. It is we who are forbidden to engage in ideology in our own country.

And look, how slowly but surely the values and ideas of the collective West have been

« Ideology is an agreement among people about the rules by which they will live in a common country and move towards its well-being. It is an agreement on what is and what is not allowed under any circumstances..

implanted here in Russia... The Overton window: something that was forbidden, that could not even be thought about, has gradually turned into something that could be thought about, then could be discussed, then could be done, and then into something that must be done. Remember how the European Court of Human Rights – ECHR – obliged Russia to recognize same-sex marriages. Just think over it! The European Court of Human Rights demands, in the form of an ultimatum, from a great power, from a country with nuclear weapons, which can wipe this Europe off the face of the earth in 15 minutes, that it violates its own Constitution in favor of the political trends that exist today in the same Europe. How is it possible? But it is.

And it turns out that the absence of ideology is also an ideology. This is precisely the very

essence of liberal philosophy: everything is allowed to everyone. I am not against personal freedom, but I am against the situation when people do not understand where they are going, when people have no idea what kind of state they are building. Russia is a huge ship, and no wind will be favorable to us until we understand where we are sailing. And this “hesitation in minds that are not firm in anything,” according to A.S. Griboyedov, is where the most terrible thing is concealed...

From my point of view, it is very important, in the context of all stated above, that on July 2, 2021 the President of our country Vladimir Putin signed Decree No. 400, which is called “On the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation.” The Decree states the protection of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values, culture and historical memory. I would like to quote one paragraph from this Decree:

“The changes taking place in the modern world affect not only interstate relations, but also universal values. Humanity has faced the threat of losing traditional spiritual and moral guidelines and stable moral principles. Basic moral cultural norms, religious foundations, the institution of marriage, family values are being increasingly destroyed.”

And we can't help but remember here the words of Anthony the Great: “The last times will come when nine sick people will approach a healthy one and say: you are sick because you are not like us.”

How exactly does our President see the protection of traditional values? Here is what the document tells: “Information policy seeking to strengthen the role of traditional Russian values, develop the system of education, teaching and training, popularize the achievements of Russian science and technology, literature, artistic culture, sports, music, and so on.”

And how can this really be achieved if we do not radically reformat the entire information field, and, perhaps, the environment in which we live? How to implement this Presidential

Decree?

If we talk about national values and treat the Presidential Decree with respect, why do we shyly refuse sacred things, those things that should cultivate and retain our historical memory? How long will we see the Mausoleum bashfully covered with painted veneer panels during parades and holidays on Red Square? But we do understand that all these panels hide the Mausoleum. And why do we cover it?

After all, this is really a sacred place. In June 1945, the victorious soldiers who had gone through the war threw standards and banners of the defeated Wehrmacht to the foot of the Mausoleum, and they carried them in white gloves, which they then burned. The Mausoleum is a sacred symbol; it is an image. And I'm not talking about Stalinism or Leninism now. I ask a question, to myself among others: what are we ashamed of?

In order to understand what is happening, I would like to give a short historical excursus. The first Mausoleum was built 100 years ago — in 1924, immediately after the leader's death. It was given its modern stone appearance six years later, in 1930. The author of the project was the architect Alexey Shchusev. In 1945, a tribune was built at the Mausoleum, from which the Soviet leadership greeted participants of the parade organized to celebrate the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany. The embalmed body of Lenin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, revolutionary, Bolshevik, was placed in the Mausoleum. To preserve the embalmed body, a scientific laboratory with a large staff was created (now it is the Center of Biomedical Technologies). Its staff monitors the required temperature and humidity conditions.

Why was this done? Because after Vladimir Ilyich's death, there was a steady stream of people who wanted to say goodbye to him, and workers wrote petitions to keep his body from being consigned to the grave. At that time the Mausoleum was visited by approximately two and a half million of our fellow citizens a year. We understand that



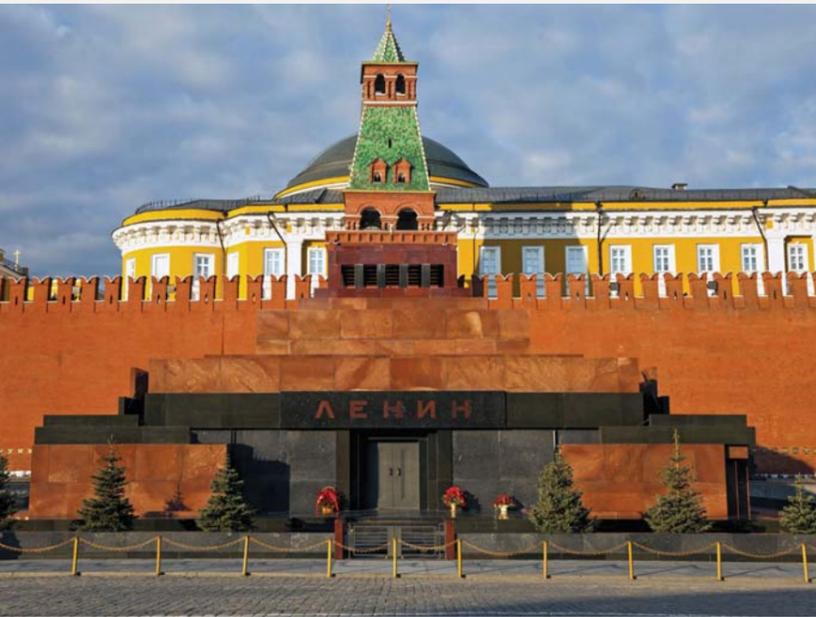
«12» performance at the Bolshoi theatre. April 2021

these people have been brought up in a slightly different paradigm of values, in the paradigm of atheism and theomachy. And we were brought up at school and at institute precisely in these atheistic traditions. Therefore, for us, a person unburied, his body not consigned to the grave, did not cause any protest; we considered it as a normal phenomenon: if it was done that way, then it was necessary.

Time has changed, but even now the Mausoleum is open five days a week for three hours a day, and every year about half a million of our fellow citizens visit it. But these are completely different people, not at all the same people who came to say goodbye to their leader 100 years ago. Of course, among them there are those who sincerely believe in communist ideals, and I respect these people, I don't want to offend them in any way, but time is passing... In general, now

« The last times will come when nine sick people will approach a healthy one and say: you are sick because you are not like us.

Anthony the Great



Moscow, Red Square

people go to the Mausoleum more out of curiosity. But there are those, and they are many, who do not even know who Lenin is.

In my opinion, this question is directly related to ideology. How can we move forward if we still shyly cover the sacred symbol of the country with these painted veneer panels?

There has been a lot of discussion in our country about the fate of Vladimir Ilyich's body. I also have thoughts on this issue, but I would not want my thoughts to be interpreted as a political declaration or as a desire to provoke conflicts. This concerns something else, this concerns only what we talked about above and what the President spoke about — how we should move forward.

After all, what is Red Square? It used to be a place where horses and hay were traded,

where various stalls and stands were placed. And then, at a certain moment, Red Square turned into a cemetery: it was decided to brick up the remains of people who had distinguished themselves in battles of the Civil War, in building a socialist society, in revolutionary activities, and so on, into the Kremlin wall. And those who were especially outstanding were buried near the wall. In 1993, the Post Number One at the Mausoleum was disbanded, and Red Square seemed to regain its former importance. Concerts began to be held there, as usual, with the Mausoleum covered. Concerts starring pop idols — on Moscow City Day, on Independence Day, then just ordinary concerts... And all this, whether we like it or not, takes place in a cemetery... Can we imagine a concert of Paul McCartney or the Scorpions in the Novodevichye Cemetery or in Troekurovskoye Cemetery? It would be a nonsense, a blasphemy! And in winter, a skating rink opens on Red Square. And this skating rink is also placed in the cemetery...

I'm not saying that we should stop celebrating holidays on Red Square, but that we should give this necropolis a special significance. This is not my idea; it occurred as early as in 1953, after Stalin's death. At that time, a proposal was made to build a kind of pantheon and to place there the remains buried in the wall and near it. But my namesake Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, who waged an unrestrained struggle against architectural extravagances, rejected this proposal. And, by the way, ironically, he became the only Soviet general secretary not to be buried at the Kremlin wall, but in the Novodevichye cemetery.

It seems to me that it would be right to build such pantheon somewhere near Moscow, and to transfer there the remains of all these people. To place near each urn an interactive screen that could tell people who this person is, why and for what merits he was buried in the Kremlin, near the Kremlin wall. Moreover, this should be freed of absolutely all political overtones, there should be only facts, an objective truth without any value judgment. Children, schoolchildren, students will be able to find out why these people were

« How can we move forward if we are still shyly covering the sacred symbol of our country, the Mausoleum, with veneer panels?

buried there, what they did for the country, and what their destiny was. This can become an amazing, very informative way of studying the history of our own country, at least from 1917 to our new times. From my point of view, this is very important. And this is precisely about ideology and about where we are all going together...

And the Special Military Operation is also about ideology and about where we are going and what kind of world we want our descendants to live in. I am deeply convinced that everything that happened before the Special Military Operation was a consequence of the harmful policy of the 1990s, which many people in our country liked, because it did not imply the sovereignty of values and meanings and allowed a small part of our society to make a lot of money out of this policy. Today, in such a crucial and important moment for our Fatherland, we see in full swing how a slow intellectual ferment is going on inside... There is a whole caste of people who say nothing bad, write nothing

« The Special Military Operation was sent to us by God! So that we finally wake up and try to understand who is who and what is what.

bad, but it is a silent collusion of those who expect everything to be as it was before. This is a very dangerous trend — to expect things to be like they used to be... They won't be! The Special Military Operation was sent to us by God! So that we finally wake up and try to understand who is who and what is what. So that we fully realize that the thousand-year desire to destroy us has come extremely close to the possibility of being carried out. The Special Military Operation is our salvation and our common cause! 🇷🇺



At the opening of the 45th Moscow International Film Festival. April 20, 2023



In memory of Y.M. Primakov Intellectual, Visionary, Strategist

Text: Mikhail Vitalievich Pogudin,
Chairman of the Council of Veterans of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, Lieutenant General (retired)

Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov headed the Foreign Intelligence Service in a period of major historical perturbations. In the early 1990s, the entire system of political and social relations in our country was radically transforming, and the balance of forces in the international scene was changing drastically. A deep ideological transformation affected the world view of the entire generation. At that difficult time, the Service, like the state as a whole, faced new and extremely difficult challenges that only a true patriot, with an iron will and unique political far-sightedness, could meet. The academician Primakov became such a person.

Thanks to Yevgeny Maksimovich, foreign intelligence managed to get through those turbulent years without any critical losses, although on the tide of reforms and fierce struggle against the Soviet legacy, loud voices were heard about the need to abolish it. Moreover, the Service established itself as an independent agency, firmly taking a proper place in the renewed system of state organs. We, the veterans of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service – and I am sure that active officers might also agree with me – will always remember this, as well as the energy and persistence with which Primakov contributed to the solution of such important and pressing issues as social and logistical support.

In addition, it was on Primakov's initiative that a fine retuning of the Foreign Intelligence Service was made, which allowed to adapt it to new realities and to get rid of the unfavorable image "inherited" from the KGB of the USSR. 'Now we are not working against anyone, but in order to protect Russian national interests,' emphasized Yevgeny Maksimovich. Besides, he always stood up for a greater openness in intelligence activities. It was under his leadership when the publication of open analytical reports of the Foreign Intelligence Service became

customary, and the Service's structure included a press center.

As fate would have it, it fell to Primakov's lot not only to head the intelligence service, but also to solve, perhaps, the main strategic task of those years – to formulate the basic principles of foreign policy of young post-Soviet Russia. Being one of the most far-sighted statesmen of his time, he clearly

« In the early 1990s, there were hotheads in Russia who, misinterpreting the geopolitical changes that had taken place, convinced themselves that there was no longer a need for foreign intelligence. The appointment of Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov to the post of Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, his authority and deep understanding of the tasks facing the intelligence, prevented this from happening.

S.E. Naryshkin

Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov

Born on October 29, 1929 in Kyiv. He graduated from the Arabic Department of the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies and finished the post-graduate course of the Faculty of Economics of Lomonosov Moscow State University. He began his career at the State Committee of Television and Radio Broadcasting of the USSR, and worked his way up from a reporter to the editor-in-chief of the section of broadcasting for Arab countries. In the 1960s, he was the Pravda newspaper's own correspondent in the Middle East. From 1970 to 1977, he held the post of Deputy Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO). In 1977, he headed the Institute of Oriental Studies, in 1979 he was elected Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and in 1985 he returned to IMEMO as its Director. In 1989, he became a member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and a candidate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

On September 30, 1991, by the decision of M.S. Gorbachev, he headed the successor to the First Chief Directorate of the KGB of the USSR – the Central Intelligence Service of the USSR. In December of the same year he became the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, and worked in this post until January 1996. In 1996–1998 – Head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From September 1998 to May 1999 – Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation. From 2001 to 2011 headed the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, the Order of Friendship of Peoples, the Order "For Merit to the Fatherland", I, II, and III classes, the Order of the Badge of Honor. Died on June 26, 2015. Buried at the Novodevichye cemetery.



With his mother
Anna Yakovlevna

understood that the centuries-old historical traditions, the geopolitical situation, and the self-awareness of the people impose on our country the need to pursue an independent course based on the protection of sovereignty and the priority of national interests. Yevgeny Maksimovich used to say: 'Russia is fundamentally irreducible to any bloc; our country is an independent, dynamically developing center of power.'

One of the central ideas actively promoted and defended by Primakov was the concept of multipolarity. As an experienced orientalist, he was among the first to recognize the signs of the decay of Western dominance and to predict the shifting of the gravity center of world development to the East. Even then, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, he strongly opposed the intellectual attempts of Western politologists who were promoting fashionable concepts of "the end of history" and "the unipolar moment." Contrary to widespread ideas of globalists, he always defended the preservation of diversity in cultures and worldviews. In his opinion, this was the only way to create a truly fair world order, free from hegemony and colonial practices.

It is not surprising that Russia's course on protecting sovereignty and polycentricism, formulated by Yevgeny Maksimovich, was given a hostile reception in the West. We remember how displeased the Anglo-Saxons were with Primakov's sensational turn over the Atlantic in March 1999. Meanwhile, Yevgeny Maksimovich even then sagaciously noted that irresponsible behavior of Western countries on the international scene would be the root of many future conflicts. His warnings that hasty actions of the United States and their allies in the Middle East, North Africa and other regions risk widening hotbeds of anarchy and terrorism, remain very relevant today.

The decisive clash, he predicted, would occur due to the global elites' desire to reduce the diversity of world civilizations to a common denominator, and a human being – to a simple unit of measure. It was by this reason that Primakov sought to overcome any ideological clichés, imposed from abroad, like "young democracies" and "rogue states." To these foreign labels, he opposed traditional values and national identity.

The split of world views foreseen by him, has clearly manifested itself today in the Ukrainian crisis. Instead of the idea of building a "space of common destiny" proposed by Primakov, which was simple

« I think there is no need to slander on the humanity. Yes, some countries, some politicians are aggressive and intractable. But if the whole world were so intolerable, people would not just have fought with each other long ago, but would have used nuclear weapons. And they keep wisdom. Isn't it the best proof that the humanity does not grow decrepit?

E.M. Primakov



With his first wife Laura,
son Alexander and daughter Nana

other multilateral mechanisms, alternative to the Western ones, operate – the EAEU, SCO, G20, the participants of which reject the dictates of a narrow group of states.

The global transformation taking place before our eyes, forces us today to re-evaluate the rich intellectual heritage of Yevgeny Maksimovich. He considered that his underlying task consisted in creating favorable conditions for the balanced development of Russia on the basis of values which are organic to our people. On the outer contour – in creating a sustainable world order based on the equal interaction of all leading centers of power which reflects the civilizational diversity of our planet. It is in such a world that our country was, is and will be a great power, forming the foundation of a fair international system. This will also be the best memorial to an outstanding Russian statesman, which, without exaggeration, was Academician Primakov.

With his second wife
Irina Borisovna

and familiar to all, the Kiev regime, instigated by its Western curators, buried the centuries-old heritage of its ancestors, the common history, and the unity of traditions and beliefs. And the European countries, involved in a self-destructive confrontation, with their own hands "concreted" those marking lines on the continent which Yevgeny Maksimovich had pragmatically opposed.

The multi-vector principle in foreign policy promoted by Primakov, allowed us not only to cope with economic pressure and blackmail from the West, but also to ensure freedom of maneuver and to improve the quality of relations with the rest of the world. Today, largely due to the efforts of Yevgeny Maksimovich, there is an unprecedentedly high level of trust in Russia's relations with China and India, and contacts with Vietnam, Indonesia, Iran and other non-Western countries are developing dynamically. And the RIC "triangle" – his personal idea, one might even say, a personal project – has become a stable foundation for a polycentric world order which is rapidly forming before our eyes. On its basis, the BRICS association has been created and is operating successfully. In the same paradigm, many



Statesman

Text: Vyacheslav Victorovich Volodin,
Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation



At a meeting
of the Board
of the Chamber
of Commerce and
Industry.
December 2003

At a meeting
with Fidel Castro.
May 1996

Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov devoted his life to the service to our country and to our people. Wherever he worked – in the Foreign Intelligence Service, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Government, in the State Duma – he always felt his personal responsibility for Russia's fate. He did everything to ensure its development and strength.

Yevgeny Maksimovich knew when it was right to show his will and character, and when to find a compromise. He knew how to withstand blows and to defend his position. He never betrayed anyone. And he himself did not tolerate traitors.

In the most difficult years of the country's modern history, Primakov was not afraid to take responsibility. He made tough but correct decisions for the benefit of Russia, for strengthening its authority.

He was among the architects of the concept of a multipolar world. He firmly defended national interests and the foundations of state sovereignty as the basis of the entire system of international relations and the guarantee of preserving national identity. He advocated the development of equal interstate dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation. Today, our country is still building its foreign policy on these principles.

Primakov made a great contribution to the formation of modern Russia, to the development of state and society.

Remembering Yevgeny Maksimovich, it is important to say: he was a man of a good heart and a generous soul. We will always be grateful to him; he will always stay in our memories.

True friend

Text: Vitaly Nikitich Ignatenko,
General Director of ITAR-TASS (1991–2012),
General Director of the ANCO "Public Television of Russia"

Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov knew how to be a friend like no one else. I had the honor of being among his close comrades and friends for a long time. The defining feature of his character was his twenty-four-hour focus on helping and participating in our affairs, usually problematic and intractable. He was surrounded by childhood friends. Some of them became academicians, others were not so famous. But he treated them all equally, cordially, and faithfully. Nobody except us knew that Yevgeny Maksimovich was an enormous maximalist, that he would go to the end both in friendship and in interpreting the actions of other people. He could burn all his bridges behind him and suffer later, but not pay attention to the despair of those whom he had suddenly deprived of his warmth.

He had enough of black days in his life. He lost his son Alexander, a boy in the prime of life, a very promising scientist. Then we buried his wife Laura and for many years we would visit her grave, so that on the day of her death we could be close to Yevgeny Maksimovich... One after another, his old personal friends passed away: Volodya, Albert, Tengiz, Leon, Igor... Yevgeny Maksimovich heavily took these losses.

In politics, he constantly found himself close to Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev. He could dispute with the President of the USSR, but he did not allow anyone to judge him poorly. He would get into any ideological fight if he saw injustice or self-interest. Mikhail Sergeevich, in my opinion, was particularly attentive to all of Primakov's proposals and comments.

When Mikhail Sergeevich found himself unfavored and unclaimed by the new government, Yevgeny Maksimovich was by his side. Even at birthday parties of the ex-president of the USSR, no one could think of other toastmaster than Yevgeny Maksimovich. At first, Yeltsin also appreciated Primakov. He

absolutely trusted him. In all appointments: in the Foreign Intelligence Service, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in the government. There is no need even to guess why the breakup occurred. Why the successful prime minister was urgently dismissed. Boris Nikolaevich was failing physically; do-gooders, masters of conspiracy theories were hovering around him. It's a pity they didn't allow Yevgeny Maksimovich to open up to the full. But he did one great feat: he stopped the downfall of the country...

On the day when Yevgeny Maksimovich was appointed Prime Minister, on his way from the Kremlin he visited TASS. Primakov took his new challenge with excitement and wariness: he had to create his own team urgently, to establish relations with the Duma and with the heterogeneous economic elite. He offered me to become his deputy for social issues. When I started to refuse – well, what kind of expert I am in pensions, medicine, benefits, etc. – Yevgeny Maksimovich did not insist. 'Then it will be Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko,' – he concluded. And he didn't make mistake in choosing her.

As Prime Minister, Yevgeny Maksimovich was always available to the journalists. Moreover, he regularly met with the editors-in-chief at TASS. He was frank and open to any question. He only asked not to distort the words that were said at these closed dinners, and better just keep them in mind, not to quote them. And so we used to do.

A few words about Irina Borisovna, who became the closest person to Yevgeny Maksimovich – his wife, his comrade, a friend to all his friends. I was touched when Irina came to my son's funeral; her words and condolences were very dear to me and necessary in those days.

When Yevgeny Maksimovich passed away, I fully understood whom I had lost. Whom we all have lost. 🇷🇺



Dear friends!

2024 is rich in major sporting events: in a few days the BRICS Sports Games will start in Kazan, the Olympic Games will open in Paris at the end of July, and in September the first ever World Friendship Games will be held in Moscow and Yekaterinburg. Large-scale and spectacular holidays are awaiting us, aiming to unite humanity on the basis of fair sports competition.

At the same time, I have to point out that sport has never been so politicized as it is now. Formed 130 years ago – June 23, 1894 – the International Olympic Committee, instigated by Western politicians and functionaries, has turned into an instrument of pressure, blackmail and outright discrimination. As a person who devoted 75 years of his life to sports, I feel bitterness while talking about it. We can only hope that, sooner or later, the common sense will prevail, and the IOC will return to the noble principles of Olympism entrusted by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, which now are forgotten.

By the way, I want to emphasize that the big sport is in some way similar to the intelligence work. In both cases, there are no easy victories. Of course, sometimes there is room for luck and good fortune, but great success, as a rule, comes through hard work and daily overcoming oneself. And also, it is always a teamwork, when the final result depends on the efforts of each field player and timely and accurate instructions from the coaching staff.

In addition, athletes, like intelligence officers, often have to operate in a hostile environment, when literally the

entire stadium is set against them. In my long sports career – both as a football player and as a coach – there were many such moments. These are the circumstances that help to reveal the valuable strong-willed qualities of real champions: firmness, self-discipline, the ability to concentrate on the main thing and, in spite of all, to snatch victory from the hands of an opponent!

We, the Russians, have got a very strong winning spirit. And don't be confused by the fact that these words are spoken by a person with an Armenian surname. Yes, I am 100% Armenian, but I am also 100% Russian, and I'm proud of it! We all – athletes and intelligence officers born in the USSR – considered ourselves to be the Russians and were happy to defend the honor of our great country: some on the football field, boxing ring or ice skating rink, and some abroad on a special mission. It is gratifying that our baton has been taken up by new generations of patriots, to whom I would like to wish to be persistent, to move confidently towards the goal, and, most important, not to be indifferent. As my teacher Nikolai Petrovich Starostin used to say, if you devote yourself entirely to your cause and at the same time fail in some things, this is pardonable. It is indifference that is unforgivable.

New big victories to all of us – at all fronts!

*Nikita Pavlovich Simonyan,
Honored Master of Sports of the USSR,
Honored Coach of the USSR,
Olympic champion 1956*



Luzhniki Stadium, 1958



Luzhniki Stadium, 1969



Coverciano (Italy), 1977



Tarasovka (Moscow Region), 1983

3
April
1924

In the city of Batumi, born Marius Aramovich Yuzbashyan, a prominent intelligence officer, a participant of the Great Patriotic War, Lieutenant General. He served in state security agencies since 1943, in foreign intelligence since 1954. He spent many years abroad doing illegal intelligence work; from 1972 to 1978 he was one of the leaders of Soviet illegal intelligence. In 1978, he was appointed Chairman of the KGB of the Armenian SSR, and served in this post for 10 years. He was awarded the Order of the October Revolution, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War, I and II classes, two Orders of the Red Star, the "Honorary State Security Officer" badge, and a lot of medals.



8
May
1924

In the city of Balta, Moldavian SSR, born Vladilen Nikolaevich Fedorov, Soviet intelligence officer, Major General. In 1942, he was drafted into the Armed Forces and sent to the Military Institute of Foreign Languages, then to the Military Diplomatic Academy. In 1954, he was enlisted in the foreign intelligence, where he worked his way up from an ordinary officer to the head of one of the leading departments. He worked in many countries, including those with difficult operational environments, twice as a station chief. After retirement, he became one of the initiators of the creation of the Regional Public Organization "Veterans of Foreign Intelligence," which he headed from 1991 to 2001. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, two Orders of the Red Star, the Order of the Badge of Honor, and a lot of medals.



5
April
1939

In the village of Mokhovskoye in the Parfenovsky district of Altai Krai, born Vitaly Alekseevich Nuykin, a colonel of illegal intelligence. Graduate of MGIMO, he was admitted to state security agencies in 1963. For more than 20 years, together with his wife Lyudmila Ivanovna Nuykina, he worked in special conditions, including countries with a strict administrative and police regime, often at the risk to his life. He achieved concrete results. In 1986, due to the betrayal of O. Gordievsky, he was forced to return to his homeland and continued to work at the Center. In 1993, he retired. He was awarded the Order of the October Revolution, two Orders of the Red Banner, "For Service in Intelligence" badge and a lot of medals.

21
May
1904



In Vienna (Austria), born Arnold Deutsch, an outstanding illegal intelligence officer. At the age of 20 he joined the ranks of the Communist Party. In 1928, after graduating from the University of Vienna, he became an active participant in the communist underground and was a liaison officer for the International Relations Department (intelligence) of the Comintern. In 1932, he was transferred to the INO OGPU, worked at illegal stations in many European countries. In Great Britain alone, he recruited more than 20 valuable sources, including members of the famous "Cambridge Five". In 1938, he accepted Soviet citizenship. In November 1942, he received the appointment to head the illegal station in Buenos Aires, but on the way to the place of his service, the Donbass cargo ship carrying the intelligence officer was attacked by a German destroyer and sank in the waters of the Barents Sea.

16
April
1934

A resolution on the establishment of the title of Hero of the Soviet Union was adopted by the USSR Central Executive Committee. It is noted in the document, in particular: "To establish the highest degree of distinction, that is, the awarding of the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for personal or collective services to the state associated with the accomplishment of a heroic feat." The first to receive this award in the foreign intelligence were officers who carried out missions in the enemy's rear during the Great Patriotic War: S.A. Vaupshasov, N.I. Kuznetsov, V.A. Lyagin, D.N. Medvedev, V.A. Molodtsov. In the post-war period, the first intelligence officers with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union who may already be spoken about, became R. Mercader and G.A. Vartanyan.



24
May
1899

In London, born Kitty Harris, the "golden fund" of Soviet intelligence, as P.M. Fitin used to call her. In 1908, she moved with her family to Canada, and in 1923, to the USA. In 1925, she married the General Secretary of the American Communist Party E. Browder, with whom she then worked in the illegal representative office of the Profintern in Shanghai. Since 1931, she was an officer of the INO. On her first service trip she was sent to Germany, where she had an opportunity to work with F.K. Parparov, V.M. Zarubin and other outstanding Soviet intelligence officers. For 15 years, she supported the activities of illegal stations in Berlin, Paris, London, Los Angeles, and Mexico City. She communicated with valuable sources, including the "Cambridge Five" member D. Maclean. She actively participated in obtaining information on nuclear issues.



25
April
1944

In the city of Irkutsk, born Vyacheslav Ivanovich Trubnikov, an outstanding intelligence officer and diplomat, Army General, Hero of Russia. In 1967, after graduating from MGIMO, he was accepted into the foreign intelligence. He repeatedly traveled abroad on long business trips and achieved concrete results. In 1992 he was appointed First Deputy Director, in 1996 – Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service. In 2000, he was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the position of First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the CIS countries. From 2004 to 2009 he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India. After retirement, he worked as a senior researcher at the IMEMO RAS (Institute of World Economy and International Relations) named after E.M. Primakov. In December 2022, the name of V.I. Trubnikov was listed on the memorial plaque of the Foreign Intelligence Service.

19
June
1899



In the city of Novovitebsk, Ekaterinoslav province, born Boris Arkadyevich Rybkin, a prominent Soviet intelligence officer. He worked in Austria, Bulgaria, Persia, France. In 1935, he was appointed station chief in Finland, where at the same time Z. Voskresenskaya, who later became his wife, was assigned as deputy head of the foreign apparat. He carried on secret negotiations with the Finnish authorities on the exchange of border territories and on a military alliance against Nazi Germany. In 1941-1943 he was a station chief in Stockholm. After the war, he went on business trips to Turkey and Czechoslovakia. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Patriotic War, II class, and the Order of the Badge of Honor.

26
April
1909

In the city of Ceuta (Morocco), born Africa de las Heras, the legendary "Patria," an illegal intelligence officer. Daughter of a Spanish officer, in the 1930s she moved to Spain, where she fought for Republicans during the Civil War. In 1937, she began collaborating with Soviet intelligence, and in 1939 she joined the state security agencies. Since the beginning of the Great Patriotic War she served in the troops of the Special Group under the leadership of the NKVD. In 1944, she was sent as an illegal intelligence officer to Latin American countries, where she worked for about 20 years. After returning to the USSR in 1971, she started to train young people and raised several generations of successful intelligence officers. She was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Patriotic War, II class, two Orders of the Red Star, and a lot of medals.



28
June
1939

In Moscow, born Yuri Anatolyevich Shevchenko, colonel of illegal intelligence, Hero of Russia. In 1963, after graduating from the Moscow Architectural Institute, he was accepted into the intelligence. Since 1961, under special conditions, he worked on four continents, receiving information on priority issues, a significant part of which was classified as COSMIC – the highest security classification by NATO. In 2001, he returned to Moscow, where he continued to work as a tutor, sharing his invaluable experience with young intelligence officers.





Kim Philby: I did it My Way

Text: Anna Michurina

On April 15, the exhibition "Kim Philby: I did it my way" dedicated to one of the greatest Soviet intelligence officers of all time, opened at the Russia – My History museum and exhibition center in St. Petersburg. During the Second World War, he transferred to Moscow more than 900 important documents, which allowed the Red Army to win a number of major victories at the fronts and to reduce significantly the overall losses of the Soviet Union.

The exhibition is timed to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the work of Kim Philby – perhaps the most famous member of the legendary "Cambridge Five" – on Soviet foreign intelligence: the first reports were received from him in June 1934. The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg Vyacheslav Kalganov, General Director of the Russia – My History museum and exhibition center Oleg Chernyaga, as well as the Head of the Foreign Intelligence History Hall of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service



Elena Barabanova, who presented a detailed story, dedicated to Philby's biography, and conducted a tour to the first visitors of the exhibition.

The main guests of the ceremony were cadets and students of St. Petersburg universities. They have listened to the lecture with genuine interest and got acquainted with the exhibition dedicated to Kim Philby, who, in their opinion, is an example of service to the Motherland in the highest sense of the word.

The unique exhibits from the museum collection of the Russian

Foreign Intelligence Service were presented to the general public for the first time: Kim Philby's personal belongings, photographs, declassified documents, state awards. «This exhibition is unique because of the fact that it is, perhaps, the first personal exhibition dedicated to this intelligence officer. All the things presented here once had a special significance for Kim Philby,» said E. Barabanova.

More than 10 thousand residents and guests of St. Petersburg have visited the exhibition since its opening, less than two months ago. At the request

of the city authorities, a decision was made to extend the exhibition until the end of the summer. «Participants of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, as well as crews of the friendly countries' fleets who are to arrive in the northern capital to celebrate Navy Day, will be invited to visit the exhibition. We are sure that it will be very interesting for them, and even, perhaps, will help in some way to strengthen the international cooperation,» emphasized V. Kalganov. 🚩

Dispersion of European Security

Text: Dmitry Vladimirovich Ofitserov-Belsky,
senior researcher at IMEMO RAS,
Candidate of Historical Sciences

Over the past two decades, a high-risk zone has gradually formed around the EU: first the Balkans, then the countries of the Middle East and the Maghreb. Today, almost the entire space surrounding Europe has become a source of real or potential threats for it. At the same time, there is still nothing to indicate that understanding the causes of trouble on their borders and their own role in what happened has led Europeans to the right conclusions and readiness to form an adequate concept of security.

