

MAGAZINE

# RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake — But to learn the truth for the good of our State! №4 (5) DECEMBER 2023



«DZERZHINSKY WAS FAITHFUL  
TO HIS IDEALS TILL THE END.  
HE DREAMED OF CREATING A FUTURE  
BASED UPON PRINCIPLES OF GOOD  
AND JUSTICE»

S.Y. Naryshkin

S.Y. NARYSHKIN:  
«2024 IS THE YEAR OF  
GEOPOLITICAL AWAKENING»

G.A. RAPOTA:  
«POLITICS BEGINS WITH  
KNOWLEDGE OF REALITIES»

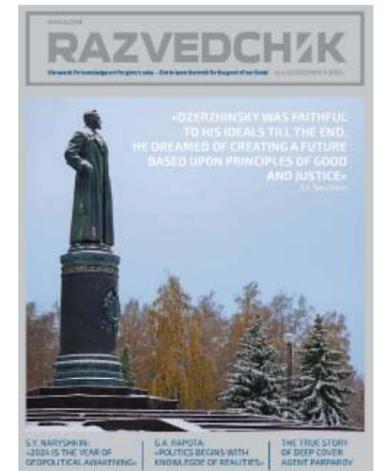
THE TRUE STORY  
OF DEEP COVER  
AGENT PARPAROV

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THE ONE WHO HAS AN IDEA  
AND WHO IS ALIVE  
CANNOT BE USELESS, UNLESS HE  
REPUDIATES HIS IDEA HIMSELF

С. Дзержинский



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## 2024 is the year of geopolitical awakening

Text: Sergey Yevgenievich Naryshkin,  
Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation

**Global turbulence, provoked by the fierce struggle of the West trying to maintain its dominance, with new centers of power defending the right to sovereign development, will obviously continue to gain momentum in the coming year. Moreover, there is a reason to believe that the process of restructuring of the world which unfolds in front of our eyes, will be accompanied by a geopolitical awakening of an increasing number of countries, peoples and entire continents seeking to free themselves from the liberal-totalitarian “haze”.**

The fundamental, or perhaps even existential, conflict of the “old” and “new” world, which had been latently maturing for 30 years since the end of the Cold War, and with the beginning of a special military operation moved into the open phase, has become geographically all-encompassing this year. The globalist and openly anti-humanist agenda persistently imposed by Washington and its allies is causing rejection among a growing number of non-Western states that share the ideas of multipolarity and adhere to a traditional worldview. All this multiplies the risks of instability and leads to increased chaos in the processes taking place in the foreign policy arena, requiring remarkable restraint and foresight from world leaders.

The current picture of the world is increasingly reminiscent of a classic revolutionary situation, when the “tops”, represented by the weakening

United States, can no longer provide their own leadership, and the “bottoms,” to which the Anglo-Saxon elite, without exaggeration, attributes all other countries, no longer want to obey Western dictatorship. In order to prevent a radical breakdown of the entire global “superstructure” that currently exists and is beneficial exclusively to the Anglo-Saxons, the Euro-Atlantic elite will follow the well-trodden path of creating controlled chaos – destabilizing the situation in key regions of the planet by pitting some “rebellious” states against others and then forming Western-controlled operational-tactical coalitions around them.

However, the specificity of the current situation is that Washington and its satellites are decreasingly able to fully realize their destructive plans. Responsible world players, which, of course, include Russia, as well as China, India and many other states, have united

**It is obvious that the coming year will be marked by an intensification of the confrontation between two antagonistic geopolitical principles: the Anglo-Saxon “divide and conquer” and the continental “unite and lead”.**

and demonstrated their readiness to resolutely resist external gambles and independently carry out crisis resolution, as it is happening, for example, in Syria. Moreover, now even the closest allies of the United States are striving to diversify ties against the backdrop of the ever more obvious inability of the former hegemon to guarantee their security. In this regard, a sobering example for many Western politicians, accustomed to relying on special relations with Washington, was the unprecedented in the 21st century escalation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone.

It is obvious that the coming year on the world arena will be marked by a further intensification of the confrontation between the two geopolitical principles outlined above: the Anglo-Saxon, or island, “divide and conquer” and the directly antagonistic continental “unite and lead”. Manifestations of this fierce confrontation in the coming year will be observed in all, even the most remote regions of the world: from the most significant for us post-Soviet space to South America and the Pacific Ocean.

In relation to the situation in Ukraine, one can expect that Western politicians, due to the objective impossibility of achieving a military victory over our country, will try to prolong the fighting as much as possible and turn the Ukrainian conflict into a “second Afghanistan”, counting on our gradual exhaustion in the grueling struggle of potentials. They will try to achieve this, as before, through a set of economic and military-diplomatic measures, including sanctions pressure that violates international law and the continuous supply of weapons and military equipment to Kiev.

Nevertheless, there is a high probability that further support for the Kiev junta, especially given the increasing “toxicity” of the Ukrainian topic for the transatlantic unity and the Western society as a whole, will accelerate the decline in the international authority of the West. Ukraine itself will continue to turn into a “black hole”, absorbing material and human resources. Ultimately, the United States risks setting up a “second Vietnam” for itself, which every new American administration will have to deal with until a more or less sensible person comes to power in Washington who has enough courage and determination to plug this “mouth”.

The Arab world will remain a key arena for the struggle for a new world order in 2024. Here it is most clearly visible how the globalist elites’ claims to the role of the hegemon, which they imagined themselves to be after the collapse of the USSR, are being shattered. The invasion of Iraq, the notorious “Arab Spring” which destroyed peaceful Libya and Yemen, the protracted war in Syria, the emergence of the monstrous terrorist group ISIS and, finally, attempts to cause a clash between the Sunni and Shiite “poles” in the Middle East – this is not a complete list of criminal manifestations of the strategic thought in Washington and some other Western capitals. This conceptual course was consistently followed by successive Republican and Democratic administrations in the White House, pursuing the only goal – unlimited dominance. Although, it would seem, how can it be more unlimited, taking into account the massive US military presence from the Mediterranean to the Arabian Sea.

The main reason for the collapse of such one-sided and short-sighted policy of the West is incredibly simple – this is a new, and this time true, awakening of the peoples of the Middle East, in contrast to the notorious “Arab Spring” orchestrated by Washington ten years ago. On the one hand, this awakening is manifested in the accession to power of strong, sovereign leaders in a number of Arab countries, and on the other hand, in the rapid increase of anti-American and, more broadly, anti-Western sentiments in the region. The multipolar world is already a reality which globalists will not be able to “cancel”. What seemed almost impossible just yesterday – the normalization



of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, their entry together with Egypt and the UAE into BRICS, the return of Syria to the “Arab family” – today is an indisputable fact.

Russia welcomes the success of these processes in every way and, as far as possible, will continue to contribute to it. But the main thing is that all this speaks of the commitment in the Arab world to a mutually acceptable resolution of conflicts, a joint search for ways to solve security problems, and building predictable constructive relations supported by common economic and humanitarian interests. In this context, one cannot fail to mention the high pace of development of mutually beneficial ties between Arab countries and Russia and China as well, despite desperate attempts by the United States and the EU to prevent this.

In the coming year, Africa will also continue to confidently follow the path of becoming one of the independent centers of power on the world

stage. African countries are showing growing independence in foreign and domestic policy, and their voices are becoming louder at the UN. In the future, the role of the African Union as a global institution capable of resolving crises in Africa without outside help will also increase. In fact, we are now witnessing a genuine decolonization of the Black Continent, which is beginning to understand itself as a separate subject of international relations, and

Speech at the XI Moscow Conference on International Security, August 15, 2023

**The main reason for the collapse of the US Middle East policy is the awakening of the peoples of the Middle East which is manifested in the accession to power of strong, sovereign leaders in the region and the widespread increase of anti-Western sentiment.**

**It is obvious that the former metropolises will not abandon their attempts to undermine the Africans' desire for sovereign development, using for this purpose a proven "gentleman's set" of classical colonial methods.**

not just as a market for cheap resources, as the Anglo-Saxons still see it.

Vivid evidence of Africa's growing process of rethinking its geopolitical identity is the Central African Republic and Mali. The new authorities in Bangui and Bamako found the

courage to take the path of a decisive rejection of the patronage of France and the "collective West" in favor of establishing close ties with our country in the economic, military-political spheres and in practice were convinced of the correctness of the choice made. I am sure that their example will inspire other states of the Black Continent that are interested in implementing a sovereign political course based primarily on national interests and not dependent on the whims of Western elites.

At the same time, it is obvious that the former metropolises will not abandon their attempts to undermine the Africans' desire for sovereign development, using for this purpose a proven "gentleman's set" of classical colonial methods:

In the Victory Museum.  
April 27, 2023



from endless promises of financial and military-political assistance to the deliberate incitement of interstate conflicts, the spread of radical Islamist ideology and direct military interventions. However, this will only push regional leaders to search for more reliable "suppliers" of security, which in their eyes are Russia, China, India, as well as the Arabian monarchies that do not have a dark colonial past, and most importantly, are ready to offer cooperation to the countries and peoples of Africa on an equal footing and non-ideologized basis.

It is noteworthy that similar processes are now actively developing everywhere, including Latin America that Americans have always considered their "backyard". There, too, a demand for independent integration structures, not subject to the dictates of the Anglo-Saxons, is increasingly being formed. One of them is the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, or CELAC, in which, typically, the participation of the United States and Canada is not envisaged.

Now a few words about the situation within the Euro-Atlantic bloc itself. Over the next year, we are likely to see increased levels of social and political disunity in the United States and Europe on a range of topics, from supporting Ukraine to advancing the LGBT agenda. One of the precursors of the inevitable storm was Slovakia, where the nationally oriented party "Direction – Social Democracy", led by Robert Fico, won the last parliamentary elections, despite colossal pressure from left-liberal Western elites.

I believe that in 2024, most election campaigns in the West – from elections to the European Parliament to the presidential elections in the United States – will take place in an atmosphere of fierce confrontation between globalists on the one hand and adherents of realism in foreign policy and traditional values in the social sphere on the other. And although it hardly makes sense now to predict the specific results of future campaigns, it can be predicted with absolute accuracy that Western politicians will, out of habit, try to place responsibility for the inevitable growth of internal tension in their countries on Russia, as well as on China and other states that have the courage to



offer to the world their own, alternative to the totalitarian-liberal "concentration camp", vision of the present and the future.

At the Headquarters  
of the Russian Foreign  
Intelligence Service.  
September 11, 2023

Meanwhile, a fundamentally new reality is emerging in the Eurasian space, the contours of which began to emerge with the return of Crimea to Russia and the reintegration of the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics, as well as the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions. I am confident that in 2024, Moscow's unifying role as the center of the continent's key integration projects will only grow stronger. This is indicated by the emerging broad alliance consisting of Russia and our allies and partners in the CIS, CSTO and SCO, as well as the emerging "Great Eurasian Partnership". The most important quality of these structures which fundamentally distinguishes them from Western blocs is their non-direction against third countries and their focus on creating

**It can be predicted with absolute accuracy that Western politicians will, out of habit, try to place responsibility on Russia for the inevitable growth of internal tension in their countries.**

a fair world order based on unconditional respect for sovereignty and compliance with the international law.

Such a representative association as BRICS, with six new states to become its full members in the coming year, also has powerful potential in terms of building a fair and truly democratic architecture of international relations. As part of a campaign to discredit this forum, Western media often call it an alternative to the G7 promoted by Moscow and Beijing. However, the "Seven" is the United States plus six satellites that serve it, and the order that reigns within the bloc is not much different from a prison-like one, where only the senior warden has a say, while the rest are forced to obediently carry out his will.

In turn, BRICS, especially in its expanded variant, is a union of equal powers, or rather, state-civilizations, in the words of President V. Putin, which strive to find joint answers to

the most pressing challenges and tasks of our time. I am confident that the upcoming Russian presidency of BRICS in 2024 will give additional impetus to the development of this truly promising format.

Of course, the United States and its allies will continue to take steps to exert direct and indirect pressure on our country, as well as on all others who disagree to "pawn their souls" and "pledge allegiance" to neoliberal values. In the coming year, we expect an intensification of attacks by the Anglo-Saxons, including at international platforms, primarily at the UN, as well as within the framework of various revisionist "summits for democracy" and multilateral ad hoc formats. The true goal of these attempts is visible with the naked eye: under the pretext of a collective response to the Russian, Chinese or any other "threat", to continue the dismantling of the governance institutions that emerged after the Second World War, thereby eliminating the last

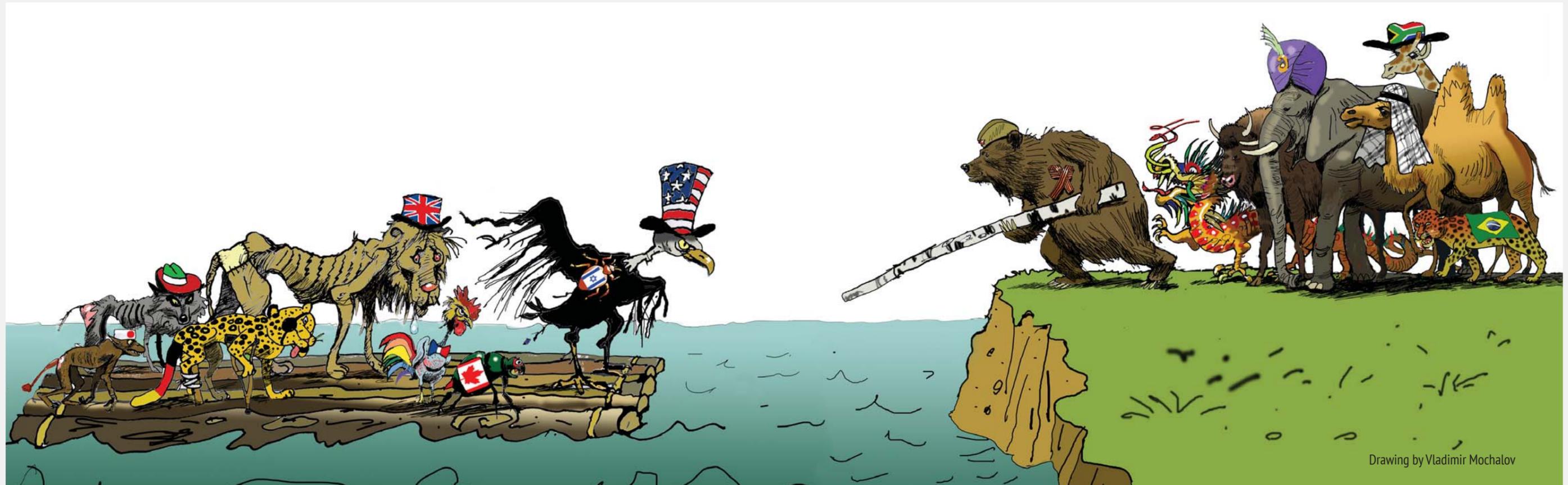
obstacles to the odious "rules-based order" imposed by the Americans.

Here I will allow myself to once again quote the President of Russia, who called this "order" "nonsense" and an attempt to replace the international law. On my own behalf, I would add that in the emerging multipolar world, this "rotten product" is already being sold poorly even among Western politicians who do not want to defend the narrow selfish interests of the Anglo-Saxon elites and individual influence groups. To say nothing about the rest. The leaders and people of the vast majority of states on the planet have long recognized the two-faced essence of the West and no longer believe its sweet and false promises – the global awakening is irreversible.

I am convinced that we also need to fully awaken from the liberal "haze" of the 1990s and return to our roots. We have our own way. Russia is a unique country-civilization with a

**The vast majority of states on the planet have long recognized the two-faced essence of the West and no longer believe its sweet and false promises – the global awakening is irreversible.**

thousand-year history that cannot be forgotten, much less betrayed. It is for this reason that we have decided, in order to restore historical justice, to erect on the territory of the Headquarters of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia in Yasenevo a monument to the outstanding statesman, the founder of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky – a symbol of purposefulness, selflessness, determination, a hero who remained devoted to the idea of building a new, just world. 🇷🇺





## Dzerzhinsky: timely return

**On September 11, 2023, in Moscow, at the headquarters of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, a recreated monument to the founder of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky, was unveiled. Surprisingly, both “Iron” Felix himself and the monuments dedicated to him arose at difficult, one might say, critical times for our country. And now, after a hundred years, Dzerzhinsky again vigilantly looks into the distance, where the clouds are gathering again at our borders, and his words and super-responsible approach to the work assigned are more relevant today than ever.**

Over the decades, the image of Dzerzhinsky in the public conscience changed dramatically, acquiring features that were either post-idealistic or demonic. It is difficult to separate myths from reality if you do not delve into documentary sources, testimonies of contemporaries, extensive correspondence, and, most importantly, the results of the productive and multifaceted activities of Felix Edmundovich in the public service.