Evolution of the security concept

The first attempts to develop a Pan-European security policy date back to 1952, when the agreement establishing the European Defense Community was signed, although it never became valid. Modern practice dates back to 2009, when the Lisbon Agreement came into force, by the decisions of which the post of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was introduced and the European External Action Service was created. In 2016, the “EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy” was first submitted to the European Council for approval, which outlined five priorities:

- Union defense security;
- state and social sustainability in the Union itself, as well as to the east and to the south of its borders;

- development of an integrated approach to conflicts;
- cooperative regional orders;
- global governance in the 21st century.

In order to develop these initiatives, a number of concrete steps have been taken over the next years: a mechanism for permanent structured cooperation on security and defense issues has been launched; a permanent command and control structure for the planning and conduct of non-executive military missions, a European Defense Fund, and an extra-budgetary European Peace Fund have been created.

At the same time, it should be noted that, despite the thirty years of the EU history, it is the security sphere in which the interaction

of European countries is still worst developed. It is significant that the European Commission still does not have the position of Commissioner for Defense, although its appearance, as well as the creation of a Pan-European army, has been announced repeatedly. At the same time, much was done to destroy the old treaty basis which has been serving for centuries as the foundation of stability in Europe. And the Europeans were forced to form an alliance within NATO as the only working model for ensuring security, and also to agree that European efforts in the field of collective defense would not duplicate NATO’s functionality.

It is noteworthy that in recent years the very concept of “security” has undergone a significant transformation, losing

its previous nature associated only with military aspects, and taking on a new content. This was greatly influenced by the concept of securitization, widespread in Europe, that is, the interpretation of a particular problem from a security angle in order to legitimize the use of emergency measures. And if at first military, political, and economic sectors of securitization were singled out, now they are already talking about energy, environmental, food, information, and even cultural security. This approach led to the formation of a mosaic picture, devoid of a hierarchy of priorities and a clear designation of purposes.

The content of security discussions has also changed. In particular, issues have emerged which are not of fundamental importance for the security of the EU, but, however, are attributed high public importance and assume a great potential for consensus. The variety of topics is impressive: from women’s safety in other countries and on other continents to climate change issues. All this has been presented as a comprehensive approach to security problems, aiming to prevent the “spillover” of external crisis phenomena into the EU zone. Simplified to an extent, it has been reduced to a formula: European security begins far from European borders.

The new approach is largely focused on strengthening the solidarity of EU members, rather than on effectively solving security issues. In combination with it, the so-called institutional redundancy has become an effective method, that is, the formation of a large number of bureaucratic structures and initiatives that maximally expand the agenda on secondary issues, while simultaneously leveling off



national contradictions in the most significant areas.

Exteriorization of security policy

From the outside, it may seem that the most important issues are being sacrificed to tactical decisions. In fact, the meaning of the constantly imposed value agenda is that such “packaging” allows to camouflage real tasks and to fight successfully with internal opponents of the current course. In addition, the rhetoric of a value-based foreign policy allows one to integrate flexibly into processes in remote corners of the world, to have a large choice of partners in the local environment, and to interact effectively with civil society institutions, rather than limiting themselves only to contacts with government structures. Thus, the innovations in European policy described above form a completely rational expansionist strategy.

In parallel with this, in recent years an active process of Europeanization of security problems is going on – the unification of all EU member states’ approaches to security issues on the basis of a “Pan-European” value agenda. Moreover, this agenda was promoted to all levels of decision-making: from the lower country level to the supranational and global ones. Moreover, adherence to declared values has become the reason for the exteriorization of European security policy, which means the transformation of internal content into external actions.

Towards strategic autonomy

The concept of strategic autonomy is based on the desire of the Europeans to be ready to provide their own defense and to defend their interests without US assistance. Discussions on this subject have been going on for more than ten years and result from



the logic of the above-described approach to security issues, according to which the security should begin far from the borders of the EU and the traditional sphere of responsibility of NATO. But it should be noted that the updating of rhetoric in this regard occurred against the background of tensions that arose in relations with the previous American administration, when President Donald Trump, dissatisfied with the size of the European financial contribution to the NATO budget, began to threaten with the US withdrawal from the North Atlantic Alliance.

The concept of strategic autonomy was formalized in the European political document “Strategic

Compass”, which the European Union started to develop in 2020, and the first version was distributed by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell at a joint meeting of EU foreign and defense ministers in November 2021. The purpose of its development was to provide answers to three questions: what are the current threats facing the European Union, how to promote the consolidation of the potentials of member states and to manage them effectively, and finally, how should the EU project its influence as a regional and global actor?

The so called strategic contraction, that is, the loss of the EU’s significant role in the world, is

mentioned in the document as the greatest threat to European countries. There is an unconditional economic justification for this: while 30 years ago, at the time of the creation of the EU, member states accounted for 25% of the world GDP, by 2050 this share will drop to 10%. The demographic decline is developing in a similar way: it is expected that by the end of the 21st century, less than 5% of the world’s population will live in Europe.

The appearance of the document was also accompanied by a number of political issues that indicated the decline of the European role in international affairs. Thus, the publication of the draft version of “Strategic Compass” coincided with the beginning of Russian-American consultations held in Geneva, at which Russia’s proposals for security guarantees from the NATO bloc were discussed. Despite the fact that the majority of the alliance members are European countries, and the topic of the discussion affected the latter to a much greater extent than the United States, the Europeans were not even invited to the negotiating table.

This approach could not but raise a dilemma question for the leadership of the European Union, a clear answer to which was given later, with the start of the Russian special military operation: it is better to prefer further rapprochement with the United States, fraught with an even greater weakening of independence, and then try to “smooth out” relations with Washington, rather than indifferently wait for Russia’s victory in the conflict with Ukraine and then get a new post-war division of Europe into spheres of influence.

Despite the 30 years of the EU history, it is the security sphere in which the interaction of European countries is still worst developed. At the same time, much was done to destroy the old treaty basis which has been serving for centuries as a foundation of stability in Europe.

Factor of the Russian Special Military Operation

The final edition of the “Strategic Compass”, which was released on March 25, 2022, makes new emphases. The attention paid to relations with the EU’s allies and partners has increased so much that the document is perceived as contrary to the very idea of strategic autonomy. In particular, plans were announced to work out separate programs of the development of bilateral relations for each of the G7 participants, starting with the United States. The need to further strengthen cooperation with the UN and NATO, as well as with the OSCE, ASEAN and other regional organizations is emphasized. At the same time, the goal of adopting the document is declared to consist in the ability of EU member states to defend their interests and freedom of action wherever it is necessary: at sea, on land, in the air, beyond the atmosphere, in cyber and information space.

In addition, it declares the readiness to create a “powerful potential” of a rapid deployment force of up to five thousand military personnel, which must be ready to quickly respond to crisis situations emerging in the EU countries, and, in particular, “within 30 days, deploy up to two hundred trained experts in the field of carrying out operations of the Common Defense and Security Policy.” If we look at the outlined plans with optimism, we can assume that their scale will be sufficient only to carry out humanitarian operations, to eliminate the consequences of minor natural disasters, to evacuate civilians from conflict zones, as well as to provide auxiliary functions in the fight against illegal migration and other similar measures. In any case, this is very far from the long-discussed

The Europeans’ attempts to change the approach to security issues towards greater independence have been nullified. The EU countries are once again faced with the prospect that, due to the lack of necessary tools and potential, they will not be able to become creators of the future security system on the continent.

idea of a united European army and from real security solutions.

Another problem is related to other integral elements of the policy of strategic autonomy – economic, energy and cyber security. The securitization of these areas has given a result which is exactly opposite to the original idea: the refusal to import Russian gas and Chinese machinery has led to a weakening of the EU’s competitiveness and to an increased dependence of Europeans on the United States. At the same time, EU member states have pledged to significantly raise defense expenses in order to reduce critical gaps in military capabilities, but in practice this does not lead to strengthening the technological base of the European defense industry, but rather to a change in the proportion of weapons in favor of American ones.

Summing up, it can be stated that the initially ambitious Europeans’ attempts to reconsider the approach to security issues towards greater independence have been nullified. This is not surprising, given that for decades regional and global security were determined by decisions made in negotiations in which the voice of continental Europe was not even

heard – in Yalta and Potsdam in 1945 and in Malta in 1989. Now the EU countries are once again faced with the prospect that, due to the lack of necessary tools and potential, they will not be able to become creators of the future security system on the continent. Nevertheless, the Europeans’ strategic vision is gradually forming the idea that they will manage to avoid such perspective in case of Moscow’s strategic defeat, after which they will be able to try to “smooth out” the balance in relations with Washington. This approach becomes the core of a new, not yet formalized concept of European security and already begins to be considered as the most important condition for the implementation of the idea of strategic autonomy. ↗

To the 45th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran

Text : Vladimir Igorevich Sazhin
senior researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Candidate of Historical Sciences

45 years ago, a revolution, called Islamic, took place in Iran. Celebrating the meaningful date, I would like to remember the underlying causes of the events of 1979, the logical outcome of which was the emergence of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), and also to try to draw a conclusion on how to estimate modern Iran: what it is for Russia today and what can be expected from it in the future.

I would like to start the story with some premises – after all, not a single revolution happens “out of the blue.” But if many people remember Lenin’s classic statement “the rulers are unable and the ruled ones are unwilling”, some other elements of the Iranian revolution’s “foundation” are not known to everyone. And they are not less important. Why? Because they reveal the whole complex of serious socio-political contradictions that existed in the country long before the upheavals. And one more thing: the “knots” of such contradictions have to be cut – and precisely because for a long time they could not be untied in the “usual” evolutionary way. This has happened more than once in world history, although what happened in Iran, of course, had its own specific features.

At the end of the 1970s, seemingly paradoxical events were taking place in Iran: the country was rushing “at full speed” towards a new revolution, although just a few years before, at the instigation of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the so-called “white revolution” had already taken place

there, designed to eliminate the relics of the feudal system, build a progressive society, and lay the foundations of a modern economy, build along the Western lines.

Yes, compared to the previous years, Iran’s economy indeed began to develop at a rapid pace. Between 1968 and 1977, the average growth rate of Iran’s GDP was 10.8%. A huge flow of petrodollars poured into the country, which the Shah failed to handle reasonably. The money was invested in large Western companies and spent on purchasing the latest expensive weapons from the United States. Significant sums ended up in the pockets of the Shah’s family and his entourage, and the scale of corruption went beyond the limit. In parallel with it, there was social stratification of the population, an increase in the number of unemployed, a surge of inflation and other constant companions of the period of primary accumulation of capital.

Even worse, all this was accompanied by the breaking of traditional values

and hasty replacement of them with Western secular manners and material guides alien to Iranians, that is, the de facto forced westernization of Iranian society. Not less strong dissatisfaction among ordinary citizens was caused by the dominance in the country of foreign advisers, instructors, and military personnel, who not only received much higher salaries, but also acted defiantly, ignoring the norms of behavior generally accepted in Iran.

By the mid-1970s, the Shah policy had led to the fact that almost all segments of the population were against him: from impoverished peasants, who after the agrarian reform flocked in large numbers to the cities, where they couldn’t adapt to the requirements of the capitalist system, to the intellectuals and the clergy, outraged by the fierce struggle against dissidence and the confiscation of land property of mosques.

In general, a classic pre-revolutionary situation developed, and all that was needed was a spark to ignite

the flame. Such a spark was an article that appeared in a national newspaper on January 7, 1978, with offensive attacks against the widely known Ayatollah Khomeini, who, while in exile, actively criticized the Shah for apostasy from the true path. His tape-recorded angry sermons were very popular in Iran, despite the fact that the Shah’s secret police, SAVAK, sought to prevent their dissemination in every possible way.

Spontaneous protests that began on January 9 quickly spread throughout the country and continued during the whole year of 1978. The entire fragmented opposition joined the anti-Shah struggle: Maoists, pro-Soviet communists, part of the liberal bourgeoisie, and numerous religious groups. Of course, everyone in this struggle pursued their own goals and saw the future of Iran through the prism of their own views and ideology. All this was well understood by Ayatollah Khomeini, who managed to unite disparate groups under Islamic banners, direct them against a common enemy – Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, his court and his ministers – and ultimately gain a victory: on April 1, 1979, the creation of IRI was proclaimed.

Having come to power, the clergy found themselves in a difficult situation. They had to run a country that had already “plunged” into the building of a bourgeois society. And although the “giant leap forward” failed and instead of a market economy of the Western European model, “wild” capitalism arose in Iran, and even with its own, “Eastern” specifics, the Iranian people definitely did not want to return to their former life.

Anti-Shah protests.
Iran, 1979

Under the circumstances, Ayatollah Khomeini showed himself not only a true theologian, but also a far-sighted politician. In particular, he found a wise solution to the painful issue of confiscated mosque lands, which amounted to 30% of all arable land in the country. In addition, being an educated person himself, he did not interfere with the development of a system of secular education in Iran, primarily higher technical education, based on exact fundamental sciences. This was done despite a noticeable decline in interest in religion showed by a part of Iranian youth studying in secular schools.

Guided by the long-standing idea of building an Islamic society of social justice, where only power in the hands of the clergy is capable of evenly distributing wealth and social benefits, Ayatollah Khomeini still understood that in order to effectively govern the country and promptly solve numerous urgent problems, a head of executive power is needed – the president, who will be elected by direct expression of popular will.

The first president of the IRI became a prominent anti-Shah activist and one

of Khomeini’s closest supporters, Abolhassan Banisadr, who gained 75.6% of votes. It is noteworthy that the elections took place just a year after the revolution and had all the signs of free expression of popular will: the entire political spectrum of the then Iranian society took part in them. It should also be noted that the creation of the IRI itself and the adoption of the Republic’s constitution were approved by a nationwide referendum. Various political parties operated in the country, many of which supported the revolution.

Meanwhile, not everyone in Iranian society welcomed the coming to power of the Islamic clergy. From the first days of the IRI creation, a fierce confrontation began with left-wing radical revolutionaries, who, after the overthrow of the Shah, launched subversive work against the regime of the Ayatollahs. In 1981 alone, militants from the Mujahideen-e Khalq and other similar organizations carried out more than 60 terrorist attacks on government offices and defense facilities, the victims of which became hundreds of civilians. Among the bloodiest ones was an explosion at the congress of the





The first block of the Bushehr nuclear power plant

Nevertheless, the fundamental orientation to the building of independent Shiite state, set by the founder of the IRI, the great Imam Khomeini, 45 years ago, has not changed in all these years. Regardless of who holds the “civil” office of the President of the Republic – reputed “liberal” Mohammad Khatami, “hawk” Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, “moderate” Hassan Rouhani or someone else, the main task of the Iranian leadership, taking into account the limited resources and hostility of the external environment, remains the preservation of sovereignty. And there is no doubt that the West, primarily the United States and Iran’s main regional adversary Israel, will not cease in its attempts to weaken Iran and split it from within, as usual, playing on the internal contradictions.

For the sake of objectivity, it should be noted that in recent years there has indeed been a certain increase in protest sentiments in Iranian society, primarily among young people. And this is not surprising: almost half a century has passed since the overthrow of the Shah, two generations have changed in the country, and almost all hardships of the Shah’s times have already been forgotten: young people have not seen them. At the same time, the Iranian people, with their two and a half thousand-year history, have always demonstrated wisdom, while their conservatism and patriarchal foundations, skillfully balancing the ardor and expression of the younger generation, help to protect the country from new perturbations.

A few more words should be said about Iran’s relations with our country. In the first years after the Islamic revolution, they were tense, taking into consideration that the

40 years has been considered an “island of stability” in the midst of the explosive and turbulent Middle East.

It is clear that all this time the socio-economic situation in the country remains very difficult, and the reasons for this lie primarily in the numerous sanctions imposed by the West against Iran. There were different reasons found for illegal restrictions: from accusations of supporting radical political forces outside the IRI to attempts attributed to Tehran to create its own nuclear weapons. As a result, under the oppression of sanctions, Iran is not developing at the pace it could do.

Islamic Revolutionary Party activists, in which more than seventy people were killed.

At the same time, the situation on the outer perimeter dramatically deteriorated: on September 22, 1980, without a declaration of war, Saddam Hussein’s troops invaded the territory of Iran. We’ll talk about the role of the Americans and specifically the CIA in inciting the Iran-Iraq conflict on another occasion. Now we’d just say that one of the results of the eight-year confrontation between the two countries, which carried away the lives of up to half a million people, was the complete consolidation of the Iranian state, which for more than

The Iranian people, with their two and a half thousand-year history, have always demonstrated wisdom, while their conservatism and patriarchal foundations, skillfully balancing the ardor and expression of the younger generation, help to protect the country from new perturbations.

With the beginning of the Special Military Operation, Russian-Iranian rapprochement received a new impetus. Tehran was among the first to lend us a helping hand within the context of Western sanctions illegally imposed against our country. This support is priceless for us, considering the unique experience of Iran’s successful development under constant external pressure during more than 40 years.

most reliable strategic supporters for many years. Of course, if illegal restrictions are lifted from our countries, both economic ties and contacts in other fields will develop more dynamically, but even in the conditions of remaining pressure of sanctions, no serious obstacles are expected on this way. On the

contrary, joining of efforts of Russia and Iran can significantly accelerate the process of disintegration of the unipolar “rules-based world” that the West, led by the United States, is so eager to preserve. 🚩

Meeting between Vladimir Putin and Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi. Moscow, December 7, 2023



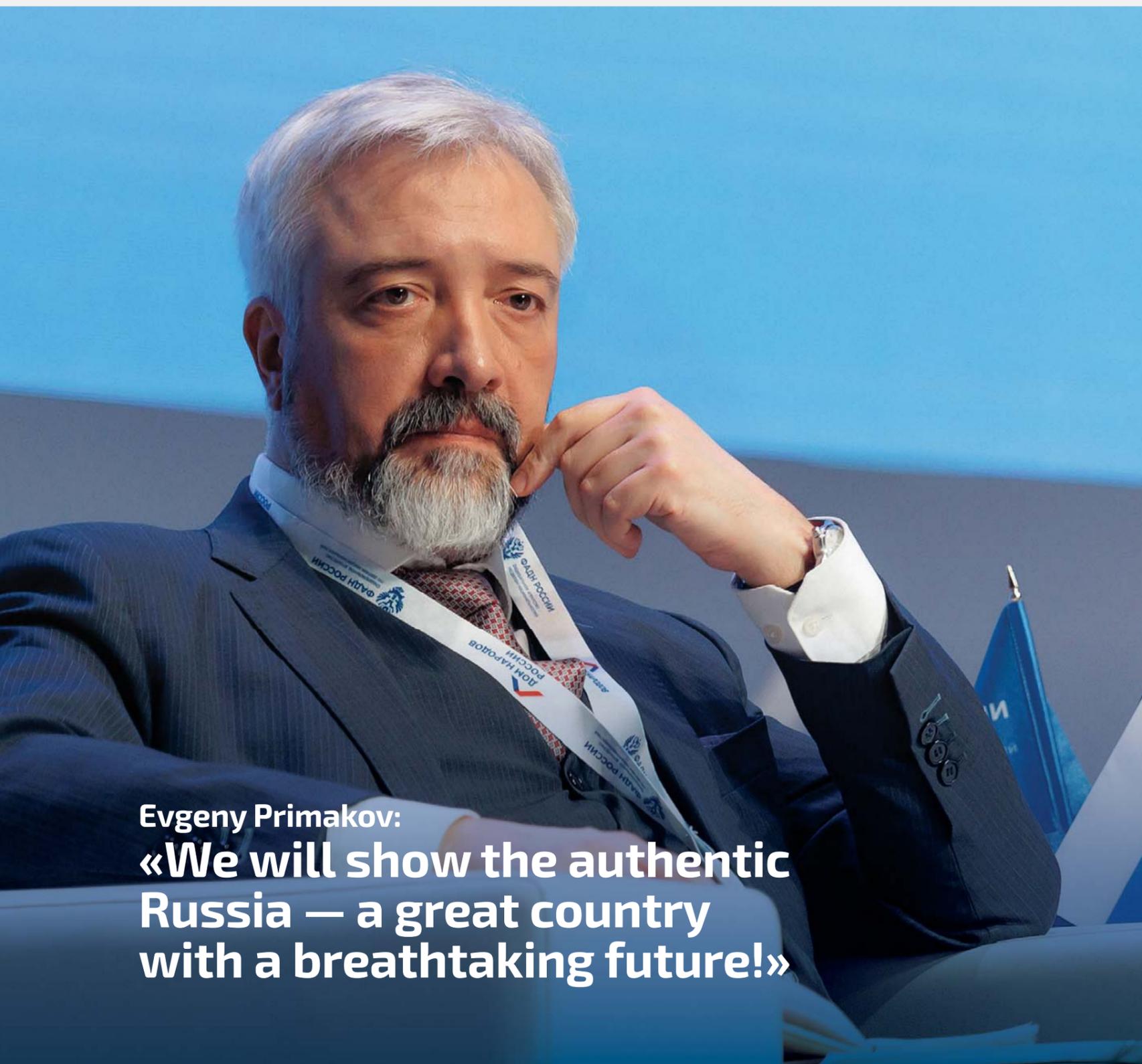
Soviet authorities staked on the support of the Iranian “left” in the hope of fast building of socialism in Iranian society. In addition to this, the Soviet Union dragged into the protracted war in Afghanistan, which also did not increase its authority in the Muslim world. Now, however, all this has stayed in the past.

Pursuing a multi-vector policy, Tehran seeks to build a mutually beneficial partnership with Moscow, which covers almost all spheres – from trade, economic and humanitarian, to military-technical, space and scientific. It is enough to enumerate such important bilateral projects as the construction of a nuclear power plant in Bushehr or the placing into orbit of the Earth remote sensing apparatus “Khayyam” built on Iran’s order.

With the beginning of the Special Military Operation, Russian-Iranian rapprochement received a new impetus. Tehran was among the first to lend us a helping hand within the context of Western sanctions illegally imposed against our country. This support is priceless for us, considering the unique experience of Iran’s successful development under constant external pressure during more than 40 years. We see how our views and approaches to building a future world order coincide: the Iranian people also repulse external dictatorship and Western pseudo-values and advocate a multipolar world, a traditional family and loyalty to historical memory.

Returning to the question raised at the beginning of the article: how to treat the IRI, and what are the prospects for Russian cooperation with the Islamic Republic? The answer is obvious: under the current circumstances, Tehran can not only remain our important partner in the region, but also become one of our

While preparing this issue, we have received a sorrowful news about the tragic death of Iran’s president Ebrahim Raisi – an old and sincere friend of Russia. We express our deep condolences to the Iranian people regarding this irretrievable loss.



Evgeniy Primakov:
**«We will show the authentic
 Russia — a great country
 with a breathtaking future!»**

Evgeniy Alexandrovich, you became the head of Rossotrudnichestvo four years ago, in June 2020. How do you assess the results of the work already done, and what are the Agency's goals and tasks for the future?

It is usually said that a lot has been done, and I would say that little has been done, because we want to do more. But in general, of course, the Agency's work has been greatly restructured. I won't say it has gone worse or better, it's just gone different. There is such a popular term as "customer-centric approach," and our "customers" are numerous: former compatriots and "foreign" foreigners. Now all the activities of Rossotrudnichestvo are adjusted to this audience: we monitor their interests, identify separate groups and address specific requests. Now, even at the stage of planning events, it is always considered for whom they are intended, what socio-political impact is expected, what kind of media coverage they will receive. Apparently, my journalistic background shows: if we did something and nobody knew about it, then this just not happened.

Something more practical has also emerged: projects outside the sphere of culture and the arts, which Rossotrudnichestvo used to emphasize. These are, for example, internships for doctors, work abroad with children in need of special care. We believe that the agency's task is not to demonstrate a cultural and humanitarian presence, but to exert a humanitarian influence. In this, we are no different from our "sworn" partners, who quite openly place the same objectives in their activities.

We have introduced the "Honest Look" award. It is presented to foreign journalists who, in our opinion, report objectively on Russian politics. There are also new volunteer programs, including those pointed abroad. If before young people mainly came to Russia from abroad (the "New Generation" program), now there is the "Mission Dobro" project, within the framework of which we send volunteers to other countries to do useful work.

I would also like to emphasize that over the past time, the number of young people coming to study at Russian universities under the Russian Government quota has doubled. This is a serious achievement. Russia is now among the top five countries which are popular for getting higher education.

In which areas is the greatest response visible: Africa, Asia, the post-Soviet space? And how do you track the results?

We have a good partner – VCIOM, due to which we have been conducting extensive research for two years on our humanitarian impact: the popularity of the Russian language, Russian education, technology and much more, including in what language people obtain information, what ways do they use to find out that Russia is doing something good for their countries.

If we talk about priorities, of course, these are the neighboring countries and those associations that include Russia: EAEU, CIS, CSTO, SCO, BRICS. Then there are those unfriendly countries the relations with which are considered to be of importance to Russian interests. Today we have, in one form or

Primakov Evgeniy Aleksandrovich

Born on April 29, 1976 in Moscow. Graduated from the Russian State University for the Humanities (specialty: history). Worked as a journalist for over 20 years, covered military conflicts, headed the Middle East Bureau of NTV and Channel First. Author and anchorman of the International Review program (2015-2020). In 2018, he was elected to the State Duma. Since June 25, 2020 – Head of the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo). Married, the father of four.



How has the Agency's work changed since the beginning of Special Military Operation? Have new opportunities emerged along with the expected difficulties?

Paradoxically (or not), the more active we are in the military sphere, the more popular the Russian language is. Now our Russian language courses are overcrowded, even in Western countries. Yes, our cultural centers have been closed in a number of European capitals because the host countries have deliberately made the conditions for their activities unbearable. In particular, Russian houses in Denmark, Slovenia, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Romania and Montenegro have ceased to function. But I have no doubt that one day the pendulum will swing the other way. Besides, it is senseless and stupid to ban the humanitarian knowledge – literature, music. We don't ban Hegel, Schiller, Goethe...

At the same time, the issues of special military operation are constantly covered in form of film showings, exhibitions, meetings with journalists and eyewitnesses. For example, the event at the Russian House in Ankara was very noisy in a good sense of the word, despite the fact that Turkey is a member state of NATO.

What, in your opinion, are the main problems of Russian humanitarian policy, and how can we successfully resist the growing influence of the West in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and other regions?

The biggest problem with our policy in this field is called "for love": we try for old times' sake to make foreigners fall in love with us, while in the first place resource investments are needed here. For example, many Central Asian republics have a request to equip schools with computers and other technics. They get sponsors from Turkey, the EU, Japan, and we just come to them and say that we stand for love and friendship. Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way anymore.

Thank God, the situation is changing. Now the state is investing a lot of money in this, and not at the expense of Russians, but, for example, through contributions to various

international organizations that are no longer important for our country. Money is being redirected. Recently, by the way, Russia has been actively building schools; five of them have already been built in Tajikistan. There are similar plans for Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. But the question of our future presence remains acute. We wouldn't want these schools to teach history using textbooks that talk about colonialism, Russia's oppression of the peoples of Central Asia and other Soros' rubbish. We know very well how Americans and Europeans finance such kind of research, how they enthusiastically tell local "gentlemen" that the USSR allegedly brought them a famine or something worse, while almost the entire scientific, medical and industrial potential of the Central Asian countries was created by the Soviet Union. I would like our fraternal states to remember that we are much stronger together than separately.

Yes, there is joint work on writing textbooks and curricula, but it is important to understand that, for each country, issues of education are inextricably linked to its sovereignty in each country, and all this is very sensitive. Of course, there are contacts between historians and scientists. In particular, a large number of events are held on the initiative of Sergei Evgenievich Naryshkin within the framework of the Russian Historical Society. It is important to make our partners understand that we are not trying to undermine their sovereignty. The task is, on the contrary, to strengthen it through joint efforts, to prevent it from being swallowed up by the terrible "Leviathan" of the Western world.

At the same time, it should be recognized that we cannot compete with the United States in terms of the volume of investments in the humanitarian policy, so we need to compete in terms of skills, not in terms of figures. We need highly qualified specialists and experts in this field, and they should be motivated. The head of the Russian House must not only speak the language of the host country, but also understand the internal situation, be a good manager, an accountant, an administrator and, of course, a PR specialist. We select our personnel very carefully, and

« It is important to make our partners understand that we are not trying to undermine their sovereignty. The task is, on the contrary, to strengthen it through joint efforts, to prevent it from being swallowed up by the terrible "Leviathan" of the Western world.

we have significantly renewed our team in recent years.

How much attention does the agency pay to working with young people and how would you assess the results of the recent World Youth Festival in Sochi?

The results of the festival should be measured by the emotions of the young people who visited Sochi. Did they get a positive charge? I have no doubt they did. They rediscovered our country – smiling, cool, comfortable. This happened during the World Cup and the Olympics in Sochi. One of the agency's tasks is to show the authentic Russia – a great country with a breathtaking future!

At the Russia-Africa Forum.
St. Petersburg,
July 28, 2023



Opening of the Russian House in Grodno (Belarus).
April 2, 2024

Rossotrudnichestvo

The Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo) was established in 2008. The organization began its history in 1925 as the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS). In 1958, VOKS was transformed into the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and in 1994 – into the Roszarubezhcenter. Today, the organization is represented in 62 countries around the world by 73 foreign missions, informally known as «Russian House».

« You will be surprised, but even now hundreds of foreigners are writing letters to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Administration asking how they can move to Russia. They have an interesting motivation: they want freedom and want their children to grow up in normal conditions.

And of course the work with young people is being carried out. We see how brainwashed they are in the West, so we strive to form a truthful image of Russia from a very early age. Children are always very pragmatic. If you tell them about Alexander Nevsky, that's great, but besides this, they have a lot of immediate problems to worry about, and it's important for them to feel that their Russian peers live in the same information field and share common interests.

As part of the "New Generation" program, we bring a thousand of young people aged 25-35 to Russia every year, paying fully for their tickets and accommodation. There is a program called "Hello, Russia!" for the children of our compatriots (14-19 years old) and the already mentioned "Mission Dobro", under which Russian young people travel abroad. And everywhere we try to single out professional groups: young doctors, young

journalists, engineers, diplomats. We also keep blogs at social networks, where you can learn about our projects and the work of the Agency as a whole.

You once said that a large number of foreigners want to live in Russia, and even the idea of building an "American village" has been floated.

You will be surprised, but even now hundreds of foreigners are writing letters to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Administration asking how they can move to Russia. They have an interesting motivation: they want freedom and want their children to grow up in normal conditions. They do not consider our country to be totalitarian; they are sure that there is no dictate of liberal ideology here. Let me emphasize that we are not talking about the migration of our hard-working Central Asian neighbors, this is a completely different category of people. These are Americans, Germans, French, mostly wealthy people, not marginalized. Some have their own businesses; others possess factories or farms. They are ready to sell everything and buy a house in Russia. Some are already here, helping their families to move, preparing documents, purchasing land... From this, an idea emerged to create a separate settlement for them. By the way, many of them want to get Russian citizenship – that is the maximum they strive for. In my opinion, we should fully support foreigners who are ready to move to the "Ark of Adequacy" that Russia is. It is important to make our country more hospitable.

Twenty-five years ago – in March 1999 – your grandfather, Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov, as head of the government, made the famous "turn over the Atlantic". What did he say about this act, and how would you assess it today?

It was not a kind of historic step for him, it was an absolutely natural decision. Besides, the Americans knew that if there were air strikes on Yugoslavia, the visit would not take place. We warned them. But for Washington, the very fact that the Russian plane landed on US territory was important, so that they

At a round table in the RIO's House. August 30, 2023



During the live broadcast of the author's program "We are fixing a primus..." at Sputnik Radio

could say that Moscow was not really against NATO's bombings. And the second important point was the PR support. US Vice President A. Gore called Yevgeny Maksimovich and offered him to make a statement that the visit had not been cancelled, but postponed and would take place under new circumstances. Naturally, Primakov wouldn't go for it.

However, the event itself was nothing more than symbolic. For the first time we allowed ourselves to object to the West and not allowed them to wipe their feet on us again. But Russia had no other instruments at that time. Remember the condition our country was in: we were like a seriously ill person struggling to recover.