Multitasking. It seems that this invaluable quality for any employee is inherent only to us living in the 21st century. All the more surprising is the off-scale efficiency and fantastic energy with which Dzerzhinsky rushed to solve the numerous problems of Soviet Russia. In addition to the creation of the All-Russian Emergency Commission in December 1917, from November 1919 he dealt with issues of the sanitary condition of the RSFSR, and in February 1920 he headed the Committee on General Labor Service. In 1921, Felix Edmundovich was already the head of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee commission for improving the lives of children (fighting homelessness) and the People’s Commissar of Railways. In 1923 – founder of the Dynamo sports society, and since 1924 – chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the National Economy (VSNKh). The head of the commissions to combat bribery and improve the living conditions of workers is also Dzerzhinsky. For some time, he even supervised Soviet film production, becoming chairman of the Society of Friends of Soviet

Cinema in December 1925. In general, almost all pressing issues for the country required his unique ability to restore order.

Dzerzhinsky’s main strength was his uncompromising attitude towards completing assigned tasks and extreme demands not only towards others, but also towards himself. His tirelessness and constant desire to do more, even when he was on the verge of physical exhaustion, are widely known. In his last speech at the plenum of the Central Committee on July 20, 1926, Felix Edmundovich attacked the group of Trotsky, Kamenev and Zinoviev: “You are no good because you are engaged in politicking, not work.” So, literally a few hours before his death, he formulated his life credo, explaining why Dzerzhinsky became the most effective crisis manager of his time.

**“We are now living in a very difficult time, very hard, but good, because we are given a specific task that we must solve.”**

F.E. Dzerzhinsky, February 7, 1923



Among like-minded people

### “Transport is the main nerve of the country’s economic life”

By 1921, the once extensive railway system of the Russian Empire had fallen into complete disrepair. Having received an appointment to the post of People’s Commissar of Railways, Dzerzhinsky decided to put into practice his life postulate “start with yourself.” The country was sorely short of coal – he went to Donetsk to solve the problems of mass theft. The People’s Commissar’s carriage resembled a military headquarters, where

operational reports arrived hourly: on the progress of loading, fuel reserves, and the state of the workforce. As a result, the work of the country’s “main stokehold” was restored and the industry received the necessary raw materials.

Felix Edmundovich consistently opposed the bloated personnel apparatus. “Skilled workforce must be removed from clerical work, from unnecessary paperwork... and sent to production, to the field,” the People’s Commissar pointed out. Thanks to the measures taken, the number of transport workers decreased from 1.7 million people in April 1921 to 760 thousand by June 1923. A lot has been done to train new personnel. Besides, Dzerzhinsky had no prejudices against former tsarist specialists who were ready to work for the Country of Soviets. He took a railway worker with 40 years of experience, formerly a friend of the Minister of Railways of the Russian Empire, I.N. Borisov, as his deputy for technical matters. A brilliant engineer, former Minister of Railways of the Provisional Government A.V. Liverovsky, who began the construction of the Trans-Siberian

“Our mismanagement, inability to rationally use the enormous available wealth is our most serious illness. The task is to recover from it, learn to take good care of every little thing and wisely use it...”

F.E. Dzerzhinsky

Railway, was also attracted to the work of the People’s Commissariat. During the siege of Leningrad, Liverovsky became the main consultant during the construction of the Road of Life, which saved thousands of Soviet people.

Dzerzhinsky also put a lot of effort into the development of steam locomotive construction. He opposed giving orders to foreign countries and advocated setting up the production of locomotives in the RSFSR. It was on the initiative of Felix Edmundovich that funding for the Gakkel diesel locomotive project (Shch-EL-1) was increased, contrary to the opinion of some experts that in the coming years, if not decades, the domestic industry and national economy would not need new steam locomotives.

Over the several years of heading the People’s Commissariat, the material and technical base of railway transport was completely restored: tracks, rolling stock, passenger and cargo infrastructure. The railways not only reached self-sufficiency, but also began to generate income for the state. At the XIII Party Congress in January 1924, the rational approach of F.E. Dzerzhinsky was highly praised: “Transport is in a state where it can easily satisfy all the demands placed on it by the national economy.” This problem was solved – but the next one was already waiting.

### “We must become metal Russia”

The matter was the need to restore industrial production. Despite the growth in indicators in certain industries, the output of Soviet enterprises was only 35% of the pre-revolutionary level, and average labor productivity did not exceed 30–40% of the 1913 benchmarks.

F.E. Dzerzhinsky began his activities as chairman of the VSNKh with the already familiar tightening of discipline: a huge number of workers were listed on paper, and appeared at work only on the day their salaries were paid. He began to attract competent specialists to work. Mensheviks A. Stern and L. Kafengauz came to VSNKh.

Even abroad it was spoken about this with surprise. The newspaper “Socialist Herald” published in Berlin wrote: “It felt terrible when Dzerzhinsky became the head of the VSNKh. And now specialists, including former monarchists, are ready to serve the memory of Dzerzhinsky at a memorial service.”

The primary focus of Dzerzhinsky’s attention, as chairman of the VSNKh, was the ways and methods of further industrialization of the USSR. Felix Edmundovich was a supporter of the NEP, market reforms, free prices and putting an end to pressure on the peasantry. He spoke out sharply against squeezing the juice out of the countryside to create a base for industrial development, rightly believing that this would not give the required results, but would only widen the gap between the peasantry and the disproportionately



**“Small, almost imperceptible payments and contributions from five people can save the life of one child. Payments and donations from 50 people make it possible to open and maintain an orphanage for 15–20 children.”**

From the campaign during the “Week of homeless children”

smaller working class and lead to peasant revolts.

The Enakievsky, Donetsk-Yuryevsky and Konstantinovskiy metallurgical plants in the south of the country, five more such plants in the Urals and more than 400 enterprises in other industries throughout the country were re-opened and restarted into operation. On his initiative, a new metallurgical plant was founded in Kerch, as well as agricultural machinery enterprises in Rostov and Zlatoust.

**“It’s not abroad that will feed our children”**

To the role of defender of homeless children, he wasn’t appointed, but volunteered himself. He suggested to the People’s Commissar of Education A.V. Lunacharsky to

create a commission under the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, attract the public and, naturally, use the capabilities of the All-Russian Cheka headed by him. He was confident that the security officers would be able to quickly overcome the negligence and indifference of officials who were slowing down the resolution of issues. Lunacharsky was delighted. Later he recalled how in Dzerzhinsky’s eyes “the fire of excited energy so familiar to all of us immediately lit up.” Once Dzerzhinsky took up the matter, it was clear that it would not be shelved. In the fall of 1921, a commission to improve the lives of children, headed by Felix Edmundovich, was created, receiving the name Children’s Extraordinary Commission (DChK).

First of all, Dzerzhinsky ordered the allocation of carriages on which homeless children were sent to relatively prosperous areas of the country, where they settled in peasant families, received roofs over their heads and food. After some time, when the food situation improved a little, the children were brought back.

But the main method of combating homelessness was the placement of orphans in boarding schools. Reception and distribution points were created throughout the country, where teachers and doctors worked with children. In 1923, Felix Edmundovich published an appeal “Everybody to children’s rescue”, proposing to hold a “Week of the Street and Sick Child” in order to raise funds for the needs of homeless children.

Through the efforts of Dzerzhinsky, many “children of great misfortune” of the 1920s and 30s later grew into respected citizens of their country: nuclear physicist, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Lev Artsimovich, director of the Institute of General Genetics Nikolai Dubinin, People’s Artist of the USSR, Moscow Art Theater actress Anastasia Georgievskaya, writer Leonid Panteleev, who immortalized the image of the Soviet street child in the immortal novel “Republic of SHKID”.

In 1925–26, Felix Edmundovich often received letters from communes and

In a camp for homeless children. 1920s



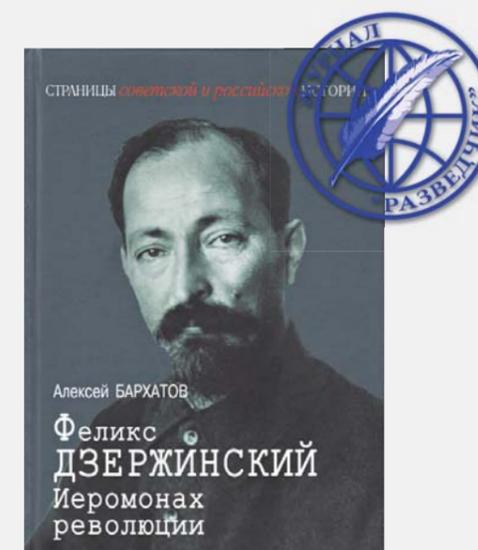
How the monument was created

At the opening of the monument to F.E. Dzerzhinsky. Moscow. Yasenevo. September 11, 2023

orphanages, and photographs of some of the pupils stood on his table next to the photograph of his son Jan. Dzerzhinsky was proud of this mail. Perhaps at such moments he remembered himself as a boy, a fledgling youth, a future revolutionary. At that time, he had no idea how complex and contradictory, but at the same time very bright and useful for others, his life would be. Even as a child, he was possessed by ebullient energy, that inner fire that drove him forward all his life. Back in 1894, in front of his fellow high school students, he took an oath:

“Fight evil until the last breath, serve the people, only the people, until the last drop of blood, and fight their oppressors. I swear to be honest and fair! I swear allegiance to the people!” “Iron” Felix kept his oath, fulfilling all the tasks that the state set for him. With high quality and right on time.

Well, we, his descendants, will try to carefully preserve the memory and precepts of Felix Edmundovich. 🇷🇺



**“[Dzerzhinsky’s] popular maxim that only a person with a cool head, a warm heart and clean hands can become a security officer, became a significant moral guideline for several generations of employees of the security agencies of our country... He remained to the end true to his ideals – the ideals of goodness and justice.”**

Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service S.Y. Naryshkin

# Dear comrades!

It is no coincidence that this is the way I want to address the readers of this most interesting periodical. I share the idea of the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, Sergey Yevgenievich Naryshkin, expressed in an interview to the magazine "Istorik" (Historian) on the eve of the centenary anniversary of the SVR: "In a sense, historians are similar to intelligence officers: their professional duty is to achieve a complete picture – to obtain objective and reliable information about the past, analyzing sources and collecting facts." This is what foreign intelligence does – it obtains information, collects scattered facts, analyzes and compares. So we really are comrades. However, unlike historians, intelligence officers prefer to remain silent about the details of their activities – this is the specificity of their service. As a result, ordinary people, including historians, learn about many of the heroes of the "invisible front", who conscientiously and at the risk of their lives carry out their duty in various corners of the globe, many years later, when the "top secret" stamp is removed from archival documents. ...

It seems to me that as a child, every boy dreamed of becoming an intelligence officer. I don't know how it is now, but in my time it was like this. "Dead Season", "Omega Variant", "The Shield and the Sword" and, of course, "Seventeen Moments of Spring" – films about heroes of the invisible front were among the favorite ones. To be just like Stierlitz – a good dream, isn't it? However, everyone or almost everyone dreamed, but few became intelligence officers. And this is understandable: intelligence is not just a job, it is fate. A very difficult fate, a fate that not only you choose, but that itself chooses (or does not choose) you.

Of course, foreign intelligence is not only about deep cover agents living abroad for many years under false names and not speaking a word in their native language for decades. There are also those who, working under the cover of our foreign agencies, collect information that is no less important for the Motherland. Perhaps this work does not have the same romantic aura as deep cover agents' work, and it is not as popularized in movies. But this does not make it less honorable and significant for the country.

While working on the issue dedicated to the centenary of the Service, we went to Yasenevo – "to the Forest", as the intelligence officers themselves call their Headquarters. We were shown the Hall of History – a museum that not everyone is allowed into. I think I will not be revealing a state secret if I write here that the most vivid impression from visiting this museum is not even its unique exhibits, but the stories about people who devoted themselves to this service to the Motherland, invisible to prying eyes. As they say in intelligence: "Without the right to glory..." About people who took three simple but very important words as the motto of their serving: "Fatherland, valor, honor".

It's great that a year ago our intelligence officers got their own open, public magazine, in which you can read about the lives and exploits of people just like that. I wish your publication creative longevity, genuine interest on the part of readers and inexhaustible inspiration to everyone who makes it.

And of course, all the best to you and your loved ones, dear comrades!

Vladimir Rudakov,  
editor-in-chief of the magazine "Istorik"



**3**  
**October**  
**1938**

An order was signed to establish the Special Purpose School (ShON) for centralized training of intelligence personnel. Its first head was Vladimir Kharitonovich Sharmazanashvili. V.S. Grazhul, P.M. Zhuravlev, V.M. Zarubin, G.G. Miller, Y.P. Mitskevich, V.I. Pudín, P.A. Sudoplatov and other legendary intelligence officers gave practical classes to the students of the first crop. Before the war, the School turned out more than 120 professionals who formed the backbone of foreign intelligence in the 1940s and 1950s. Since 1994, this educational institution has been called the Foreign Intelligence Academy named after Y.V. Andropov.



**9**  
**October**  
**1898**

Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Gridnev, a Soviet intelligence officer, major general, was born in the village of Gridkovo in the Moscow region. During the Great Patriotic War, he headed the NKVD OMSBON. In 1943–1949 he worked as an adviser to the Minister of State Security of the Mongolian People's Republic. A participant in the war with Japan. From 1950 to 1960 – Head of the Higher Intelligence School of the KGB of the USSR (successor to the ShON). He was awarded the Order of Lenin and the Order of the October Revolution, the Order of the Red Banner three times, and many other orders and medals.

**10**  
**October**  
**1888**

Yakov Khristoforovich Davtyan (Davydov), the first head of the Foreign Intelligence Service, was born in the village of Verin Agulis, Nakhichevan province. In 1920, at the request of F.E. Dzerzhinsky, he was transferred from the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs (NKID) to the VChK. Y.Kh. Davtyan developed a regulation on the establishment of the Foreign Department of the VChK, resolved issues regarding its structure and staffing, and in April 1921 became the head of the Foreign Department. In August of the same year he returned to the NKID, and in 1922 he was appointed RSFSR ambassador to Lithuania, then counsellor at the RSFSR embassy in China. He was also the head of the illegal station of the Foreign Department in that country, combining diplomatic and intelligence activities. After that, he worked as the USSR's permanent representative in France, Iran, Greece, and Poland.



**16**  
**October**  
**1913**

Vladimir Borisovich Barkovsky, Soviet atomic intelligence officer, was born in the city of Belgorod. In the security services since 1939. After graduating from the ShON, he was sent to Britain to work undercover in the field of scientific and technical intelligence. Personally recruited a number of valuable agents involved in the development of atomic weapons. He also managed to obtain information on radar, jet aircraft construction, and special areas of chemical engineering. Later he went on missions to the USA and Western European countries. Since the mid-1960s – Professor of the Department of Special Disciplines at the Red Banner Institute of the KGB (now the AVR). In 1996 he was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation.

**23**  
**November**  
**1893**

Fyodor Karpovich Parparov, a prominent Soviet deep cover intelligence officer, was born in the town of Velizh, Pskov province. In the 1930s, he headed the illegal station he set up in Germany recruiting a number of valuable sources who had access to documents of the German Foreign Ministry and the NSDAP leadership. In 1938, due to betrayal, was recalled to the homeland and spent more than a year under investigation. In June 1939, he was fully acquitted and reinstated in the service; in 1940, he went abroad again to work undercover. During the war he worked in a Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade of Special Purpose (OMSBON) under the command of P.A. Sudoplatov. After the retirement, he headed the military department of Moscow State University for more than ten years.



**28**  
**November**  
**1943**

In Tehran a four-day conference of the heads of state members of the anti-Hitler coalition was opened with the participation of J.V. Stalin, W. Churchill and F.D. Roosevelt. During the preparation and conduct of the conference, foreign intelligence not only provided the Soviet leadership with accurate information on the positions of its American and British partners, but also thwarted Nazi Germany's plans to organize an assassination attempt on the leaders of the "Big Three".



**28**  
**November**  
**1918**

Anna Fyodorovna Filonenko (Kamayeva), a deep cover Soviet agent, was born in the village of Tatishchevo in the Moscow region. In September 1938, she was recruited by the Komsomol (Communist Youth League) to work for the security service. During the war years, she was an active participant in the partisan movement. In 1947, she was enrolled in special training and mastered Spanish, Portuguese and Czech. From 1948 to 1960, she and her husband M.I. Filonenko, regularly went abroad undercover and worked in the USA, Asia and Latin America. She was awarded the Order of the Red Star, two medals "For Battle Merit", and many other awards.

**30**  
**November**  
**1898**

Georg (Georgy Georgievich) Miller, the founder of the activities for production of cover documents for deep cover intelligence officers, was born in Vienna (Austria). In the 1920s, in the line of the Comintern, he was involved in underground work in Europe, supervising the production of false documents for Soviet foreign intelligence officers. In 1930, due to the threat of failure, he was recalled to the USSR and enrolled in the central apparatus of the Foreign Department. In 1936, on instructions from the Center, he travelled to war-torn Spain to carry out special operations. Awarded two Orders of the Red Star and the Order of the Badge of Honor.



**6**  
**December**  
**1968**

The film "Dead Season" was released in the USSR – the first Soviet film dedicated to the activities of the domestic secret service during the Cold War. The film, directed by Savva Kulish, is based on real events and documents provided by the First Main Directorate (PGU) KGB of the USSR. The prototype of the protagonist was the deep cover intelligence officer K.T. Molody, who, under the name of Panfilov, acted as one of the film's consultants. At the beginning of the film, another outstanding Soviet deep cover intelligence officer, V.G. Fisher (R.I. Abel), briefly addressed the audience.