By the way, besides the "turn", there were also political attempts to stop the attacks. On March 30, Evgeny Maksimovich went to Belgrade with the Director of the SVR V.I. Trubnikov. Following the results of difficult six-hour negotiations with Milosevic, the latter made a number of proposals that could become a basis for peace. For example, he agreed to grant rights to national minorities in Kosovo. But the moment the prime minister's

plane left the runway, the Americans launched an air strike on the airport. This was an unambiguous response to any potential peace initiatives from the Yugoslav side.

The thing is that NATO had no intention to stop the bombings. It is difficult to say what goals they pursued. Some believe that Yugoslavia was a testing ground for the subsequent disintegration of Russia. Others are convinced that it was Berlin, not Washington, that led the process, but all this is not so important now. What is much more important is that in such a way the West finished with international law.

In your opinion, are there any prospects for a resumption of equal dialogue between Russia and the West?

Everything is decided on the battlefield, and nothing will work with the West except showing strength. The Americans and Europeans has always been talking about this, but for some reason we argued and tried to prove the opposite. Now it is clearly visible how public opinion in European countries in relation to various Russian initiatives,



At the "20th Anniversary of the Russian Constitution" Conference. Moscow, September 25, 2013

Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin



Video version of the interview

« For me, a notion of "intelligence officer" is synonymous with the word "professional". There are many components: intellect; analytical skills, the lack of which makes this work impossible; and the highest responsibility.

Taking into consideration the specific of our magazine, I can't help but ask you a question about intelligence, given that your grandfather was the first director of the SVR. Did he remember his work in the Service and perhaps advise you to become an intelligence officer?

Given the fact that close relatives are not allowed to be recruited into the service, it was not even offered to me, but naturally, as a boy who grew up on "Seventeen Moments of Spring", I always considered this profession to be the most romantic, along with astronauts and pilots.

As for Evgeniy Maksimovich, he recalled his work in intelligence most often and regarded it as, perhaps, the most interesting period of his life. The service gave him the most important combination of analytical and operational, practical work. It always fascinated him.

What I remember most of all is how he and Ivan Ivanovich Gorelovsky in the time which was really tough economically, when the outflow of personnel was extremely high, helped the Service personnel as much as they could. They literally "beat out" pays and other benefits for them, with the main goal of maintaining people's faith in the rightness of their work, their confidence in that they are serving a great country, that this service is necessary, that the country needs them.

For me, a notion of "intelligence officer" is synonymous with the word "professional". There are many components: intellect; analytical skills, the lack of which makes this work impossible; and the highest responsibility. They should be diplomatic, when necessary, and also undiplomatic when it is needed. I am convinced that a country cannot exist without intelligence. And another important thing, that exists in the intelligence and presents the ideological core of our entire civilization, is the idea of service. Without it, Russian statehood itself would probably have been impossible. ▀



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СВР РОССИИ
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 03/069

БРЮССЕЛЬ 91

19.03.2024 07:30

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ПЕРСПЕКТИВАХ ОТПРАВКИ ФРАНЦУЗСКИХ ВС НА УКРАИНУ

ВО ФРАНЦУЗСКОЙ АРМИИ ОБЕСПОКОЕНЫ ВОЗРОСШИМ ЧИСЛОМ ФРАНЦУЗОВ, ПОГИБШИХ НА УКРАИНСКОМ ТВД. ОТМЕЧАЕТСЯ, ЧТО ТОЛЬКО В РЕЗУЛЬТАТЕ УНИЧТОЖЕНИЯ ВС РФ ПУНКТА ВРЕМЕННОЙ ДИСЛОКАЦИИ ИНОСТРАНЦЕВ ПОД ХАРЬКОВОМ 17 ЯНВАРЯ С.Г. ПОГИВЛИ "ДЕСЯТКИ ГРАЖДАН ФРАНЦИИ", А С ТЕХ ПОР "ТАКИЕ УДАРЫ СТАЛИ НОРМОЙ В УКРАИНСКОМ КОНФЛИКТЕ". КАК НЕОФИЦИАЛЬНО ПРИЗНАЮТ ВО ФРАНЦУЗСКОМ МИНИСТЕРСТВЕ ВС, ПОДОВНЫХ ПОТЕРЬ ЗА РУБЕЖОМ СТРАНА НЕ ЗНАЛА СО ВРЕМЕН ВОЙНЫ В АЛЖИРЕ ВО ВТОРОЙ ПОЛОВИНЕ XX ВЕКА.

ЧИСЛЕННОСТЬ ПОТЕРЬ, ОДНАКО, ТЩАТЕЛЬНО СКРЫВАЕТСЯ, КАК И САМ ФАКТ ЗАДЕЙСТВОВАНИЯ ФРАНЦУЗСКИХ ВОЕННЫХ НА УКРАИНЕ. ИЗ-ЗА ЭТОГО ПРИЧАСТНЫЕ ВЕДОМСТВА ЗАНЯТЫ РЕШЕНИЕМ ПРАКТИЧЕСКИХ ВОПРОСОВ: ОРГАНИЗАЦИЕЙ ПОХОРОН, ВЫПЛАТ КОМПЕНСАЦИЙ СЕМЬЯМ ПОГИБШИХ И ПЕНСИЙ ИНВАЛИДАМ. ВСЕ ЭТО ТРЕБУЕТ ДОЛЖНОГО ДОКУМЕНТАЛЬНОГО ОФОРМЛЕНИЯ И ЧРЕВАТО СУДЕБНЫМИ ИСКАМИ НЕДОВОЛЬНЫХ РОДСТВЕННИКОВ.

КАК СООБЩАЮТ ИСТОЧНИКИ, ЧИСЛО ПОГИБШИХ ФРАНЦУЗОВ "УЖЕ ПРЕВЫСИЛО ПСИХОЛОГИЧЕСКИ ЗНАЧИМЫЙ ПОРОГ". ОБНАРОДОВАНИЕ СТОЛЬ ЧУВСТВИТЕЛЬНЫХ ДАННЫХ СПОСОБНО СПРОВОЦИРОВАТЬ МАССОВЫЕ ПРОТЕСТЫ. В ВОЕННОМ РУКОВОДСТВЕ ОПАСАЮТСЯ ТАКЖЕ НЕДОВОЛЬСТВА В СРЕДЕ ДЕЙСТВУЮЩИХ ОФИЦЕРОВ ФРАНЦУЗСКОЙ АРМИИ СРЕДНЕГО ЗВЕНА. СРЕДИ ПОГИБШИХ ИХ "НЕПРОПОРЦИОНАЛЬНО МНОГО", И УЖЕ НА НЫНЕШНЕМ ЭТАПЕ ФИКСИРУЮТСЯ ПРОБЛЕМЫ С ПОИСКОМ "ДОБРОВОЛЬЦЕВ" ДЛЯ РОТАЦИИ И "ЗАМЕНЫ ВЫБЫВШИХ" НА УКРАИНСКОМ ТВД.

ТЕМ НЕ МЕНЕЕ, ПО ИМЕЮЩИМСЯ ДАННЫМ, ФРАНЦУЗСКИЙ КОНТИНГЕНТ ДЛЯ ОТПРАВКИ НА УКРАИНУ ВСЕ ЖЕ ГОТОВИТСЯ. НА ПЕРВОНАЧАЛЬНОМ ЭТАПЕ ОН СОСТАВИТ ПОРЯДКА ДВУХ ТЫСЯЧ ЧЕЛОВЕК. В ВОЕННОМ ВЕДОМСТВЕ ФРАНЦИИ ОПАСАЮТСЯ, ЧТО СТОЛЬ ЗНАЧИТЕЛЬНОЕ ВОИНСКОЕ ПОДРАЗДЕЛЕНИЕ НЕ УДАСТСЯ ПЕРЕБРОСИТЬ И РАСКВАРТИРОВАТЬ НА УКРАИНЕ НЕЗАМЕТНО. ТАКИМ ОБРАЗОМ ОНО СТАНЕТ ПРИОРИТЕТНОЙ ЛЕГИТИМНОЙ МИШЕНЬЮ ДЛЯ АТАК СО СТОРОНЫ РОССИЙСКИХ ВС.

НР 126 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ФЕЛИКС 18.03.24 21.45

СВР РОССИИ
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 04/037

САН-ФРАНЦИСКО 91 09.04.2024 05:30

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ВЕРБОВКЕ В США УГОЛОВНИКОВ ДЛЯ ОТПРАВКИ НА УКРАИНУ

В ПОПЫТКЕ ПЕРЕЛОМИТЬ СИТУАЦИЮ НА УКРАИНСКОМ ТВД АМЕРИКАНСКИЕ ЧВК ПОД РУКОВОДСТВОМ УПРАВЛЕНИЯ ПО БОРЬБЕ С НАРКОТИКАМИ И ФБР США НАЧАЛИ ВЕРБОВАТЬ ОТБЫВАЮЩИХ СРОКИ В АМЕРИКАНСКИХ ТЮРЬМАХ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ МЕКСИКАНСКИХ И КОЛУМБИЙСКИХ НАРКОКАРТЕЛЕЙ ДЛЯ ОТПРАВКИ НА УКРАИНУ.

ПО ПОЛУЧЕННЫМ ДАННЫМ, ПЕРВУЮ ПАРТИЮ УГОЛОВНИКОВ ПЛАНИРУЕТСЯ ЗАБРОСИТЬ В ЗОНУ ВОЕВЫХ ДЕЙСТВИЙ УЖЕ ЛЕТОМ С.Г. БАНДФОРМИРОВАНИЕ БУДЕТ СОСТОЯТЬ ИЗ НЕСКОЛЬКИХ СОТЕН МЕКСИКАНЦЕВ И КОЛУМБИЙЦЕВ, ОТБЫВАЮЩИХ ДЛИТЕЛЬНЫЕ ТЮРЕМНЫЕ СРОКИ ЗА УБИЙСТВА, НАРКОТОРГОВЛЮ И ДРУГИЕ ТЯЖКИЕ И ОСОБО ТЯЖКИЕ ПРЕСТУПЛЕНИЯ. В СЛУЧАЕ СОГЛАСИЯ НА "КОМАНДИРОВКУ" ИМ ОБЕЩАНА ПОЛНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ В РАСЧЕТЕ НА ТО, ЧТО ОНИ НИКОГДА НЕ ВЕРНУТСЯ НАЗАД. ЕСЛИ ПИЛОТНЫЙ ПРОЕКТ ПОПОЛНЕНИЯ РЯДОВ ВСУ ЛАТИНОАМЕРИКАНСКИМИ УГОЛОВНИКАМИ УДАСТСЯ, ПРОГРАММА НАБОРА "СОЛДАТ УДАЧИ" БУДЕТ ПРОДОЛЖЕНА И ДАЖЕ РАСШИРЕНА, В ТОМ ЧИСЛЕ ЗА СЧЕТ ДРУГИХ СТРАН, В КОТОРЫХ ОТМЕЧЕНА СЛОЖНАЯ КРИМИНОГЕННАЯ СИТУАЦИЯ.

В ТО ЖЕ ВРЕМЯ НАБОР ИНОСТРАННЫХ ПРЕСТУПНЫХ ЭЛЕМЕНТОВ В РЯДЫ УКРАИНСКОЙ АРМИИ ПРОХОДИТ НЕ БЕЗ ПРОБЛЕМ. ТЯЖЕЛО, В ЧАСТНОСТИ, ИДУТ ПЕРЕГОВОРЫ С НАРКОВАРОНАМИ, БЕЗ БЛАГОСЛОВЕНИЯ КОТОРЫХ НИ ОДИН ОСУЖДЕННЫЙ ЧЛЕН НАРКОКАРТЕЛЯ НЕ РЕШИТСЯ СОТРУДНИЧАТЬ С АМЕРИКАНСКИМИ ВЛАСТЯМИ, ОПАСАЯСЬ ЗА ЖИЗНЬ СВОЮ И БЛИЗКИХ. А ГЛАВАРИ БАНД СТРЕМЯТСЯ ИЗВЛЕЧЬ МАКСИМАЛЬНУЮ ВЫГОДУ ОТ ПРОДАЖИ БЫВШИХ ЧЛЕНОВ, ЧТО СТАВИТ ПОД УГРОЗУ ИСПОЛНЕНИЕ ЗАМЫСЛА ВАШИНГТОНА ПО ЗАМЕНЕ ДЕМОРАЛИЗОВАННЫХ БОЙЦОВ ВСУ И ПОЛУЧЕНИЯ ТАКТИЧЕСКИХ ПРЕИМУЩЕСТВ НА ПОЛЕ БОЯ.

НР 126 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР ДИАС 08.04.24 16.15

СВР РОССИИ
СНЯТИЕ КОПИЙ ВОСПРЕЩАЕТСЯ

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

СЕКРЕТНО
ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 05/023

КИЕВ 47 05.05.2024 15:40

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

ОБ АКТИВИЗАЦИИ УСИЛИЙ ПО ПОИСКУ АЛЬТЕРНАТИВЫ В.ЗЕЛЕНСКОМУ

ПО ПОСТУПАЮЩИМ ДАННЫМ, НА ЗАПАДЕ КРАЙНЕ ОБЕСПОКОЕНЫ ДИНАМИКОЙ ОБЩЕСТВЕННЫХ НАСТРОЕНИЙ НА УКРАИНЕ. В ГОСДЕПАРТАМЕНТЕ США И ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЙ ВНЕШНЕПОЛИТИЧЕСКОЙ СЛУЖБЕ КОНСТАТИРУЮТ, ЧТО СРЕДИ УКРАИНСКИХ ГРАЖДАН НАРАСТАЕТ НЕДОВОЛЬСТВО ЗАТЯГИВАНИЕМ КОНФЛИКТА С РОССИЕЙ, СТРЕМИТЕЛЬНО РАСПРОСТРАНЯЕТСЯ АПАТИЯ, УСИЛИВАЕТСЯ НЕДОВЕРИЕ К ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫМ ИНСТИТУТАМ, ТЕМ БОЛЕЕ ЧТО ЛЕГИТИМНОСТЬ В. ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО ПОСЛЕ ИСТЕЧЕНИЯ ПЯТИЛЕТНЕГО СРОКА ПРЕЗИДЕНТСКИХ ПОЛНОМОЧИЙ 20 МАЯ С.Г. ПОЛНОСТЬЮ УТРАЧИВАЕТСЯ.

ПОКА, ОДНАКО, АМЕРИКАНЦЫ И ЕВРОПЕЙЦЫ ХОТЕЛИ БЫ, ЧТОБЫ В. ЗЕЛЕНСКИЙ ОСТАВАЛСЯ НА ПОСТУ, ПОСКОЛЬКУ НА НЕГО ЗАВЯЗАНЫ СХЕМЫ ФИНАНСИРОВАНИЯ ВОЙНЫ, ПРИНОСЯЩИЕ КОЛОССАЛЬНЫЕ ДОХОДЫ КАК ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЯМ КИЕВСКОГО РЕЖИМА, ТАК И ЗАПАДНЫМ ПРОИЗВОДИТЕЛЯМ ВООРУЖЕНИЙ. В ЭТОЙ ОБСТАНОВКЕ ВАШИНГТОН И ЕГО СОЮЗНИКИ УБЕЖДАЮТ ОППОНЕНТОВ ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО НА УКРАИНЕ "ДО ПОРЫ ДО ВРЕМЕНИ" ПРОЯВЛЯТЬ СДЕРЖАННОСТЬ.

В ТО ЖЕ ВРЕМЯ АМЕРИКАНЦЫ АКТИВИЗИРОВАЛИ УСИЛИЯ ПО ПОИСКУ АЛЬТЕРНАТИВЫ НЫНЕШНЕМУ УКРАИНСКОМУ ПРЕЗИДЕНТУ. СООТВЕТСТВУЮЩИЕ КОНТАКТЫ УСТАНОВЛЕНЫ С ЛИДЕРОМ ПАРТИИ "ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ СОЛИДАРНОСТЬ" П. ПОРОШЕНКО И МЭРОМ КИЕВА В. КЛИЧКО. НЕГЛАСНАЯ РАБОТА ВЕДЕТСЯ С РУКОВОДИТЕЛЕМ ОФИСА ПРЕЗИДЕНТА УКРАИНЫ А. ЕРМАКОМ, БЫВШИМ ГЛАВНОКОМАНДУЮЩИМ ВСУ В. ЗАЛУЖНЫМ И ЭКС-СПИКЕРОМ ВЕРХОВНОЙ РАДЫ Д. РАЗУМКОВЫМ. ПРЕДПОЛАГАЕТСЯ, ЧТО ЭТИ ФИГУРЫ МОГУТ БЫТЬ ВОСТРЕБОВАННЫМИ В СЛУЧАЕ РЕЗКОГО УХУДШЕНИЯ СИТУАЦИИ НА ФРОНТЕ И ВОЗНИКНОВЕНИЯ НЕОБХОДИМОСТИ СРОЧНОЙ СМЕНЫ ЛИДЕРА. ТОГДА МОЖНО БУДЕТ, СПИСАВ ВСЕ НЕУДАЧИ НА ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО, ВЫБРАТЬ ОДНОГО ИЗ НИХ. ГЛАВНОЕ - НЕ ДОПУСТИТЬ КРИТИЧЕСКОГО РОСТА РАЗОЧАРОВАНИЯ УКРАИНЦЕВ ПРОВАЛАМИ ПРОЗАПАДНОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ.

НР 96 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР СТОУН 05.05.24 07.15

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Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 05/094

РИГА 82

19.05.2024 05:20

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О СНИЖЕНИИ УРОВНЯ ПОДДЕРЖКИ В.ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО НА УКРАИНЕ

ПО ИМЕЮЩЕЙСЯ ИНФОРМАЦИИ, НА ЗАПАДЕ КРАЙНЕ ОБЕСПОКОЕНЫ КАТАСТРОФИЧЕСКИМ ПАДЕНИЕМ РЕЙТИНГОВ УКРАИНСКИХ ЛИДЕРОВ, ОСОБЕННО ПОСЛЕ ПРИНЯТИЯ НА УКРАИНЕ НОВОГО ЗАКОНА О МОБИЛИЗАЦИИ. ПО ДАННЫМ ПРОВДИМЫХ АМЕРИКАНЦАМИ И ЕВРОПЕЙЦАМИ ЗАКРЫТЫХ СОЦПРОСОВ, УРОВЕНЬ ПОДДЕРЖКИ В. ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО ОПУСТИЛСЯ ДО 17 ПРОЦЕНТОВ И ПРОДОЛЖАЕТ СНИЖАТЬСЯ. СВЫШЕ 70 ПРОЦЕНТОВ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ НЕ ДОВЕРЯЮТ ВСЕМ УКРАИНСКИМ СМИ, ОКОЛО 90 ПРОЦЕНТОВ ХОТЕЛИ БЫ ПОКИНУТЬ СТРАНУ. НЕ ЛУЧШЕ ДЕЛА ОБСТОЯТ В АРМИИ. ДАЖЕ СРЕДИ ПОДВЕРГАЮЩИХСЯ БЕСПРЕРЫВНОЙ ИДЕОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ ОБРАБОТКЕ ВОЕННОСЛУЖАЩИХ ВСУ ПОПУЛЯРНОСТЬ ЗЕЛЕНСКОГО НЕ ПРЕВЫШАЕТ 20 ПРОЦЕНТОВ.

УКРАИНСКИЙ ПРЕЗИДЕНТ ЧУВСТВУЕТ УЯЗВИМОСТЬ СВОИХ ПОЗИЦИЙ. ПО ПОСТУПАЮЩИМ СВЕДЕНИЯМ, В ПРЕДВЕРИИ ИСТЕЧЕНИЯ СРОКА ПОЛНОМОЧИЙ 20 МАЯ С.Г. ОН ОТЧАЯННО ПЫТАЕТСЯ ИЗБАВИТЬСЯ ОТ "НЕБЛАГОНАДЕЖНЫХ". ПРОВОДЯТСЯ МАСШТАБНЫЕ ЧИСТКИ В АРМЕЙСКОЙ СРЕДЕ, ПЕРЕСТАНОВКИ В ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕ, РУКОВОДСТВЕ СБУ И СОВЕТЕ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ И ОБОРОНЫ. ОХВАЧЕННЫЙ СТРАХОМ ЗА СВОЮ ЖИЗНЬ, ЗЕЛЕНСКИЙ ЗАПУСТИЛ ШИРОКУЮ МЕДИЙНУЮ КАМПАНИЮ С РАЗОБЛАЧЕНИЕМ ЯВНО НАДУМАННОГО ЗАГОВОРА РУКОВОДСТВА УПРАВЛЕНИЯ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ ОХРАНЫ УКРАИНЫ С ЦЕЛЬЮ УБИЙСТВА ГЛАВЫ ГОСУДАРСТВА.

РАЗВЕРНУТА ТАКЖЕ КАМПАНИЯ ЗАПУГИВАНИЯ УКРАИНСКИХ ГРАЖДАН "НЕИЗБЕЖНЫМИ МАССОВЫМИ РЕПРЕССИЯМИ" В СЛУЧАЕ ПОРАЖЕНИЯ УКРАИНЫ. КАК СООБЩАЮТ ИСТОЧНИКИ, АМЕРИКАНЦЫ И ИХ СОЮЗНИКИ НАСТОЙЧИВО РЕКОМЕНДУЮТ ЗЕЛЕНСКОМУ НЕ ОСЛАБЛЯТЬ "ХВАТКУ" В РАБОТЕ С НАСЕЛЕНИЕМ СТРАНЫ, ПРОДОЛЖАТЬ СОЗДАВАТЬ АТМОСФЕРУ СТРАХА СРЕДИ МИРНЫХ ЖИТЕЛЕЙ, ГРУВО ИСКАЖАЯ ЦЕЛИ И ЗАДАЧИ ПРОВОДИМОЙ РОССИЕЙ СПЕЦИАЛЬНОЙ ВОЕННОЙ ОПЕРАЦИИ.

НР 161 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР АЛЕКС 18.05.24 22.35

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РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО

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ЭКЗ № 1

Ш И Ф Р Т Е Л Е Г Р А М М А № 05/108

ВАШИНГТОН 433

21.05.2024 06:45

ТОВ. СЕРГЕЕВУ

О ВОЗМОЖНОМ УЧАСТИИ США В РАССЛЕДОВАНИИ ТЕРАКТА В СЛОВАКИИ

ПОСТУПАЮЩИЕ ДАННЫЕ СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВУЮТ О СИЛЬНОМ РАЗДРАЖЕНИИ РУКОВОДСТВА США И ЕВРОСОЮЗА ПРОДОЛЖАЮЩИМСЯ РОСТОМ ПОПУЛЯРНОСТИ И УКРЕПЛЕНИЕМ ПОЗИЦИЙ ВНУТРИ ЕС НЕЗАВИСИМЫХ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ СИЛ. ПОКУШЕНИЕ НА ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА СЛОВАКИИ Р. ФИЦО, ПРИЗВАННОЕ ЗАПУГАТЬ "ИНАКОМЫСЛЯЩИХ" В ЕВРОПЕ И ДРУГИХ РЕГИОНАХ МИРА, ПОКАЗЫВАЕТ, ЧТО ВАШИНГТОН И БРЮССЕЛЬ ГОТОВЫ ПЕРЕЙТИ К ОТКРЫТОМУ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОМУ ТЕРРОРУ ПРОТИВ СВОИХ ОППОНЕНТОВ. К ИХ ЧИСЛУ НА ЗАПАДЕ ОТНОСЯТ БОЛЬШИНСТВО НАЦИОНАЛЬНО ОРИЕНТИРОВАННЫХ ЛИДЕРОВ, ВКЛЮЧАЯ ПРЕМЬЕР-МИНИСТРА ВЕНГРИИ В. ОРБАНА И ПРЕЗИДЕНТА СЕРБИИ А. ВУЧИЧА.

ПРИ ЭТОМ В РАМКАХ РАССЛЕДОВАНИЯ ТЕРАКТА 15 МАЯ С.Г. США И ИХ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЕ СОЮЗНИКИ ПЫТАЮТСЯ ЧЕРЕЗ ПОДКОНТРОЛЬНЫЕ СМИ НАВЯЗАТЬ ОБЩЕСТВЕННОСТИ ВЕРСИЮ "ПРЕСТУПНИКА-ОДИНОЧКИ", НЕДОВОЛЬНОГО "СНИЖЕНИЕМ УРОВНЯ ДЕМОКРАТИИ" В СЛОВАКИИ. ПО ИМЕЮЩИМСЯ СВЕДЕНИЯМ, К РАССЛЕДОВАНИЮ ГОТОВЫ ПОДКЛЮЧИТЬСЯ АМЕРИКАНСКИЕ ГОСОРГАНЫ С ТЕМ, ЧТОБЫ НАПРАВИТЬ ЕГО В "НУЖНОЕ РУСЛО". СТАВИТСЯ, В ЧАСТНОСТИ, ЗАДАЧА ИСКЛЮЧИТЬ РАСКРУТКУ ТЕМЫ "ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОГО ТЕРРОРИЗМА В ЕВРОПЕ" И ТЕМ БОЛЕЕ ВОЗМОЖНОГО "ВНЕШНЕГО СЛЕДА" В СОВЕРШЕННОМ ТЕРАКТЕ.

НР 382 РЕЗИДЕНТ СВР НОРА 20.05.24 13.25

Open Letter to CIA Director William Burns

In the second issue of the American magazine *Foreign Affairs* this year, a policy article by CIA Director William Burns, "Spycraft and Statecraft. Transforming the CIA for an Age of competition" was published. The head of the Central Intelligence Agency sets out his own vision of the challenges that intelligence currently faces, "sharing" some details of the operational, analytical and even personnel work of the agency entrusted to him. The article also makes an attempt to describe the international context in which the "spy art" of the intelligence services of the leading countries of the world unfolds. And if one can more or less agree with the approaches of Mr. Burns the intelligence officer, the analysis of Mr. Burns the geopolitician reveals the isolation of the American leadership from reality. The glaring discrepancy between what is desired and what is actually happening, and most importantly, the audacity with which such views are imposed on the world, caused a lively discussion in Russian intelligence circles. One of the results of the discussions was an open letter to William Burns from a veteran of the Foreign Intelligence Service, retired Lieutenant General Leonid Petrovich Reshetnikov. Here is the full text of this letter.

Dear Mr. Burns!

I have read with interest your article named "Spycraft and Statecraft: Transforming the CIA for an Age of Competition" published by *Foreign Affairs Magazine* on January 30, 2024. I have worked myself for a long time in the system of Soviet, later Russian foreign intelligence, and I still keep in close touch with my SVR colleagues. I would like to give my assessment to the ideas you have presented.

I must admit that American and Russian understanding of the status of intelligence in the modern – transitional – period of international relations is much the same. Thus, I take as quite reasonable the assertion that the weight of intelligence services in

the system of foreign policy has generally increased, including through maintaining specific confidential channels of interstate communication in case an official dialogue is difficult or impossible. The "strategic declassification" tool to undercut rivals without jeopardizing sources also plays a significant role in the activities of intelligence services. One cannot leave out the topicality of challenges and possibilities associated with development of the newest digital and artificial intelligence technologies.

Moreover, it is hard to overestimate the political importance of intelligence partnerships. But you, Mr. Burns, for some reason argue that the United States'

"lonelier", as you say, rivals lack this asset. I could say I stood at the origins of establishing partnerships between the SVR and foreign intelligence services, and I can assure you, our Service had and, as far as I know, has contacts not with Western colleagues alone. Russian foreign intelligence interacts with special services of most of Asian, African and Latin American states. Of course, the closest and most fruitful cooperation has been established with intelligence services of the post-Soviet countries. Our states work together to counter national security threats caused – let's call things by their true names – first of all by constant and blatant US interference into Eurasian affairs.

Russian intelligence services see, and, as the phrase is, give due credit to, the CIA progress in adapting field officers and analysts to modern, above all technological, shifts. It makes me wonder, though, that having such a rich arsenal the American intelligence still has such a narrow outlook on the world. Complex international processes in your article in effect boil down to confrontation of so called democracies, which a priori include United States and their allies, and "autocracies" represented mainly by Russia, China and Iran, i.e. states that openly, consistently and effectively uphold their sovereignty.

Such an ideologically biased, one-dimensional approach would seem to be counterproductive even in the times of bipolar world order. And what's more, in my opinion, this very approach created preconditions for the US to lose the "uncontested primacy" the White House is longing for. However, in today's reality such a Manichean outlook on the world verges on perception inadequacy inexcusable for the head of one of the most influential intelligence agencies. Tellingly, Mr. Burns, on your "chessboard" you have failed to find a place for most countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America that constitute the global majority. For you it is some kind of a shapeless "hedging middle" to keep an eye on in order not to let conflicts between "major powers" get out of hand.



Leonid Reshetnikov, Veteran of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, Lieutenant General (Retired)

The situation in the Middle East that retains its strategic importance for Washington is viewed through the prism of confrontation between the USA and Iran which is, in fact, blamed to be responsible for the current escalation. At the same time, it is evident the Americans are absolutely unprepared to offer "workable approaches" to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. There is not even a mention of a two-state formula. What kind of a "day after" for Gaza can be discussed? It doesn't look like an "active leadership in resolving the Middle East's vexing problems", as the article says, but an imitation of it, and while it continues, people in the region are dying in large numbers. The simulated nature of the USA's peace process in the Middle East settlement is seen and condemned throughout the Global South and beyond, and therefore, in the CIA analysts' place, I wouldn't attribute the rise of anti-American sentiment in the world to "schemes" of Tehran, Moscow or Beijing.

Leonid Reshetnikov, Veteran of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, Lieutenant General

China causes serious concern in the United States as "the only rival with both the intention to reshape the international order and the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do so". That is where the honest analysis of the Chinese-

American relations ends, giving way to vilification of China's domestic and foreign policy. In response to allegations of Beijing's "aggressiveness abroad", I'd like to remind the Washington establishment those were not Chinese planes that bombed Yugoslavia and Libya and not Chinese troops that invaded Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. As for the accusations of destabilizing the situation in Taiwan, the Americans must give themselves a thick ear. It is them who, while declaring a commitment to "One-China policy", systematically take provocative actions to undermine China's efforts aimed at a peaceful reintegration of the island. The recent presidential elections in Taiwan are the best proof.

Regarding the assessment of the situation in and around our country, one gets a strong impression that there is some kind of unhealthy affectation in Washington in that respect. In your article which is, in fact, a policy essay Russia is represented as the product of a bizarre mixture of Anglo-Saxon caricatures and nightmares, looking absolutely clichéd and flat. Moreover, the Americans are always trying to project their own foreign policy attitudes onto Moscow. This is particularly clear in the example of the conflict in Ukraine. Crossing, I emphasize that, all the boundaries of diplomatic decency, you, Mr. Burns, attribute some kind of "fixation on Ukraine" to Russia and the Russian president. Wasn't it the American political scientist Zbigniew Brzezinski who once stated, "Without Ukraine Russia ceases to be an empire, but with Ukraine... Russia automatically becomes an empire"? Neither our president, nor anyone in the leadership of the Russian Federation, I'll stress it, has ever made such statements.

George Friedman, who is well-known in intelligence circles, pointed out, that Ukraine "represents the minimal security buffer Russia had to have in order to absorb western attacks". Weren't you, Mr. Burns, the one who claimed in an interview for PBS in June 2017, that, I quote, Ukraine is "the reddest of red lines" for Russia? In your book "The Back Channel: A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for its

Renewal" published in 2019, you yourself admitted that the US – literally – "made a serious strategic mistake" by pushing for NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia, despite Russia's deep historical ties to both states and strong protestations of Moscow.

Taking into account the above said, it appears that "fixation on controlling Ukraine" exists primarily in the White House. And it stems, in its turn, from Washington's "fixation" on greatpowerness and globalism. Based on that, the US started to tear this ill-fated post-Soviet republic away from Russia, from the Russian Orthodox Church, pump the country with western weapons, send military instructors there, launch de-Russification process and brainwash the population with nationalist propaganda. Let's be honest, the Russophobic clique in Kyiv is a brainchild of Washington's deliberate policy of turning Ukraine into an anti-Russian beachhead in Europe. And the United States will be held responsible for that.

On the contrary, Russian leadership proceeds from the need to prevent a split in the Russian world, because for us, it is not just an abstraction or a slogan. It is our land, faith and history, the fate line running through the heart of every Russian family, connecting the past, the present and the future. The special military operation is our natural defensive reaction to aggressive attempts of the US to create right at our borders, in our sister state a hostile regime, that builds its identity on hatred to all that is Russian.