**29**  
**December**  
**1898**

Pavel Matveevich Zhuravlev, one of the first Soviet deep cover intelligence officers, was born in the village of Krasnaya Sosna, Simbirsk province. During his long career as an intelligence agent, he headed illegal stations in Kovno (Kaunas), Prague, Istanbul, Rome, Tehran and Cairo. Since 1952 – deputy chief of Foreign Intelligence Service. In 1954, retired for health reasons. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War of the 1st degree, the Order of the Badge of Honor, and many medals.



# World financial system: from globalization to fragmentation

Text: Mikhail Yuryevich Golovnin,  
Doctor of Economics, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences,  
Director of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**The world financial system has been developing for a long time within the framework of the globalization model proposed by the West, which implies a movement towards a single and free market based on the principles formulated in Western financial capitals, and also beneficial primarily to the latter. The crisis of 2007–2009 showed the shortcomings of this model, which could destabilize global finance and the economy. Now, against the backdrop of raging sanctions wars and increasing global instability, the process of fragmentation of the world economy has begun to develop.**



The reformation of the entire global financial system, initiated by the member countries of the Group of Twenty (G20), led by the United States, was launched as a response to the economic crisis of 2007–2008. As a result, controls in the banking sector (the so-called “Basel III” and other measures were introduced) and in the over-the-counter derivatives market were considerably tightened. However, most other pressing problems have not been solved.

First of all, this concerns issues of global governance. Western countries continue to hold leading

positions in key international financial institutions: the IMF and the World Bank. The redistribution of votes and the reform of the quota systems in these organizations have been carried out extremely slowly and has so far led to only minor changes<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, if measured by purchasing power parity of currencies, the share of states not belonging to the global West in the world economy is rapidly increasing: in 2007 it was approximately 50%, and by the end of 2022 it approached 60%.

It is obvious that the positions of this group of countries are not adequately taken into account

when making decisions in the field of international finance.

So, the reform of global finance launched within the G20 frame remained incomplete. While regulation of the banking system has increased, the securities market has not seen such a tightening of rules. As a result, “bubbles” began to appear more and more often, American stock market is a current striking example.

Nevertheless, there is a point of view that the crisis of 2007–2008 triggered the process of de-

globalization of the world economy. A significant argument for it was the evident decline in total international capital flows<sup>2</sup> in the world's leading financial centers in the post-crisis period (*see chart*).

And yet, until recently, it was too early to speak of deglobalization. The technological foundation of

globalism laid in previous years continued to develop, no significant restrictions were imposed on the cross-border capital flow, and some decrease in certain parameters of the world finance could be explained by their return to normal values, in contrast to the abnormally high values immediately before the crisis.

The processes of fragmentation in the financial sector received a powerful impetus in 2018, when the previous US administration led by Donald Trump, began to pursue an open policy of protectionism against the backdrop of acute trade contradictions with China.

However, the full understanding of the perniciousness of excessive dependence on the financial system built by the West came only in 2022, when, the West imposed unprecedented sanctions on Russia with the beginning of the Special Military Operation. Although the share of the Russian

<sup>1</sup> For example, during the 14th round of quota revisions at the IMF, which lasted from 2010 to 2016, only 6% of quotas were transferred to the so-called developing countries and countries with emerging markets, after which their total share was 42.4%, at the same time, the United States retained the right of veto.

<sup>2</sup> Total international capital flows are calculated as the sum of direct, portfolio and other investments flowing into and out of countries.

**Fragmentation directly poses a problem for the development of the global financial system, while simultaneously intensifying other problems accumulated in it.**

economy in world finance is not that large, the authorities of many non-Western states have fully realized the existing risks. Among the most serious:

- freezing and seizure of foreign currency assets in Western bank accounts;
- the possibility of cutting off international capital flows, primarily in the world's leading currencies (US dollar and euro);
- blocking access to the virtually monopolistic financial infrastructure of the West – the SWIFT banking system and settlement and clearing centers in the securities market.

As a result, the processes of fragmentation in the global financial system have accelerated dramatically. A steady decline in demand for international reserve assets has begun: in 2022, their global volume decreased by 7%. At the same time, the rate of inflation in the global economy, on the contrary, increased, amounting to 8.7% at the end of 2022 – the highest figure since 1997. Clearly the globalization no longer has the same restraining effect on inflation as it did over the past 20 years.

Another powerful factor contributing to the development

of fragmentation processes was the emergence of a new center of international finance represented by the PRC. At the beginning of 2023, Chinese credit institutions held the top four positions in the top ten world banks in terms of assets. The development of the stock market in the country has also achieved significant progress. The share of the two leading Chinese stock exchanges (Shanghai and Shenzhen) in the total trading turnover of exchanges – members of the International Federation of Exchanges from 2010 to 2022 has more than doubled: from 10.4 to 22.4%. In addition, China has made significant progress in internationalizing its currency. If in the early 2000s the share of the yuan in the world foreign exchange market was around zero, now the yuan accounts for 7%, which makes it the fifth most important world currency.

Thus, China is increasingly asserting its claims to the role of an alternative center of world finance. At the same time, the Chinese model of participation in global financial flows assumes an active role of the state (state loans and direct investments of companies with state participation), rather than relying solely on market instruments.

It should be said that fragmentation is one of the key, but not the only problem in the development of the modern global financial system. Other systemic difficulties include the following.

**Debt problem.** Over the past 50 years, there has been a steady increase in the debt burden in the global economy. From the early 1970s to 2022, the ratio of total public and private debt to global GDP has more than doubled. In 2020, during the pandemic, this

figure reached its maximum value of 258%. And although it has now dropped to 238%, this is still significantly above the acceptable level.

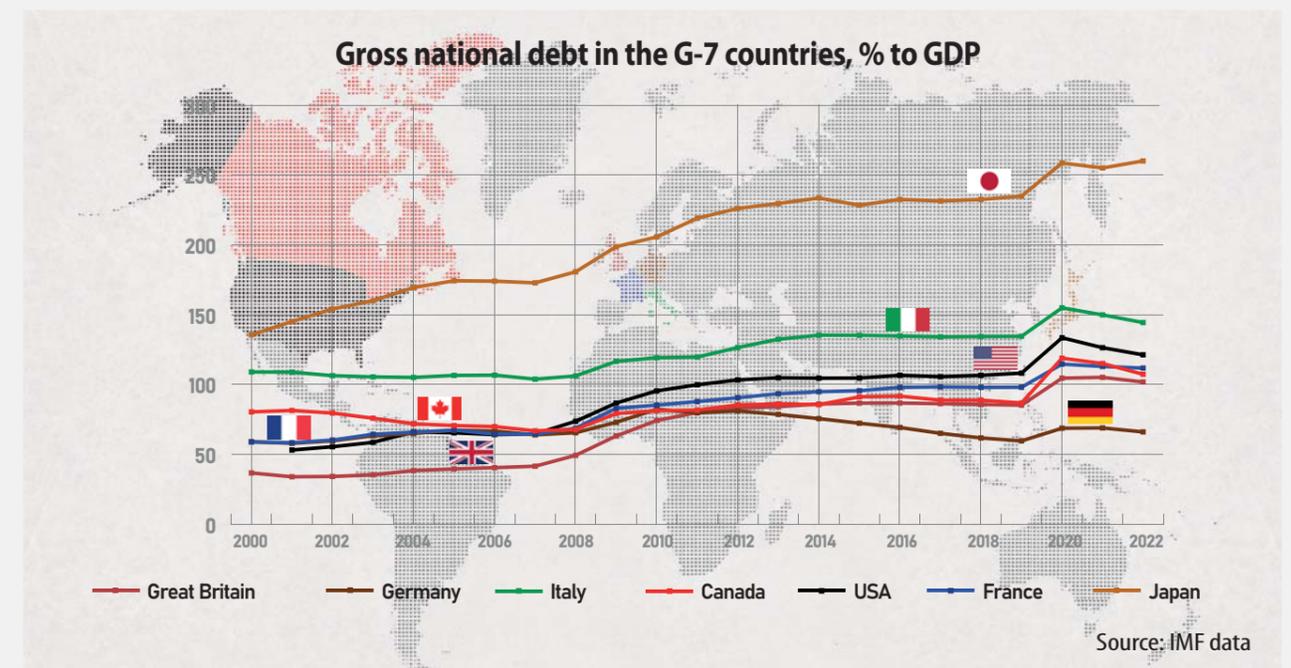
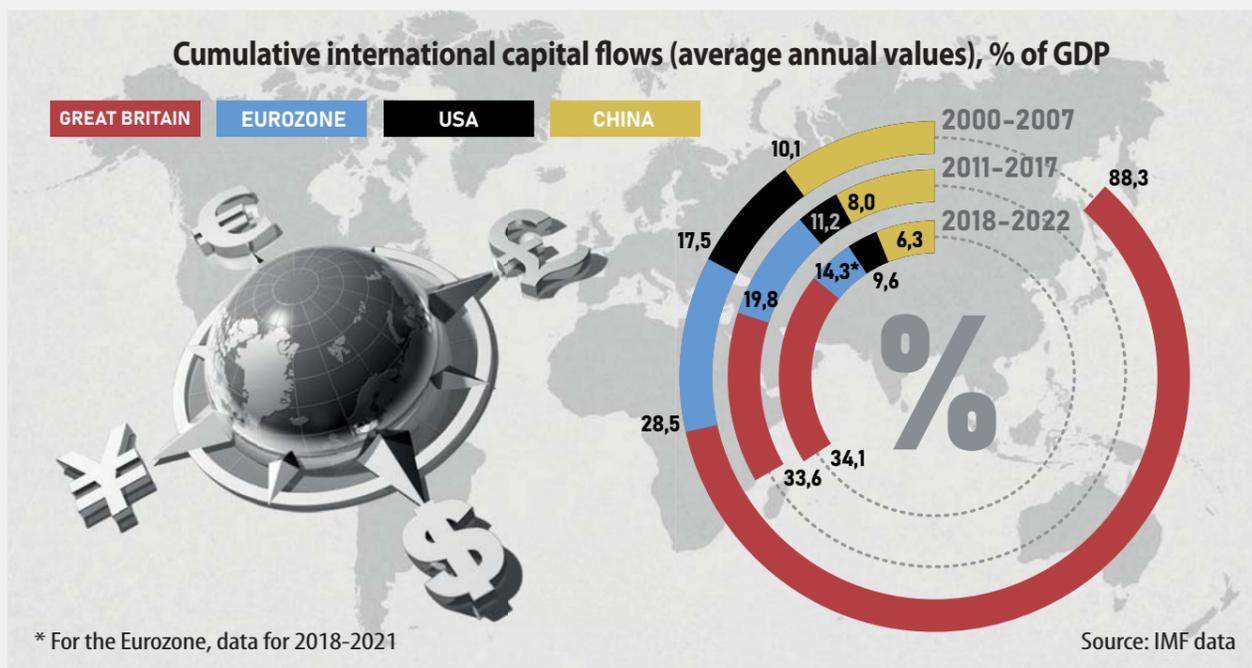
It is significant that the main increase is associated with an increase in public debt, and primarily by Western countries. Thus, from 2000 to 2022, all G7 members, except Germany, sharply increased their public debt ratios relative to GDP. At the same time, the surge in borrowing, as a rule, occurred in response to crisis phenomena in national economies (see chart).

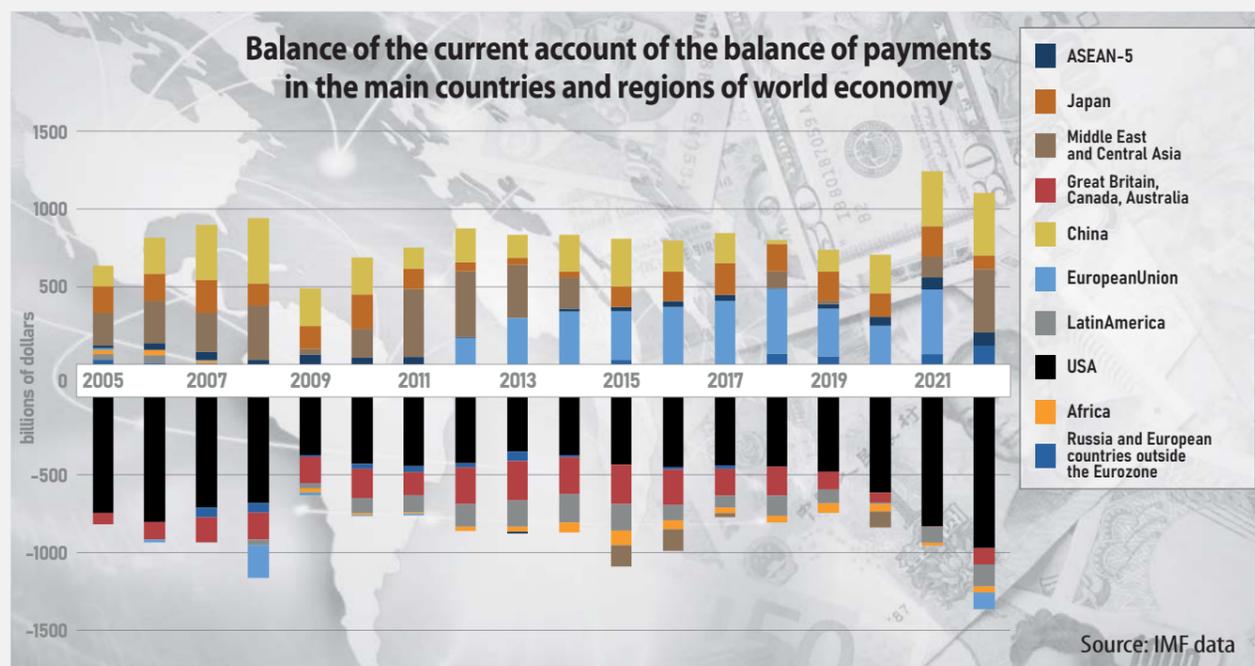
As a direct consequence of the increased public debt, the costs of servicing it has risen. The acceleration of inflation in 2021–2022, largely caused by pumping unsecured liquidity into the global economy with – in other words, the uncontrolled currency issue – has already led to a sharp increase in

interest rates by Western central banks. Following this, the yield on debt instruments also increased. Thus, if at the beginning of 2021 10-year US government bonds were trading at 1%, now their yield has reached 5%, which forces the US Ministry of Finance to spend over 12% of budget funds on servicing the public debt. In Italy, the 10-year yield jumped from 0.6% to 5% over the same period.

The debt problem is already affecting individual states. 2022 was marked by bond defaults in Sri Lanka and Ghana, with approximately 20 more countries on the brink. However, the main threat to the stability of the world economy comes from debts accumulated by the largest developed countries, primarily the United States.

Another serious problem that is not yet as much discussed as the accumulated debts is *the global*





*trade imbalance* associated with growing current account surpluses and deficits around the world. This problem was actively discussed shortly before the crisis of 2007–2009, but then it scaled down and faded into the background. In the past two years, we have again seen a surge in the current account deficit in the United States, the main country on the “negative” side of imbalances, with strong increases in surpluses in the oil-exporting countries of the Middle East and China. Such an increase in imbalances may serve as a signal of another accumulation of negative trends not only in foreign trade, but also in the financial sphere.

Finally, it is necessary to say about the rapidly developing processes of *digitalization*, which have spread to the monetary and financial system, also posing, under certain conditions, serious risks. Thus, competition from private digital

currencies (cryptocurrencies and stablecoins) forced the central banks of the leading countries of the world to accelerate the processes of launching their own analogues. Meanwhile, private digital currencies largely emerged in response to the decline in confidence in the existing financial system, especially since the scope of their circulation immediately allowed for the possibility of being used in settlements between counterparties from different countries.

Currently, however, cryptocurrencies are widely used in the shadow economy. In addition, they pose threats to the development of national monetary systems. As of November 2023, the total capitalization of the private digital currency market was about \$1 trillion, and at its peak (autumn 2021) was close to \$3 trillion. With the increasing fragmentation of the global financial system, private digital currencies

can become a link between various separate parts. Actually, this is already happening when Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies began to be actively used to circumvent sanctions restrictions.

Another potential problem with the rapid digitalization of finance is the increasing competition between traditional banking institutions and high-tech companies, the so-called fintech and big tech. The latter have objective advantages such as higher operational efficiency and significantly lower costs, so it is important to bring new players in the financial sector under regulatory control as soon as possible (similar to financial intermediaries) in order to avoid risks to macroeconomic stability.

In general, the emerging acceleration of the processes of fragmentation of the world economy makes it difficult to conduct professional dialogue aimed at solving common problems.

At the same time, in conditions where the interests of a wide range of non-Western states are not fundamentally taken into account, fragmentation becomes inevitable. The first and most important step to prevent a new global crisis should be a radical reform of the global financial management system so that the countries of the so-called “global South” have the opportunity to influence the decisions made. The desire of this group of countries to strengthen their position in the international arena is well illustrated by the recent decision of six new members to join the BRICS ranks. Obviously, the expansion process is unlikely to end there.

It is also quite expectable that within the BRICS framework, new, alternative to Western mechanisms for solving global economic problems will be developed. A number of them, in fact, have already been created: this is the New Development Bank and the pool of conditional foreign exchange reserves. The most important next step should be the formation of an alternative system of international banking payments, independent of the current monopoly system controlled by the United States and its allies. The optimal solution seems to be one based on the use of digital currencies of central banks, but so far none of the BRICS countries have launched them to the extent that they can be used in international payments.

In order to solve problems associated with the export of inflation and other negative manifestations from Western countries to non-Western countries, which were observed, for example, in connection with the increase in interest rates in 2022 by the European Central Bank and the US Federal Reserve, it is important to build a mechanism for regulating

international capital flows on a global level. From time to time this issue appears on the agenda of G20 meetings, but the West is not interested in its successful advancement, and in the context of the fragmentation of the world economy, the search for mutually acceptable solutions will become even more difficult.

As for the debt problem, the existing mechanisms for solving it are still concentrated mainly around the poorest countries, whose economies really suffer greatly from it. At the same time, in the future, a much greater threat to the stability of the global economic and financial system will be posed by debt problems in Western countries, primarily in the United States, where there is an uncontrolled increase in public debt. In these conditions, new mechanisms are urgently required that will allow, on the one hand, to contain the rapid growth of global debt in relation to world GDP, and, on the other hand, to quickly stop the debt crisis if and when it happens.

It is also necessary to resume the process of reforming the global financial system as soon as possible and extend regulatory standards to segments that have not yet been adequately covered by them, primarily to the securities market, in order to avoid the emergence of

new “bubbles”. In addition, in recent years, such a new branch of the economy as digital finance has been rapidly developing, the regulation of which actually needs to be built from scratch.

To summarize, I would like to note that overcoming the fragmentation of the global financial system would free up resources to combat other global challenges, including social inequality, climate change, population aging, etc. At the same time, fragmentation, if it cannot be avoided, will have at least one obvious advantage: its consequence will be the formation of an alternative model of the organization of the global financial system, which will meet the interests of a much larger number of countries in the world and will be much more protected from internal shocks. [↗](#)

**Within the BRICS framework, it is likely that they will develop their own mechanisms for solving global problems. A number of them have already been created: the New Development Bank and the pool of conditional foreign exchange reserves.**



## G.A. Rapota: Politics begins with knowledge of realities

**Grigory Alexeyevich, first of all, let me ask you a question concerning your previous job. You were the State Secretary of the Union State (US) of Russia and Belarus for almost 10 years. All the most important events of recent years unfolded before your eyes, including the attempt to organize a “color revolution” in the Republic of Belarus (RB) and the subsequent degradation of our relations with the West. In your opinion, did this affect in any way the course of integration processes within the US and the nature of our relations with Belarusian partners?**

Yes and no. When there was an internal conflict in Belarus, and Moscow’s sympathy and support were on the side of the republic’s leadership, this was highly appreciated in Minsk, and this, naturally, served to improve interstate relations and, in general, created a more favorable environment for the work of the executive bodies. On the other side, a well-coordinated systematic work was carried out before these events. It was then that the “road map” for the development of the Union State, consisting of 28 programs, was adopted.

I should note that Belarus has always been and remains our most important trade partner: in terms of trade turnover, it is practically always one of the top five, as well as the United States, China and Western Europe. Moreover, the main category of imports is high-tech products.

Scientific and technical cooperation is a key aspect of bilateral relations. Belarusian heavy mining machines BelAZ, Belarus tractors, road machinery, electric transport, chemical and petrochemical products, and electronic

components are well known in Russia. Suffice it to say that Belarusians are serious partners in the creation of Russian satellites for remote sensing of the Earth. To say nothing about our historical and cultural affinity.

**In your opinion, has the attitude of ordinary citizens of Russia and Belarus to the Union State project changed since the start of the SMO? Is there more understanding of its importance and necessity?**

The President of Belarus is unambiguously in favor of the SMO. Naturally, this is also reflected in the public sentiment. I do not have any statistical data on the Belarusian public opinion. I assume that a significant part of the population supports the country’s leadership, its desire to preserve close allied relations with Russia, economic and political stability of Belarus.

As for the Union State, the paradox is that the society in both Russia and Belarus takes for granted the benefits that are the product of the Union State’s activities. And this is natural. As they say, you get used to good things quickly. The achievements include, first of all, those in the social sphere: unimpeded, visa-free border crossing; freedom to choose a place of residence; equal rights in employment (without changing one’s passport); mutual recognition of higher education diplomas, driving licenses, car insurance, and many others. In a word, enough has been done so that neither Russians in Belarus nor Belarusians in Russia feel like foreigners.

One of the most recent and important achievements in the work of the Union State,

### Grigory Alexeyevich Rapota

was born on February 4, 1944 in Moscow. In 1966, after graduating from the Bauman Moscow State Technical University (specialty “design engineer”), he was accepted into foreign intelligence. Worked in the USA and other countries with complex operational environment. From 1994 to 1998, he served as Deputy Director of the Service, and was responsible for partnerships with foreign intelligence services. From 2001 to 2007 – Secretary General of the EurAsEC, from 2007 to 2011 – Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoy to the Southern Federal Districts and then Volga Federal Districts, from 2011 to 2021 – State Secretary of the Union State. Since March 2021 – Member of the Federation Council from the Kursk Region

I believe, is the signing of an agreement on mutual recognition of visas for third-country nationals. At first we had an idea to create an analog of the Schengen visa. While working on this issue, we came to a solution that allowed foreigners with at least one Russian or Belarusian visa to travel freely throughout the entire territory of the Union State. The issue of eliminating roaming for mobile communications within the Union State is also being worked on.

The construction of the nuclear power plant, which was launched not so long ago, is undoubtedly among the landmark joint projects that are noticeable to the Russian-Belarusian public. This is a breakthrough moment for the Belarusian economy, transforming it from an energy-deficient to an energy-surplus country, which opens up huge additional opportunities for economic development.

**In your recent interview to Belarusian TV, you said that the Union State in many respects acts as a flagship project where new mechanisms of interaction are being tested. Some of them are then extended to the CIS and the EAEU. In your opinion, can**

**something already be scaled up to wider formats of cooperation?**

Yes, of course. For example, I consider mutual recognition of visas to be an excellent initiative that could well be implemented within the EAEU. Our joint programs in the field of scientific and technical cooperation have also shown good results. We are talking about the implementation of Union State programs that provide for scientific research and development work to create new and often unique products in the field of computer technology, development of new materials in the field of medicine, biotechnology, genetic engineering, and agriculture. As far as I know, this experience is being closely monitored in the EAEU, and the first decisions in this regard are already being taken there.

**What about the information sphere? Are there any successful projects to counter Western propaganda that could be extended to the CIS and the EAEU?**

We have allied media, a magazine, the TRO (*Television and Radio Broadcasting Organization of the Union State, since 2018 – TV channel «Bel Ros».* – *Editor's note*), they do it. But I believe that the best propaganda is demonstration of success, in that case no "fakes" are dangerous. The more harmonious the relations between the authorities and society and the stronger we are economically, the more resistant we are to any hostile influence from the outside.

The Scandinavians have a good saying, "There is no such thing as bad weather, there is bad clothing." So, hostile propaganda is the weather, and very often unfavorable weather. This is nothing new, it has always been so. We just need to "open the umbrella" in time and dress accordingly, so as not to catch cold. In short, in the sphere of ideological confrontation, we ourselves must offer such a product in economics and ideology that makes us competitive. But this is the subject of a separate conversation.

**Two years ago you headed the Public Council of the Victory Museum and in general, as the son of a front-line soldier,**

At the Belarusian NPP,  
November 2020



In the office,  
March 2021

**you pay great attention to the issues of the patriotic education. Tell us how the youth projects in this sphere are progressing?**

I am deeply convinced that the patriotic education is, first of all, the knowledge of the history of our country and its present, the knowledge of what we can be proud of and where we should focus our efforts for a better life. And the main thing is the conviction that we can do it all. When a young person has a blank slate in his head, you can draw anything on it, any "fake", and he will believe it. Illiterate, ill-informed people are easily manipulated. If a young person has good basic knowledge and sees opportunities to apply his efforts in the creative sphere, then no disinformation will work. It seems to me that this is the most correct, although the most labor-intensive, way of fighting for the minds of young people.

Many youth projects have been implemented in the framework of the Union State in the sphere of literature (a contest of young writers, masters of short stories) and painting (children's plain airs at Repin's dacha near Vitebsk, restored with the support of the US). It is also worth mentioning the annual Memory

Train from Volgograd to Brest, the annual forum of scientific and technical universities involving a wide range of students and mutual trips of young journalists from Russia and Belarus. And the contribution of youth search parties at the Rzhev battle site is absolutely priceless! Without their participation it would have been impossible to erect the Rzhev memorial to the Soviet soldier.

**Given the specifics of our magazine, I can't help but ask a question about your first profession – Intelligence officer, to which you gave more than 30 years of your life. If it is already possible to talk about it, would you please tell us what was the most difficult for you in your work and what, on the contrary, do you remember with the greatest warmth?**

« I believe that the best propaganda is demonstration of success, in that case no «fakes» are dangerous.



G. Rapota (first left)  
with British partners.  
London. 1992

When I first came to Lubyanka I, as the youngest employee, was given simple assignments at first. Most often I was asked to check some information looking it up in archival cases. So when I was looking through the archives, I came across something that shocked me: it was the lists of our stations of 1937–1939, and it was written opposite almost every surname: “executed”, “executed”, “CLC” (“corrective labor camp”) ... I imagined myself in the place of these officers, who had given their best to the Motherland, and they had been treated in such a way... Fortunately, I started in a different time, and the relationships in the society and, consequently, in our Service changed a lot. Of course, during my missions there were all sorts of things – tough opposition from local special services, and even expulsion from a country, but I always felt the support and

the trust of the leadership and my comrades behind me. So I worked in conditions that were completely different from those I had read about in the archives.

In general, I must say that every stage of my service was interesting in its own way. Years later, when I had already become an official representative of the SVR, I met with many heads of Western intelligence services. In general, these contacts were fruitful at that time, although not always easy, of course. Sometimes, as a result of such meetings, it was possible to relieve unnecessary tension between our agencies in one or another region of the world. In general, it was possible to work quite constructively with the previous generation of leaders of some Western intelligence agencies. I cannot say anything about the current leaders.

The interaction with the Americans is a different story. Their boorish attitude toward Russia in the 1990s was evident in everything, including their contacts with foreign policy agencies and intelligence services. In fact, that was not so much a consequence of the collapse of the Soviet Union as a reflection of the very nature of U.S. foreign policy and the mentality of the Americans, who are used to dictate and do not take into account not only the interests of their partners but also the existing political reality. This point is well summarized in the book by the former head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, W. Fulbright, “The Arrogance of Power”, in which he made a clear point that Americans historically suffered from a superiority complex that often led them to the wrong place (at the time, he relied on the experience of the Vietnam War and the US policy in Southeast Asia in general). This complex has not yet been eradicated.

It is also true that the policy of the Russian leadership in the early 1990s, mildly speaking, did not correspond to the behavior of a self-respecting state. I remember that in June 1992, I was present at an absolutely disgraceful, in my personal opinion, speech of Boris Yeltsin to the U.S. Congress, during which he ingratiated himself to the American and he actually humiliated himself

« During my missions there were all sorts of things - tough opposition from local special services, and even expulsion from a country, but I always felt the support and the trust of the leadership and my comrades behind me.

in front of them... So, some members of our delegation talked with enthusiasm about the improvement of relations between our countries and that we could expect, in the nearest future, the abolition of the so-called Jackson–Vanik amendment (a discriminatory trade law adopted in 1974).

The history of the amendment – and I was working in Washington at the time and was deeply involved in this issue – as well as the nature of American politics in general, suggest that the U.S. will do nothing good for a partner just because the latter has demonstrated its ingratiating attitude. That's what actually happened: the amendment was removed only 20 years later, and only because it had lost its significance for Americans. They have always been like that.

Politics starts with the knowledge of realities. If there is no understanding of where we are, it is difficult to make the right decisions. In the dialogue with the United States, we needed to find the right tone, but we definitely did not need to communicate from the position of a losing side. Moreover, we did not lose at all in the context of the intelligence services;

we were practically on a par with them, and sometimes we even bypassed them.

**I would like to conclude our conversation by asking you to say a few words to the young readers of our magazine.**

Intelligence is the work of the young, when they have fervor, health, and a desire for accomplishments. I do not regret at all that I chose this profession. I believe that anyone who decides to go into intelligence will be lucky, it will be a happy choice! Of course, not everyone will be taken, not everyone has the aptitude and the right qualities for it. Speaking of young people who are already serving in the intelligence service, I would like to wish them to keep the spirit of camaraderie and faith in success that our Service has always been known for. 🚀

Interviewed by  
Vladislav Ilyin



At a concert  
on the occasion  
of the Day of Unity  
of the Peoples  
of Belarus and Russia.  
April 2, 2023



# Special Purpose Academy

**Among the many educational institutions in our country, perhaps no other one arouses such a keen interest as this one. People talk about it, films are made about it, and it is regularly discussed in the media and social networks. Yet, it is still surrounded by a veil of secrecy, there are many omissions and much speculation.**

It is difficult for an unsophisticated reader to discern where the real facts are, and where the naked fiction is. Competent people: graduates, teachers, those who are directly associated with it – for obvious reasons prefer not to advertise their awareness or affiliation with this educational institution. This is because we are talking about

the Order of Zhukov Red Banner Academy of Foreign Intelligence named after Y.V. Andropov.

We believe that the time has come, as they say, from the first hand to acquaint the readers of our magazine with the “cradle” of domestic intelligence. The starting point from which the difficult,

thorny, sometimes dramatic, but so necessary for the Motherland operational path of an SVR officer begins. The alma mater, where a young, promising graduate of a national university becomes a professional intelligence officer with unique knowledge and skills, capable of fulfilling any task, even the most difficult.

First, a bit of history. By 1938, when the threats to the security of our state began to take more and more concrete shape and the extraction of reliable military and political information about the aspirations of potential adversaries became vital, the country's leadership realized the need to regularly replenish foreign intelligence with specially trained personnel. There was a need for young people who were not only fluent in foreign languages and secular manners, versed in international politics, economics and history, but who also possessed specific knowledge and skills: knowledge of radio, secret writing, covert surveillance techniques, ability to think analytically and to win over people. There was a need for highly educated, qualified

The main task of the AVR has remained unchanged for many years – to train highly professional and deeply motivated to perform their official duty employees of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR).

personnel, ready for the difficult conditions of intelligence work. On October 3, 1938, the USSR People's Commissar of Internal Affairs Nikolai Yezhov issued an Order No. 00648 on the establishment of the Special Purpose School (ShON) under the 5th Department (Foreign Intelligence) of the Main Directorate of State Security of the NKVD USSR. Thus, in October this year the Academy celebrated its 85th anniversary.

The ShON was given its first “residence” in the area of the present-day Balashikha situated near Moscow on the personal instructions of J.V. Stalin, who rightly believed that future intelligence officers should be trained away from prying eyes. Over the years of its existence, the Academy has changed its name several times: ShON, RASh, VRSh, KI, AVR. It received its current status in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of October 17, 1994 “On the establishment of the Foreign Intelligence Academy” on the basis of the former Red Banner Institute of the KGB of the USSR named after Y.V. Andropov. In official correspondence and professional oral speech, we usually use the abbreviation AVR.

The main task of the AVR has remained unchanged for many years – to train highly professional

and deeply motivated to perform their official duty employees of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR). At the same time, what's peculiar about the Academy is that it flexibly adapts to the requirements of the present day, which is why it is in constant close contact with its “customers” – the operational units of the Service, to which the graduates are then assigned.

In terms of the form and content of the educational process, the Academy is in many ways similar to a regular university and at first glance the differences are not so significant. The only thing that immediately catches your eye is the different terminology: the rector is the head, the student is the trainee, the scholarship is the money allowance, holidays are vacation. The rest seems to be the same –



Order of N.I. Yezhov on the establishment of ShON

**The Foreign Intelligence Academy is a unique educational institution that has no analogues either in our country or, perhaps, in the whole world.**

lectures, seminars, practical classes, exams. But this is only at first glance.

The Foreign Intelligence Academy is, in fact, a unique educational institution that has no analogues either in our country or, perhaps, in the whole world. The selection of candidates for training at the AVR is as tough, long and thorough as for the service itself. Not every SVR employee has been a student of the Academy, but every student is already an employee!

The age of applicants varies from 22 to 30 years old, and the requirements for candidates include higher education, knowledge of a foreign language and fitness for military service. Almost any graduate of a Russian university can become a student of the Academy, and not necessarily a prestigious one and not even necessarily an excellent one. The number of trainees at the AVR is classified information, but new trainees are regularly recruited according to the current needs of intelligence service. The study lasts from one to three years, depending on the training program and the individual abilities of the trainee.