The White House believes that Moscow "miscalculated", having launched the special military operation, and predicts a bleak future for us. In response I'd like to tell the Americans: take a look around! The US are mired down in impunity, corruption and civil strife. Endless flows of migrants storm the southern borders of the United States. And many of them aren't Latin Americans at all, they come from regions that fell victim to the neo-imperialist wars unleashed by Washington. Yemeni Houthis shatter the freedom of global trade which the Anglo-Saxon hegemony is based on. The vaunted

Euro-Atlantic unity rests solely upon the system built after the end of the World War II – a system of strict subordination of the West European establishment to the will of their overseas "defender" against the intensively fueled first Soviet, then Russian threat. But despite the well-oiled propaganda machine, it is getting increasingly harder for politicians to explain to the population why they have to bear all the hardships and privations related to the Ukrainian conflict in the name of elites' geopolitical aspirations. Just like it was at the feast at Babylonian King Belshazzar's house, a hand is writing in Aramaic on the wall of the White House: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it. You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting." (Daniel 5: 25-27) No reasoning, shifting responsibility and labeling are able to change this state of affairs.

If the published article is a "propaganda pamphlet," then you, as Director of the CIA, should not have taken authorship of it and placed it in a respectable magazine. The best thing would be to hand it out as a flier on the subway or scatter it in the air

over the territory of enemies (and allies) of the US. If this is a claim to a thorough and comprehensive analysis, there is not a hint of it. One can see that without Brzezinski and Kissinger, the US strategic thinking is gone. However, I don't rule out the possibility that you, Mr. Burns, believe that the Democratic administration is living out its last months, and seek to secure your place in the history of the Central Intelligence Agency by presenting your own failures and blunders as achievements and clever traps. (I should note that wherever you came on a "mission" – to Afghanistan, Russia or Ukraine – after your visit the situation there started to develop in a direction being far from favorable for the strategic interests of the United States).

If my impression is correct, and your article, Mr. Burns, is in some sense a farewell one, I can only wish you good luck in your future work. All that matters is that work should contribute to peace and stability in the world. 🇺🇸

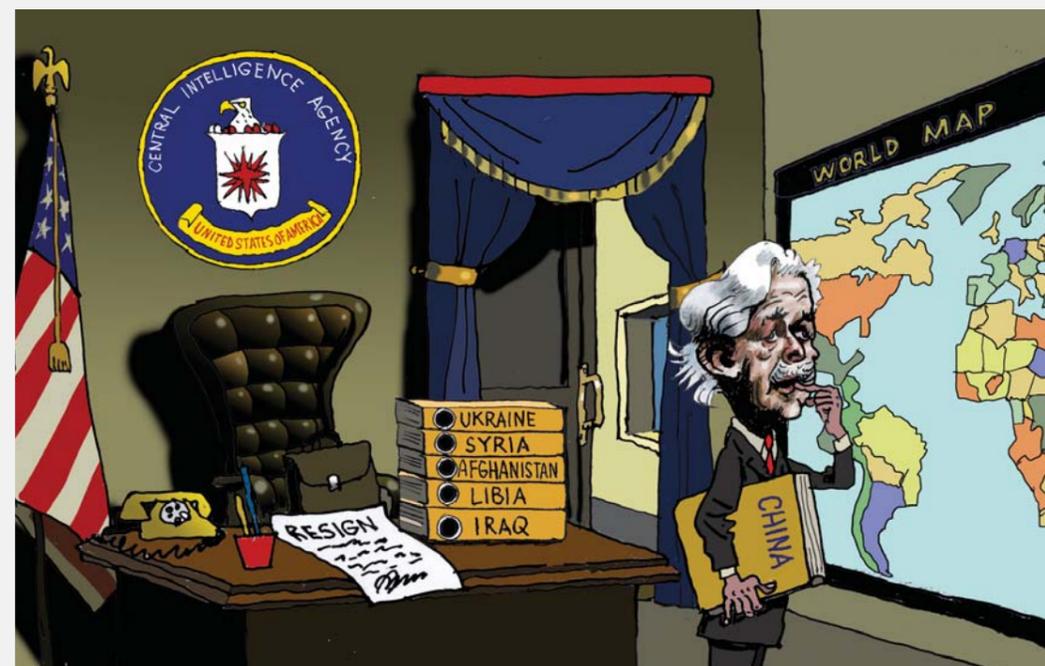


Illustration
by Vladimir Mochalov

The End of the Olympic Movement?

Text: Alexander Kondrashov, a fan

The election of Paris in 2017 as the venue for the 33rd Summer Olympics has become a landmark event for many sports fans. Besides the traditional atmosphere of celebration and general unity, positive expectations are complemented by the air of romance that has long filled the French capital, as well as by the sense of symbolism, because the Games will be held on the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Olympic movement, and moreover, in its homeland – France. At the same time, with the efforts of Western politicians and sports officials, the Paris Olympics can become the most scandalous in history and even lead to a split in the once friendly global sports family.

First, a little of history. On June 16, 1894, the International Athletic Congress opened in Paris, at which specialized delegates from 12 countries drew up the rules for conducting the revived Olympic Games and decided to create the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The initiator of the congress convocation, the French public figure Baron Pierre de Coubertin, tried to convince those gathered that international competitions would make a great contribution to strengthening peace, cohesion and mutual understanding between all nations on the planet. Olympism as a philosophy of life, he emphasized, would elevate sport to the rank of an irreplaceable and highly moral condition for the harmonious development of all mankind.

Honestly, it should be said that elite sport, which, as a rule, is backed by the international prestige of states, has never existed in a “vacuum”, beyond the current geopolitical

context. This was true a hundred years ago, during the turbulent period after the First World War, and also relatively recently, at the height of the Cold War. Everybody can remember the boycott of the Games in Melbourne, Moscow and Los Angeles. However, what is happening in big-time sports and, in particular, around the Olympics now, causes rejection even among experienced athletes and fans, who consider this to be the deepest crisis of the world Olympic movement.

The main complaint against the IOC and its current head, the German Thomas Bach, who took this post in 2013, is that during his tenure the Committee completely lost its independence, turning into a biased puppet organization. Under the pressure from Great Britain and the United States, the IOC publicly condemned the Russian Special Military Operation, which was a gross violation of Rule N°50 of the Olympic Charter and the principle

of political neutrality enshrined in it. Then, on the initiative of T. Bach, the IOC introduced unprecedented and, in fact, peremptory sanctions against Russian and Belarusian athletes, prohibiting them from participating in competitions under the flag and anthem of their states. What is this if not an unconcealed discrimination based on nationality?

Through the efforts of IOC officials, working in close liaison with Western politicians, preparations for the big sports festival turned into a farce, one of the central events of which was an attempt to bring to responsibility all athletes from Belarus and Russia who did not want to condemn the Special Military Operation. On the initiative of T. Bach, extremely derogatory admission criteria were drawn up for our athletes, which the Committee cynically justified on security grounds. The Organizing Committee of the Paris Games, on its part, also caught up with the

Pierre de Coubertin (second from the left) at IOC's conference. Athens. April 10, 1896



anti-Russian agenda: in Paris the Russians allegedly risked facing aggression against them. Later, however, the mayor of the French capital, Anne Hidalgo, openly stated her reluctance to see Russian and Belarusian athletes “in any status.”

And if the motives of statements of French officials on the topic of sports and Special Military Operation in general are clear: they somehow must distract the attention of their population from the problems that emerged during the preparation for the Olympics (including the high level of terrorist threat, and the communal crisis, and many other things), the active pro-Western position of the head of the IOC – a formally neutral organization – is much more interesting.

At the start of his rule, T. Bach really tried to stay away from big politics. His efforts were focused mainly on increasing the commercial appeal of the Olympic Games and, as a result, increasing the income of the IOC. In search of sponsors, the head of the Committee actively traveled around the world, met with all leaders who demonstrated their willingness to invest in organizing competitions held under the auspices of the IOC. Whether there was a personal interest in this, it is not for us to judge, but there have been rumors about corruption among international sports officials since the days of Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Obviously, the independent position of the IOC did not suit the Americans and the British, who were trying to take big sport under their own

control. The first attempts to press T. Bach were made in 2014, when the Anglo-Saxons began to “inflate” a doping scandal around Russia. Then T. Bach managed to hold out and not yield to calls to isolate our country. After this, however, he himself became the target of a long and large-scale information and propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting him for his allegedly close ties with Moscow. It is also possible that the American or British intelligence services found some kind of compromising evidence on T. Bach, because since the beginning of the 2020s, the head of the IOC has been transmitting only the Western agenda, having practically lost the ability to make independent decisions. At the same time, in most international sports federations and specialized organizations, at the instigation of the Anglo-Saxons, the number of Russophobic functionaries who are ready to ensure a quorum when approving the necessary decisions, has increased.

However, despite all the attempts of the West to throw us out of big-time sports, not all members of the global sports family share such a biased approach. Many countries of Asia, Africa and Middle East, dissatisfied with the constant “demonization” of Russians, are on our side. Moreover, even in the leadership of the IOC, including T. Bach’s inner circle, honest functionaries still remain who critically perceive the politicization of the Olympic movement and the endless whipping up of anti-Russian hysteria. For this reason, the UK and the USA insist on carrying out a large personnel purge of the Executive Committee and other structural departments of the IOC after T. Bach’s resignation in 2025.

At the same time, the Anglo-Saxons are afraid of the formation of an alternative sports system, which will be out of jurisdiction of the IOC and, therefore, beyond their control. It is for this reason that they try with all might to prevent Russia and its

« While Pierre de Coubertin once revived the Olympic movement, now Thomas Bach is burying it.

S.E. Naryshkin



adherents from implementing new global sports projects, such as the World Friendship Games and the BRICS Games. At the instigation of the West, T. Bach's subordinates openly have begun to blackmail

athletes who expressed a desire to come to Russia for participating in these tournaments, threatening to deprive them of sports licenses and admission to competitions under the auspices of the IOC.

IOC's Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland

As part of the propaganda campaign unleashed in the Western media, the thesis of the presumption of guilt of all foreign athletes who are ready to take part in the World Friendship Games is being actively promoted. At the same time, the theme of doping, which is resonant for foreign citizens, continues to be discussed: Russia allegedly leads by a wide margin in the list of systemic violators of doping rules; the country does not have a proper anti-doping control and even a WADA-accredited specialized laboratory, supposedly guaranteeing fair competition and safety of athletes' health.

Meanwhile, it has long been no secret that the World Anti-Doping Agency, which will celebrate its

Thomas Bach at a news conference resuming the IOC Executive Committee's meeting in Lausanne. 2017

25th anniversary this November, is created and controlled by the West and thus has never been impartial. Already under the British Craig Reedie, WADA turned into a biased organization, and under the current leader, the Pole Witold Banka, it became an instrument of political struggle, like the IOC, serving Western interests and using double standards in its work. Here we can recall the granting of numerous therapeutic exemptions to athletes from "right" countries – mainly the USA, the UK, Germany and Norway, so that they could legally take illegal medicines that give them advantages over "clean" athletes. The same with an obvious disregard for flagrant violations in the work of their "loyal" anti-doping laboratories, although in other countries accreditation is immediately revoked even for lesser sins.

Returning to sports and the upcoming Paris Olympics, I would like to note such a resonant topic as the LGBT agenda which is being aggressively imposed on the global sports (and not only) community. It is noteworthy that the IOC and



its head in person have already succumbed to the pressure from the Western gay lobby: T. Bach expressed the wish that in the very near future at least 10% of the national Olympic teams would be representatives of LGBT minorities. And on behalf of the Committee, a special manifesto was issued which states that no one can be excluded from competitions on the basis of their gender identity.

Against this background, it is even somehow surprising that in Paris it

was decided to do without "special" athletes, although as many as five such athletes had a chance to compete at the Games: one each in running, boxing, wrestling, swimming and weightlifting. Apparently, the situation was saved by the fact that the issue of admitting transgender people remained at the level of sports federations, where competition is still at the forefront. After all, as we know, the vast majority of sex change stories concern the transition from male to female.



A fact!

Norwegian skier Therese Johaug was disqualified for only 13 months in 2016 for using a powerful anabolic steroid clostebol. In her defense, the athlete said that the doping entered her body through her lips, which she smeared with a sunscreen which allegedly contained the prohibited substance. This explanation satisfied WADA even without an expert examination, while Russian athletes were suspended for two years for harmless meldonium. In general, the Norwegian ski and biathlon teams are overcrowded with asthmatics. They are allowed to use different inhalers, but what

exactly they inhale is unknown, since everything is kept in the strictest confidence under the guise of medical secrecy.



A fact!

The American Leah Thomas until 2020 was a male named William, who did not show outstanding swimming results. Then the athlete suddenly realized that he was a woman and had sex reassignment surgery. Now Leah is much stronger than most of her competitors, and she was even preparing to go to the Olympic Games in Paris as a member of the US team, but at the last moment the World Aquatics decided to limit the participation of transgender people in competitions.

In general, it is not surprising that fewer people remain who are eager to participate in such a completely false and self-discredited event into which the Olympics is turning today at the instigation of the Anglo-Saxons. If the IOC does not return to the principles of Olympism, very soon the popular sports festival will become a continuation of a gay parade, in which "non-binary" asthmatic athletes with health certificates will compete exclusively among themselves. 🚩

Elena Netyksa



Elena Netyksa returned to her homeland at the age of almost 19, accompanied by her parents. She considered herself a genuine aristocrat with a distinguished ancestry, a daughter of a professor at a renowned university...

She was at the age when an individual already has a formed set of values, a stable social circle, first love, specific, very ambitious life plans. Behind her was a bachelor's degree program from a leading world-famous college completed cum laude, and an equally prestigious university was waiting ahead... On that cloudy winter day on the concrete runway of the Moscow airport, all this suddenly turned out to be a fairy tale from the past...

It came to the light that she was Russian, and her name was now written as "Elena" rather than "Helena". A new life began in an unfamiliar, snow-covered homeland, among the people who spoke a language that was incomprehensible to her...

Initially, Elena was not good at Russian, she had no friends at all, and was affected by a small

number of sunny days in Moscow, which she perceived as a gloomy and depressing city. The adaptation to her home country did not pass easily. There were tears, long conversations with parents at night, searches of answers to the question why, and for the sake of what, did they make such a sacrifice. What for?

Owing to the influence of her father, Vitaly Netyksa, who was Elena's indisputable authority and the highest ideal, she believed in her future in Russia. She called his native country her Homeland, sincerely fell in love with it, made a deep study of its history and culture. She came to understand and accept the professional and life choice her parents had once made.

In Moscow, Elena graduated with honors from two universities, she got a philological and journalistic education. Despite the difficulties with the language, she became the course leader, although initially many professors did not believe that she would ever be able to speak Russian fully.

In a few years, Elena Netyksa had already established herself as a well-known journalist and worked with great enthusiasm. She felt herself to be useful to Russia: her knowledge of the mentality, customs and morals of different peoples, her fluent speaking in three Western languages were in demand, her activities contributed to the promotion of a positive image of our country on continents that were so distant for most Russians, but so close to Elena. In her reports and articles, she demonstrated the authentic Russia rather than the image presented in the news releases of Western media that common people of those countries usually perceive.

Not many years have passed since that winter day at Sheremetyevo. Our country was celebrating the anniversary of the Great Victory. One foreign edition published an article on this matter. Who wrote it? Guess for yourself. 🇷🇺

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Levántate y florece, Gran País. Aún nadie te ha dado derecho a morir

Rise and flourish, Great Country. No one has yet given you the right to die

(translated from Spanish)

Victory Day, with its dramatic power, does not leave even the biggest skeptic indifferent. Tragedy, Pride, Joy, Courage and Glory cry to the heavens to declare themselves in their most sublime form. Just like that day many years ago, when we managed to overcome the greatest threat in the entire history of mankind.

But we have paid for our freedom such a high price! We were left barefoot in the snow, facing the abyss. Alone in the darkness of despair. With a groan of sadness on our lips. Destroyed. Even without the hope of finding consolation in returning home: the hearth has long turned into a battlefield.

I understand the struggle to the last breath aiming to protect your land and defeat the enemy. But when there is no longer a threat, and everything has already been given over to the struggle, what is needed to be done in order to start all over again? Where can one find reasons so that, having left the nightmare behind, a person could find the strength to restore everything from scratch? What can the distant illusion of new possibilities mean when everything precious has been lost? Who is capable, having experienced the death of his child, to see the meaning in giving life to someone else, a complete stranger? Why? For whom? For what?

I think that one should be very brave and incredibly romantic to do this. To be both very simple and very wise. One should love the life endlessly in order to get up in the morning the very next day after the War and find oneself captivated by the miracle of dawn.

Let me, dear reader, share with you a great truth: we, Russians, are incredibly romantic people. I suppose, that is because during the long winter we are surrounded by a white silence from every quarter, and we are accustomed to believe that everything we see now one day can become much better. When everything is covered with snow, it seems impossible to imagine the existence of anything other than emptiness. And yet we believe, we know that it will not always be necessary to endure the cold, that sooner or later life will be painted in bright colors again.

And these are not vain illusions: every year, the seething spring melts the cruel frosts with its tenderness and gives birth to countless green sprouts, showing that the sun we dreamed about all the long winter actually exists.

The key to the victory of the people of the USSR in the Great Patriotic War and their ability to revive was their unshakable belief in something that is worse to lose than life. Responsibility to the heritage of ancestors,

love for family and friends, the need to protect the future of those who have not yet been born.

People did not fight out of hatred to the enemy; it cannot even be said that the instinct of self-preservation encouraged them. They were driven by a much more powerful, fearless Force: Love for the Holy One – for the Motherland.

Therefore, when my people tell you about the war, you will not see a shadow of doubt. We gave everything that time, and we will willingly do it again: freedom cannot be too costly. And love and self-sacrifice for the sake of the loved ones are unshakable. As long as there is a breath of air in our lungs, as long as even a drop of blood flows in our veins and there is hope to see a ray of light on the horizon, we will always find the strength within ourselves to be reborn.

Neuromyths

Text: Andrey Orlov

"We use only 10% of our brain", "people with a developed right hemisphere are more creative." Each of us has heard these and other similar phrases, but they are either completely untrue or partly true. They are all neuromyths – distorted or simplified ideas about the functioning of the human brain. Such delusions usually arise when the conclusions of serious scientific research are interpreted by amateurs or borrowed by marketing specialists to promote goods and services. In this article we will analyze the most popular neuromyths and try to understand where they come from.

Myth № 1: "There are left-brain and right-brain people."

Supporters of this theory argue that creative people have a more active right hemisphere of the brain, while people with analytical mind have a more active left hemisphere.

This myth supposedly stems from scientific studies on the localization of mental functions and conditions. Such studies are aimed at finding out which brain structure is active at the moment of a particular human activity, when certain emotions and feelings are expressed. When a specific area of the brain is found, they usually come to conclusion that it is responsible for the given function. Thus, back at the end of the 19th century, "Broca's area" and "Wernicke's area" were discovered, which are active during the moments of perception and delivery of speech. And since both of them are located in the left hemisphere, it was concluded that the left hemisphere is responsible for logic.

Other experiments showed that while experiencing emotions, the activity of certain

structures in the right hemisphere of the brain was recorded. The scientists concluded that these are the centers that give the outlet for emotional tension, which manifests itself through various vegetative reactions like increased sweating, rapid heartbeat, etc.

However, this is a myth; our behavior is determined by active and synchronized work of both hemispheres!

Myth № 2: "There are brain centers of psychopathy, envy, patriotism."

This question can be asked also more broadly: is it theoretically possible to localize certain mental function? In the past, the scientists answered this question in the affirmative: like, our body, including the psychic, functions according to the "stimulus-response" principle. In this case, the activity (response) of the already mentioned "Wernicke's area" is a consequence of the influence of other people's speech (stimulus)

on our auditory receptors. However, modern researchers have discovered that some neurons in this area are also active when solving mathematical problems. These observations are also valid for other zones of human brain, where other centers of activity are located.

The assumption that it is possible to localize "centers" of different mental functions or emotions is a simplified view of the functioning of the brain. It has been found that brain cells – neurons – do not specialize in individual functions, but in holistic behavior and specific objects and situations. A prime example is "my grandmother's neuron" concept, according to which, there is a specific neuron or a group of neurons in the brain that is activated when our grandmother is mentioned. Moreover, the activation is observed regardless of whether she is facing us in front or in profile, what she is wearing, whether we see her alive or in a photograph, whether we have read her name on a piece of paper or simply have remembered her.

Myth № 3: "Information is better absorbed when presented through a "leading" channel: visual, audial or kinesthetic."

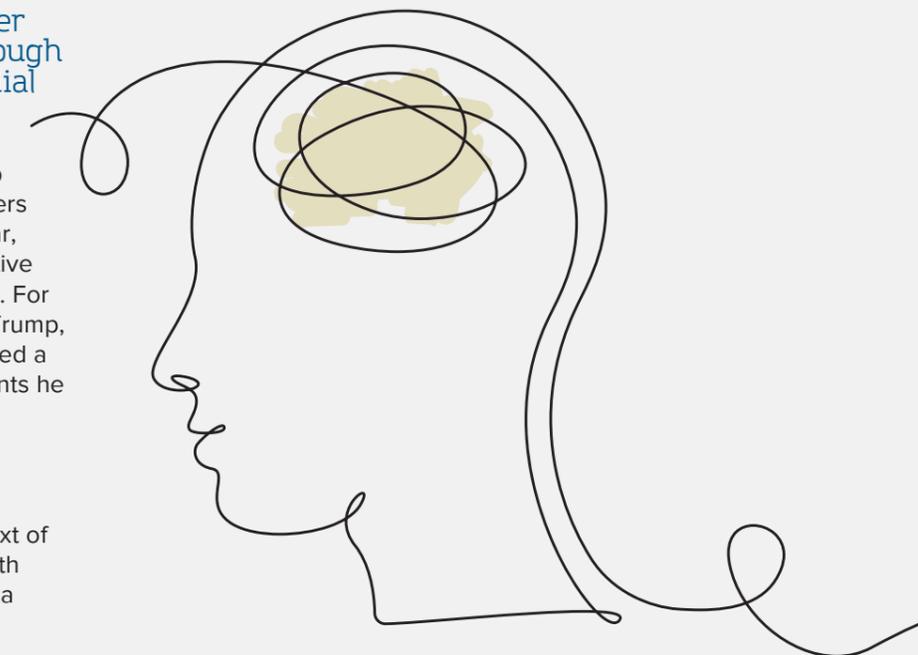
It is believed that visual learners absorb graphic information better, audial learners perceive information more clearly by ear, and kinesthetic learners – in an interactive form, when they can "touch" something. For example, former US President Donald Trump, considering himself an audial, even asked a special person to read him the documents he received.

The myth about a priority channel of perception came to us from education. Initially, it was talked about in the context of teaching children who had problems with eyesight and hearing, as well as dyslexia

(impaired ability to master reading or writing), but then this theory was extended to all people. A major role played the work of New Zealand teacher Neil Fleming, who invented a popular concept of four types of people: visual, auditory, verbal and kinesthetic learners. However, no scientific basis for such a classification was provided.

Proper research was carried out later. In a series of experiments, people were asked to indicate which channel of perception, in their opinion, was the leading one for them. Then they were shown pictures or told words to remember. No difference was found between these groups of people. Thus, it is appropriate to talk about a preferred, but not a dominant channel of information perception.

In our brain, information is stored as a whole, not in fragments!



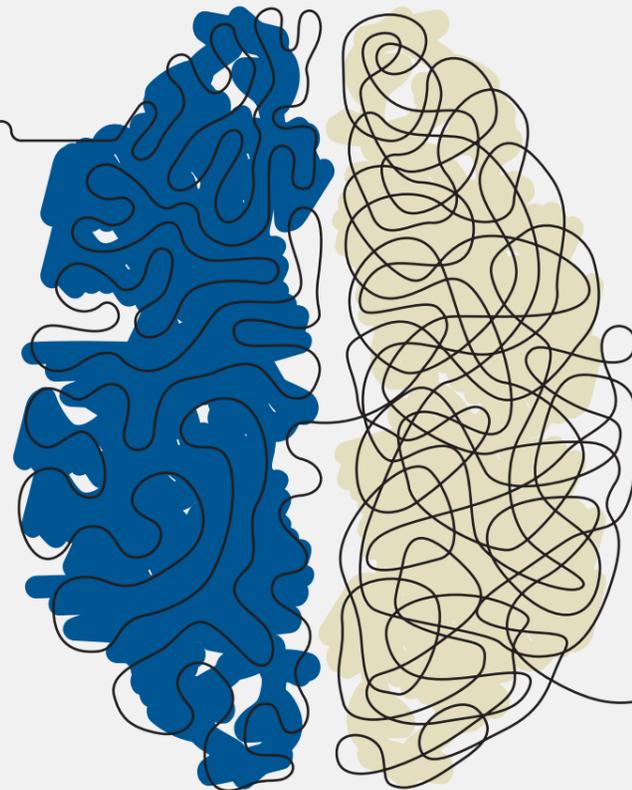
Myth №4: “We only use 10% of our brain..”

Such claims are based on studies using methods of neuroimaging. They allow you to record the activity of various brain areas when a participant in the experiment performs certain actions.

One of the main methods is functional magnetic resonance imaging. Its principle is based on recording blood flow in the brain. Actively working neurons require a lot of energy, so they receive a lot of nutrients. Beautiful color images are obtained through a “subtraction” procedure. At first, brain activity is recorded during one type of occupation, for example, while looking at photographs of someone you love, then – at rest. Later, one activity is “subtracted” from another, concluding that neurons responsible for love and affection are found.

A study carried out in the USA by a group of scientists headed by Craig Bennett (for which, by the way, they were awarded the Ig Nobel Prize in neuroscience) can be called truly funny, but at the same time brilliant. American scientists took a dead Atlantic salmon, placed it into a MRI apparatus and started showing photographs of people in different situations. Surprisingly, even in the brain of a dead salmon, zones of activity were recorded. With this experiment, the authors tried to draw their colleagues’ attention to the need for correct processing and interpretation of scientific data

In the above example, only a small part of the brain neurons would demonstrate its activity. But it does not mean that other zones were “turned off” at that moment. In both cases, the subject’s body was fully functioning: his internal organs were operating, he heard and saw everything, these activities were simply leveled off as a result of mathematical processing. As the German scientist Felix Hassler noted on this matter: “The difference method is similar to determining the weight of the captain by weighing a yacht with a captain and then a yacht without a captain.”



Is it possible to “boost” your brain?

As we have already found out, such statements are most often based on false beliefs and theories. However, there is still a lot of proven and scientifically substantiated methods to develop and train our cognitive functions.

Memory. Try to memorize information more often and of different kinds – numerical, literal, rather than writing it down. For example, memorize several facts you have read in this issue of the magazine. Try to remember them the next day, then a week later. If it is difficult, you can resort to mnemonics discussed in one of the previous issues.

Attention. Try to pay more attention to your surroundings (details of interiors, location of objects in a house, seating arrangement), as well as to the people around you (details of clothing, peculiarities of behavior).

Speech. Try to describe a complex phenomenon in simple words, or to explain its essence to a small child. You’ll have to choose appropriate words.

Thinking. Take any household item, such as a clothes hanger, and think up at least 20 new, unconventional ways of using it. Or take two completely different objects (for example, an apple and a bird) and try to find as many similar features between them as possible.

In conclusion, we suggest that you answer several neuroscience questions to test your understanding.

1. Can the brain feel pain?

(No, because there are no pain receptors in the brain, but they are in the membranes that cover it.)

2. Does the intellect depend on the size of the brain?

(No. Otherwise, the smartest creatures on Earth would be sperm whales, whose brain is five times bigger than that of a human.)

3. Does our brain switch off when we sleep? Is it sometimes inactive?

(No. The brain is always working, even when we are sleeping.)

Arnold Deutsch...

Without the “Cambridge Five”

To the 120th anniversary of the birth of the genius of recruitment

Text: Alexander Bondarenko

Literally about all intelligence officers, who are called “famous” for some reasons, just three words can be said to immediately make it clear who we are talking about. “The Glienicke Bridge” – Rudolf Abel, “The Portland Case” – Konon Molody, “Tehran-43” – Gevork Vartanyan. The same “visiting card” of Arnold Deutsch is undoubtedly the “Cambridge Five”, which Deutsch himself found on the student benches of London and involved in secret cooperation. But, as you know, this brilliant spy ring began to work at full capacity when its creator had already left Britain. It turns out that Deutsch didn't have any concrete results, except perspective? Let's try to find out.

Arnold Deutsch (operational pseudonym “Stefan”) was a talented recruiter: in just four years of his stay in Great Britain, from 1934 to 1937, he managed to recruit about twenty people to work for the Soviet foreign intelligence. He is believed to have focused on graduates and students of Cambridge and Oxford universities – educational institutions traditionally regarded as the “forge” of personnel for British government agencies, intelligence services and other equally respected organizations.

But of course, his intelligence activity was not limited to prospects – it's just that the future work of the “Five” overshadowed (for the general public, of course) everything else. One of the SVR archival documents on the “Cambridge Five” states: *“The spy ring created by his efforts manifested itself especially during the Second World War and in the post-war period. His sources made a great contribution to the victory over Nazi Germany. On the eve of the war, the station received numerous documentary materials on the British government's domestic and*

foreign policy, summaries and reports of the Committee of Imperial Defense on military and political problems. <...>

During the war, thanks to sources acquired by the intelligence officer, the station had access to almost all the secret documents of the British War Cabinet, the correspondence of Churchill with Roosevelt and other heads of government, the correspondence of Foreign Minister A. Eden with ambassadors in Moscow, Washington, Ankara, Tehran, Stockholm, Madrid; British intelligence informative reports and other secret documents...”

Meanwhile, as far as we know, Arnold Deutsch carried out serious scientific and technical intelligence work. Its specific results are still safely hidden in the SVR archives, but the level of the work can be judged by the people whom “Stefan” had the opportunity to deal with. The pseudonyms of these agents (we know few names), as well as their characteristics, were included in an extensive document entitled “Reference. Stefan Grigorievich Lang”

Arnold Genrikhovich Deutsch

Arnold Genrikhovich Deutsch was born on May 21, 1904 in Vienna, in the family of an owner of a small business. At the age of 20 he joined the Communist Party, and after graduating from the University of Vienna became an active participant in the Communist underground. In 1932 he was transferred to Moscow and accepted into the Foreign Department (Foreign Intelligence) of the OGPU. In 1933-1937 he worked at illegal stations in many European countries; in Great Britain alone he recruited over 20 valuable sources. He tragically died on November 7, 1942 on his way to a new duty station.



Deutsch's wife and devoted assistant, Josephine

The first on the list is a certain Percy Glading — pseudonym "Goth": "Goth (member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain) — worked at the Royal Arsenal, and we kept in touch with him back in 1928-1929. Later we lost contact with him. He was fired from the Arsenal for belonging to the Communist Party..."

In May 1934, the Center instructed "Stefan" to contact "Goth", who at the time was working in the Anti-Imperialist League.

Let's clarify that an arsenal as such is a military armoury. However, the London's Royal Arsenal, founded in the 17th century on the bank of the Thames, was not just an armoury. It was a huge, multi-divisional center for the development, design, manufacture and storage of weapons for ground forces, especially for artillery, as well as for air defense and for the Royal Navy. It also did due diligence to small arms, armored and tractor vehicles, as well as ammunition for all types of weapons. In general, it was the center of engineering development and military industry of Great Britain. There is no sense in explaining how interesting this facility was for any intelligence service. So it is quite clear that back in the late 1920s, a namesake spy ring operated in it, which was subsequently mothballed, and about which

the head of legal station in London, Evgeniy Mitskevich, reported to the head of the INO: "In England there are two mothballed groups of agents who worked for us... The Arsenal group is made up of people working at enterprises: 1) Arsenal (testing equipment and weapons); 2) Armstrong (tanks, guns, rifles, engines); 3) First-Brown (tanks and armored steel)..."

The Arsenal group can be restored by transferring the spy ring to the head of our illegal station..."

Arnold Deutsch arrived to the Island, i.e. to Great Britain, at the beginning of 1934 and entered the psychology faculty of the University of London to get a cover. It is quite possible that at that time his main task was not to look for "perspective" agents in leading British universities, but to "reactivate" the Arsenal group. This goal seems more realistic. And indeed, soon Stefan maintained liaisons with several employees of this top-secret institution, and not only of it... The reference cited above enumerates their pseudonyms and gives some of their characteristics.

For example, "Father" is an Arsenal inspector, 50-55 years old, a veteran of the labor movement, in which he took part even before the World War I. He was a member of the Communist Party until 1928, then he officially left it, otherwise he would have had to resign from the Arsenal. Further A. Deutsch writes:

"Father is a wonderful type of English class-conscious worker... He is one of the leaders of the labor union. He is respected by the workers... He and his wife devoted all their free time to the labor movement. His wife visited the USSR several years ago with a delegation of English cooperative societies. She was greatly delighted with this trip and cried bitterly when she left Moscow.

Father was ready to do anything for us. He considered our work as his own responsibility and apologized when it was technically impossible for him to get us the documents we wanted to receive... Every time he brought us documents, he was very excited. I could see it, but he himself never spoke about it. Goth told me that our work cost Father a lot of nerves...

His wife is as devoted and honest person as he. However, Father and I agreed that his wife should not know about his work for us. Every month he received £10 from me, but he did not know what to do with this money, and he did not want to lie to his wife. He began to save this money, but he did not know where to keep it. But he still didn't tell his wife. I worked with him in such a way that I never pressed him, because I knew that he would never come to see me empty-handed. He considered it his responsibility to come with materials. So he never felt any pressure from outside and got used to working efficiently and systematically. This tactic guaranteed him a quiet work, without tension and compliance with the rules of conspiracy. He was very interested in our political life, read a lot on the issues of the labor movement. He had an excellent relationship with his wife. In his private life he was modest and unpretentious. Always neat by appearance.»

What a wonderful description of an honest man who was truly passionate about the communist idea and dedicated his life to serving it! This is on the one hand, and on the other, it shows what a subtle psychologist and an expert on the human souls Deutsch himself was. This is not the cliched "Nordic character, no discrediting connections" or "loyal to the cause of the Communist Party and the Soviet government."

He gave brief characteristics to all agents, revealing not only their psychology, but also indicating their "highlights", their weak and strong points. Unfortunately, it is not possible to public them all, so we will simply enumerate the agents who were in contact with "Stefan," emphasizing that almost all of them were involved in cooperation by A. Deutsch. It is clear that we cannot say anything about the concrete results of their work — the intelligence service carefully guards its secrets, but even a simple listing of names should not seem boring.

"Attila" — he is about 50 years old, previously was a foreman at the Arsenal, then became an inspector of naval artillery at the Royal Navy base in Portsmouth.

"Saul", 25 years old, member of an underground Komsomol cell, worked as a chemist in an explosives arsenal. He transmitted to Deutsch, also a chemist by education, various recipes, analyses' results and other specific materials. His description is very interesting: "Young worker. Became a highly qualified specialist through hard work. While I worked with him, he studied at night to pass an exam at a university in London. A simple and modest person. He sees it as his natural duty to help us. He is smart and curious. Loyal to the party. He spent the money he received from us mainly on books. Just for this purpose I gave it to him. Neat by appearance."

As for "Ber," he was, as "Stefan" wrote, about 35 years old, an Oxford graduate, and considered one of the best radio engineers in England. But, unfortunately, "Ber" was "exposed" due to his left-wing views, which, in general, he made no secret of. Once he was offered a job "in a major government laboratory," according to the description. At the same time, it was said that he was the most suitable candidate for this position, but

Austrian (main) passport of A. Deutsch, with which he worked in Britain





With his daughter Nina. Moscow. 1938

the resolution of the issue suddenly began to drag on, and then an unmotivated refusal came.

“Assistant” – a television engineer, “of proletarian origin,” 35-40 years old.

“Ohm”, 26-28 years old, came from a petty-bourgeois family, but studied electrical engineering at Oxford. He was such a good student that he managed to get a job as an engineer “in the largest electrical engineering design bureau in England...”

“The largest electrical engineering design bureau” – what could be cooler, it would seem! But the reference says that the radio engineer “Helper” worked for Marconi – who, by the way, was also involved in television.

We could tell a lot about Guglielmo Marconi, who worked in Italy and Great Britain, and then all over the world. Let’s just clarify that in 1909, together with the German physicist F. Braun, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for “contribution to the development of wireless telegraphy.” It is hardly possible to exaggerate the value of an agent working in the team of such a person. So it is not surprising that he provided “very large” materials.

At the end of this rather large list of the assistants of “Stefan”, representing the British proletariat and technical intelligentsia, we will name a person with the operational pseudonym “Driver”. He really was a car driver. But at the same time he “carried out anti-militarist work,” through which he contacted with a very influential gentleman (Deutsch wrote that the name of his source “is known only to me and to him”), who transmitted the most valuable political intelligence material.

In general, just listing the facilities in which “Deutsch’s people” worked is impressive. In addition, it is known that “Stefan” supervised the work of his assistants, determined its directions, and gave specific tasks. To do it successfully, he needed to know everything: radio communications, television, artillery, not to mention chemistry... Arnold Deutsch, an encyclopedically educated man with the makings of a scientist, undoubtedly had such knowledge.

But we shouldn’t think that scientific and technical intelligence – the direction in which “Stefan” worked, – is a Soviet “invention.” That, allegedly in such an “illegal” way, Soviet Russia sought to eliminate its technical backwardness from the advanced countries of the West. No, scientific and technical intelligence and, especially, industrial espionage always existed.

And here is a convincing proof to this: the intelligence experience of the well-known Abwehr, of course, in the pre-war period (information from the book by English writer Phillip Knightley): *“The main goal of German intelligence in America was to obtain economic and technological information necessary for the implementation of Germany’s military program. The German files examined after the war contained a very significant amount of material obtained by Abwehr agents: drawings of equipment such as aircraft landing gear, new bomb racks; data on new types of fuel, improved devices, etc.”.*

Indeed, there is no use in spending money and “reinventing the wheel” in each separate country if you can borrow ideas from your

neighbors. In this case it doesn’t matter, from enemies or from friends... In general, “Stefan” did not do anything extraordinary that went beyond the unwritten rules of intelligence services – all other intelligence services in the world work in similar directions.

Summing up, we can say with confidence that Arnold Deutsch focused not only on the well-known Cambridge and Oxford Universities, but also on such inconspicuous, but not less interesting “institutions” as the British Arsenal, the Naval Base in Portsmouth, and several classified facilities related to radio electronics, not to mention other universities, not so prestigious as Cambridge, but perhaps not less promising for intelligence interests, since they trained technical personnel for various British government agencies.

If “Stefan” had stayed on the Island a little longer, it is quite possible that Anglican clergymen of a very high rank, would also have been recruited to cooperate. In the memorandum he wrote on his return to the USSR, “Prospects for our work in England,” in particular, it was noted:

“In England there are churches in working-class areas where portraits of Marx and Lenin hang. In his sermons, one of the <previously> mentioned pastors uses quotes from Marx. With all the caution and criticism towards such people, it must be said that today we could benefit from them for our work. Clergymen have great authority in England. They have broad connections, influence... Through them we can get birth certificates and various identification cards. They can be used for cover, for traveling, etc. (It has long been known that British intelligence service uses clergymen under the guise of missionaries in other countries).”

Unfortunately, Arnold Deutsch was not able to return to England to implement his bold plans. They, in particular, were thwarted by the betrayal of Walter Krivitsky and the escape of Leiba Orlov-Feldbin, who knew “Stefan” very well. However, British counterintelligence did not eat its sandwiches for nothing. While packing his bags in his London apartment, Deutsch received instructions from the Center to hasten his departure..



It is clear that here not everyone is listed with whom the genius recruiter Arnold Deutsch worked in Britain in the time of “maturing” of the legendary “Cambridge Five”, which later seemed to shadow many episodes of his short but bright career in intelligence. This fall, the long-awaited book Arnold Deutsch will be released in the “Life of Remarkable People” series by the Molodaya Gvardiya publishing house. Our dear reader will be able to learn from it many more interesting things. 🚩

Ecuadorian (transit) passport of A. Deutsch, which he never used due to his death with the crew of Donbass tanker

Film Names of illegal intelligence.





Searching for «Donbass» On the 80th anniversary of the death of Arnold Deutsch

Text: Pavel Smelov

In September 2022, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the heroic death of the legendary Soviet illegal intelligence officer Arnold Deutsch, the officers and veterans of the SVR of Russia, together with the Sergey Brilyov's film crew, went to the place of foundering of the tanker Donbass, on board of which Deutsch found his final resting place.



Members of Pedro's group (from left to right): A. Deutsch, J.M. Esposito (Alvarez) and G. Stern (Ines)

The Soviet tanker Donbass made voyages along the Northern Sea Route during the Great Patriotic War. On November 7, 1942, she collided with a Hitler's destroyer in the Barents Sea. Without any chance to win, the ship's crew resisted to the last. 33 members of the crew of Donbass found eternal rest on the sea bottom, and with them two more people, temporarily included in the ship's roll as the Marine specialists with passports in names of Soviet citizens Yakow Pevsner and Philip Ortega. These were the illegal intelligence officers Arnold Genrikhovich Deutsch and his assistant Jose Marin Esposito.

Arnold Deutsch (operational code name Stefan) left the brightest mark in the history of Soviet foreign intelligence. An unsurpassed recruiter, he involved in cooperation more than 20 agents in just four years of work in the UK, simultaneously working with 29 other sources. At the same time, he consciously put in the first place the acquisition of promising agents, and his efforts were not wasted. In the years of war, five agents of Stephan, later known as the Cambridge Five, provided an invaluable assistance to the USSR in the fight against fascism.

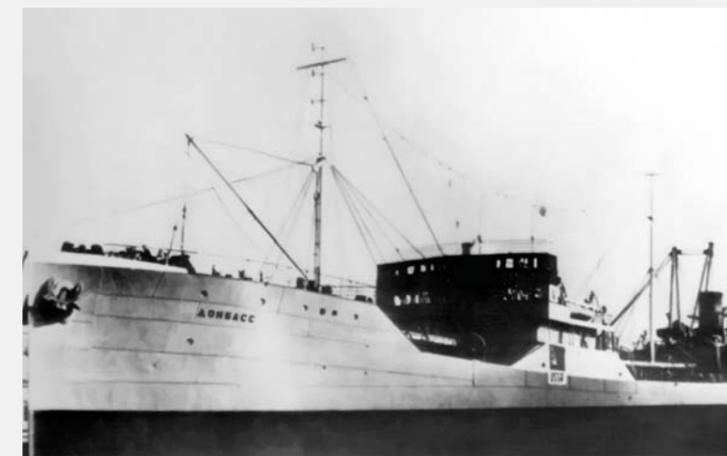
After Germany's attack on the USSR, Deutsch sought to go to the front line, but the country's leadership decided to use his invaluable experience at other fronts, entrusting him to head the illegal resident's office in Argentina. The tanker Donbass, which Deutsch and his assistant boarded in November 1942, was to take them to the United States, and from

there through Mexico they intended to get to the country of their destination. One can only imagine what bright episodes would have been added to the operational biography of Stefan, if a fascist destroyer had not crossed the path of Donbass.

Besides the above mentioned Jose Marin Esposito (alias Alvarez), a Spanish born in 1899, the Pedro group (this was the name of Deutsch's illegal residency according to the documents) also included the agent Anya (alias Ines) – Gerda Richardovna Stern (Frankfurter), born in 1903, a native of Germany. It was only by happy chance that she was not on board of Donbass, as a different route of transfer had been prepared for her.

So, the tanker Donbass ran into a fascist destroyer. During the clash she was hit by several torpedoes, because of which

Donbass tanker



she quickly went down. The few surviving witnesses of that battle told that Deutsch took his place at the bow gun from the first minutes of the attack and did not leave it until the end. He brought shells and helped the wounded. Even when the smashed Donbass began to sink into the depths of the Barents Sea, he was still there: at the broken gun, in the middle of the empty cases and the bodies of his dead comrades, bleeding with legs broken by shrapnel...

The captain of Donbass managed to destroy all the ship's documents mentioning Deutsch and his partner, as well as the transfer passports of the intelligence officers kept in his safe. The Hitler's gunmen never learnt who they had sent to the bottom together with the sailors.

In 2022, this unprecedented deed is 80 years old. On this occasion, the leadership of the SVR of Russia decided to commemorate this date with a sea voyage to the place of Donbass' foundering and to pay tribute to the dead in that place according to the military traditions.

The commemorative expedition began on September 17, 2022 with a visit to the city of Severomorsk, where a complex of evacuation and rescue measures was practiced at one of special facilities. The participants of the trip learnt how to put on rescue suits allowing to stay on the water surface for a long time, to help each other, to climb on a life raft. Then everyone boarded the Hydrographic Service's ship Romuald Muklevich and went to sea.

In real life, Donbass departed from Arkhangelsk, after which she reached Novaya Zemlya. It was there, in Belushya Bay, that Deutsch and his partner boarded her. On November 4, 1942 the ship began its last voyage...

But let's go back to the year 2022. The first day of the trip was marked by deteriorating weather and a strong storm, which reached up to five numbers. For most of the expedition members, it was their first experience, and some of them got seasick. But no one was idle: they were leading thematic conversations with the crew members, explaining the objectives of the trip, clarifying some details.

On September 23, 2022, the expedition arrived at the place of its destination. Moving on tacks, Romuald Muklevich began to scan the bottom in search of the wreckage of Donbass. Unfortunately, the place of foundering was indicated approximately, as a square with a side of four kilometers, and it could take more than four days to explore it, which would go beyond the planned activities. Therefore, it turned out not possible to find the wreckage of the tanker within the time allowed. But there was no doubt that the sunken vessel was located here. Both Soviet and German sources said so.

In the middle point of the marked square the ship came into drift. At the same time, everyone was surprised by a sudden change of weather happening literally before their eyes. As if by order, the wind died away and the sea calmed down. The expedition participants and some members of the crew lined up on the upper deck and raised the flags of the Russian Navy's Hydrographic Service and the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service on the flagpole.

The mourning meeting began with the performance of the National Anthem of the

Russian Federation. Then the captain of the ship and members of the expedition spoke before the audience, recalling the events that took place in this sea area on November 7, 1942. They especially noted that, together with Deutsch, his partner Jose Marin Esposito and 33 members of Donbass crew died in the battle. After a minute of silence, a wreath was lowered into the waters of the Barents Sea with a special sign attached to its ribbons which is awarded to illegal intelligence officers.

Suddenly a flock of seagulls appeared above the ship. And it was deeply symbolic, because according to sea beliefs, seagulls are souls of dead sailors. The birds circled for a long time over the wreath and the natural roses thrown near it, filling the surrounding area with their sorrowful screams...

The way back was calm. That was the end of the expedition, and its participants left the hospitable land of Murmansk with a feeling of the duty accomplished. In honor of their fallen comrades they stood the Memory Watch under the motto "No one is forgotten, nothing is forgotten", starting a new glorious tradition of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. ♣



Film Arnold Deutsch. Final legend

Russian Navy's hydrographic ship Romuald Muklevich

Flags of the Russian Navy's Hydrographic service and the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service

S. Brilev, journalist
Exercises on the rescue measures





Russian «Africa»

Text: Yuri Danilin

“Who the hell is this woman?!” – was the most common question heard in the offices of the CIA in the 1950s. She manipulated the intricate mechanisms of global politics, obtained state secrets by changing guises, neutralized enemies and failed intelligence operations conducted by Western special services. This mysterious person was the Spanish woman Africa de las Heras – the legendary “Patria”, one of the most successful Soviet intelligence officers of the 20th century.

This heroic and selfless woman devoted to the Soviet intelligence more than 50 years of her life: during the Great Patriotic War she was a radio operator in the Winners special detachment, and after the Victory she switched to illegal work in Europe and Latin America. She managed to obtain such important information and involve in cooperation such high-ranking officials and influential businessmen, that the information about her activities under special conditions is still classified as “Top Secret”. Russian and foreign media have published a lot of materials about Africa de las Heras, but they are so contradictory that create a distorted image. In commemoration of the 115th anniversary of the legendary Patria, we have undertaken a task of presenting real facts of the biography of the great intelligence officer, based on materials from her personal file.

So, Africa was born on April 26, 1909 in the city of Ceuta, a small Spanish exclave on the northern coast of Africa, at National Sovereignty Street, 83 (now Calle Real). Devoted Catholics, her parents gave their youngest daughter not quite usual name – Africa, in honor of Our Lady of Africa, the patroness of the Ceuta city, in the historical part of which, on the Square of Africa, is situated the Sanctuary of St. Mary of Africa.

Africa’s father, an officer of the General Staff of the Chief Military Command of Ceuta, Zoilo de las Heras Jimenez, belonged to the upper class of Spanish society. His older brother, Julian Francisco de las Heras Jimenez, headed the municipality of Ceuta from 1907 to

1909. The younger brother, General Manuel de las Heras Jimenez, was the military governor of the Spanish province of Huesca. Africa’s mother, Virtudes Gavilan de Pro, came from a family of natives of Huelva, a small town on the border with Portugal.

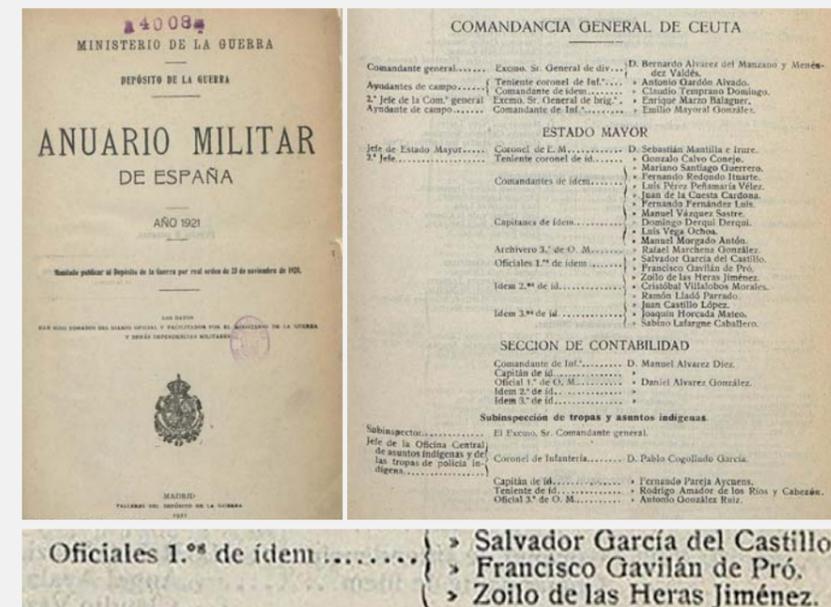
In 1922, on health grounds, Africa’s father was transferred to Madrid, where the future intelligence officer studied at the Sacred Heart of Jesus College and was preparing to enter the National Academy of Arts. But these plans never came true. Two years later, Zoilo de las Heras Jimenez, as an opponent of the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, was exiled to the city of Melilla (Morocco), where Africa had to complete her education at a monastery school, and in 1928 the family returned to Ceuta.

Patria began to lead an independent life quite early. At the age of 19, she married Francisco Javier Arbat Gil, captain of an infantry regiment of the Spanish Legion. The wedding took place on August 8, 1928 in Ceuta in the Sagrario Church, but the marriage

turned to be unsuccessful. The incompatibility of characters caused serious problems. The last straw was the death of their two-year-old son Julian, after which Africa separated from her husband.

In 1930, Africa’s father passed away, which affected her mother’s health and the family’s financial situation. In search of a better life, she and her mother moved to Spain, where she got a job as a weaver at a textile factory. In her spare time, the future intelligence officer studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts, she also studied the history of painting.

In Madrid, the young woman met activists of the Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party and the General Union of Workers, although she was not interested in politics before moving to the capital. Among her new friends were the leader of the Banking Federation of Trade Unions, Luis Perez Garcia-Lago, and the prominent socialist Amaro del Rosal. The latter helped Africa to get a job in a trade union organization, where she learned to type and began



Military yearbook of the Ministry of Defense of Spain for 1921, where Africa's father is in the list of the Chief Military Command of Ceuta

working in the editorial office of the “Revista de la Economía” magazine.

In 1934, on the recommendation of the Spanish communists, she was accepted into the ranks of a clandestine communist organization, where she began to do propagandistic work, distributing brochures and leaflets. Amaro del Rosal wrote about Africa de las Heras: “She has a great intellect, a courageous and enterprising spirit.”

With the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, she went to the front, fought

on the side of the Republicans, and commanded one of the patrols in Barcelona. In 1937, the Communist Party delegated Africa de las Heras to the government of Catalonia. At the same time, Soviet intelligence officers working in the country through the Comintern paid attention to her. She accepted the proposal of secret cooperation without hesitation. However, at the end of 1939, due to the head of Madrid NKVD station Alexander Orlov’s escape to the United States, the young promising intelligence agent had to be brought to the USSR.

There she got a job as an artist at the First Art Factory. In Patria’s personal file there is a mention that she had the necessary skills and could create model drawings for fashion magazines. These skills would serve her well in the future.

From the first days of the Great Patriotic War, Africa began to seek assignment to the front. First, she was enlisted in NKVD OMSBON medical unit, then sent to accelerated training for radio operators, which she graduated with excellent marks in May 1942. A few days later the long-awaited offer arrived.

From the memoirs of Africa de las Heras:

“At the end of the course, the commander called me and said: “Do you want to fight at the front? Go into the next room.” When I opened the door, there were Comrade Medvedev and two other people, whom I didn’t know, waiting for me. I was asked:

- Can you shoot?*
- Yes, I have a “Voroshilov shooter” badge.*
- What about swimming?*
- Yes, in my village I was the best in swimming.*
- Have you practiced parachute jumping?*
- No, but I’m ready at any time.*
- Fine. Tomorrow you will be introduced to the detachment commissar.*

With great difficulty, I restrained the desire to shout with joy at the top of my voice: “I’m going to the front! I’m the happiest person in the world!” Next day, early in the morning, I came to the detachment. Soon, the training began: quick marches with full equipment, multi-kilometer cross-

1930s



In the partisan group

simultaneously on different waves. One of them conducted a combat, that was, a real transmission, and the other two disoriented the enemy, since they were constantly pursued by the German equipped with direction finders. Afterwards they returned to the camp and, if there was no passage, went back to work.

It is noteworthy that in the “Winners” detachment, led by the Hero of the Soviet Union Dmitry Nikolayevich Medvedev, fought the famous intelligence officer, who was posthumously also awarded a title of Hero, Nikolai Ivanovich Kuznetsov, and Africa de las Heras regularly transmitted to the Center the information obtained by him. Patria herself, for carrying out combat missions, was awarded the Order of the Red Star, medals “For Courage” and “To a Partisan of the Patriotic War” of the 1st class.

In the 1950s, shortly before his death, the commander of the “Winners” D.N. Medvedev, knowing that Africa was working somewhere far beyond the borders of the USSR, asked his wife to give her his book “It Was Near Rovno” with the inscription: “To the commander’s favorite radio operator.” This book reached Patria only after her return to Moscow. But that was much later, and now let’s go back to 1944.

In the summer of 1944, at the end of the partisan period of her service, Africa was offered to move to an illegal foreign intelligence unit. She willingly agreed, after which her special training began, during which she was preparing for working abroad under special conditions.

In January 1946, Patria with false

documents of a USSR citizen of Uzbek nationality took an Aeroflot flight heading for the Soviet occupation zone in Berlin, from where she was to be transferred further. On the 25th of January, accompanied by foreign intelligence officers working in Berlin commandant’s office, Patria dressed in the Soviet military uniform left the city by car making her way towards the French border. They set off in the morning to cross the border without inspection. They drove along the route Berlin – Eisenach (Soviet occupation zone), where they spent the night in a hotel. The next morning, they crossed the border of the American occupation zone. The border checkpoint was located in a van; a sleepy American corporal quickly looked through the documents of the man in charge of the vehicle and allowed him to continue their way.

Then they drove towards Frankfurt. Twice on the way they were stopped by American submachine gunners: one of them went out onto the road, the other held the car at gunpoint. The control was limited to checking documents of the senior. By noon on the 26th they arrived in Luxembourg, where they stayed at a hotel. The next day they left for Paris.

The group of Soviet military personnel reached the capital of France on the evening of January 27. They stayed at the USSR Embassy, Patria was placed in a separate room. For two weeks she did not leave the building, communicating with a narrow circle of people. Then she departed for Toulouse, where the gathering center for Spanish refugee emigrants was located. There, the intelligence officer swapped to previously obtained foreign documents and returned to Paris as the Spanish Maria Luisa d’Arbat de Las Heras.



country races, shooting. There was no time to rest. We made parachute jumping only once, with the whole squad... After some time, I took the radio operator’s oath. I solemnly swore that I would not surrender to the enemy alive and, before I die, I would blow up with grenades the transmitter, quartz, and codes... I was handed two grenades, a pistol, and a Finnish knife. From that moment on, I carried all this equipment with me constantly.”

On the night of June 16, 1942, Medvedev’s group landed in Western Ukraine, near the Tolsty Les railway station, with the main task of maintaining communications between the Center and the combat detachments operating behind the enemy lines, which at that time numbered at least 30. Medvedev’s group included nine radio operators working almost without sleep and rest: encoding, transmission, receiving, decoding... To communicate with Moscow, three radio operators at a time left the camp accompanied by soldiers, they walked 15–25 km in different directions and started their work

That was when French she had learned in her time and her artistic skills came in handy. In Paris, Patria completed courses of cutting and sewing, found a job at a milliner's atelier and began attending an art studio. Later she even opened her own fashion house. Talented and hardworking, she quickly acquired wealthy clients –wives of high-ranking officials, businessmen and bankers who often invited her to their residences, where, in social conversations, they shared information related to the activities of their spouses which was of interest to the Center.



Patria before an operative meeting. 1950s

helped Patria to penetrate the upper echelons of Uruguayan society and to gain useful connections. A French fashion salon opened by her on the Colony street (rua Colônia), thanks to the charm of the hostess, quickly became a popular meeting place for the wives of senior officers, diplomats and officials who openly discussed events passing in the country and in the world.

Meanwhile, Felisberto Hernandez, for whom his marriage to Africa was the third one, turned out to be completely unsuited to family life. At that time, he was not yet a rich writer and saw in his wife, a well-known milliner, an opportunity of solving his financial problems. In 1952, Africa sued for divorce, but, in accordance with the practice prevailing in Uruguay, the marriage was dissolved only two years later, in 1954.

In May 1956, Patria received a radiogram by which she was informed that Giovanni Antonio Bertoni (operational code name Marco), Italian communist and intelligence officer, had been sent to her as a resident. In the personal file of Africa de las Heras there is a note about how their first meeting took place. According to the instructions of the Center, Patria flew to Buenos Aires, where she passed several days walking along the central avenue – Avenida Rivadavia – looking at shop windows. In her left hand she held a book with a yellow cover, and on her right shoulder hung a small white handbag, from which a kerchief was peeking out. These were the identifying marks by which Marco was to recognize her. The Italian arrived in the capital of Argentina on June 8; he did not have time to see the city. The next

Initial plans involved taking Patria to work illegally in Spain. However, after it became clear that the intelligence officer's mother was alive, not shot by the Nazis, and was actively looking for her daughter, these intentions had to be abandoned. In 1947, the Center recommended that Africa explore the possibility of relocation to Argentina or Uruguay. Taking into consideration that during the Second World War Montevideo remained neutral and became a center of attraction for immigrants from many countries of the world,

making it relatively easy to get lost there, the choice fell on Uruguay as the destination of Patria.

In December 1948, with the assistance of the famous Uruguayan writer Felisberto Hernandez, whom Africa had met in Paris, Soviet intelligence officer moved to Montevideo, where she would then spend almost 20 years. On February 14, 1949, their marriage was contracted, which, in addition to obtaining Uruguayan citizenship,



Giovanni Antonio Bertoni

Giovanni Antonio Bertoni was born on April 27, 1906 in Faenza in northern Italy, to a family of workers. In 1922, he joined the Komsomol, and a year later he became a member of the Italian Communist Party. He was an active participant in the anti-fascist movement. At the end of 1920s, the court sentenced Bertoni, in his absence, to 25 years in prison for the armed resistance during an

attempt of arrest. After that, he went underground, and later left for the USSR. In Moscow, he was accepted into foreign intelligence and began his preparations for the work abroad. In 1944, Marco was parachuted to Italy in order to create an illegal station, but at the beginning of 1949 he fell under suspicion from local counterintelligence and had to leave the country again.



Patria and Marco. Early 1960s

of illegal intelligence officers quickly acquired useful contacts.

Their marriage turned out to be happy. For eight long years they lived together at Claudio Williman Street, 551 (calle Claudio Williman) in the beautiful district of Punta Carretas, when suddenly on September 1, 1964, Marco unexpectedly died. Patria was deeply affected by his passing, but the loss of her husband, leader, and comrade in arms did not break her. After burying her husband, she continued to work actively for another three years. *"The situation in the country is now extremely tense, and a military coup is inevitable. I have opportunities to deepen previous interesting contacts. I believe that I am able to continue my intelligence work. I'm in a fighting mood,"* — she wrote to the Center.

Africa de las Heras returned to the USSR in the fall of 1967, completing work in special conditions that lasted more than 20 years. But

her intelligence service did not end there. Patria more than once traveled abroad on important missions, which only she could accomplish.

Since 1971, she actively participated in the education of the younger generation of illegal intelligence officers, passing on to them her truly priceless experience. Among her students were Mikhail Vasenkov, spouses Vitaly and Tamara Netyksa and many other successful intelligence officers. She retired in 1985, at the age of 76, but maintained connections with intelligence until her last day. She died on March 8, 1988, and was buried at the Khovanskoye Cemetery in Moscow.

We would like to conclude the publication with the words of Patria, which she addressed to her colleagues shortly before her departure, and which can be considered as her testament: *"My Motherland is the Soviet Union. This is deeply ingrained into my mind, into my heart. My whole life is connected with the Soviet Union. I believe in revolutionary principles; in the path I have chosen. Neither the years nor difficulties of struggle shook my faith. On the contrary, difficulties have always been an incentive, a source of energy in the further struggle. They give me the right to live with my head high and my soul calm, and no one and nothing can take this faith from me, not even death."*



Moscow. 1980s

Film Our Africa in Latin America



Tamara Netyksa: «We didn't have classes, we were living a life!»

On the occasion of the 115th anniversary of the birth of the famous illegal intelligence officer Africa de las Heras, "Razvedchik" decided to talk with her favorite student Tamara Netyksa, who, together with her husband, Hero of Russia Vitaly Netyksa, had been successfully working in "special conditions" for more than 20 years.

Tamara Ivanovna, do you remember your first meeting with "Patria"?

I have talked about this many times, but it always gives me a great pleasure to remember that day. The year was 1974. Just think: 50 years ago! My husband and I had just passed our second-year exams, and suddenly our supervisor informed us that since the next day we would have a coach – a real Spanish woman. You know, now Russia is full of foreigners, but then it was something for us! Though Talik (husband Vitaly – note) was calm in this regard, and I could not sleep all night. "Why, tomorrow I'll meet a Spanish woman! I must delight her, surprise her". I spent the whole evening trying on outfits, thinking through phrases with which I would amaze her.

On the day of meeting, we arrived at the indicated address (Africa then was living on Leninsky Prospect, in the house where a drapery store was) and rang the doorbell. The door was opened by a woman of about sixty, dressed in a simple blue skirt and blue sweater. Smiling at our greeting (in Spanish), she asked in Russian: "Does it smell good?" I was confused, did not expect Russian speech and I did not understand immediately what she was asking me. Then Africa, smiling, led us into the kitchen, where she had prepared pizza – her signature dish, as we later found out, and almost no one knew it in our country at that time – and repeated again: "Does it smell good?"

Africa, or rather Maria Pavlovna, as we all called her then, spent that very first day with us very tenderly and carefully. We immediately fell in love with her brilliant, clever eyes, beautiful smile, richness of language, erudition and very interesting stories from her personal life. She became for us a real Spanish mother: sensitive, understanding, sincere, honest, attentive and deep in all respects.

How were your classes going?