During the training period, all students are given pseudonyms, so-called "school surnames", and are taught to communicate in such a way that they learn more about others and talk less about themselves. The training program for future intelligence officers is extensive and varied. In addition to special disciplines, they study international law, political science,

regional geography, and the history of diplomatic relations. The AVR has all facilities for sports: there are tennis courts, a swimming pool, a shooting range, a wrestling room and even driving courses.

One of the main subjects taught at the Academy is, of course, foreign languages – the main weapon of an intelligence officer, his main tool, his way of achieving the goal. "As many languages you know, as many times you are a human being" – this aphorism can rightfully serve as the motto of the language department. The languages are studied here responsibly and scrupulously, and many factors are taken into account when a language is assigned to a student, starting from the needs of the Service units for specialists who speak a particular language, ending with the individual psychological characteristics of the student. How many languages are studied at the



AVR? Many. Suffice it to say that a graduate of the Academy will find a common language with the local population, and ideally, also with visiting representatives of third countries anywhere in the world.

Much attention is paid to another important subject that makes up the art of intelligence activities – psychology. Of course, the emphasis is on the study of the behavioral peculiarities of various types of people that future intelligence officers will have to deal with in their practical work. The AVR keeps a close eye on the latest achievements in this science, including their use in the activities of foreign intelligence services.

A special place in the life of the Academy is occupied by military-patriotic education and cultural work aimed at broadening the outlook, raising the level of political training and general culture of the students. To this end, visits to theaters, museums and exhibitions are organized. A great contribution to this work is also made by the Academy's veterans, who organize meetings with interesting people, thematic evenings and round tables for young people, instilling respect for the traditions and memory of previous generations of intelligence officers. Five years ago, in the year of the 80th anniversary of the AVR, a memorial stone dedicated to the veterans of the Service was inaugurated on its territory. Listeners regularly lay flowers at its foot.

But, perhaps, the main difference between the Foreign Intelligence Academy and other educational institutions is the atmosphere that reigns in it. It is an atmosphere of camaraderie, mutual support and understanding of common goals

Memorial Stone on the territory of the AVR



Film "SVR. Special Purpose Academy"

Unveiling ceremony of the Memorial Stone. September 2018

and objectives facing both teachers and AVR trainees. Communication between a grey-haired professor and a young student who has barely crossed the threshold of the Academy is much more like communication between two colleagues. The usual lectures and seminars are often held in the form of conversations, and practical classes turn into heated debates, where everyone has the right to vote. Students eagerly absorb both the operational and life experience of their mentors, each of whom is a unique figure, who has more than one foreign mission under his belt and is able to tell so many fascinating and interesting things

that would be enough for more than one adventure novel.

It is in such informal communication, which reinforces the textbooks on special disciplines, in the course of difficult practical exercises, when one has to overcome not only suddenly arising obstacles, but also

himself, crystallizes the character of the future intelligence officer, and becomes stronger the conviction of the correctness of once and for all taken decision to devote himself entirely to the difficult, but so necessary and noble cause of serving the Fatherland, the cause of guaranteeing security of Russia. ▮

**Students eagerly absorb both the operational and life experience of their mentors, each of whom is a unique figure, who has more than one foreign mission under his belt**

# Trainee's diary

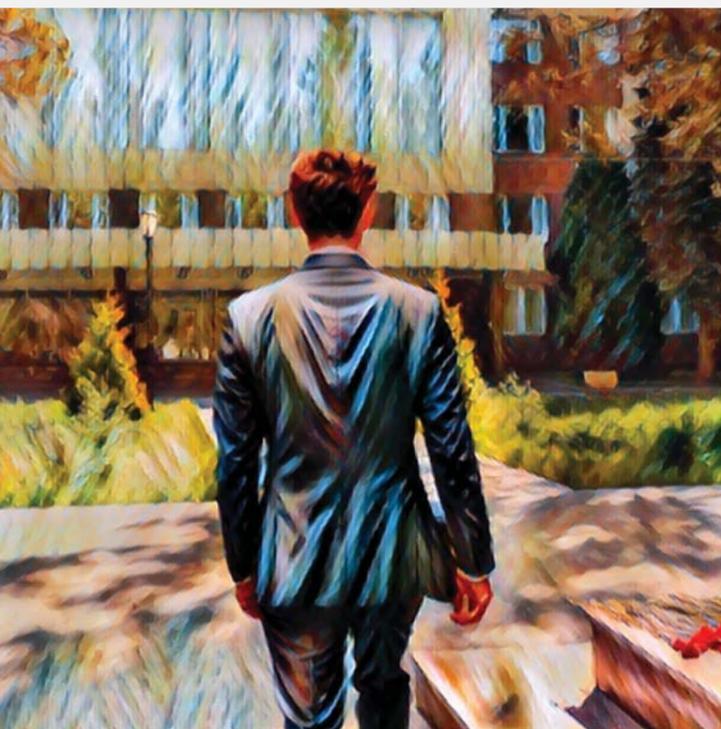
Text: Dmitry Lermontov, AVR graduate of 2023

**Day 1.** I got lost. Of course, I was led up to the right building, told the number of the lecture room and where to go next, but the layout of the Academy is difficult to understand when you are for the first time in it. Later, I saw a similar scene hundreds of times with others.

And so, standing in the corridor and not understanding where to go, I met my

university friend, who later turned out to be my classmate. How happy I was! Two physicists – mathematicians who had graduated from one of the leading universities in the country would surely be able to cope with the simple task of finding the lecture room.

As a result, we both got lost, but now there were two opinions about where to go...



**Day 10.** The foreign language teacher greeted us, newcomers, with the traditional phrase: "Well... the previous group was certainly stronger..."

**Day 100.** First test. The experience of taking exams is simply enormous, but the fear is like the first time. The questions were not difficult, but I had to stay up all night. What surprised me the most was that the day after the test you need to go to the next class and study further. And in the morning in addition there were physical exercises...

**Day 216.** First real task. According to the plan: confidently approach a person, confidently get acquainted with him and even more confidently chat with him. On this day I learnt that starting a conversation with the phrase: "Excuse me, I

have this... well... on the whole I am... what's your name?" – is not the best option.

**Day 327.** I'm sitting in the woods, surrounded by a swamp. It's wet and I'm hungry. The last thing I want to think about right now is that when I get out, I'll still have to run a kilometer, or even more in my boots. If you are very tired, the water in the swamp is very refreshing!

**Day 353.** During the Japanese language exam, I understood for the first time the meaning of the phrase that a Japanese from the north does not understand a Japanese from the south. Likewise, I absolutely did not understand what one of the teachers was telling me. But we had already been taught how to cope with stress, so in the end I passed with an A.



**Day 702.** My legs are buzzing, my head is woozy, and my mouth is dry from nerves. The next day of the testing period began with me being followed by “escorts”, not losing sight of me all the day. Then the vehicle broke down and I had to walk around the city for several hours to finally get them off my back. And you also have to concentrate and understand what your “interlocutor” is telling you, not just understand, but memorize by heart. Concentrate! Do you hear, CONCENTRATE!!!

**Day 900.** Vladimir Vladimirovich looks me in the eyes and says that now we are real “catchers of human souls”. Now we are the worthiest of the worthiest, having passed through all these trials and difficulties. At last we will fight the real enemy! The President says he expects a lot from us. We definitely won’t let HIM down! I just wish I could tell someone about the fact that I was at the meeting with the President, but I’ll keep it in my memory forever!

**Day 1001.** Graduation. How grateful I am to everyone! First of all, to my classmates. Each of them is now my good friend, with whom, as they say, I will gladly not only go through fire and water, but also will share a foxhole. And to my teachers, too. Especially language teachers. After us, of course, they will have a new group, to which they will probably say just as they usually do: “Well... the previous group was certainly stronger...” Actually, that’s about it! But this is just the beginning of a long road and we must go forward!

**Day 1.** Headquarters in Yasenevo. I got lost again... Now I’m looking for my office. Who on earth designs these buildings?! 🤔

**Day 435.** At the Academy, I had already tried to pass out in the pool from overexertion. I did the physical training test feeling like a crossfit instructor. By the way, I’m already pretty good in ski waxing and I’ve begun to regularly hit the target in the shooting range.

And we have recently added several more sports disciplines. And why on earth did I volunteer that day to help the coach demonstrate “a trick”?! I have never flown so high above the ground before! But now I will definitely never be breathtaking on a rollercoaster...

**Day 499.** Just when you think that mastering Japanese in three years at the Academy is difficult, almost impossible, life gives you a second foreign language...

**Day 511.** The schedule so successfully overlapped with our isolation (there was COVID) that now we play board games with our classmates every night. Have you ever tried to cheat a dozen professional tricksters? The experience was interesting, one might even say unforgettable!

**Day 630.** I would never have thought that humans have such a strong intuition for technical devices! By some sixth sense, passersby feel that they are being filmed or bugged. Or maybe it’s me doing something wrong? Traditionally, at the subsequent analysis of the video recordings, the teachers will definitely explain to us what and where we have done wrong, but for now they receive a huge charge of positive emotions, watching my desperate attempts to realize my plan of action, disastrous from the start.

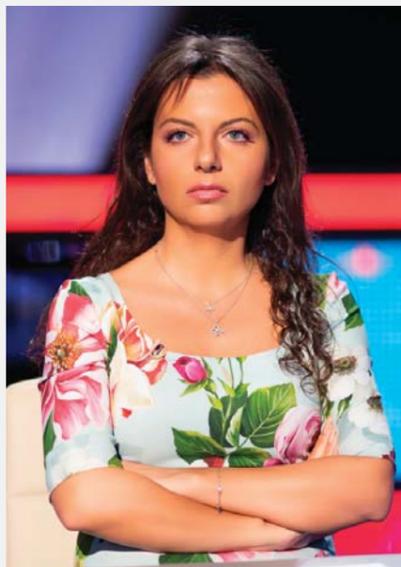


# Traitors have no homeland

Text: Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of the RT television channel and the Rossiya Segodnya media group

I am the only Armenian in the millennia-long history of the Armenian nation who is officially banned from entering Armenia. Not that it matters to me – I've been to Armenia twice in my life: the first time at the age of 24 on a business trip with President Putin, and the second time at the age of 37 – on a tour with my husband and his friends, who were very eager to show me the “historical homeland”. I don't really believe in the concept of “historical motherland”: there is only one motherland – the first and the last, as the writer said, and I have it and have had it since I was born in a Krasnodar maternity hospital. I wasn't planning to go to Armenia for another 15 years. But such a ban says a lot about Pashinyan, the hero of this article, a touchy, dissatisfied teenager, who craves power, the chance to command and speak from podiums, who betrayed and sold his nation, his history, and his blood for the sake of the opportunity to wave a saber in his little garden.

Like everyone else in Russia, the first time I heard about Pashinyan was when the rallies which brought him to power began in Yerevan. We could not know at that time what he was like. I have never followed Armenian politics, I have no relatives or friends there, and especially in the spring of 2018, when we were simultaneously completing the construction of the Crimean Bridge



and preparing for the FIFA World Cup, and we were busy providing information for both projects, we all had no time for Armenia. But our journalists on the ground warned that, although there were no openly anti-Russian slogans at the rallies, we should expect precisely anti-Russian policies from Pashinyan, if only because he had surrounded himself with sheer “Sorosites”, as we journalists call them: the minions of Western foundations, universities and organizations – and no one has any doubt what policies they will pursue.

Actually, this was the question I asked Pashinyan when he came to power as a result of a coup

d'état (as is common among the “Sorosites”) and arrived in Moscow for the first time. I knew that the Armenian people were exhausted by the previous government, its corruption, nepotism, and lawlessness. As one friend of my husband, a Moscow Armenian, said: “If at that moment they had been offered to exchange Serzh for a stool, they would have exchanged him for a stool.” And we also had questions to this very Serzh – former President Sargsyan – regarding his declared “pro-Russianism”. But he, unlike Pashinyan, at least fought in the First Karabakh War, defending the interests of the Armenian people. And of course, I wanted to understand what kind of fruit this new guy was, who replaced Sargsyan because he seemed better than a stool. Looking ahead, I will say: people were wrong. A stool would have been better. The stool would not have given Karabakh to anyone as a gift, especially to Azerbaijan.

But let's get back to the question I asked Pashinyan. When he arrived in Moscow, he invited the so-called famous Moscow Armenians to dinner, among whom were mainly artists, showmen, and Tigran Keosayan and me. Armenians in Russia do not have what some other ethnic groups call a “diaspora”. At least, I, being a pure-blooded Armenian, have never heard of any “diaspora”, I have

no idea what it looks like, where it gathers, and none of my friends have ever heard of it either. So they invited to dinner those, who they apparently had seen on TV. The pleasant acquaintance, which apparently was hoped for, did not work out. I asked a question very politely and calmly, and it sounded something like this: “We have all seen these pictures of how you came to power. The support in your country was enormous. I hope you will not deceive the expectations of your fellow citizens. We in Russia know very little about you. You yourself have already stated that you will maintain good relations with Russia. At the same time, the people you surrounded yourself with have been promoting the opposite all their lives. It is important for me, both as a journalist, and as a citizen of Russia, and as an ethnic Armenian, to understand how things will actually be.”

The tone of his answer shocked me. He very sharply, almost shouting, gave me a whole lecture on how I, an Armenian, could say “in your country”, when Armenia is my country and that's exactly how I should treat it, think and talk about it. Obviously, at that time he had no plans to ban me from entering “my country”. I was a little moved that an unknown bearded ex-journalist, who had come to power instead of a stool, was violating all the laws of hospitality: having invited me to visit, he allows himself to teach me what country I should consider my own and even how I should think. His tone made me feel sorry for people who cannot control their hysterics.

And in summer we went to my dearly loved Adler, where my mother and my grandparents were born, where, as you know, a lot of Armenians live, and they have

been living there since the 19th century, and I did not know and do not know a single Armenian in all of Adler, who would support Pashinyan. And on that vacation, Tigran gave me one article to read. After reading it I sat silent for half an hour, barely able to hold back my tears. Or maybe I couldn't, I don't remember. From this article I realized that Pashinyan is not an Armenian at all, but a vile traitor, because only traitors can spit in the dead faces of their ancestors.

Here's what he wrote: *“Let's stop praising our ancestors and ask ourselves a very pragmatic question: what did these ancestors bequeath to us, what did they leave behind? Nothing, more than nothing. Because “nothing” is when you have to start from zero, and we have to start from I don't know what minus, since our ancestors left us only such a stock of genocides, humiliations, betrayals and immorality, which, as it turns out, is difficult to overcome, extremely difficult. I condemn our ancestors, I curse them, because they did nothing to make us live today more honorably and more proudly. Our ancestors did not care about their descendants even as animals instinctively do. I condemn all those who praise our ancestors.”*

It's good that my golden great-grandmother, who survived the genocide and brought me up in ineradicable reverence for the memory of the victims of a bloody massacre unprecedented at that time in the history of mankind, didn't see this. She didn't know that Armenia was put in charge of a man, who accuses her, my holy great-grandmother, in front of whose eyes her whole family had been slaughtered with yataghans, and only the eldest sister drowned

herself in order not to be taken alive by the Janissaries, “of genocide and immorality”.

The further trajectory of actions of this Judas was very clear. For the sake of a relatively secure pension somewhere in “Lasik”, as it is commonly called among Armenians living in Los Angeles, and a house with a swimming pool, he simply gave Karabakh to Azerbaijan – he sold and surrendered the shrine of his own people. As far as Russia is concerned, he will surrender it with great pleasure.

Karabakh is an Armenian sacred place. It is an enormous pain. It is a land not just watered with blood, it is a land soaked with blood. It is a land with a thousand-year history that just disappeared in one day.

As for relations with Russia, what seemed to be an excessive presence of “Sorosite” advisers in Pashinyan's entourage has now turned into hundreds of pro-Western media outlets and NGOs that are openly funded from abroad and promote exclusively anti-Russian views.

There is no doubt that the Russian military base will soon be asked to withdraw. And it doesn't matter that our military base is the only thing that provides not just security, but the very fact of existence of Armenia, surrounded by states that have been opening their mouths at it from time immemorial. He has surrendered Karabakh, and Karabakh for Armenians is what Crimea is for Russians, and he will just as easily surrender the rest of Armenia. Because traitors have no homeland. 🇦🇲

# Competition of student works organized by the “Razvedchik” magazine

On November 7, 2023, in the building of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, an award ceremony was held for the winners of the annual all-Russian competition of student research works for the “Razvedchik” magazine prize, in which more than 70 student associations from 30 regions of Russia took part.



17 teams from Russian universities reached the finals, having prepared the best works in the field of research on regional conflicts and global security issues, problems of international relations and strategic forecasting, as well as on current issues of the world economy and technological development.

The authors of the best works on the topic of regional conflicts and global security problems were awarded by the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, the head of the Russian Historical Society, Sergey Yevgenievich Naryshkin. The winner in this nomination was the team of the scientific student society of the Faculty of World Politics of Lomonosov Moscow State University. Diplomas of laureates of the 2nd and 3rd degrees were awarded, respectively, to students of the RUDN University and the North Caucasus Federal University. Research carried out by student societies of GAUGN and Rostov State University of Economics took fourth and fifth places.



or another region, as well as on the global scale, based on a solid knowledge of history, geopolitics, international law and international relations. Broad prospects are opening up for young generations of talented diplomats, international experts, and officers of the Foreign Intelligence Service,” S.Y. Naryshkin emphasized.