We didn't have classes, we were living a life! With Africa, we did not sit at the desk, we walked a lot, talked, carried out household duties, and attended various events. From

the second day we spoke only in Spanish. I remember a funny incident: once we were in the bus with her, when she saw a familiar Spanish woman in the window who had been brought to the USSR as a child, and she began shouting, waving her arms: "Julia! Julia!" (Yulia in Spanish.) All the passengers literally fell about laughing.

In the language and country-specific studies, Maria Pavlovna paid special attention to the naturalness of pronunciation and behavior and to the deep knowledge of local habits. She often gave us examples from her personal life and the lives of her relatives and friends. And we used these stories to compile our legendary biographies. Now, of course, everything is different. On the Internet you can find any information about the country, even look at street panoramas and trace your path from home to school,



"Cada día de acochito se aprende un poquitito"
(translation from Spanish: Every day you should learn something new, always grow).

Africa de las Heras



Vitaly and Tamara Netyksa. Early 1970s



Africa's gift

according to the legend. There was none of this then. Africa was our internet and vocabulary, our memories. Her knowledge of Spanish proverbs, sayings and jokes greatly enriched our language and later helped us in difficult situations.

Before we went on our first mission, "Patria" had given us very valuable advices on how to behave abroad and taught us to think carefully through our behavior. For example, when you stay at a hotel, you should place a kerchief on the telephone in your room. If suddenly the phone rings unexpectedly early in the morning or late at night, you will see the kerchief and you will answer "Ola!", and not the usual Russian "Allo!" She taught us literally everything, every little detail – how to behave on the train, how to buy tickets, how to dress properly. There was not a day when my husband and I didn't remember her advice.

How did your relationship develop since then?

We, Afriquita's students, really adored her! I called her "mamita" (in Spanish: mommy), and she called me "hijita" (in Spanish: daughter). And when Talik and I became parents, we even started calling her "abuela" (in Spanish: grandmother) among ourselves. Our children truly considered her to be their grandmother. When my husband and I came on vacation,

we took Africa to our place, and she lived with us. A photo of my son was on the table at her home, she kept repeating: "I have lived to see my grandson, I have lived." So, we were her family. Of course, she had a son from her first marriage, but she never told us about the circumstances of his death, and we didn't ask, understanding how painful it was for her.

I would like to note that Maria Pavlovna established trusting, close relationships with all her students. She spent all her free time with them: celebrated holidays, arranged meetings and farewells, shared joy and sadness. She conveyed to the young intelligence officers such a sincere and deep feeling of love for the Motherland which our country had become for her, a Spanish woman, that it is impossible to describe. Even from abroad, from long missions, her students wrote letters to her, sent her books, and payed her every attention. I know, for example, that the illegal intelligence officer, Hero of the Soviet Union Mikhail Vasenkov addressed the Center with a special request to purchase three bunches of flowers every year, taking money from his personal savings, and to lay them on the grave of Maria Pavlovna on her birthday on April 26, on the day of her death on March 8 and on Victory Day.

And did Africa tell you anything about her life in Spain?

Certainly! For example, she often took me with her to the Cheryomushkinsky market, where she walked through the rows, carefully choosing vegetables, and complained that in Spain they were much tastier. I felt how homesick she was. Imagine a beautiful woman, who grew up in a warm climate, in a wealthy family, left everything and came to our country to defend it!

At the same time, she still had many relatives in Spain, she often told about them and recalled that part of her life. You understand what an amazing and strong person you should be! While working illegally abroad, she heard Red Cross to broadcast messages on the radio that her Spanish relatives were looking for her. She heard all this, but could

not respond, because she had chosen the path of serving her second homeland – the Soviet Union. Amazing loyalty! Such people are not even worth their weight in gold – they are worth their weight in diamonds.

Did "Patria" have any hobbies in Moscow?

Africa read a lot; she had a large library at home. She and I often read together fragments from her favorite "Don Quixote", and thanks to her, we also became fond of this great work. For Talik's 30th birthday, she presented him "Don Quixote" in paperback; we took this book with us abroad and often re-read it in difficult moments, remembering our mentor. In addition to Cervantes, Africa turned us on to other her favorite Latin American writers: Ricardo Palma, Ruben Dario, Jorge Luis Borges, Ernesto Sabato, Gabriel Garcia Marquez. They all became our favorite authors, too. For example, we knew many of R. Dario's poems by heart, which greatly helped us in our work.

Afriquita also loved music and adored opera, it was the Russian opera. This is not typical for a foreigner, because unlike Italian operas, Russian operas are quite difficult for perception. We often accompanied her to the Conservatory and the Bolshoi Theater. She also loved songs by Julio Iglesias, Rafael and such very popular at that time Spanish singer as Joan Manuel Serrat. We listened to that songs together, sang them and, of course, also fell in love with them, many of them we learned by heart. Later, while working illegally abroad, we attended concerts of these singers, and even met some of them personally.

"Patria" loved painting as well. She and I often went to museums and various exhibitions. At the same time, she herself was good at drawing and taught me a few things. From her I learned the basic Spanish terms in painting, sculpture and architecture, which helped me to obtain quickly the diploma and other certificates in the countries of my legalization, which confirmed my training as an art critic. Now, having become a mentor, I tell all my students that art is a wonderful topic which can be discussed in any society



Africa's gifts

and in any company. It's impossible to count how often the knowledge received from Afriquita helped my husband and me in our work abroad.

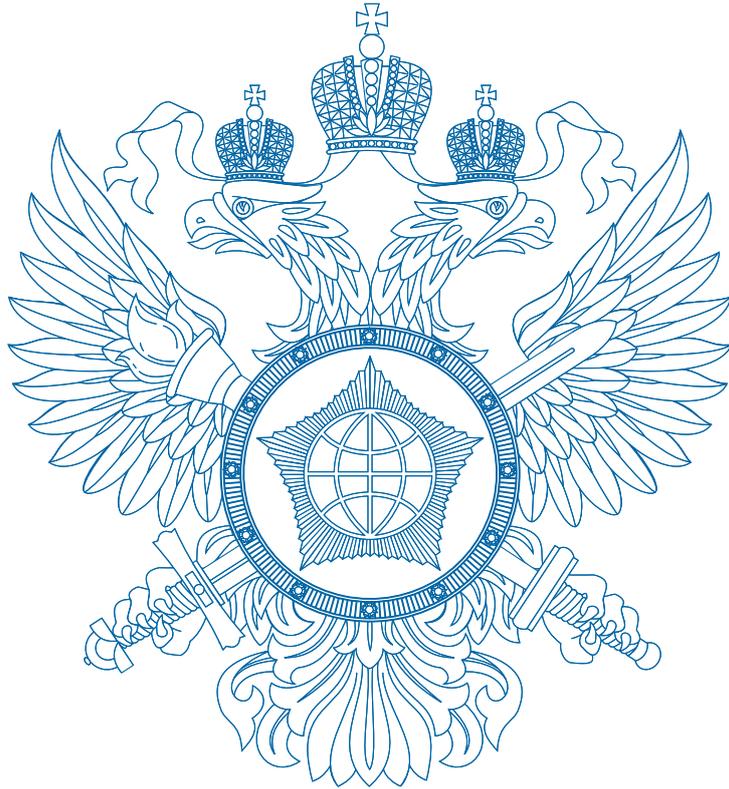
And another thing: before our departure she gave me her jewelry: earrings and a ring. She explained that for a Spanish woman from a decent family, whom I was supposed to impersonate, it was very important to look appropriate. I still keep them as memories. However, the most valuable gift from Africa for Talik and me was a wooden ladder with a toy soldier. She bequeathed us to behave in any circumstances like this toy soldier: if we are falling, then to fall only upright, and always to rise, because behind us stands a Great Country, which we have no right to let down.

The last time when Talik saw Afriquita was in 1987, when he came to Moscow on business. Then, perhaps apprehending her imminent departure, "Patria" gave me through my husband a golden bracelet – an expensive elaborated item that she had acquired abroad following instructions from the Center. She told how, with the help of this bracelet, feigning to be a person of distinction, she managed to penetrate into an important institution. And I came to Moscow in 1989 and, to my deep regret, never saw Africa, so this farewell gift of hers is very dear to me. This is the memory of her that I am keeping and will keep for the rest of my life. 🇺🇸

Interviewed by Anna Michurina



Video version of the interview



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

Reports of the British Intelligence

On the 90th anniversary of the start of Kim Philby's work on the USSR

Text: Andrei Lazarev

Harold Adrian Russell Philby, more widely known as Kim Philby (1912-1988), a prominent internationalist intelligence officer, started cooperating with the Soviet intelligence in June 1934. He was the informal leader of the 'Cambridge Five' – a group of agents who, during the years of their work, sent to Moscow tens of thousands of units of classified information, including original reports on radio intercepts from Bletchley Park – the British Government Communications Headquarters. We are publishing a part of this unique archive for the first time.

Kim Philby (operational code names – “Sonny” or “Sohnchen”, “Stanley”, “Tom”) in his student years was noticed by the brilliant Soviet intelligence officer Arnold Deutsch, who involved him in the cooperation on the ideological anti-fascist basis. Deutsch immediately noticed the great potential of ‘Sonny’, and later, repeatedly emphasized this fact in his reports to the Center. After Deutsch’s departure from Britain, many other Soviet intelligence officers worked with Philby, and they too, always spoke of him only positively.

During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), Philby was, as a journalist, on the territory controlled by Franco’s fascist regime, from where he sent to Moscow valuable military and political information. In 1940, following the order of Soviet intelligence service, he joined British special service – the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), where he spent 20 years working his way up to head one of the SIS’ key departments.

During the Second World War, Philby and other members of



the “Cambridge Five” provided extremely valuable documents on Hitler’s Germany, its military forces and its relations with the allies – Italy, Spain, Finland, and Japan. The information about the preparations for Hitler’s offensive in the area of Kursk in the summer of 1943 that he and his comrades had obtained, played a key role in the victory of the Red Army (*a special article on this subject was published in Razvedchik N° 3, 2023*).

The compilation of documents offered to our readers, also concerns the war period: May-August 1944.

«He always studies everything in detail, but he always says that he knows a little... He has broad knowledge in history, geography, economics, and at the same time he loves and understands music. He is much loved and respected for his earnestness and honesty. He was ready to do everything for us, and in our work he demonstrated all his seriousness and diligence. I repeat once again: “Sonny” has advanced amazingly – he is a very serious man with a great appetite for the human intelligence work, and in the future he will become a great and valuable worker.»

Arnold Deutsch, 1935

This is classified correspondence between the German, Turkish and Japanese Foreign Ministries and the embassies of these countries in Ankara, Berlin, Moscow, Tehran and other cities, intercepted and decrypted by the British intelligence. We think, today many people will still be curious to know the details of secret negotiations of the Japanese ambassador in Berlin with Hitler and Ribbentrop (see Documents 1 and 2), to read the reports of Fascist Germany about the tensions between the British authorities and General De Gaulle (Document 3), to find out the details of who tried to involve Turkey in the war and why (Document 4).

In 1949, Kim Philby was the leader of the British liaison mission with the CIA and FBI in Washington. Afterwards, he began to provide valuable information about the structure, personnel, and work specifics of the American intelligence services. Moreover, he regularly informed the Soviet Union about plans to send into the Soviet territory groups of parachutist agents chosen from Ukrainian nationalists, and about Western intentions to use nationalist groups in the subversive work against the Soviet Union.

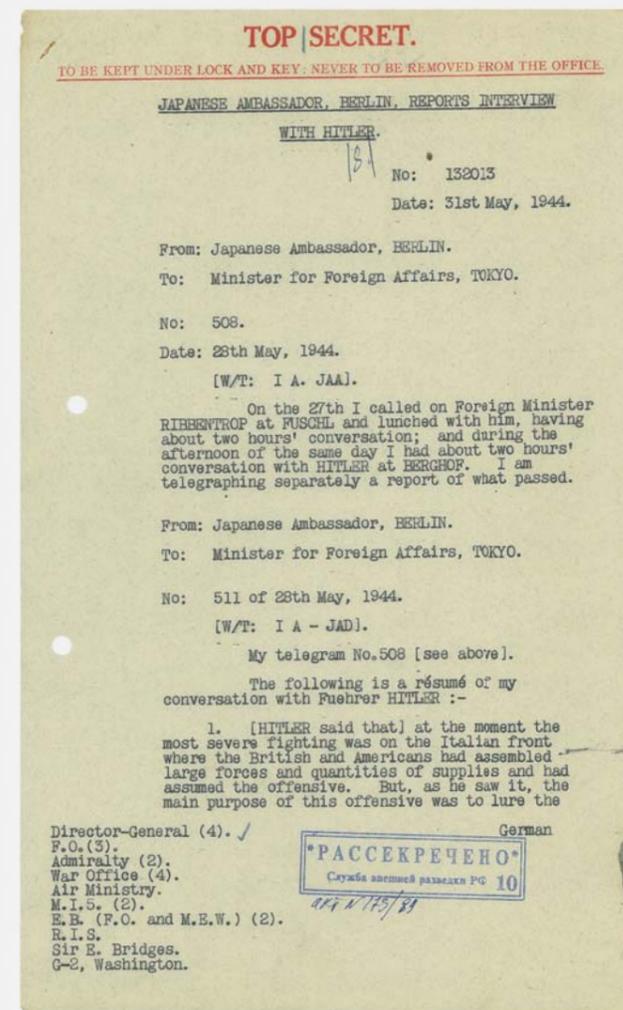
«I like “Sohnchen” (alias “Sonny”) more than all the others... I just wonder how such a young man can have so wide and deep knowledge. At the same time, he is very modest, even too much. When we discuss work plans, he expresses no doubts about his private life at all. He is so serious that you forget that he is only 25 years old.»

Theodore Maly, 1936

In 1963, due to a threat to the personal safety, Philby’s departure to the USSR was organized. In the same year, he was admitted to the Soviet citizenship and then, he worked more than 20 years in the central apparatus of the Soviet intelligence service, making a significant contribution in providing security to our Homeland. The results of his work are still bearing fruit.

The legendary intelligence officer passed away on May 11, 1988, and was buried in Moscow, according to his will.

The entire life of Kim Philby demonstrates his devotion to anti-fascist ideals, his selfless service to the duty, and his readiness to put his whole self into acting in the name of happiness of all mankind. 🇷🇺



Document 1. Report of the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin on the results of his conversation with Hitler. May 31, 1944 (original)



The full versions of the documents are on the SVR's website

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО.**ХРАНИТЬ ПОД ЗАМКОМ: НЕ ВЫНОСИТЬ ЗА ПРЕДЕЛЫ ЗДАНИЯ****ПОСОЛ ЯПОНИИ В БЕРЛИНЕ СООБЩАЕТ О БЕСЕДЕ
С ГИТЛЕРОМ**181
Номер: 132013

31 мая 1944 г.

От кого: посол Японии, Берлин

Кому: министр иностранных дел, Токио

Номер: 508

Дата: 28 мая, 1944

27-го я зашёл к министру иностранных дел Риббентропу в Фушле и пообедал с ним, мы разговаривали около двух часов; во второй половине дня около двух часов разговаривал с Гитлером в Бергхофе. Телеграфирую отдельно отчёты о произошедшем.

От кого: посол Японии, Берлин

Кому: министр иностранных дел, Токио

Номер: 511 от 28 мая 1944 г.

К моей телеграмме №508 (см. выше).

Далее следует краткое изложение моей беседы с фюрером Гитлером:

1. Гитлер сказал, что в настоящее время самые суровые бои идут на итальянском фронте, где британцы и американцы собрали крупные силы и большое количество припасов и начали наступление. Но, по его мнению, главной целью данного наступления было выманить

Начальник управления (4)

Министерство иностранных дел (3)

Адмиралтейство (2)

Военное министерство (4)

Министерство военно-воздушных сил

МИ-5 (2)

Отделение противника

МИД и Министерство экономической войны (2)

Служба радиоразведки

Сэр Э.Бриджес

Военная разведка, Вашингтон

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10
акт N 175/89

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немецкие силы, соответственно эти силы, без [? особого беспокойства о] потере некоторых территорий, оказывают стойкое сопротивление, тем самым нанося противнику максимально возможный ущерб. [3 или 4 группы] вражеские воздушные силы имеют преимущество, так что было бы результативно, если бы немцы оказали поддержку люфтваффе, хотя они не делают это, принимая во внимание другие фронты. Изначально Германия намеревалась использовать Апеннины как свой фронт в Италии, и они создали там сильную позицию, но он думает, что по политическим причинам необходимо защищать Рим, и была сформирована линия, известная как «Линия С», с началом в окрестностях Альбано, идущая далее к югу от Гурансассо [японская фонетика: ? Гран Сассо] и простирающаяся до севера Пескары, и по указанным им причинам будет отход к этой линии, во время которого врагу будет наноситься как можно более тяжёлый урон.

бомбардировщик)). Урон, нанесённый британскими и американскими авианалётами, конечно, значителен, но, как я знал, наибольший ущерб был нанесён жилым домам; погибло или было ранено много невинных людей, и материальный ущерб был очень обширным, однако урон, нанесённый фабрикам и производственному оборудованию, был сравнительно лёгким. Важные самолётные производства в основном были размещены под землёй, и процесс будет завершён в течение двух месяцев, поэтому ущерб от авианалётов ещё более сократится. По поводу хода войны он думал, что Германию всё ещё ждёт тяжёлое время, но он ожидал, и, более того, был уверен, что до конца года она начнёт возвращать себе инициативу.

5. В ходе нашей беседы Гитлер спросил меня об условиях в Восточной Азии, и в частности об операциях в Индии, продвижении операций в провинции Хэнань, об американском военном потенциале и многом другом, но поскольку я почти не имею информации по этим темам, я ограничился расплывчатыми ответами. Однако я сказал, что в настоящее время Япония делает всё возможное, чтобы увеличить выпуск самолётов и кораблей, и что я считаю, что с текущим прогрессом будет возможно внести изменения в направлении положительного хода войны.

Информация в данной телеграмме о будущих оперативных планах Германии должна рассматриваться как особо секретная.

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО.**ХРАНИТЬ ПОД ЗАМКОМ: НЕ ВЫНОСИТЬ ЗА ПРЕДЕЛЫ ЗДАНИЯ****ЯПОНСКИЙ ПОСОЛ В БЕРЛИНЕ СООБЩАЕТ О БЕСЕДЕ
С РИББЕНТРОЦОМ**

162
 Номер: 132185
 6 июня 1944 г.

От кого: посол Японии, Берлин
 Кому: министр иностранных дел, Токио

Номер: 514
 Дата: 29 мая 1944 г.

Моя телеграмма №508 [наш №132013].

Отчёт о моём разговоре с министром
 иностранных дел Риббентропом:

1. Риббентроп представил мне общий обзор военной ситуации, но суть сказанного им совпадает с тем, что говорил мне Гитлер, о чём было доложено в отдельной телеграмме [см. наш №132013], поэтому во избежание дублирования я опушу эту часть нашей беседы. В отличие от прошлого раза, когда мы встречались, в отношении второго фронта Риббентроп тоже в этот раз выразил мнение, что момент начала десантных операций приближается.

2. Основные моменты в его оценке политической ситуации в Европе:

(а) Речь Черчилля, по его словам, состояла лишь из пустых мечтаний и не содержала ничего нового. Затем он упомянул Испанию и сказал, что Германия очень возмущена её недружелюбным отношением к Оси. Я спросил его, не были ли хвалебные высказывания Черчилля об Испании результатом желания отдалить Германию и Испанию, и Риббентроп сказал, что причина может быть в этом. Однако он повторил, что в любом

Начальник управления (4)
 Министерство иностранных дел (3)
 Адмиралтейство (2)
 Военное министерство (4)
 Министерство военно-воздушных сил
 МИ-5 (2)
 Отделение противника
 МИД и Министерство экономической войны (2)
 Служба радиоразведки
 Сэр Э.Бриджес
 Военная разведка, Вашингтон



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 случае, учитывая проявленное им в прошлом терпение, он не мог не чувствовать крайнее неудовольствие позицией Франко; но он сказал, что не думает, что Испания присоединится к противнику.

(б) Приостановка экспорта хрома из Турции может затронуть Германию, но потерю может до некоторой степени компенсировать увеличение производства в Македонии и Болгарии, тогда как у Германии есть существенные запасы, поэтому в данный момент это не помешает ведению войны. Единственным желанием Турции было остаться в стороне от войны, поэтому она вряд ли примет в ней участие.
 (с) Советская деятельность, нацеленная на создание проблем в Болгарии, постепенно активизировалась, но на данный момент в организации советских консульств было отказано. Новый кабинет министров с тех пор не был сформирован, но возможно, что будет создан более сильный кабинет, чем ранее.

(д) Венгрия не представляет большой сложности; предпринятые действия идут удовлетворительно, и должно быть возможным сохранить статус-кво.

(е) По мере развёртывания боевых действий на восточном фронте в Румынии находили выражение разнообразные взгляды, но благодаря популярности и влиянию маршала Антонеску сохраняется порядок. Он не думает, что существует какая-либо опасность, и полагает, что положение стабилизируется с переменой в военной ситуации.

3. Риббентроп сделал акцент на моём мнении о японо-советских отношениях, и я объяснил ситуацию, насколько я знаком с нею на основе ваших телеграмм. Риббентроп сказал, что имеется сообщение о том, что Япония вывела шесть дивизий из северной Манчжурии, и спросил меня об этом. Я сказал, что впервые слышу о подобном и не могу ответить, правда это или нет. Возможно, что-то такое было предпринято с целью использования дивизий на другом театре военных действий. Я, однако, с уверенностью заявил, что, в любом случае, такие действия не были бы приняты в результате какого-либо политического взаимопонимания с СССР, также это не могло быть «жестом» ради пользы последнего; я считаю, это могло исходить только из того факта, что Японии было необходимо использовать большее количество сил в войне против Британии, Америки и Китая.

TOP SECRET.TO BE KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY: NEVER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE OFFICE.GERMAN ACCOUNT OF BRITISH RELATIONS WITH
GENERAL DE GAULLE.

No: 132752

Date: 20th June, 1944.

From: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BERLIN.
To: German Embassy ANGORA and other stations.

No: 1019

Date: 16th June, 1944.

[W/T: I A].

[? LISBON] wired as follows on 14th June:

"Regarding the negotiations in LONDON conducted by Generals De GAULLE and KOENIG, I learn from a reliable informant that the British espionage service has had full knowledge for some time of the contents of a secret agreement between De GAULLE and the Soviet Government concerning French NORTH AFRICA. In this agreement, concrete arrangements have been made for, amongst other things, the admission of Communists to the administration, and the foreign policy to be pursued by the Committee of Liberation. To accord with its MEDITERRANEAN policy of frustrating the Soviets, the British Government for its part has presented political demands to De GAULLE. In order to clear up his relations with ENGLAND, De GAULLE at first sent General KOENIG to LONDON, an officer who is personally well-regarded by the English. In order to avoid open warfare with the de Gaullists, which would have the effect of throwing the Committee of Liberation still further into the arms of the SOVIET UNION, the British Government is at present endeavouring to contrive that De GAULLE's functions should be confined to those of a military Commander-in-Chief, and that his influence on the civil administration should be withdrawn to as large an extent as possible."

End of the report.

WEBER.

Director-General (4). ✓
F.O. (3).
M.I.5. (2).
Major Morton.
Sir E. Bridges.

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10
ИКТ 2/195/89

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО.ХРАНИТЬ ПОД ЗАМКОМ: НЕ ВЫНОСИТЬ ЗА ПРЕДЕЛЫ ЗДАНИЯОТЧЁТ ГЕРМАНИИ ОБ ОТНОШЕНИЯХ БРИТАНИИ
С ГЕНЕРАЛОМ ДЕ ГОЛЛЕМ

Номер: 132752

20 июня 1944 г.

От кого: Министерство иностранных дел, Берлин
Кому: немецкое посольство в Анкаре и другие резидентуры

Номер: 1019

Дата: 16 июня 1944 г.

14 июня [? Лиссабон] телеграфировал следующее: «Касательно переговоров в Лондоне, проведённых генералами Де Голлем и Кёнигом, я узнал от надёжного источника, что британская шпионская служба уже некоторое время полностью осведомлена о содержании тайного соглашения между Де Голлем и советским правительством по поводу французской Северной Африки. В данном соглашении, среди прочего, предусмотрены конкретные договорённости о допуске коммунистов в администрацию и о внешней политике, которую должен проводить Комитет по освобождению (Французский комитет национального освобождения). Согласно своей средиземноморской политике по расстройству планов Советов, британское правительство, со своей стороны, предъявило Де Голлю политические требования. С целью прояснения своих отношений с Англией Де Голль вначале отправил в Лондон генерала Кёнига, офицера, лично к которому англичане хорошо относятся. С тем чтобы избежать открытой войны со сторонниками Де Голля, что привело бы к ещё большему сближению Комитета по освобождению с Советским Союзом, британское правительство в настоящее время пытается устроить так, чтобы функции Де Голля были ограничены функциями военного главнокомандующего, а его влияние на гражданскую администрацию было бы уменьшено, насколько это возможно.»
Конец сообщения.

Вебер.

Начальник управления (4)
МИД (3)
МИ-5 (2)
Майор Мортон
Сэр Э. Бриджес

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10
ИКТ 2/195/89

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО.**ХРАНИТЬ ПОД ЗАМКОМ: НЕ ВЫНОСИТЬ ЗА ПРЕДЕЛЫ ЗДАНИЯ****СООБЩЕНИЕ ПОСЛА ЯПОНИИ В ВИШИ О ВЗГЛЯДАХ
РИББЕНТРОПА И ЛАВАЛЯ НА ВОЗМОЖНОСТЬ ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЯ
РУССКО-ГЕРМАНСКОГО МИРА**159
Номер:

132821

Дата: 22 июня 1944 г.

От кого: посол Японии, ВИШИ

Кому: министр иностранных дел, ТОКИО

Номер: 207

Дата: 19 июня 1944 г.

Насколько мне известно, министр информации Франции Филипп АНРИО 3-го числа направился в ГЕРМАНИЮ по предложению немцев, чтобы изучить условия проживания французских рабочих в ГЕРМАНИИ, и выпустил ряд радиорепортажей из данной страны с целью показать, что французские рабочие радостно трудятся; также во время своего пребывания в ГЕРМАНИИ он провёл переговоры с министром иностранных дел и министром информации. 16-го числа АНРИО в беседе с сотрудником данного посольства сказал следующее:

1. По приглашению министра иностранных дел РИББЕНТРОПА у них состоялась беседа, занявшая около часа. Поскольку он (АНРИО) не обладал дипломатическим статусом, они не углублялись в какие-либо темы, но в ходе разговора обменялись мнениями по поводу дальнейшего развития событий в Европе. РИББЕНТРОП заявил, что можно выдвигать какое угодно количество гипотез, но из всех этих прогнозов следует полностью исключить русско-германский мир. Немецкий народ, продолжал он, до сих пор руководствуется идеями, несовместимыми с идеологией СССР [десять групп], и рассчитывать

Начальник управления (4)

МИД (3)

Адмиралтейство (2)

Военное министерство (4)

Министерство военно-воздушных сил

МИ-5 (2)

Отделение противника

(МИД и Министерство экономической войны) (2)

Сэр Э.Бриджес

Военная разведка, Вашингтон

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО*
Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

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на [? советско-германский] компромисс невозможно.

2. По его собственному впечатлению, немцы, по-видимому, считают, что СТАЛИН не удовлетворится поражением ГЕРМАНИИ, а будет настойчиво стремиться к мировому доминированию, и поэтому он [СТАЛИН] якобы надеется, что ГЕРМАНИЯ, ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИЯ и АМЕРИКА все вместе [себя истощат?].

Копия направлена в БЕРЛИН.

№208 от 19 июня 1944 г.

Во время моей беседы с ЛАВАЛЕМ последний затронул вопрос советско-германского мира и поинтересовался, не наблюдалось ли каких-либо перемен в советско-японских отношениях. Я сообщил о своей непрямо осведомленности о недавней беседе Филиппа АНРИО с министром иностранных дел РИББЕНТРОПОМ в БЕРЛИНЕ (моя телеграмма №207 [выше]), и когда я спросил ЛАВАЛЯ об этом, он ответил, что, когда было заключено советско-французское соглашение, СССР предложил, в связи с закупкой вооружения, взять кредит на несколько миллиардов, но ввиду сомнений в их платежеспособности им было в этом отказано, и ГЕРМАНИЯ выдала СССР кредит на сумму 160 000 000 марок. Кроме того, обсуждался советско-германский пакт о ненападении. Для руководства страны было [? рядовым событием] пожертвовать чем угодно во имя собственной безопасности и интересов. Он сам в этом твердо убежден. По его словам, он прямо спрашивал ГИТЛЕРА, что тот думает по поводу заключения мира между ГЕРМАНИЕЙ и СССР, но фюрер ответил, что это невозможно. Затем ЛАВАЛЬ сказал, что то, что невозможно сегодня, часто становится возможным завтра, и таким образом намекнул, что все еще надеется на советско-германский мир.

Копия направлена в БЕРЛИН.

СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО.**ХРАНИТЬ ПОД ЗАМКОМ: НЕ ВЫНОСИТЬ ЗА ПРЕДЕЛЫ ЗДАНИЯ****ТУРЦИЯ И ВОЙНА: МНЕНИЕ ПОСЛА ЯПОНИИ, АНКАРА.**

Номер: 134309

Дата: 1 августа 1944.

От кого: Посол Японии, АНКАРА.

Кому: Министр иностранных дел, ТОКИО.

Номер: 350.

Дата: 26 июля 1944.

Несмотря на то, что я вынужден повториться, я излагаю свою точку зрения по вопросу о вступлении ТУРЦИИ в войну:

1. Британцы и американцы, вероятно, убедят ТУРЦИЮ вступить в войну до того, как ситуация на французском фронте примет решительный оборот. Как сообщалось в моей телеграмме № [? 326] [наш № 133815], уже некоторое время они увеличивают оказываемое на нее давление, но ТУРЦИЯ, обнадеживаемая главным образом уклончивой позицией СОВЕТСКОГО СОЮЗА, отказывается вступать в войну и на какое-то время смогла избежать [? точки перелома]. Сейчас уже очевидно, однако, что британцы продолжают давить на нее, и в частности в Стамбуле постоянно ходят разного рода «тревожные» [слово на английском] слухи, например, что в августе наступит решающий для войны период. Тем не менее необходимо принимать во внимание сложности, о которых будет сказано далее, хотя я не думаю, что в действительности существуют поводы для пессимизма, и по-прежнему предполагаю, что, препятствуя каким-либо важным изменениям на театре военных действий в результате продвижения Красной Армии на Балканах, ТУРЦИЯ сумеет так или иначе сохранить свою текущую позицию.

2. В настоящее время, когда ситуация на французском фронте становится сложной, вполне естественно, что британцы и американцы очень хотят втянуть ТУРЦИЮ в войну,

Начальник управления (4).

МИД (3).

Адмиралтейство (2).

Военное министерство (4).

Министерство военно-воздушных сил.

МИ-5 (2).

Отделение противника

(МИД и Министерство экономической войны) (2).

Служба радиоразведки.

Сэр Э. Бриджес.

Военная разведка, Вашингтон.



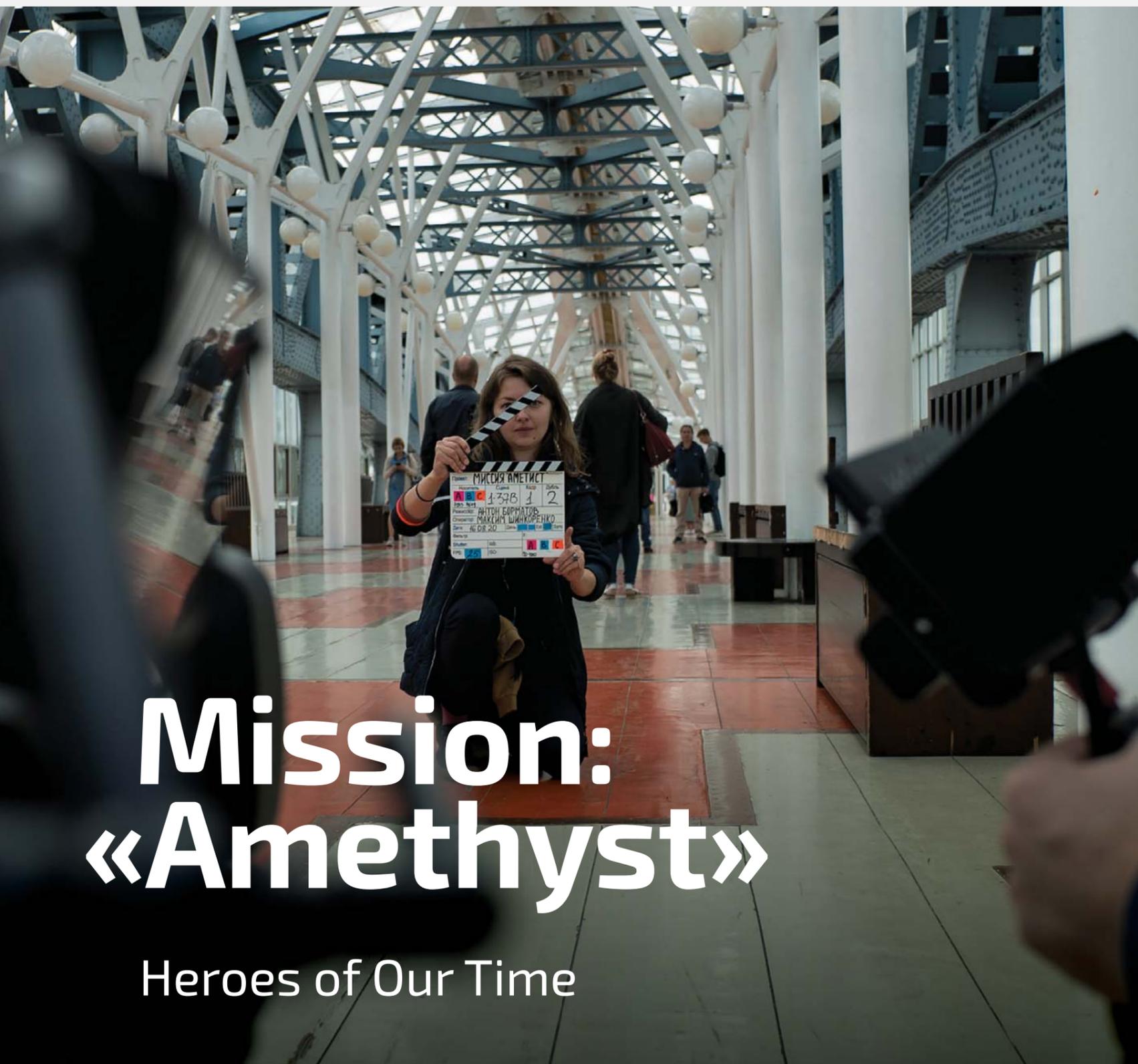
акт № 175/89

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в результате чего, с точки зрения Советов, британцы смогут получить над ними преимущество в ТУРЦИИ и на Балканах. Очевидно, что по этой причине СОВЕТСКИЙ СОЮЗ однозначно не приветствует [вступление ТУРЦИИ в войну] сейчас, когда на театре военных действий наблюдаются значительные изменения. В действительности, я считаю, это объясняет, почему с самого начала СОВЕТСКИЙ СОЮЗ последовательно придерживался уклончивой позиции в отношении англо-турецких переговоров по данному вопросу. С другой стороны, в кругах иностранцев СТАМБУЛА сложилось мнение, что Советы планируют дождаться захвата БОЛГАРИИ и затем осуществить свое давнее желание, заставив последнюю направить ТУРЦИИ ультиматум и захватив проливы, — до тех пор они совершенно точно не хотят, чтобы ТУРЦИЯ вступала в войну. В описанных мною обстоятельствах ТУРЦИЯ, безусловно, больше всего опасается намерений СССР; следовательно, до тех пор, пока в этом отношении ей не будет предоставлена твердая гарантия или пока в результате изменяющейся военной обстановки она не окажется в настолько трудном положении, что единственным выходом из него будет положиться на силы БРИТАНИИ и АМЕРИКИ, она вряд ли легко изменит свою позицию. Общественное мнение в целом также не поддерживает участие в войне, и поэтому даже сейчас не наблюдается изменений в этом принципиальном направлении политики ТУРЦИИ. Несомненно, ТУРЦИЯ осознает, что стремительное наступление Красной Армии несет непосредственную угрозу [ей самой], поэтому сейчас более активно отстаивается точка зрения о необходимости проведения политики, дружественной по отношению к СОВЕТСКОМУ СОЮЗУ, вплоть до того, что пресса заполняется слухами о советско-турецком союзе, однако Советы продолжают хранить молчание и источать немую угрозу. (Ходят слухи о том, что советско-турецкие переговоры уже начались, однако этой информации сложно полностью доверять.) Касаемо другой стороны вопроса, американцы находятся в таком положении, что им необходимо серьезно отнестись к опасениям по поводу затягивания войны в ЕВРОПЕ, и, поскольку Британия вряд ли согласится участвовать в войне против ЯПОНИИ, американцы должны обратить особое внимание на свои отношения с СОВЕТСКИМ СОЮЗОМ. Находясь, таким образом, между БРИТАНИЕЙ и СОВЕТСКИМ СОЮЗОМ, они прилагают усилия, чтобы сохранять согласие между Объединенными нациями (антигитлеровская коалиция. — прим. пер.) не только по вопросу вступления ТУРЦИИ в войну, но и в целом по вопросам касательно Ближнего Востока. Однако американские [? дипломаты] в данном регионе имеют неожиданно малый вес (учитывая это, американцы, как говорят, ожидают, пока их посол, отправившийся в ВАШИНГТОН для получения консультаций, вернется на свой пост, а затем расширит и укрепит их дипломатическое присутствие в ТУРЦИИ), и в этом отношении Советы их «опережают» [слово на английском]. Копия отправлена в БЕРЛИН.



Полная версия
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СВР России



Mission: «Amethyst»

Heroes of Our Time

The eight-episode spy film Mission: Amethyst premiered in June 2022 on Channel One and attracted a broad audience. In January 2024, the creators of the series won the SVR Prize in the field of literature and art, named after E.M. Primakov. Razvedchik has decided to talk with the producer of Mission Alexander Akopov, director Anton Bormatov and the leading actress Agnia Ditzkovskite about how the idea of the film appeared, how the filming took place, and whether a sequel is planned.

Alexander Zavenovich, you are the producer of many bright and popular TV series, including Brigade, My Fair Nanny, Not Born Beautiful. How did the idea of Mission appear, how successful, in your opinion, the series has been, and are there any plans to make a sequel?

The filming of this series was an initiative of the Cosmos studio. Channel One immediately supported the idea, but we didn't know how real intelligence officers would react to it. For some time, they, so to say, kept an eye on us, and I am very glad that in the end they took a closer look.

The most valuable thing is that they trusted us so much that they even introduced us to real illegal intelligence officers. This was especially useful for the actors, but it also made an indelible impression on all of us. Thanks to this, we, in particular, realized that the real intelligence is not a kind of shooting-and-chase, as in the films about Agent 007 James Bond. Before us were two people who had lived there, in the foreign underground, for most of their lives, had done a lot of useful things for our country and could tell a lot not on camera... The most important thing is that they influenced us with the power of their personality, it immediately felt so.

As for Mission, in terms of ratings it became one of the best series of recent years on the topic of intelligence, and made indeed a great success on Channel One, so now we are happy to write a sequel... I want to say again that, when you start to work on a film about intelligence, to invent some intricacies of the plot, then you immediately remember those real people who actually are acting abroad with a threat to their lives for the benefit of our country. Thanks to them for this!

You once said that the dream of everyone who works in the filming and television industry is to make a project in the footsteps of Julian Semyonov. What personally attracts you in the films about intelligence officers, and how much are these films in demand today?

The topic of intelligence has been interesting to me since my childhood. This year, by the way, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Russian TV series We Draw the Fire on Ourselves. It was filmed in 1964 by Sergei Nikolayevich Kolosov, who became the founder of such a film form in our country. Since then, a number of large, one might even say great, series has been filmed – Operation Trust, Seventeen Moments of Spring, which we ourselves grew up with and now look to as an example of the genre.

« Films about intelligence officers are traditionally interesting for viewers. First of all, to young people, because intelligence is always an adventure. Although, as we understand, this is also a laborious intellectual work, the labor of will and mind, and not just physical activity – mail drops, meetings with agents...

A. Akopov



And yes, of course, films about intelligence officers are traditionally interesting for viewers. First of all, to young people, because intelligence is always an adventure. Although, as we understand, this is also a laborious intellectual work, the labor of will and mind, and not just physical activity – mail drops, meetings with agents... So we, of course, will still make projects about intelligence. Probably it will be not only a movie, but also, say, a fairy tale, a cartoon, because the work of an intelligence officer should be visible and understandable to a wide audience at different levels.

Anton Edwardovich, since 2022, when Amethyst was released, our country has been living in conditions of total confrontation with the West. How did this affect the situation in Russian cinema? Has the new reality created additional opportunities, or have we not yet adapted to them?

It is quite obvious that now it is the time for new opportunities, because a need to make as many films as possible has appeared, in order to embrace the entire audience. And it is desirable that these should be good films, which means that in Russia we need more talented directors, actors and other specialists in the field of film production. Is Russian cinema taking advantage of these opportunities? Yes, of course. Just look how many children's films, patriotic films, high-quality and truly interesting TV series are being produced now.

The only thing that I personally feel as lacking on the screens of our cinemas, is deep and serious creative works, like that of Tarkovsky, German Sr., Daneliya, Zakharov. The list could take a long time. How many of them were there in Soviet times – directors who could make films on complex topics, about something really worthwhile, about real people, their innermost aspirations? Has the time come for such movies? I'm sure it has.



Alexander Zavenovich Akopov

Alexander Zavenovich Akopov was born on November 22, 1957 in Moscow. After graduating from the Moscow Institute of Civil Engineering named after V.V.

Kuybyshev, he worked in the construction industry. Since 1987 he took part in the KVN, and in 1992 became one of the founders of the Video International company. In 1996-2002 – the general producer of the Russia TV channel. From 2002 to 2015, he was the president of the Amedia film company; in 2015, together with Natalia Shneiderova, founded the production company Cosmos studio. Since November 2022 – Deputy General Director of the National Media Group media holding and General Director of the STS TV channel



Anton Edwardovich Bormatov

Anton Edwardovich Bormatov was born on May 4, 1970 in the city of Murom. He began his first steps in the profession by filming clips for such performers as Dolphin and the Mumiy Troll group. In 2005, his debut film The Chiromancer was released. Other works include Alien Girl (2010), Nearfootball (2013), Foundling (2017), Syndrome (2023).

Do you think the Russian filming industry will be able to return the interest of mass audience to serious films and to retain it if Western "chewing gum" returns?

We will, if the production of such films – serious and deep – becomes an integral part of our filming industry. And not like now: one or two good films have been made and quickly forgotten. It is necessary to create a system in which filmmakers will be able to offer the Russian audience the full range of genre diversity.

Now, you have said "chewing gum." I agree, nobody needs the dominance of empty and meaningless pictures. But no one has canceled entertaining cinema, the viewers will always need it, and we also need to be able to make it. Here we are still inferior to the West – in the field of technologies, in computer graphics. I believe that we need to use the current moment to develop our capabilities in this direction. To engage in the substitution of imports, so to say.

And as for the return of Hollywood products, what scares me more is not "chewing gum", but harmful films, and this, rather, applies not to cinemas, but to Internet platforms. Total bans are unlikely to help here. In order to solve the difficult task of maintaining

audience's interest in real art, first of all, in my opinion, we should think about educating people and raising their educational level. It is necessary that our cinema actively participate in this process. After all, this is a vicious circle: if there is a thoughtful viewer, the need for

« Now it is the time for new opportunities, because a need to make as many films as possible has appeared. And it is desirable that these should be good films.

A. Bormatov



deep cinema arises, if there are serious films, the viewer's education increases.

At the premiere of Mission: Amethyst, the Director of the SVR S.E. Naryshkin noted that the profession of the intelligence officer has



Agnia Olegovna Ditkovskite

Agnia Olegovna Ditkovskite was born on May 11, 1988 in Lithuania, to the family of Lithuanian director Olegas Ditkovskis and Russian actress Tatyana Lyutaeva. In 2004, together with her mother and younger

brother, she moved to Moscow and entered VGIK. She made her film debut in 2006, playing one of the main roles in the film Heat. Afterwards she starred in such films and TV series as Into the Game (2009), Boris Godunov (2011), Deathly Dances (2016), An Hour Before Dawn (2021).

« In cinema, nothing should be imposed, otherwise rejection may occur. But, of course, the main goal of any good film is to make people at least a little better.

A. Ditkovskite

always attracted the attention of society, expressing confidence that after watching the film, some part of the Russian youth will decide to devote their lives to intelligence. Have you pursued such a goal, and what film subjects, in your opinion, are in greatest demand now?

Of course, while working on a film, you set some goals for yourself, and the one you have mentioned, too, although it was not obvious but hidden. Everything depends on the result. I always just try to make a good movie and give my all during its creation. And the fact that in Mission: Amethyst the plot was about the exploits of real heroes, amazing people who were ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of the country, for the sake of a great cause, inspired me, like all the creators, even more to do everything as high in quality as possible. Apparently, something has come out.

As for popular movie plots, there are a lot of them. But since the subject of our conversation is Mission: Amethyst, I would like to note its relevance from the point of view of the modern situation. Personally, I would like to see in films more such stories as this one, that show the seamy side of the world politics, open people's eyes to what is really happening, and what a significant role our country plays in these processes. In my opinion, this is very important.

Agnia Olegovna, you have noted that working on the role of Laura was not difficult for you: speaking a foreign language, transforming in appearance. Is this related to genes, because your great-grandfather was a spy?

To be honest, I don't know much about my great-grandfather, except that he really was an intelligence officer... And performing in Mission was actually quite easy for me. Firstly, we have had a wonderful team of like-minded people. Secondly, the plot itself really captivated me; it was interesting to get the feel of the role, to work out all the details.

In reality, could you accept such a life for yourself?

Of course not! During the preparation for filming, I was lucky enough to meet real intelligence officers – a married couple of illegals who had lived abroad for a long time under false names. I have realized that the professions of an actor and an intelligence officer are somewhat similar: you need to be able to transform. But doing it on the screen is one thing, and doing it in real life is completely different. I couldn't do that. Here you need to have a calling, something very strong inside you that will guide you through life and encourage you to voluntarily make such sacrifices.

And how did you get into the profession and realize that this was your calling?

I was born to a creative family, since childhood I went with my mother to the Russian Drama Theater in Vilnius. This has always been interesting to me.

As a Lithuanian by birth, which cinema is closer to you: foreign or Russian?

Of course, I grew up in Lithuania, spent almost half of my life there and was being brought up on slightly different cinema than those who were born in Russia. But when I moved to Moscow and started studying and working here, I began, so to say, to become more familiar with Russian cinema, and loved many films. Among them, there are some that I will definitely always watch. These are, for example, films of Tarkovsky, many old works by Mikhalkov, in general, almost all Soviet classical cinema.

Should cinema take on an educational function and cultivate some moral qualities in viewers?

In cinema, nothing should be imposed, otherwise rejection may occur. But, of course, the main goal of any good film is to make people at least a little better. If the director has an important idea that he wants to convey to the viewers, this needs to be done through the plot of the film, through specific examples, then it will work.



And finally. What would you wish to our readers?

I wish you to listen to your heart, and nothing else. To listen, to hear and to respond. And also, always to go forward. To love your choice and to treat it responsibly. 🚩

Interviewed by
Vladislav Ilyin
and Anna Michurina



Heading for the Great Victory

A meeting held by Heads of veterans' organizations of the Russian security services and several government agencies, dedicated to the preparation for the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, took place on May 22 at the Headquarters of the SVR of Russia in Yasenevo. The meeting, attended by 16 representatives, was initiated by the Russian Union of Veterans, represented by its chairman Vitaly Mikhailovich Azarov, and the Council of Veterans of the SVR, headed by Mikhail Vitalievich Pogudin.

«We call our Victory Great not by chance, since its results are still relevant and have strong impact on the current balance of power in the world, and our opponents are striving to belittle their significance at all costs. Our veteran's duty is to contribute to the preservation of historical memory and to the proper education of future generations,» said Mikhail Pogudin at the opening of the meeting.

Deputy Director of the SVR Andrei Fedorovich Rodionov welcomed the audience: «“Veterans’ organizations, in view of their authority in the Russian society and extensive experience, can and should contribute to a proper celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory – the most important event in the life of our country, the significance of which increases even more in the light of the ongoing Special Military Operation.»

The participants of the meeting, including the Secretary of the Russian Presidential Commission for Veterans Affairs Vladimir Mikhailovich Popov, have agreed to coordinate efforts in this direction and have set an approximate schedule of public events for the coming year. It includes thematic exhibitions, guest performances and concerts, a scientific and practical conference “Modern fascism and its historical roots”, and in cooperation with the Moscow’s Department of Education and Science – a contest for students of Moscow schools on “Intelligence’s contribution to the Victory in the Great Patriotic War”.

Besides, unanimous support was given to the proposals made by the representative of the veterans’ organization of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Valery Ivanovich Morozov, to strengthen cooperation with the veterans’ organizations of the CIS member states and to hold a commemorative event – a “Victory Train” which would follow the route Moscow – Central Asia.

Summing up the meeting, Vitaly Azarov emphasized: «“The Soviet Committee of War Veterans, the predecessor of the Russian Union of Veterans, took the initiatives to designate Victory Day a national holiday, to

establish a nationwide Minute’s Silence, to create the Museum of the Great Patriotic War on Poklonnaya Hill, the Eternal Flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and others that favor the preservation of people’s memory of the Great War and the Great Victory. The Russian Union of Veterans, which has more than 5.5 million members, carries the banner of its predecessor proudly and will continue the glorious traditions.»



In Memory of Heroic Intelligence Officers

Mountain Peaks

Text: Nikita Sholokhov

Intelligence officers are courageous and selfless people. They, without any doubt, deserve that the memory of their exploits live through the ages and be passed on to their descendants. We have already told that a number of Moscow schools are named after outstanding fighters of the "invisible front," as well as some unique diamonds stored in the Diamond Fund of the Russian Federation. Today we want to show that on the map of Russia there are several geographical objects related to foreign intelligence.

In 2020, on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the creation of Russian foreign intelligence, Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Sergei Evgenievich Naryshkin took the initiative to perpetuate the memory of outstanding Soviet intelligence officers by naming several mountain peaks after them. The corresponding letters signed by him were sent to the Parliament of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania and the Legislative Assembly of the Krasnodar Krai of the Russian Federation, where they received a total support from local deputies.

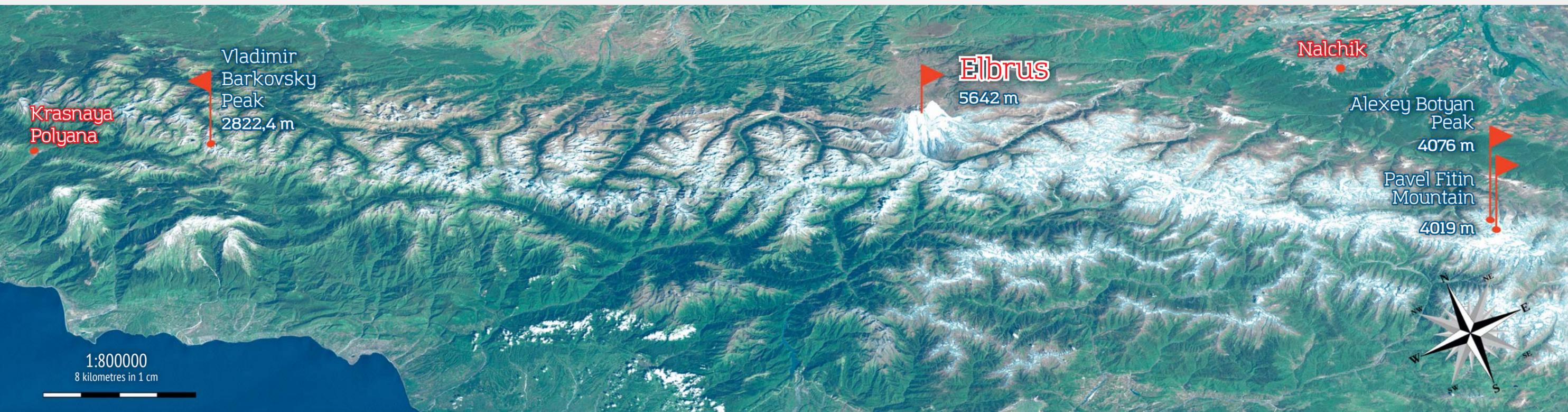
Basing on the expert examinations of Rosreestr and orders of the

Chairman of the Government of Russia M.V. Mishustin (No. 332-r, dated February 18, 2020; No. 595-r, dated March 12, 2020; and No. 3397-r, dated November 30, 2021), three nameless geographical objects were given the names of "Pavel Fitin", "Vladimir Barkovsky" and "Alexey Botyan" respectively.

Thus, a mountain on the territory of the Iraf region of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, in the area of the Soudor ridge, was named after the head of Soviet foreign intelligence during the Great Patriotic War, Lieutenant General Pavel Fitin (height: 4019 meters, coordinates: latitude 420 49.3' north, longitude 430 46.0' east),

and another mountain was named after the Soviet intelligence officer, Hero of Russia Alexei Botyan (height: 4076 meters, coordinates: latitude 420 49.9' north, longitude 430 45.6' east).

And in the Krasnodar Krai, a peak of the Aishko mountain ridge system, located 10 km northwest of Krasnaya Polyana, on the border of the Mostovskiy district and the municipality of the resort city of Sochi, was named after the intelligence officer, Hero of Russia Vladimir Barkovsky. Its height is 2822.4 meters, coordinates: latitude 430 38.4' north, longitude 400 30.9' east).





In 2022, groups of mountain climbers formed by officers of SVR made first ascents to all three mountain peaks. Two of the ascents were timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Russian

Foreign Intelligence Service, and the third one – to the 105th anniversary of Alexei Botyan's birth. The latter ascent was made in difficult weather conditions, however, everything ended

successfully. The groups installed on the peaks all-weather plaques in memory of the outstanding intelligence heroes and laid time capsules with messages for future generations.

We hope that the glorious tradition of perpetuating the memory of outstanding intelligence officers by assigning their names to geographical objects will be continued, and more than one new point related to intelligence will appear on the map of Russia. ↗

Video account of the ascent



In Paris again

Text: W.G. Fisher (R.I. Abel), Soviet illegal intelligence officer
Illustrations by Sergei Dorozhenko

Six months after his first visit to Paris, Max found himself there again. During the inter-rogations of the members of Colonel Brestsky and Captain Kraskov's spy terrorist group, it turned out that a new group had appeared in Paris, formed by White Guards who were dissatisfied with the leadership of General Kutepov. The group contacted the British military intelligence and, unlike other White Guards' organizations, was supposed to engage mainly in intelligence activities, gathering information about the situation in the young Soviet state and its defense potential.

It was the year 1927...

The national economy was quickly recovering from the devastation of war, and the first five-year plan was being developed.

The British needed intelligence information to determine future policy towards the USSR. It was clear that the Curzon's ultimatum had failed. A new realistic policy was needed.

But the Center didn't know about this yet...

Brestsky, the most informed of the White Guards' group, knew only that he had to establish contacts with his old acquaintances in the Soviet Union, to clarify their political sentiments and to create a secret network, which tasks would be given to him as soon as he recruited 5-6 people in several places of European Russia. The intelligence officers gave him an address in London, to where he was supposed to send a postcard that his English instructor had given him in Riga shortly before crossing the border.

The instructor absolutely forbade the colonel to engage in terrorist or counter-revolutionary activities.

'Your task,' he said, 'is to settle down, to find a job, to accommodate yourself. As soon as you find the people we have talked about, send me this postcard. If you need money, you should send this postcard to Riga... Exactly two months later, at 9 p.m., you are to be in Lenin-grad, at the Anichkov Bridge, on the right side, if you go towards the palace and the statue, and to stroll right in front of the bridge. Is it clear?'

Brestsky answered in the affirmative.

'You know Kraskov's tasks, and use the others as liaisons. If necessary, send one or two of them, by your own choice, back to Paris. Let them go to the apartment in Riga, they will get money there.'

The investigation into the case of Brestsky's group continued, but the discovered information indicated that it was necessary to study the group remaining in Paris and its connections with the Intelligence Service.

This task was entrusted to Max.

The Center decided first to contact Kraskov's wife. They found her father, a priest, in Pskov and gave him Agafya's letter. He was very happy to receive it and wrote her a reply inviting her to return to her homeland and asking her to give to the letter's bearer all the help she was able to give.

By that time, her father had disowned, he was teaching biology and natural science at a ten-year school in Pskov, and in the evenings and on Sundays he would conduct successful anti-religious propaganda. He was in good repute. His wife, Agafya's mother, served as a faithful companion in his agitation work.

Besides Agafya Kraskova, Max had other people to whom he could appeal after their preliminary check.

It was not clear from the testimony whether Brestsky or Kraskov had managed to inform Paris about their adventures and failure while crossing the border. However, the circumstances afforded ground for suggesting that Max shouldn't contact the colonel's group openly, since the latter decided to independently organize the border crossing. It seemed Max wasn't trusted. Therefore, he was instructed to keep a low profile and work through others.

Max was aware that this case did not resemble the previous one, where he had been able to force his way. The known facts showed that now it was not the matter of some scattered groups of terrorists but, apparently, a well thought out plan for Brestsky's group to conduct a long-term espionage work in the USSR. Max imagined that some intelligence tasks would be given to the group, although Brestsky never talked about it. So, it was necessary to act with caution and to think over every step.

The Intelligence Service was a long-standing organization with extensive experience, compared to which, the White Guards seemed to be mere boys. He had to gather at least the initial information, to learn something about Brestsky's group. The first thing he should do was to go to Agafya.

* * *

'Alexander Dmitrievich!' exclaimed Agafya Iraklievna.

'Hush...' said the comer.

'Why? Leave it, come in here!'

Agafya led the guest downstairs to the basement.

'Do you live here?' he asked.

'Yes,' she answered, 'after my husband's departure, I lived upstairs for some time, then the landlord offered me to temporarily replace

the concierge, who was sick, and I moved here. But how are you? After all, it's been six months since you visited us, Alexander Dmitrievich.'

'Hush...' the visitor responded once again. 'Don't say my name too loudly, I have enemies, especially among your husband's acquaintances.'

They entered the apartment.

'Tell me, did you find out anything about my father and mother?' asked Agafya Iraklievna.

Alexander Dmitrievich grinned.

'You don't ask about your husband, only about your parents.'

Agafya gave the speaker a long look.

'I don't care about him at all. But parents are another matter.'

'They promised to let me know soon. I gave your letter to one reliable person,' answered Max. 'I think a reply from your father will be in the coming days. My friend told me that the letter had been delivered.'

'And didn't he write you how my father, mother, sisters are doing?'



If you missed
the beginning



'Yes, he said that your parents are alive, they live in Pskov, it seems they are not in misery. He didn't say anything else. But one of these days, I'm sure, the letter will arrive.'

'How?' asked Agafya. 'By mail?'

'Of course not!' answered Max. 'My friend will bring it to me.'

'Well, take a seat! Why are we standing? Tell me how you live. I'll make some tea now.'

Excited, Agafya didn't know where to start. She stood up and grabbed the carafe from the table, then the next moment, she sat down twirling the edge of the tablecloth.

'Don't worry, Agafya Iraklievna! I'm already sitting. Now, perhaps, it's time for tea.'

Max opened his briefcase and began to take out various packages.

'Here's tea – Chinese, and here is some stuff: a little of this, a little of that... And this little thing I brought to you as a gift.'

Max handed her a small box. Surprised, Agafya Iraklievna looked at the box, then at Max:

'Where did you buy this?' she asked in a muffled voice.

'Recognize?' Max responded. 'This is from your mother. Did you really think that I bought it? I said it's a gift.'

'Yes. But I thought it was from you!'

'Well, not exactly, really. I just brought it...'

Agafya opened the box carefully and took out the earrings. Drop-shaped garnets were set in gold.

'But my mother would always wear them herself, she would never go out without them! Maybe something happened to her?'

'No, women just don't wear jewelry in Russia nowadays. So she sent it to you, I assure you...'

My messenger told me that your mother herself gave the box to him and said it was for you. That's it...'

'You are a magician,' said Agafya.

'Of course not! Just a tramp who travels a lot. I go here and there. So far I've been lucky, but I don't know how long I can do this.'

'Oh, the kettle is boiling!' Agafya exclaimed suddenly.

She carefully placed the box on the sideboard, then quickly set the table, made tea and sat opposite Max.

'You'd better unwrap the packages,' said Max.

'Tell me, Alexander Dmitrievich, I don't even know your last name. I saw you a few times, long ago, and you brought me such a gift and promise more. Why? Why are you doing this? You might not have thought about me anymore...'

Max was a little embarrassed by the direct question, but quickly recovered.

'You see, Agafya Iraklievna, I'm a newcomer here. I don't know anyone, there's no one to stay with. But I didn't forget you, I couldn't forget. I owe you something, and one good turn deserves another. So I have come to repay you, and besides, to ask you for a favor.'

'And what can I give you?'

'Shelter for a few days.'

'You are welcome; it will always be a pleasure.'

'What if there are talks, they would say that men stay at your place, even spend the night, while your husband is away? You know what I mean...'

'Yes, I know all that. There is no one to talk...'

'How is that?' Max interrupted her. 'After all, other emigrants live in your house. It's them who will talk.'

'I'm not afraid of it. I'm a concierge now, I can put you in an empty apartment, I have the keys, and no one will know about it.'

'And what about the police?'

'I won't tell them anything either.'

'What if they ask?'

'You will have to come at night and leave only when I check that everything is okay. I understand that you can't show yourself... My husband told me something... We all are getting by as best as we can. Don't worry, everything will be fine. Better tell me how life is there at home. You assure me that my parents don't live in misery. What does it mean? Everybody says there is devastation in the country, the factories are standing idle, there is nothing in the stores, the peasants don't sow wheat.'

'There were times like this. There was famine, and devastation, and poor harvest, and what not. But this has passed... As far as I can judge from the conversations of my clients – and these are mostly trading people – they aren't complaining so far. Of course they are afraid. After all, goods don't grow on trees.'

'Alexander Dmitrievich, do you think they will let me go back home? I feel miserable being here, I'm sick of it, I don't like these former generals, princes and all these emigrants. They are filthy people. I want to go home!'

'Calm down, Agafya Iraklievna,' Max asked her. 'You can't be so loud! The French won't thank you for such speeches.'

'I was seething. Now I feel a little bit better, when this tyrant isn't here. Things were really bad with him.'

'Don't worry, I think you won't see your husband again.'

'Why?' exclaimed Agafya.

'The point is this,' Max began. 'I made arrangements for him and others to cross the border to Russia, but they decided to go their

own way and, on top of that, wanted to hand me over to the Lithuanians. I got out of this story safely, and they got caught. They trusted the Lithuanian border guards, but during the crossing, a shooting began. I don't know for sure. I didn't wait to see what would happen; I needed to save myself. But later I was told that two of them had been killed. I know from experience that if there is a shooting, everyone will be caught, no chance to escape. Believe me, I know the conditions there – this is my bread and butter. I have firmly learned that you must cross the border without any fuss. And they broke this rule. That's why I think you won't see your husband again.'

'Well, thank God,' she said.

Kraskova got lost in thought. Looking at her, Max wondered whether he should talk to her about the work now or wait until she received the letter from her father. It was quite clear that Agafya would agree. 'No!' he thought. 'I need to prepare her better.'

'Agafya Iraklievna,' said Max, 'you asked if they would let you go home. To be honest, I don't



know. You have emigrated, your husband is a White officer, a terrorist, captured or killed while crossing the border. After all, you did nothing to prevent it, to stop him.'

'But what could I do?'

'Please, be quiet,' Max calmed her down.

'If I had come to the Soviet embassy, my husband would have killed me, I know him! He used to beat me anyway.'

'Wait a moment, Agafya Iraklievna! You can convince me easily. I think you are an honest person, but I have nothing to do with these Soviets, I can't go to them either. Better wait for the letter from your father. Maybe he can give you some advice.'