[More photos here](#)

*“We are witnessing the formation of a new world. The old rules and institutions are going away, and the firm position of the Russian Federation, which defends the principles of the formation of a multipolar world order, finds a positive response in most countries of the world tired of the hypocritical hegemony of the West, led by the United States. In such conditions, there is an increasing need for specialists who are able to predict events in one or another spot on the globe, one*

**“The emergence of a multipolar world increases the Russian state’s need for young talented specialists who are able to predict the development of the situation in different parts of the planet.”**

S.Y. Naryshkin

The competition was established in 2022 by the Russian Historical Society, the “History of the Fatherland” Foundation, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, the National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations named after E.M. Primakov RAS (IMEMO RAS) with the participation of the magazine “Razvedchik”. The main goals of the competition are to popularize research activities in Russian universities, promote objective analytics and journalism, and support patriotic youth.



Awards in the nomination for the best research on current problems of the world economy and technological development were handed by the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Gennady Yakovlevich Krasnikov. The first prize was received by students of St. Petersburg State University, the second – by Ingush State University, and the third – by Tyumen Industrial University. The RANEPА team was awarded the fourth place, and students from Chelyabinsk State University and the Russian State University of Oil and Gas named after I.M. Gubkin, having scored the same number of points, shared the fifth place.

Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation Konstantin Ilyich Mogilevsky presented laureate diplomas to the authors of the best research papers on problems of international relations and strategic forecasting. The winners in this category were students of Kazan Federal University. The remaining winners were distributed as follows (second to fifth places): Sevastopol State University, Pskov State University, Chelyabinsk State University and RUDN University.

All finalists of the competition received diplomas, prizes and memorable gifts. The best student works in each of the three nominations will be published in the next issues of the magazine "Intelligence Officer" (in this issue, in the "Literary debut" section, a study by the Scientific Student Society of the Faculty of World Politics of MSU is posted). It is also planned to release a separate collection, which will include the works of all finalists.

At the end of the ceremonial part, S.Y. Naryshkin summed up the general results of the event and announced the subject of the student competition for 2024. "As President Putin said in a recent speech at the Valdai Forum, Russia is a unique state-civilization, and there are many such civilizations on the planet, they are all different, none of them is worse or better than others. It is obvious that

G.Ya. Krasnikov



**"One of the tasks of the Academy of Sciences is training personnel and educating young people. I am very glad that our younger generation is present here; in due time they will be entrusted with responsibility for our country, for our statehood. They will also have to respond to the challenges that our country and people have faced throughout history."**



*the new world order will depend on the nature of interaction between these civilizations. This is what I invite you to think about within the framework of our three nominations: how, in your opinion, should a dialogue be built between these civilizations, how do you see fair economic cooperation, how to prevent serious conflicts, who can take the role of an arbiter in inevitable disputes," S.Y. Naryshkin addressed the Russian students.*

**"The desire to realize oneself in science or intelligence is a special life choice, not available to everyone and dictated by the desire to benefit the Motherland. Involving young people in scientific research activities is one of the most important government priorities, which is one of the three tasks of the Decade of Science and Technology. What you do, the directions you have chosen for yourself, are very important for the country."**

K.I. Mogilevsky

In 2024, the student competition will be held under the general theme "Interaction of Civilizations".

**The winners will again be determined in three categories:**

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

Please note that the competition accepts works completed by student scientific societies or student groups of Russian universities. Applications must be registered until June 1, 2024 in a special section of the IMEMO RAS website. No more than three works can be submitted from one university (one in each nomination), performed by different teams.

**Based on the results of the competition, the following prizes will be awarded:**

- 1st degree laureate – 150,000 rubles;
- 2nd degree laureate – 120,000 rubles;
- 3d degree laureate – 90,000 rubles;
- 1st degree diploma winner – 70,000 rubles;
- 2nd degree diploma winner – 50,000 rubles.

By decision of the organizing committee, special prizes may be awarded to competition participants. All finalists will be informed about the results of the competition, the date and location of the award ceremony by October 15, 2024.

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

## The evolution of approaches to alliance issues in US national security strategies: from Obama to Biden

Authors: B. Avdeev, V. Anchikov, I. Balabaev, M. Borkhsenius, K. Valueva, S. Dostoyevskaya, T. Isyangulova, L. Keinikh, V. Kozlov, A. Kolomeyets, Y. Kotova, A. Kudryavtsev, A. Kulkov, A. Morgachev, A. Natkhov, I. Sautkin, N. Safarmetova, D. Sidorov, N. Smirnova, T. Tagirov, D. Tochinsky, A. Uslugina, K. Frolovskaya, M. Shikhanova, A. Shchemelinin.

**The winner of the competition in the category “Best analytical work on the topic of regional conflicts and global security problems” is Scientific Student Society of the Faculty of World Politics of M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University.**

### INTRODUCTION

#### Relevance of the research topic.

Issues of US foreign policy and military-strategic planning have traditionally been the focus of attention of Russian international affairs specialists. However, today the consideration of this issue is of particular importance in connection with dramatic geopolitical transformations against the backdrop of deteriorating Russian-American relations.

In this context, the analysis of Washington's approaches to building relations with allies and partners is of great interest, since, as noted in the updated Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation, it is the policies of the United States and its allies that are the main factor complicating the normalization of relations between Russia and European states. Being associated with undermining the competitiveness of the economies of Russia and leading European countries and limiting the sovereignty of European states, this policy is aimed at ensuring global dominance of the United States.

This study, based on a critical analysis of the National Security Strategies (hereinafter referred to as the NSS) of the administrations of B. Obama, D. Trump and J. Biden, aims to trace the evolution of US approaches to issues of alliance, to identify its features and priorities. The choice of the NSS as the subject of research is due to the importance of this document in the US foreign policy planning system. The novelty of the study is conditioned by the authors' attempt to critically evaluate modern US approaches to alliance policy, analyzing them from the point of view of the developments of Russian researchers on the theoretical aspects of the problems of alliances and partnerships.

#### Extent of knowledge of the problem.

The NSS is a multifaceted conceptual document that describes the current American administration's views on major domestic and foreign policy issues. A large number of works by Russian researchers are devoted to the study of the NSS, primarily in the form of a comparative analysis of its various editions. Particular attention



is paid to the problems of continuity and variability of the foreign policy course of various administrations and to the analysis of the evolution of military-strategic and socio-economic priorities. Recently, there has been a tendency towards a detailed consideration of the ideological and value aspects of the Strategies. Naturally, issues related to Russia receive special study: the authors' rhetoric regarding the Russian Federation and its place in the hierarchy of US foreign policy priorities is examined.

Against this background, issues related to assessing the role of allies remain comparatively less studied. This issue partially appears in domestic studies, primarily in the context of considering Washington's policy towards Moscow and Beijing and ways to contain them. However, most works do not reveal what exactly the United States understands by alliances and partners, or what the role of the latter is in the US foreign policy strategy. Meanwhile, the study of American strategic documents from the point of view of identifying the features of the alliance policy is of great practical importance, since it can help develop adequate measures to respond to related threats to Russia's security.

### ALLIANCE ISSUES REFLECTED IN THE US NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES (2010–2022)

This study analyzes the US NSSs of 2010, 2015, 2017 and 2022, as well as the interim 2021 Strategy. In general, in none of these documents issues of alliance brought were to the fore; at the same time, they somehow figured in all the semantic and substantial blocks of these NSSs. On the one hand, this speaks of the importance of alliances for the American strategic planning, on the other hand, it allows us to trace the evolution of the US leadership's views on this problem.

Thus, all NSSs attach special importance to America's economic interests, the threats it faces, and possible ways to counter them. The main challenge in the reviewed NSSs is the prospect of the United States losing its leading position on the global market. The NSS 2010 included the possibility of a new global financial crisis among the economic threats. The 2015 Strategy noted the importance of interaction with partners in Europe and Asia to maintain the stability of the global economic and financial system and US leadership in it.

In the NSS developed by the Trump administration, the US economic situation was presented as stable enough, and economic threats faded into the background. However, already in the Strategy 2022, as well as in the interim Strategy 2021, economic threats are again given priority. Thus, in the NSS 2022, China has finally moved into the category of the main systemic competitors of the United States, the prevention of further growth of its influence being designated as one of the main goals of the American alliance policy. To counter economic problems, the

NSS 2022 proposes to pay special attention to strengthening various economic partnerships.

All NSSs traditionally cover in detail threats of a military-political nature. Changes in assessments of the scale, nature, and sources of these threats are important from the point of view of understanding the characteristics of US alliance policy at different stages of its development. In 2010, the Obama administration was concerned that Iran and the DPRK were not fulfilling their obligations on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and therefore the United States declared the need to denuclearize these countries. The NSS 2015 brought threats posed by ISIS and Russia to the forefront. D. Trump's NSS again pointed out Iran and North Korea, which were called “rogue states”, as the main sources of military-political threats to the United States, while it characterized Russia as a “revisionist power”. The NSS 2017 noted the importance of strengthening military cooperation with allies (primarily within NATO) and emphasized the US readiness to defend them if necessary “with all its might”.

The NSS 2022 is of particular interest. It directly states that the main military threat to the United States comes from Russia, which is associated with the start of a special military operation (SVO) in Ukraine. At the same time, the NSS 2022 declares the need to reassess the role of military force and move to the use of predominantly non-force instruments, and condemns policies in the spirit of bloc demarcation.

An analysis of the NSS sections devoted to military-political issues allows us to better understand another important aspect of US strategic planning – value-ideological.

Thus, the NSS 2010 proclaims a pragmatic approach in foreign policy, expressing readiness to cooperate even with “hostile nations” that are ideologically alien to the United States, if this is necessary to ensure the security of the United States itself and if this can prompt these nations to change their political course. In the NSS 2015, this line was preserved. The NSS 2017 introduced a number of important nuances to this issue: it spoke of the priority of cooperation with developed democratic countries that share American values and the political model. In addition, it was noted that supporting “fragile” regimes and cooperating with “flawed” democracies is necessary only if they are important for ensuring security in key regions.

Biden's interim strategy introduced a clear division between democracies and autocracies: full cooperation is possible only with the former. However, it is interesting to note that already in the NSS 2022 the wording was changed: readiness to cooperate with any countries, including geopolitical opponents, was expressed. By analogy with Barack Obama's NSS, the presence of “common values and interests” is brought to the fore as a condition for cooperation. The current administration says it wants to unite all countries willing to resist revisionism to defend a “rules-based world order”.

The issue of alliance was clearly manifested in the sections of the NSS devoted to energy security. The 2015 Strategy indicated that the United States is interested in ensuring the energy security of allies in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. The NSS 2017 noted that America is ready to help its allies counter those countries that

use energy resources as political leverage. The NSS 2022 poses the issue of energy security even more acutely: it directly states that Russia is using resource potential as a leverage of pressure on the West. To combat this threat, the Biden administration calls, together with its European allies, to more actively develop green energy and strengthen energy security.

Thus, we can conclude that in all the analyzed NSSs, national security issues and ways to solve them were never considered separately, in isolation from the interests of US allies. The differences come down to the nuances of content and understanding of the nature and source of threats, their priority in the overall hierarchy.

As for the issues of alliance itself, the importance of maintaining an extensive system of alliances as a guarantee of maintaining global leadership for the United States is recognized in all NSSs without exception. However, when comparing different editions of the NSS, one can detect a number of nuances in the authors' assessments of the problems and prospects for the development of this area of US foreign policy. Thus, according to the NSS 2010, the United States must rely on broad international support with NATO and the UN at its core. At the same time, the desire to find new partners who share similar values was declared, and the possibility of cooperation with geopolitical opponents was allowed. Similar assessments were inherent in the NSS 2015.

In the 2017 Strategy, views on partnership have undergone a significant transformation. It stated that the primary goal of United States alliance policy should be to strengthen its global position

in the face of the growing threat from Russia and China. At the same time, this policy itself was assessed quite critically by the Trump administration; the problems of uneven distribution of duties, responsibilities and financial burden in relations between the United States and its allies were openly raised.

The approach to issues of alliance under J. Biden, as noted, generally marked a return to the principles of Barack Obama. The key goal of the alliance policy during the presidency of J. Biden has been declared to be the preservation of a "rules-based world order". His administration sets itself the task of uniting all countries that are ready to act within the framework of the previous order to counter revisionism, the main carriers of which Russia and China are declared.

#### THEORETICAL PROBLEMS OF ALLIANCE POLICY

A comparative analysis of American strategic planning documents allows us to get an idea of the specifics of the current US approaches to alliance policy. At the same time, in order to gain a deeper understanding of its characteristics, capabilities and shortcomings, it seems reasonable to consider it from the point of view of the latest theoretical studies of the phenomenon of alliance as a whole.

As Russian researchers from MGIMO University of the Russian Foreign Ministry I.A. Istomin, N.Yu. Silayev and A.A. Sushentsov point out, the issue of alliances has long been one of the most important areas of research in international relations. However, as noted in the article by I.A. Istomin and A.A. Baikov, despite this, many

controversial issues remain in the theory of alliances.

Thus, until now "no clear typology of alliances has been developed in terms of the balance of power between the alliance participants." There are no clear definitions of the terms "union", "alliance", "partnership". The term "partnership" most often refers to a formal two-way collaboration that allows a leader to "mobilize the necessary support without incurring excessive costs". To designate a multilateral informal union that does not imply strict legal obligations, I.A. Istomin suggests using the term "coalition".

According to A.N. Bogdanov, a researcher from St. Petersburg State University, informal coalitions are necessary for flexible and effective distribution of responsibility among allies. In this case, the "junior allies" have the opportunity to decide in what form to take part in the coalition. This leads to increased interest among participating countries in maintaining the status quo. Formal alliances help shape the priorities of secondary states in accordance with the strategic interests of the leader. In such forms of interaction, allies have specific roles, and the most important functions lie with the state leading the alliance.

According to some authors, a genuine alliance is characterized by the presence of formal obligations and a high level of actual cooperation. We will use the term "alliance" to refer to this form of partnership.

There are two types of alliances – symmetrical and asymmetrical. Symmetrical are characterized by the participation of countries of comparable strength that have

the same obligations towards each other. Asymmetrical is a formalized alliance in which there is a clear leader and "junior allies", due to the significant difference in their military capabilities. The basis of such an alliance is a combination of the strength of the leading power and the legitimizing recognition of its rights by junior partners. Due to this, asymmetric alliances are more stable than alliances of equals. At the same time, this means that participants in asymmetric alliances pursue different goals.

On the one hand, I.A. Istomin and K.G. Vodopyanov note, that all alliances are tools for obtaining benefits for their participants. On the other hand, leading countries and client countries have different ideas about benefits. The former seek, with the help of alliances, to maximize control over their clients in order to form and/or maintain the desired world order and increase the efficiency of the projection of military power. They also try to prevent the emergence of competitors and legitimize their actions in international institutions. In turn, the clients' goals include ensuring their own security at the expense of the patron's military capabilities, gaining access to its financial resources, increasing their authority and influence in the system of international relations, and solving internal political and economic problems.

Differences in the capabilities and goals of countries participating in asymmetric alliances give rise to differences in the problems they face. The main difficulty for the patron state is the obligation to guarantee the safety of clients, which is fraught with the risk of involvement in unwanted conflicts, as well as the tendency of partners

to parasitism. The costs for the "junior" members of such an alliance are the limitation of their sovereignty and reduced autonomy in making key decisions. Because of this, relations within the alliance are characterized by permanent informal "bargaining", designed to find a point of balance between the multidirectional aspirations of the patron and his clients.

#### CONCLUSION

It can be stated that the entire American system of alliances, including informal coalitions, has an obvious asymmetrical nature. This asymmetry is due to the fundamental difference in the power capabilities of the United States and its allies and is clearly manifested in the nature of the obligations that the United States and its clients undertake. The Americans set themselves the goal of preserving the current world order and their leadership in it. To do this, they provide security guarantees to their allies, in exchange for taking control of their domestic and foreign policies.

The priority form of allied relations promoted by Washington are military-political associations in the form of alliances (NATO, AUKUS). They acquired particular importance under D. Trump's administration. J. Biden's approach to issues of alliance at the level of rhetoric is characterized by criticism of the military-centric policy of his predecessor, in connection with which he declares a preference for broad coalitions of countries that support common principles and values. However, in practice, the new US administration continued all the key initiatives of D. Trump. This is due both to the conduct of the Special Military Operation (SVO) in Ukraine and, to a greater extent, to considerations of containing China.

At the same time, the Republican NSS is also notable for the fact that it brought to the surface US claims to the existing system of allied relations. In particular, the NSS 2017 explicitly states that participation in alliances does not bring sufficient benefits to the United States and that the costs of maintaining them do not correspond to their benefits for America. In other words, some US client states may benefit disproportionately at the patron country's expense, which can be regarded as a form of parasitism.

However, the policy of alliance performs the main function: it acts as a mechanism for legitimizing American hegemony. Therefore, despite the fact that each new administration defines the hierarchy of external and internal threats in its own way depending on political, economic and ideological priorities and the current international situation, all NSSs reviewed are distinguished by a fundamental unity in recognizing the importance of alliance policy for US strategic interests. 

# The Dunning–Kruger Effect

## How to avoid becoming an armchair expert

Text: Yulia Khrapina

In the current age of abundance of information, many people have the false feeling that they know everything, and if they don't understand something, then Wikipedia or Alice (intelligent personal web-assistant) will explain everything to them in five minutes. After reading articles on the Internet, people begin to make medical diagnoses for themselves or rush to play on the stock exchange, being absolutely confident that they certainly know how to do it.

In psychology, this phenomenon is called the Dunning–Kruger effect, named after the American psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger, who described it in 1999. The irony of their discovery is that incompetent people fail to recognize the level of their ignorance. Due to limited perception, they tend to overestimate their knowledge and capabilities, while competent, highly qualified specialists, on the contrary, tend to underestimate themselves.

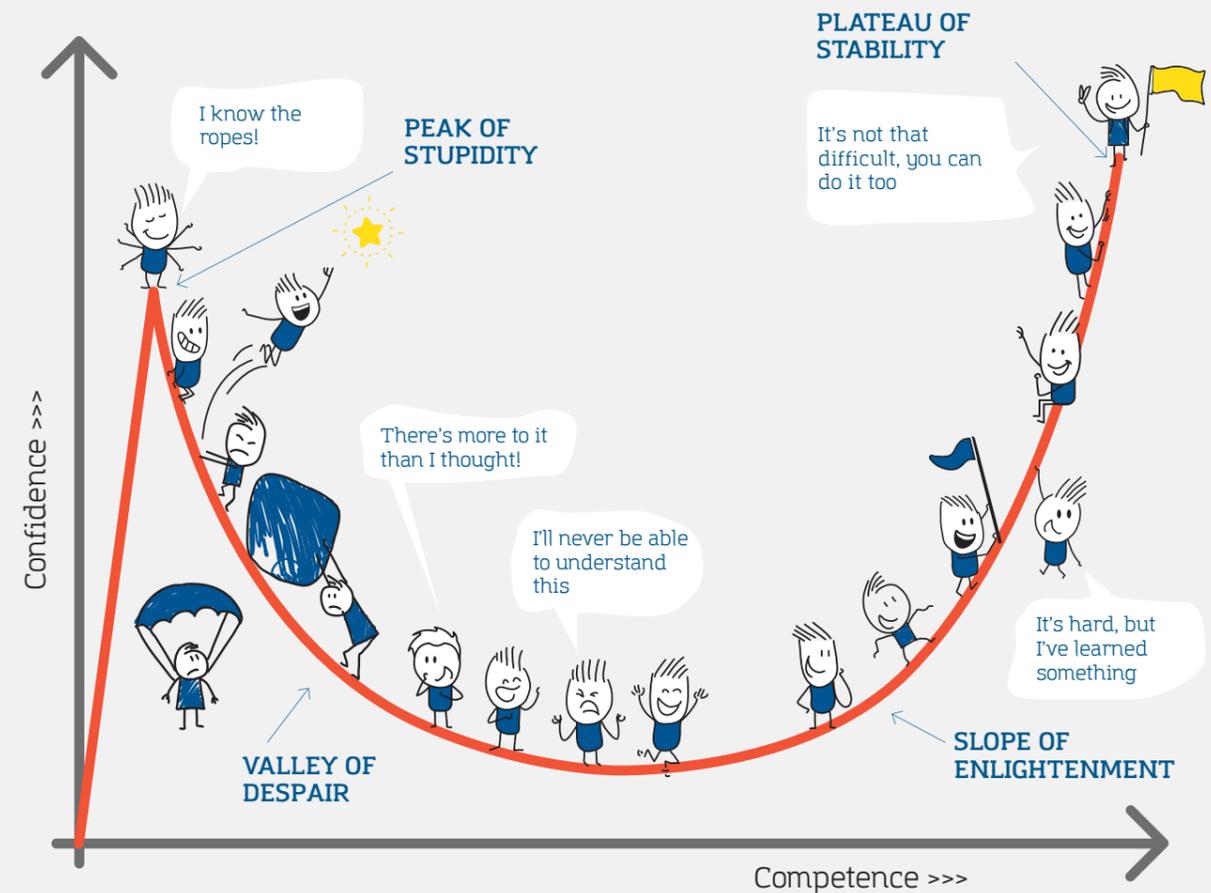
Under the influence of the Dunning–Kruger effect, a person is not only unwilling to learn and develop, he is convinced that he does not need it. In a work environment, this can be exacerbated by the fact that such "experts" are often judged on first impression (the so-called halo effect). When searching

for employees, some managers first of all pay attention to how the applicant behaves during the interview. In the head of such a boss, a substitution of concepts occurs: self-confidence = professional competence, which, obviously, is not always the case. At that, the Dunning–Kruger effect allows incompetent employees to remain in their positions, since they always radiate confidence, which insures them against dismissal. It can be assumed that this happens because with the next promotion, the employee gains even greater confidence in his abilities and at some point stops growing above himself, improving his skills, and learning new things.

However, the Dunning–Kruger effect is not something stable and unchanging; it has its own stages of development. It is important to understand what stage a person is at. There are four of them in total.

«I know that I know nothing»

Socrates



### Peak of stupidity

“I know everything!” It is achieved by all beginners who are not deeply immersed in the topic. They have formed the first knowledge and a superficial understanding of the processes.

### Valley of despair

It is reached by people who decide to develop further, but at the first difficulties they understand that everything is not so simple. Previously acquired knowledge is just a drop in the ocean.

#### To get out of the valley of despair, try asking for help:

- experienced colleagues will assess your current level of knowledge and recommend useful materials for further professional development;
- a wise leader will tell you what tasks you can try to complete in order to “pump up” the required skill;
- open resources are useful for self-study, but to understand what is/isn't worth reading, contact again professionals whom you trust.

### Slope of enlightenment

The next step from a beginner to an expert. At this stage, a person understands that the level of his own qualifications needs to be constantly improved. He gains relevant experience and a timid sense of confidence.

### Plateau of stability

Sustained awareness of the urgent need for continuous development. A person worries whether he has enough knowledge, skills and abilities to be considered an expert. He continues to improve professionally, acquire new knowledge and experience, as he feels the boundaries of his competence.

## Remember: true knowledge is knowing the limits of your ignorance

Most specialists go through all four stages, but the process is lengthy and can take years. Some never leave the peak of stupidity. Let's consider their distinctive features.

### Signs of an armchair expert:

- Confidence in one's rightness combined with categorical judgments. Due to their biased and selective perception, such people easily find confirmation of their words and do not want to hear alternative opinions.
- In case of failure, they are inclined to shift responsibility to partners, colleagues and "circumstances beyond their control". They do not admit their guilt and do not analyze their mistakes. There is no accumulation of experience.
- They "don't see" someone else's competence, they don't want to take into account the higher level of knowledge of colleagues and mentors, which is why subordination and communication in the team suffer.
- They do not accept criticism. At best, they ignore it; at worst, they aggressively fight back.
- They really don't like to leave their comfort zone. Mostly, they have a number of standard solutions ready for standard situations, which they adhere to. Any adjustments to these decisions and their modification cause a strong negative reaction from them.

### How to interact with a pseudo-expert?

- What you definitely shouldn't do when communicating with such a person is try to convince him directly, straightforwardly or criticize him in the presence of others.
- When defending your position, you need to firmly and confidently present your arguments. Most often, victory in an argument will not be due to your higher competence, but rather due to greater self-confidence.
- He should be constantly taught, developed, shown with simple examples how to do it correctly. Clearly instruct and explain theory. Let him do everything himself. Afterwards there is a mandatory debriefing with the opportunity to independently evaluate what has been done. Then do everything again until he learns.

**Remember that only an outsider can give an impartial assessment of you and your work. The Dunning-Kruger effect is a product of a personal, highly biased understanding of the world. This is a kind of reminder of the importance of an open-minded attitude towards both yourself and others.**

### How to avoid becoming a "Kruger" yourself?

#### 1. Don't rush to conclusions

Many people tend to make decisions quickly, but to avoid the Dunning-Kruger effect, you should take your time and spend time collecting additional information.

#### 2. Challenge your own statements

Don't take your assumptions as truth. Try to come up with counterarguments or refutations of your ideas.

#### 3. Get rid of stereotypes

Stereotypic thinking helps increase our self-confidence, but reduces metacognition. To avoid this, seek to try something new, expand your horizons, and become flexible in your judgment.

#### 4. Learn to accept criticism

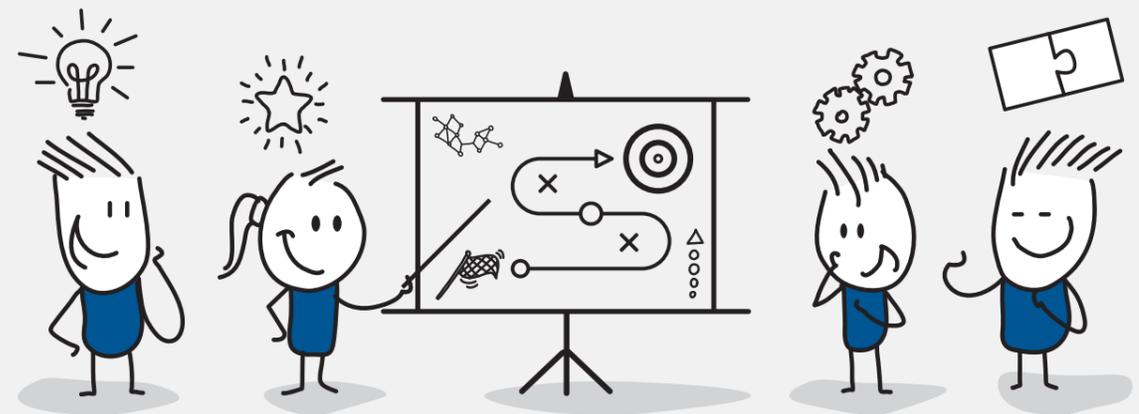
Few people like criticism, but sometimes it can be useful. When you are criticized, ask to list what exactly you are doing wrong and how to improve the result. Analyze what you heard and think about what can be useful for you.

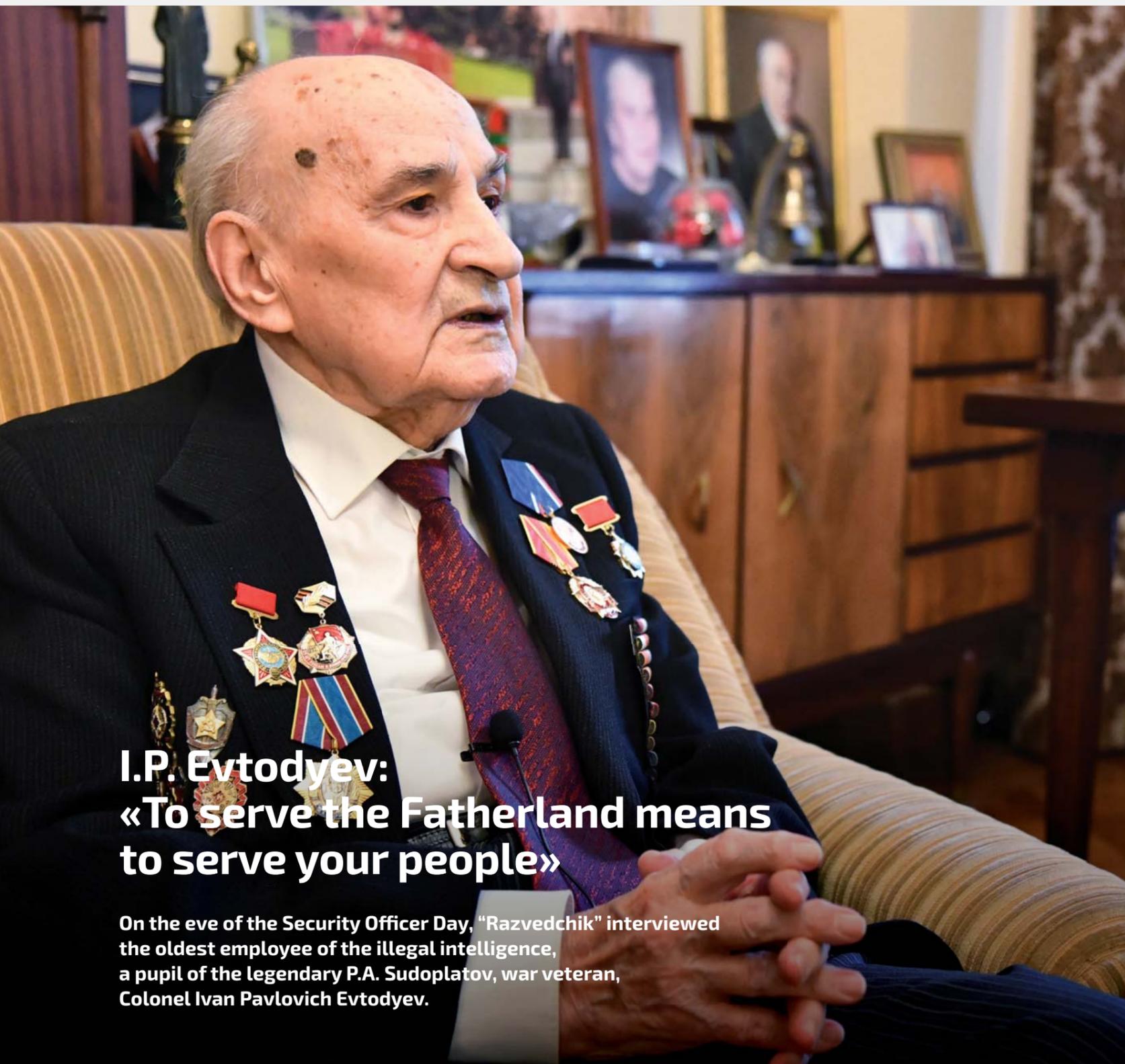
#### 5. Question past beliefs about yourself

Have you always considered yourself an excellent listener or are you confident that you know English very well? The Dunning-Kruger effect suggests that you need to be critical of yourself. To get an objective assessment, try taking some test that will show the real level of your knowledge in the chosen field.

### Is it possible to avoid the Dunning-Kruger effect?

The path to true competence is quite difficult, as it is based on self-criticism, the development of reflective thinking, and the formation of the habit of questioning one's knowledge and skills, which need to be constantly updated and replenished.





## I.P. Evtodyev: «To serve the Fatherland means to serve your people»

On the eve of the Security Officer Day, "Razvedchik" interviewed the oldest employee of the illegal intelligence, a pupil of the legendary P.A. Sudoplatov, war veteran, Colonel Ivan Pavlovich Evtodyev.

**Ivan Pavlovich, you are a person with a unique biography: you participated in the Great Patriotic War, you liberated the Crimea. Then you served in the state security agencies, working side by side with such aces as Sudoplatov, Korotkov, Drozdov... Tell us how you came to intelligence?**

In 1944, I served as part of the border troops in the Baltic states, where we fought nationalist gangs, the so-called "forest brothers". There, in the forests, I spent the summer and autumn of 1944: from farm to farm, all the time through the thickets... One day I was called to headquarters and informed that I was being sent to Moscow for further service. This is how I ended up at the Military Institute of Foreign Languages of the Red Army.

In 1951, after graduating from Military Institute of Foreign Languages, I reported to the Border Troops Personnel Department, where I was offered to go to Chop to the intelligence department of the border detachment. However, this decision changed several times, and in the end, I found myself in building 2 on Lubyanka Street in the office of Hero of the Soviet Union Evgeniy Ivanovich Mirkovsky. He questioned me for a long time: where I had fought, what dangerous situations there had been, how I had behaved. There were three such meetings in total. On the third, about half an hour later, Mirkovsky stood up and said: "Let's go to Korotkov."

Alexander Mikhailovich Korotkov spoke to me briefly, but substantively, clarified certain points of my biography, then called on the phone and said: "Pavel Anatolyevich, I reported to you. Here Mirkovsky selected a border guard to work in his department. I talked to him. I think he suits us." He hung up and said, now turning to me: "Go to Mirkovsky and tell him that PA [Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov] is waiting for you."

When we came to Sudoplatov, he released Mirkovsky and, turning to me, asked: "Where are you from?" "From the Kirovograd region." "Do you know fellow countrymen intelligence officers? No? What about opponents from the Civil War?"

'No, I don't know anyone.'  
'Well then, I'll tell you.'

And Sudoplatov began to tell what and how it was in my area in those years: what gangs, what intelligence officers, what strong workers in the enemy's counterintelligence... It was Pavel Anatolyevich who spoke most, and it seemed to me that he was just watching how I reacted to his words. Concluding the conversation, Sudoplatov said:

'Well, you are a suitable candidate for us.'

And I still didn't know where!!! I kept silent. He continued:

'Evgeniy Ivanovich spoke well of you, Alexander Mikhailovich also didn't say anything bad. You know German, Czech and our two languages – that's four. Things will work out for you, I have no doubt.'

That's how I got into foreign intelligence.