Then there was silence. Max took a careful sip of his tea. Agafya noticed his movement and remembered that she should be doing honors. Both were preoccupied with their own thoughts. They ate and finished their tea. Agafya cleared the table. Suddenly the bell rang.

'The tenants are coming,' she said, and went to unlock the front door.

Max moved to another room. A few minutes later she returned.

'The Golubevs have come,' she said.

'Who are they?' asked Max.

'From the apartment number four. He is a musician and a pianist at the cinema. And she is a singer, but now she has got a job as a ticket collector in the same cinema. Decent people, I talk to them sometimes. But on the fifth floor lives a Privy Councilor, His Excellency, with his wife, a princess... He himself works in a cloakroom of a cafe on Rue Pigalle, where foreign tourists go, and she stays at home playing patiences, instead of cleaning the apartment! What a dirty little pig! And the way she puts on airs is ridiculous. He comes late, at three o'clock in the morning. In uniform, with medals and crosses, as if at a parade. And he doesn't even greet me. There, at work, he fawns on rich foreigners, begging for a tip, but here he gives himself airs... Ugh!'

It was already almost midnight. Agafya went into the bedroom and after a few minutes brought out a bedsheet and a blanket.

'I'll arrange that you sleep in the old apartment, upstairs,' said Agafya. 'But don't go out in the morning until I come, otherwise other tenants might see you.'

* * *

The next morning, at about nine o'clock, Agafya knocked. By that time Max had already been waiting.

'You know,' she said, entering the apartment. 'A foreigner came and asked for you, and when I said that I didn't know where you were, he left this card and asked me to give it to you.'

Agafya handed Max a business card. A text was printed in raised letters: 'S.R. Edmonds. Gray's Inn Solicitor. London.' On the back there was a handwritten inscription in Russian: 'I wish to meet. Write at my address, telling me where and when. I have an advantageous offer. Yours sincerely, Edmonds.'

Having questioned Agafya all the details about the Englishman's appearance, Max thanked her for her quick wit and asked her to give the Englishman the same answer if he came again. When leaving, Max said that he would try to come by in the evening.

He decided to go to Chernik and to pass through him a note to his people about the Englishman's visit. When there were few customers left in the store, Max entered. Chernik looked at him in surprise.

'Go behind the counter,' he said and led Max into the back storage room.

'A few days ago,' he said hastily, without even saying hello, 'an Englishman who spoke Russian came in and asked for you. Though he didn't give the last name, but he described your appearance. I told him that I didn't know anybody like that. He didn't answer, but smiled slightly. Then he took a business card out of his

pocket and wrote on the back that he wanted to meet you. Here, look!' Chernik took out from the desk drawer exactly the same card that Agafya had shown him.

'What the hell!' thought Max.

'Tell me,' he asked, 'after I left you, did you meet with our people?'

'No,' answered Chernik.

'Fine. Then don't contact them yet. I will drop in soon and tell you what to do. I'll leave the card to you. If this Edmonds comes again, repeat that you don't know me.'

Max left the store through the back door, crossed the courtyard and went out to the street. On his way, he was trying to recall all the events of his previous visit to Paris, but couldn't re-member anything like a surveillance.

'It's very odd!' he thought. 'I need to be more careful. I can't meet with my local comrades. I must go to Berlin.'

He went to a stationery shop and among the postcards he chose one with a picture of the Seine and Notre Dame de Paris. On the back he wrote the address, added the words: "Arrived safely", and dated it.

Exactly three days after the date written on the postcard, in the evening Max was sitting in the "Dresden" cafe on Augustusstrasse in Berlin. At nine o'clock a "Doctor" whom Max was acquainted with, came in and occupied a table nearby. After a leisurely dinner, the "Doctor" came out, and ten minutes later so did Max. He slowly walked to the "Zoo" metro station and saw the "Doctor" on the platform. They entered the same carriage and sat next to each other, but did not speak. They reached Wilhelmstrasse and went out. Already on the street, the "Doctor" greeted Max. They got into the waiting car together.

Telling the driver that they needed to talk for two hours, the "Doctor" suggested that he drive through the outskirts.

'Well, how are you?' asked the "Doctor".

'The reason I came to you is this,' said Max and told him about the business cards of the mysterious Englishman.

The "Doctor" took a card out of his wallet and showed it to Max.

'Like this?' he asked.

Max looked at the card: it had the same name, the same address and the same words as on the cards he had seen in Paris.

'Where did you get this card from?' he asked in surprise. 'I saw exactly the same ones in Paris!'

'We received it from one of our people here,' said the "Doctor". 'As far as we were able to find out, two or three other people had got such cards. I don't think the British are after you. They just know about you: Brestsky told them, and they are looking for you. They have scattered their invitations in places where they think you might show up.'

'Yes,' agreed Max. 'That may be so, but don't you think that our people have been getting them too often?'

'No, I don't think so,' answered the "Doctor." 'A man of ours brought us the card, but it was not he who received it from the Englishman, but his acquaintance. I think you shouldn't worry. Now you need to decide what to do next. I have already reported home about this card and its owner, Edmonds, and they agree with my opinion that he is from the intelligence service, and he is looking for connections with Soviet Russia. Maybe the British know that not everything is all right with Brestsky, and that you smuggle goods into Soviet Russia, and, apparently, they decided to exploit you. The "Old Man" thinks that you need to meet with Edmonds... But don't rush: in a week or two it will be fine. In the meantime, start to settle down in Paris. Good documents have been prepared for you. I'll give them to you now.'

The "Doctor" explained Max thoroughly and in detail what was known about the origin of the new documents, where he needed to go – to the police, etc. – to register residence, how to

legalize his means, what business to do to earn his living.

Then he spoke about the Englishman again, about possible reasons why Edmonds was looking for Max. They agreed to keep in touch, having decided that Max wouldn't use the secret addresses given to him in Paris for some time in order to avoid revealing his real face to the Englishman.

'Now,' said the "Doctor", 'two more things. Here's a small package for you. Should be enough for 4–5 months. And here is a letter from Agafya's father. It is sealed, but we know the contents. In the letter, her father writes that he is living well, content with his fate; her mother is in good health, but misses Agafya. The father writes further that she should help the bearer of the letter, that is you, with everything that is needed, and ends up saying that he is going to make arrangements to get her a permission to return home. If you find it possible and necessary, you can show your cards to Agafya and recruit her. Judging by what is written about her father, he is a trustworthy man. From what you have told me about her, it seems to me that you are both somewhat

attracted to each other, and she can be of use to us. In general, it's up to you, the sanction for recruitment has been received. Now I will take you to the metro station. Perhaps it would be best for you to travel back tonight using these new documents. Do you agree?'

'Everything is clear,' answered Max. 'Take my old documents, I don't need them any more. From now on I am Andrei Samoilovich Tarubin, a petty bourgeois. At your service! Say hello to everyone at home. I'll write how it all will have turned out for me. Goodbye!'

Early in the morning, Max was back in Paris. He crossed the border without any incident. He rented a hotel room and handed in his passport for registration. Coming to the room, he washed his face and went to bed. Max woke up around two o'clock in the afternoon, got up, shaved, and then unwrapped the package given to him by the "Doctor". It contained some jewelry and a thousand-dollar worth of currency.

Max put all of it in his pockets (it was unwise to leave it in the room) and went to the restaurant to have a snack.

In summer there are few French people, but many tourists in Paris. During the day they see the sights – the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc of Triumph, Napoleon's tomb, the Luxembourg Gardens, the Pere Lachaise cemetery. In the evening, tourists crowd at the doors of café chantants in Rue Pigalle, Montmartre and in the Latin Quarter.

Max mingled with the crowd of tourists near the opera and headed towards Madeleine. The weather was wonderful, warm, with a light wind. The leaves of the plane trees were dusty, but still glittered under the sun and cast intricately intertwined shadows on passersby.

Max walked slowly, pondering on the events of the past days. By nature, he was inclined more to action than to deep thinking, especially when there were not enough facts to draw certain conclusions. Max soon moved on to thinking about his settling down in Paris. While he lives in a hotel, the receptionist takes care

of the formalities, but living there for a long time is both expensive and unsafe. He has to look for an apartment. He thought that Kraskov's temporarily empty premises would be suitable, but he would have to talk with Agafya and to find out how the land-lord and the White emigrants would take it. He needed to give her the letter from her father and to talk about the future. Max was aware that he liked Agafya. Then he remembered that he needed to exchange part of the currency for francs and to sell the jewelry. Max decided to contact the jeweler to whom he had sold a strand of pearls on his last visit.

Having checked the jeweler's address, Max headed to his office. Meyer Abramovich was delighted to see him, apparently expecting a new profitable deal.

'Come into the office,' he invited Max.

As soon as they sat down, Jacobson took an envelope from the safe and pulled out of it another business card, already so familiar. Max pretended to see it for the first time. Meyer Abramovich told him what he knew about the Englishman.

'You understand,' he began, 'in my business you meet all sorts of people. I have known Mr. Edmondson for several years. He buys some things from me, he has an eye for jewelry. Though he is more interested in Faberge's stuff. Of course, he didn't tell me anything, but the world is full of rumors. Some people gave me a hint that Edmonds is from the Intelligence Service. In any case, I know for sure that he met with Kraskov, may he rest in peace.'

'Why "rest in peace"?' asked Max.

'There are rumors that Kraskov is dead,' answered Jacobson. 'I heard,' he said after a short pause, 'they played a dirty trick on you. We thought that you were caught too, but I see: you are safe and sound.'

'Tell me,' Max began again, 'what do you think Edmonds wants from me?'

'You'd better ask him yourself,' answered Meyer Abramovich. 'He will be here at any moment.'

'Really?' said Max and thought if he should leave or not. 'Okay, I'll wait for him. In the meantime, tell me: how do you like this little thing?'

Max took out of his pocket a snuffbox wrapped in cigarette paper. Jacobson studied it carefully for quite a long time, turning the box from side to side.

'This snuffbox,' he said at last, 'is very, very good. To tell you the truth, I'm afraid to put a price on it. If I'm not mistaken, it is about two hundred years old. If not, it still has great value. This item is for a true connoisseur. If you wish, we can do the following: I'll take the snuffbox for a commission. We'll draw up an agreement – in a proper way, with a lawyer, and the fee will be 15 percent. I think it would be better to find a connoisseur. I have several such people, they don't ask questions, but know the value of things... and don't haggle. You will be present at the sale if you wish. So there'll be no fraud. Do you agree?'

'Meyer Abramovich,' answered Max, 'I'll think about it. Tell me by eye: what is the price of this snuffbox?'

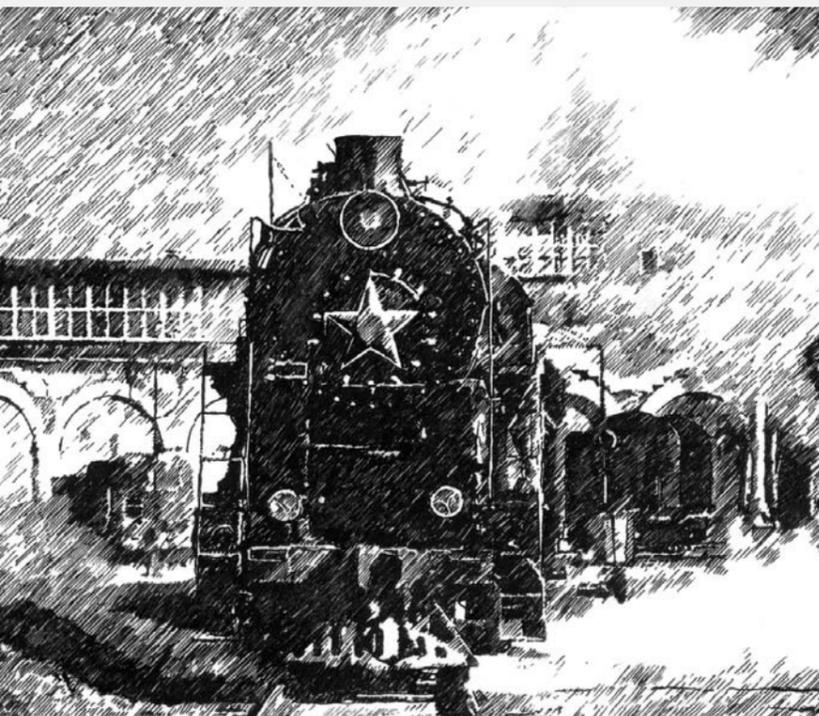
'If this snuffbox is really antique, you can set twenty, forty, fifty thousand, there is no price for such a thing. If not, then... almost certainly. It is amazingly elaborated.'

'This is probably a museum piece,' said Max.

'Frankly speaking, it should be in a museum,' Jacobson replied. 'In your country there were noble families who could possess such a thing, maybe bought a hundred, two hundred years ago. Do you know anything about its origin?'

'No,' answered Max, 'I bought it at a market for a song. It was painted over with oil, but from its weight I thought it might be gold. I cleaned it with solvents and discovered this beauty.'

'It'd better be sold at an auction,' said Jacobson, 'but they are very scrupulous about a proof of legal ownership. My clients will give less than at Sotheby's, but they won't ask questions. I have a jeweler friend who is a great connoisseur of such things. He can tell me its price. He won't talk. It's very important, isn't it?'



'Of course,' Max replied. 'Maybe it's better to wait. I have a few more pearls – the same strand as the previous one.'

'Well, let's wait a while. And I sold that strand quite well and will gladly give you the same sum. Is it fine?'

'Fine!' agreed Max.

'Do you want it in francs or dollars?'

'Let it be francs.'

Having completed the deal, Jacobson suggested they should go to a cafe for a snack.

'But what if Edmonds comes?' asked Max.

'I'll leave him a note with the clerk. He will wait.'

While they were waiting for the second cup of coffee, a tall man approached them and bowed to Meyer Abramovich.

'The clerk gave me your note and suggested that you were here. Glad to see you, Meyer Abramovich.'

Jacobson shook his hand and said, turning to Max:

'This is Mr. Edmonds.'

'Nice to meet you,' Max answered, getting up. 'Tarutin, Andrei Samoilovich, at your service.'

'You know, Mr. Tarutin, I have been looking for you all over Europe,' Edmond said, smiling. 'I really need you, and I'll tell you frankly: this matter can be very profitable for you.'

Max didn't answer, he decided to wait for more detailed explanation.

To smooth out the awkward silence, Jacobson said:

'Maybe you will talk in private? For now, Mr. Edmonds, I can tell you that I haven't got yet the little thing you were looking for, but I haven't lost hope of getting it for you. And now, will you excuse me, I must leave.'

Max asked for more coffee and cognac and invited the Englishman to sit down.

'Do you have any idea why I need you?' the Englishman turned to Max.

Max shrugged his shoulders.

Edmonds licked his lips, made a serious face and, without looking at Max, started to talk:

'Four or five months ago Mr. Kraskov approached us with a proposal. Then you met with Colonel Brestsky and agreed to carry out an operation. At the last minute Brestsky decided to follow his own way and to hand you over to the Lithuanian border guards. He failed. It seems like the operation he had begun wasn't completed very successfully. He learned there had been a shooting, and two people from his group had been killed. The fate of others remained unclear. But it's a thing of the past, let's not cry over spilt milk. If you tell me that Brestsky and his company acted foolishly and recklessly, I will agree. However, this is not the point. This story led me to the conviction that you are the man whom I should do things with. You have shown your best side.'

Edmonds glanced at Max, trying to understand what he was thinking. Max was looking at the Englishman in silence.

Edmonds continued:

'Of course, you have every right to be dissatisfied with the outcome of that case. I want to offer you something else. I represent a group of individuals and concerns that have concessions in Russia. Naturally, they are interested in the situation at their enterprises and concessions. Moreover, they are interested in how firmly the Bolsheviks stick to power, and what are the further development prospects of Bolshevism. Of course, such big questions cannot find a quick answer. They are people of action who know that sort of things. They don't need a detailed report; they won't get that anyway. But if someone brought them short letters from certain people whose opinion they trust, they are ready to pay a handsome sum.'

Edmonds raised his eyes and looked straight in Max's face.

'If you agree to take on this task – to go to Russia, to find these people, to receive their letters, and to return with them – I can guarantee you a thousand pounds. What do you say, Mr. Tarutin?'

Looking him in the eyes, Max kept silence for a minute, and then said:

'A thousand pounds, five thousand dollars. Twenty-five trusted people, two hundred dollars from each. Too cheap, Mr. Edmonds. It's too cheap! And I'll tell you why. You haven't said a word about the reliability of these trusted people. Maybe they will hand me over to the Cheka? How do you know?'

'No, no, Mr. Tarutin!' Edmonds replied hastily. 'I assure you, you needn't worry. I answer with my life! They are all reliable, proven people!'

Max looked searchingly at the Englishman.

'It seems to me,' he began, 'you described the job you are offering not the way it really looks like.'

Edmonds wanted to object, but Max stopped him with a hand movement.

'I will tell you my opinion now,' he continued, 'and then you can object, clarify, explain what you want. I'll start from your offer. I don't know what concessions and businessmen you're talking about. Some of them, known to you, Urquhart, for example, have already come to an agreement with the Bolsheviks. I must assume they are not among your clients. I think that people like Urquhart have already come to a certain conclusion about their former concessions, enterprises, etc., and about the firmness of the position of the Soviet government. If your clients are like Urquhart, they don't currently need the kind of information you want to receive from your trusted people. Don't forget that the British government has recognized the Soviets, it has diplomatic representatives in Moscow and trades with the Bolsheviks. Therefore, by telling me about concessionaires, you thereby

make me think that either you consider me a fool, or I should, to put it mildly, consider you a naive person... No, wait, Mr. Edmonds, don't interrupt me. Your explanation about concessionaires also does not fit in with your confidence in the reliability of the trusted people you have mentioned. Such confidence can only be based on the fact that you worked with them until recently, not only before the revolution. And here's one more thing. Brestsky may have acted recklessly, as you put it. But he did it on your instructions, maybe not on your personal order, I don't know that. And I will now reveal a secret to you. I didn't trust him and therefore came to the agreed place at the border beforehand, and managed to eavesdrop on his conversations with Kraskov. I learned a lot at that time, I understood who I was dealing with and who was behind them... You made me a compliment at the beginning of our conversation, but I see you don't fully understand who you are dealing with. You are making a big mistake when you put all Russians on a par with people like Brestsky, Kraskov and their gang.'

Max didn't take his eyes off Edmonds the whole time. He knew that the Englishman held the key to the task assigned to him in Moscow. He knew he couldn't change his role. He had to behave with Edmonds in the same way as with Kraskov and Brestsky. However, this Englishman was still smarter and more cunning than them. It was necessary not to "overact". Max decided he could stop there and give Edmonds a chance to speak.

TO BE CONTINUED



«Lightnings are Burning Somewhere...»

Writer-Volunteer Alexey Shorokhov

Text: Vladimir Golobokov,
Administrative Director of the Wind of Victory Club

The big festive concert of the Wind of Victory club on May 9 on Poklonnaya Hill, which has already become traditional, turned out to be special this year. Both participants and spectators seemed to have transported back in time to 80 years ago, when our fathers and grandfathers desperately fought against fascism, when the

long-awaited turning point emerged in this struggle, and the whole country lived in anticipation of the inevitable Victory.

I think the point here is not only in the sincere performance of songs by favorite artists, but also in the fact that many of them regularly go

“behind the ribbon”, perform in front of the soldiers, know at first-hand what is happening at the front, and try to convey this to the viewer through their art.

There are also those among them who decided to put down their pen for a while, leave the stage and go



A. Shorokhov

to the front as volunteers, in order to bring our Victory closer with all their might, shoulder to shoulder with their comrades in arms. I'm talking about Alexei Shorokhov. This is a man of unique destiny. A poet and writer, he has been disappearing in Donbass since 2015, performing in trenches and hospitals, and delivering humanitarian aid. And in January 2023, he definitely realized that his place was there.

Alexey spent seven months on the front line, fought in the Kherson and Bakhmut-Artemovsk directions. According to him, it was really hot, considering that it was there that one of the main blows of the Ukrainian Armed Forces' summer counter-offensive fell. *«The enemy attacked our positions like animals at a watering place, regardless of losses. In some places the defensive lines were laid with the bodies of the dead Nazis in two or three layers...»*

In July 2023, Alexei was seriously wounded: a controlled aerial bomb flew into the house where they were located. He survived by miracle. On

the way to the hospital, he felt an inevitable desire to describe all the events: *«Even my fingers were like cramped (on one hand, the other was bandaged), so much I wanted to write.»*

This is how the novella The Martial Glory appeared, an extract from which, along with a selection of Shorokhov's

poems, we present to your attention. And again, a word from the author: *«In terms of a genre, this is a “trench truth.” And this is not surprising at all. But this makes it even closer, even more necessary and more familiar. I do not want to blush for my Word, either in front of my living comrades or in front of the dead. But at the front, as in life, everything happens.»*



The Martial Glory

(an extract from the book)

Shrek left the position very successfully, as he believed. Although, in what sense successfully? If nearby they began to throw from a barrel. And absolutely for sure – aiming at him. And for a sniper this is not very successful.

Shrek has long drawn a bead on this uprooted pine tree, which fell just across the hole from the “Three Axes”.¹ It was on the edge of the forest belt, or rather, on the outskirts. Just between our positions and the channel. Behind the channel, there were Ukes. From time to time they crossed the channel, but there they were met by minefields.

And before the minefields – by Shrek.

The sniper went under the pine tree “in the gray”, that is, in the twilight – in the morning or evening. And he has been doing this for the second week, which means that he was still successful.

Shrek, in the peaceful life known as Vadik, believed that he was a sniper from God. If one can say so...

There was a hooting sound on the right heaving a warm wave, pretty near, about thirty meters.

“Sixty millimeters,” noted Shrek, “polka.” As always, one can’t hear the egress... So they’ve come close, bitches! “Polka” doesn’t hit far. Surely, while the artillery was working on the front end, the Ukes with the mortar arrived.

Ahead there was a good dugout left from the Wagners. Relatively good.

¹“Three Axes” – M777 howitzer (translator’s comment).

In two layers. It couldn’t have been done better here. The greenery which grew in the forest belts near Bakhmut, was as thick as an arm. A maximum of one and a half.

It often happened that, having fallen asleep in the shrubs, burrowed deep into the ground, the fighters, after an enemy artillery attack, woke up in the morning in an open field. Or, to be more precise, among short mutilated stumps of former aspen and hazel trees sticking up to the sky. The rest was mowed down by the art. It was into this dugout in two layers that Vadik managed to jump in. A shell followed him. Definitely not a mine.

“Maybe, even a tankie worked,” Shrek later reflected. “Because I didn’t hear the egress. Arriving at once. And after that, I didn’t hear anything at all.”

...The “assaulters” of the twenty-seventh brigade had an agreement: we always pull out our people, even the “two-hundredths”. We don’t leave them to the enemy.

At night they crawled up for Vadik, no one doubted that he was a “two-hundredth”. The shell landed exactly into the dugout – neither to the left nor to the right.

Thanks to the guys with skulls and mines on their chevrons, they made a great shelter. Even though it was made from thin aspen sticks, it saved a life.

When they began to dig out the sniper in the darkness, Shrek groaned.

They dragged him to the evacuation point more cheerfully. Alive, bro!

– And how did they figure me out? – Shrek puzzled later.

Indeed, for almost two weeks he beat through the infra imager the Ukrainian sappers, who at night climbed to weed our minefields. Then he waylaid and took down the crew of the one hundred and twentieth mortar on a jeep, which had been harassing ours for several days running.

And cripes, he was “figured out”! How come they haven’t razed him to the ground – that’s the question!

– And most important, I was careful! – Vadik said to Akim. – I took apart the “lash”, turned off the “can” from the standard “AKaM”, carried everything in a bag on my back, went light... Well, in my “commando backpack” I had some twelve drums, and a hundred or a hundred and a half in bulk, well, “ReGeNs” and “eFs”, of course, and water in a flask, and crackers with paste. Light, in one word...

Nothing surprising, though. In the July battles for Bakhmut, the Ukes completely blew their stack; even a single fighter was hunted by “birdies” with VOGs. They replaced each other in the sky, as if they were passing the baton. They were going after even a single fighter. And here was a whole sniper!

In the upshot, Shrek got off easy. Well, not exactly easy – a contusion, a shrapnel shot through the leg (the bone remained intact), but the foulest thing was a torn ligament in the right knee. This was for long. And only by a surgery. And then again, time is needed for it to grow together... 🚩

Scriabin's Etudes

Dedicated to Russian pilots

More deadly, more close and more truly
The excited melody sounds!
...Above the crumpled map of the commander
Today their own flight was broken off.

The rigid wings are thrown about
In a hollow covered with green grass.
They didn’t take them out nor hide them,
Just brought them into this heavy fight.

Ordinary men without cash,
Believing in a terrible reality,
So simple, almost out of habit
Raising their palms to their caps.

Ploughing the stony mixture
Of wild and insidious lands.
Quite recently, not long ago
They were humming in the valley like bees.

And now, into the sky they are growing,
And the parachute silk is like a halo.
Through their bare nerves and
Small figures are running towards them...

And except for the heavenly homeland
And grandfathers ramming the steel,
What do they have – without reproof
Looking at their native ground?

Alexey Alekseevich Shorokhov

Poet and publicist Alexey Alekseevich Shorokhov was born on November 8, 1973 in the city of Orel. Graduated from the Literary Institute named after A.M. Gorky. Published several books of poetry, essays, novellas and short stories. Since the 1990s, his works have been regularly published in the main literary editions of Russia. Since 2004, he is the Secretary of the Board of the Writers' Union of Russia. Editor-in-chief of the *Politruck* magazine, deputy editor-in-chief of the *Otechestvennye Zapiski* magazine. Laureate of the Russian Poetry Contest named after Sergei Yesenin (2009), Russian Literary Prize “Spring Waters” (2012), Prize of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (2023).

Novorossiya

Dreams have begun to appear,
Bright and prophetic child dreams.
Lightnings are burning somewhere
Of a war close in blood as it seems.

Somewhere he turns into summer,
A boy who was burned in his tank.
But it’s not what I’m talking about,
It’s not what I’m eager to think.

Not understanding from where
Comes this eternity that flows through us,
We hastily bid farewell to a miracle,
Not sparing our strengths nor our lives.

What will we meet on an ancient,
Spreading and endless sky bridge?
A house by a river in a village?
Dropped chair from our childhood?

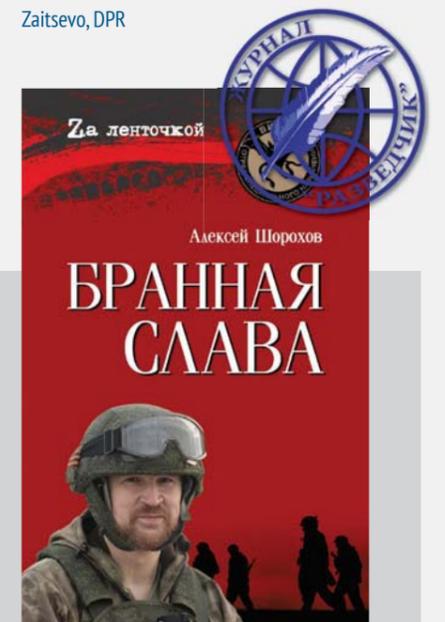
The beginning of our flashed lives?
Dark waves from somewhere outside?
...The old father is standing at the pier
With the boy who was burned in his tank.

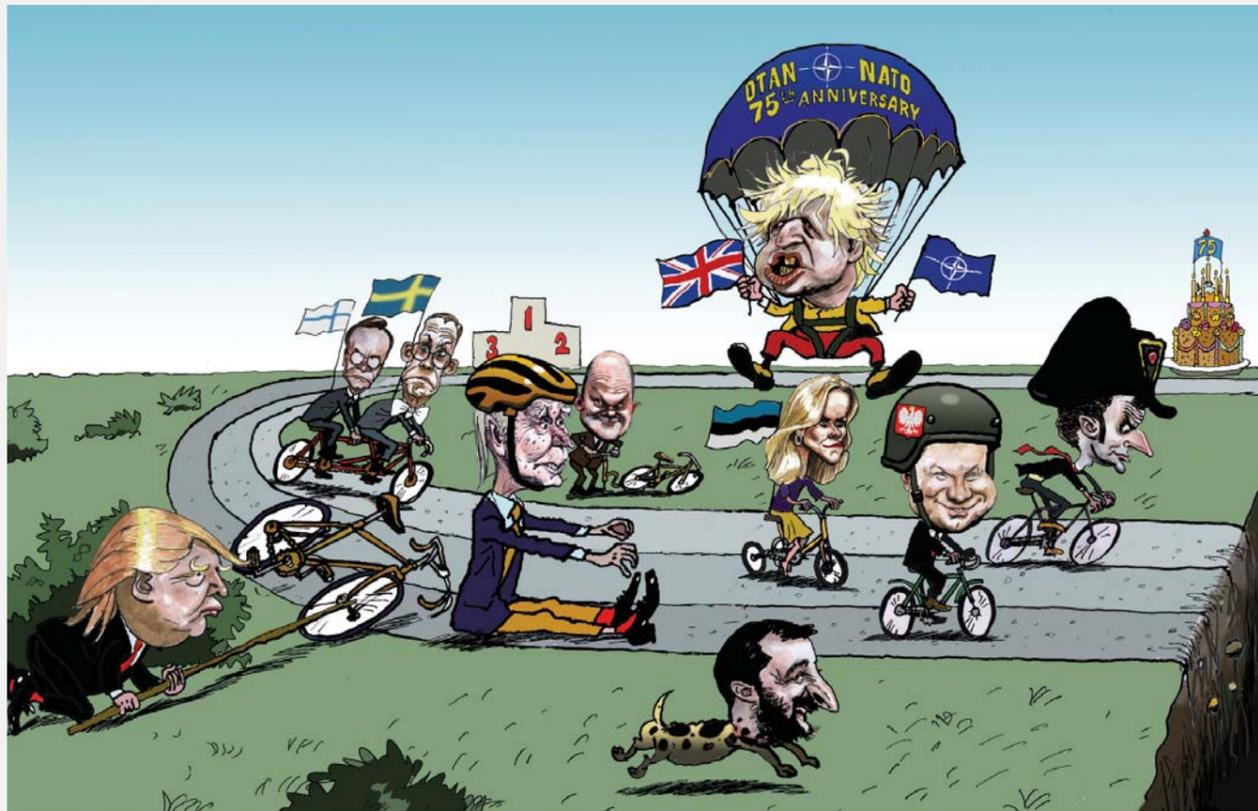


Swing

A baby flies once more into the sky.
Silence wins the regiment on earth.
No houses destroyed by shells and mines,
No wires in the darkness going off –
Only silence, and the baby, and the spring...
Why then are your nights without sleep?
Why, covering the roadblock, in a burst,
He, not you, rose quickly to his feet?
And now his young mother’s wept to sleep.
She will be remembering through life:
Through the years, shootings, blizzards stretching hands
To push just once again an empty swing...

Zaitsevo, DPR





The foreigner seems to consider himself an exceptional person, and therefore always strives to be the first in a queue for the prizes of life.

Picture: Vladimir Mochalov

Selected Moments of Operational Correspondence

“M” makes an impression of a gloomy person. His life at a collective farm before the army, as well as weight training, apparently have had such an effect on him.

When not in the office, the foreigner mainly indulges in a healthy life.

The language barrier is not an obstacle for further contacts: conversations between the intelligence officer and the target are carried out intuitively.

“A” did not participate in the war, alleging deafness, myopia, hernia and platypodia.

During a long conversation at the meeting, “O” tried to hide his informational potential, but he did not succeed – his expressive eyes gave him away.

“K” loved his work very much, he was proud of it, and worked “with zest.” As a result, he was fired, became an alcoholic and got a divorce.

Deep in thought and withdrawn, “S” said that in general he assessed the situation in the host country as “so-so.”

In the next issue:

MGIMO Rector Anatoly Torkunov:
«Most students of Russian colleges see their future connected with Russia»

Intelligence officer and artist, analyst and poet Yuri Shevchenko
85th anniversary of Hero of Russia Yuri Shevchenko

Operations “Monastery” and “Berezino”
How Soviet intelligence outplayed Abwehr

Grand master Sergey Karyakin:
“Chess, like intelligence, is not for those weak in spirit”



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