**Do you remember your first task, the first sensations of working in the field? What were the main difficulties?**

Of course, no one sent me straight into the field. At first, at the Center I translated documents from German and wrote notes. And once Mirkovsky said:

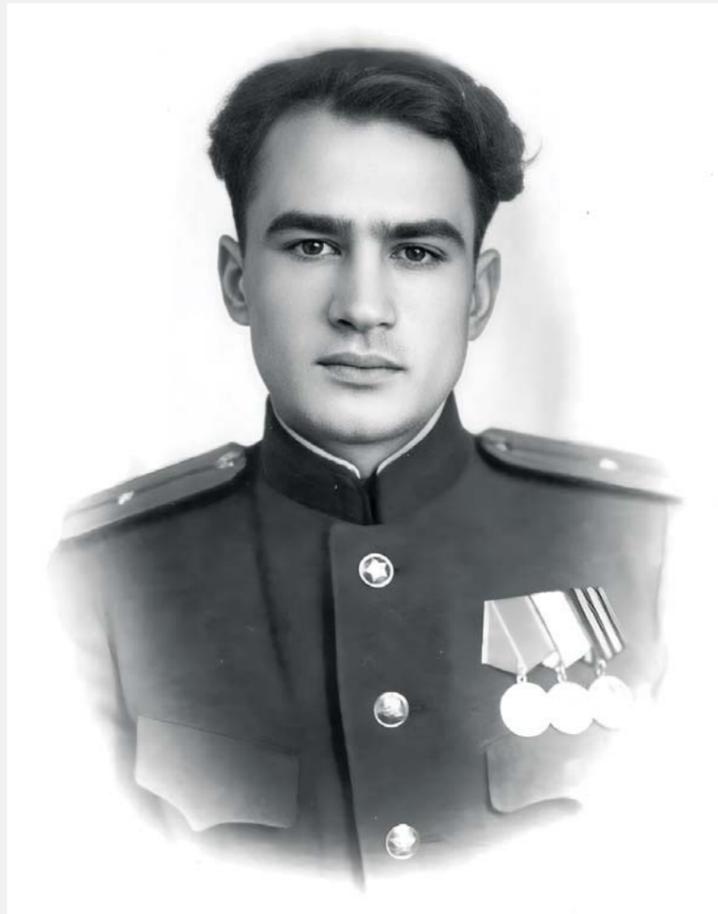
'Get ready for a business trip tomorrow. Let's go to PA, I'll tell you the rest on the spot. And don't forget to change into civilian clothes.'

'Evgeniy Ivanovich, I don't have civilian clothes.'  
'What, nothing at all?' Mirkovsky was surprised. 'Is there anything without green edges?'

'I have a cousin in Bakovka who is a pilot and flies to the North. Some of his things are kept at my house. They should suit me.'

'Well, put on the flight uniform. They will meet you at your destination and take you there. But before my arrival, not a step away from the apartment.'

So, in the flight uniform, in the cargo compartment of a transport plane, in December 1951 I arrived in Bad Voeslau, near Vienna. Mirkovsky arrived next. I acquired civilian clothes, and my operational work began. At first, I accompanied Evgeniy Ivanovich at meetings, translated, then I began to conduct meetings by myself. My first mission was supposed to



'Evgeniy Ivanovich, I don't know. I don't have any experience.'

How did he flare up!

'No experience?! A person who went through a war, then spent two years catching spies, bandits and saboteurs, has no experience?! And when I was scurrying all the way from the border to Moscow, did I have any experience? And when I crossed the front line with a group of 20 people, and then created a partisan brigade behind enemy lines, did I have any experience?! So, I don't want to hear this again! You have brains, you have the desire to work – act! And then, who told you that you will decide for yourself? We will decide together. He is our comrade, our employee. It depends on us how his fate will turn out. He may make a mistake, but we do not have such a right. You will hold the next meeting with him yourself and report your thoughts. If one meeting isn't enough, you'll schedule another one.'

And then the understanding came that even there, in the field, you are not alone. You have the entire Service behind you, you can always rely on the experience and knowledge of your senior comrades.

#### Tell us what it was like to work with A.M. Korotkov and P.A. Sudoplatov?

Alexander Mikhailovich was a very unique person. At the first meeting, he immediately made it clear: he is a big boss, and I am a novice employee. He maintained the same distance with all his subordinates. He could be tough communicator, at times even excessively. In general, a demanding leader. But a very smart man, a top-class intelligence officer. I will say this: if I had the opportunity to work with him again, I would immediately agree without hesitation.

I remember one case. It was in Berlin, in the mission of the KGB of the USSR at the MfS of the GDR. I met with a person who could possibly work with us. But there were certain points, and we could not come to any decision. At that time the head of the mission was Evgeniy Petrovich Pitovranov. After the next report to him, he suggested: "Let me meet him." He had several meetings with him, but also found it difficult to come to any conclusions. Soon he

last two months, and I returned only six months later, on vacation.

I remember the beginning of independent work very well. Mirkovsky once said: "Come to a meeting with me. I want to know your opinion about one person." We met, and when the man left, Mirkovsky asked:

'Well, what do you think? Is he suitable for "illegals"?'

'Evgeniy Ivanovich, what is an "illegal"?' I managed to surprise Evgeniy Ivanovich twice for a short time.

He looked at me and fell silent. After a pause he continued:

'Have you seen the movie "Secret Agent" ("Podvig razvedchika")?'

'Yes, I have.'

'Well, in such a situation, would he be able to behave with dignity and complete the task? Withstand all this and find a way out?'

Junior Lieutenant  
Ivan Evtodyev,  
VIIIYAK student.  
1950

was recalled to Moscow, and Korotkov arrived in his place.

He had just begun to get in the know when he was summoned to Moscow. He returned irritated and demanded me "on the carpet". He started right away: Evtodyev, such and such, you've let me down. I stood there, not understanding anything. It turned out that upon his arrival in Moscow, Pitovranov met with Alexander Mikhailovich Sakharovsky, head of the Foreign Intelligence Directorate, where he told him about this "interesting man". When Korotkov arrived, Sakharovsky inquired about the development of this situation, but Alexander Mikhailovich was not in the know...

By the way, everything ended well: the man began working with us and showed good results. My actions were assessed positively, and I myself consider this episode one of my professional successes. Now I remember this incident with humor, although at the time it was not at all funny. But, I repeat, I would go on reconnaissance with Alexander Mikhailovich.

It was different with Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov. He met with me several times. From the first meeting, I noticed an amazing feature: his manner of communication won over his interlocutor, it was interesting to listen to him, it was interesting to talk to him. I was present several times when he was setting tasks. Pavel Anatolyevich always spoke clearly and precisely; one could feel his knowledge of all the nuances of operational work.

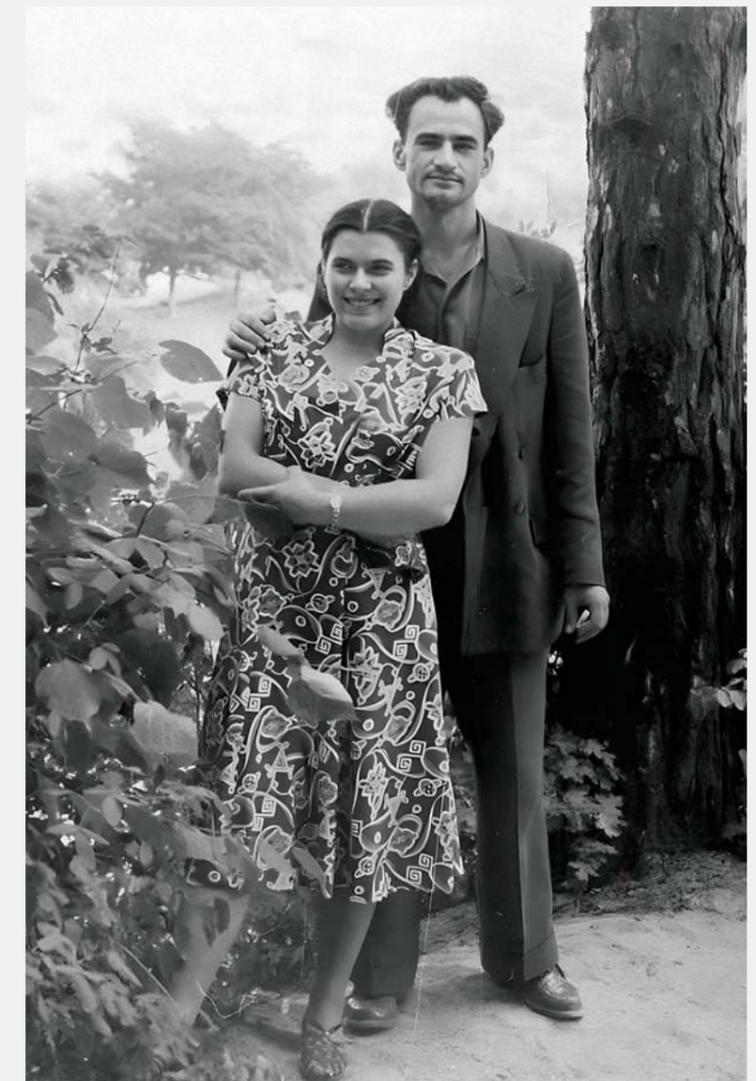
The last official communication was by telephone. In 1953, a major reorganization began in the security structures, with reductions, dismissals, and repressions. I was the only one left in our group in Baden. Suddenly there was a call, PA on the line. He asked how things were going, I briefly reported. After which I heard: "I beg you, please, just don't lose anything! I know you have encountered certain difficulties. They will be resolved in the coming days." A couple of days later I had money handed over. And about a week later PA was arrested.

**If you don't mind, I would like to return to the events of the Great Patriotic War. How did the war start for you?**

On June 22, 1941, I woke up early in the morning from a terrible roar. Not far from the village of Bogdanovka, where we lived, there was a large railway junction. I ran out into the street and saw that it was being bombed. War!

At noon, on the street, the whole courtyard listened to the speech of V.M. Molotov. I remember that everything inside was mobilized by his speech. The words with which he ended it, later became feathered: "Our cause is just, the enemy will be defeated, victory will be ours!" I listened and my first thought was: I need to join the army. And I was only 16 years old! I went several times and asked to volunteer. No use.

With his beloved wife.  
Baden, Austria. 1953



**So how did you get recruited into the army?**

On August 1, 1941, an order was received to evacuate young people of pre-induction age. On August 2, we left the village and reached the military registration and enlistment office in Znamenka. There we were divided into groups and told to move on, again on foot, avoiding railways and main roads, so as not to get bombed. So, we walked from one military registration and enlistment office to another until we reached Huliaipole. We had just sat down to rest when the military commissar came out and asked who we were and what we needed. And then it burst out from me, almost screaming: "I want to join the army!" He asked about my age, and I, adding a year, said that I was born in 1923.

It wasn't anything special at that time. In the same way, for example, the future Minister of Defense Marshal Dmitry Yazov joined the Red Army. And several guys from our group did the same. Already mobilized, we were sent south, near Tbilisi. There I wrote a statement, confessed everything, and asked to go to the front line to make up for my guilt. The next day the commissioner called me. He reproved me – like, it's not good to deceive, but he recognized the action as worthy. And he added that no one would send me to the front line, I must first learn military skills. That's how I joined the army.

**Do you remember your first battle with the Nazis? Were you scared and how did you overcome this feeling?**

In mid-December 1941, as part of the 143rd separate rifle brigade, I went to the front. We landed in Taman. We crossed the Kerch Strait across the ice. I remember the frost, the ice cracking under my feet... But there was no fear. There was pride. I achieved it! I'm going to the front! We reached Feodosia in the Crimea, where the front line already passed, and almost immediately the first battle broke out.

We met fierce resistance. I won't lie, we crawled back into the trenches without looking back... But there was no fear, instead – some kind of indignation: "How could this be? We wanted to, we can do it, but it doesn't work out here." I experienced fear a little later, when after a few days the Germans went on the offensive. I was shooting back from the trench, but then the tanks came. I threw a grenade and hit the tank, but the grenade was anti-personnel and useless against a tank. The tank went above the trench, made a turn and spun around. I got nearly buried and thought: "That's it, I won't get out." But the guys dug me out. I was shaking for several hours, but then there was no fear in battle, apparently, I had overcome fear for several years to come.

**Your portrait by People's Artist of the USSR Shilov is included in the permanent exhibition of the gallery "They Fought for the Motherland". What are your impressions of working with Alexander Maksovich?**

Alexander Maksovich is a highly erudite person, an excellent psychologist, who has the rare gift of understanding the innermost feelings and soul of a person and with unequalled skill reflecting this on canvas. He is a wonderful person, a workaholic, he painted more than two thousand pictures and donated most of them to the city and the state. An ardent fighter for the honor of the Motherland, a patriot to the bone. I have great respect for him and really appreciate the fact that he painted my portrait.

**Ivan Pavlovich, we are talking with you on the eve of your 99th birthday. This is an incredible age! Tell me, what is your personal recipe for longevity?**

I.P. Evtodyev with the Secretary of the Party Committee of the MGB of the GDR, Gerhard Heidenreich. Berlin. 1977



I don't have any magic recipe. It seems to me that my childhood, physical labor from an early age, then war, serious injury, illness, subsequent responsible service – all these difficult moments in my life formed the strength of character, and my firm convictions and unshakable principles strengthened me both morally and physically.

Why am I still alive? Probably, the line of serving the Motherland still supports me. I am more concerned not about my own health, but about the health of the Fatherland, which now more than ever needs the unity of the people. Previously, in our country there was a cult of personality, whether it was good or bad – this is not what we are talking about, but it united people with a common idea. Now what? Cult of cash? This only divides us...

I live with the hope that my beliefs are shared by many compatriots; they will revive a sense of pride for our great past, which in the "dashing" 1990s was deliberately erased from people's memory. No wonder the great Russian scientist M.V. Lomonosov said: "A nation that does not know its past has no future."

**And finally. What advice can you give to the readers of our magazine, especially young people?**

In your chosen profession, you need to become a real specialist, a professional in your field. You must live by this, strive for this. Love your Fatherland, always try to benefit the country. Even if something doesn't work out right away, it doesn't matter. The main thing is not to allow, under whatever circumstances, damage to the state to be caused due to your oversight or indifference.

Serving the Fatherland means serving your people. We must fight now to unite it. Disunity leads to the fact that instead of a nation we get a population with whom the enemy can do the most terrible things. To prevent this, the people must be united, united around a common idea, and strive to collectively create the future of the Motherland. It's not for nothing that they say that it is the people who won the Great Patriotic War... 🇷🇺

Presentation of the portrait in the gallery of A.M. Shilov. 2015

Interviewed by Evgeniy Dolgushin



# Tehran Conference

How Soviet intelligence service saved Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill

Text by Maksim Ktorov

80 years ago, from November 28 to December 1, 1943, the first meeting of the “Big Three” – the leaders of the USSR, USA and Great Britain, allies in the anti-Hitler coalition – took place in the capital of Iran. The negotiations discussed the basic principles of the post-war world order and made a number of crucial decisions: the opening of a second front in France in 1944 and the Soviet Union’s entry into the war with Japan. All these agreements were reached due to the active participation of the intelligence service, which promptly reported to Moscow about the true intentions of London and Washington and thwarted the assassination attempt, being prepared by German agents, on the heads of state of the “Big Three”.

The idea of holding a face-to-face meeting between Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, US President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill first arose in August 1942 during the British prime minister’s visit to Moscow. However, the specific date and place of the meeting began to be discussed only a year later, in August 1943, after the victorious Battle of Kursk, the liberation of Left Bank Ukraine and the landing of Western troops in Sicily. The subsequent course of hostilities determined the decision made by the leaders of the anti-Hitler coalition on November 8, 1943 to meet at the end of the month in Tehran. Along with its proximity to the fronts of the Great Patriotic War and the Mediterranean theater of operations, the Iranian capital was also chosen due to the fact that in August 1941, during Operation Sympathy, Soviet and British troops entered Iran and took joint control of the country’s territory. By the autumn of 1942, the British and

Americans established a lend-lease corridor for military supplies for the Red Army between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, and on September 9, 1943, the ruler of Iran, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, declared war on Nazi Germany.

By the autumn of 1943, Soviet and British intelligence services working in Iran as partners, with the participation of the Iranian police, neutralized a large number of Abwehr and SD agents (see document 3 in the “Declassified Archives” section). This was facilitated both by the successes of British cryptographers from Bletchley Park, who managed to “crack” the codes of the German intelligence services back in 1942, and by the well-managed operational work of Soviet intelligence officers sent to Iran in 1941–1943 – the ones our article is devoted to.

It ought to be emphasized that intelligence services virtually paralyzed the activities

<sup>1</sup> Despite the 1941 agreements on the exchange of information between the USSR and Great Britain, London shared with Moscow only a small part of the Third Reich’s secret materials it deciphered. However, the Soviet foreign intelligence had full access to them thanks to its secret assistants – primarily members of the legendary “Cambridge Five”.



**Otto Skorzeny**  
(June 12, 1908 – July 06, 1975)  
German saboteur of Austrian origin, head of the SS secret service. From 1943 he was Hitler's special operations commander, also known as "scarface". He carried out a number of high-profile operations, including the assassination of the Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss and the release of the Italian fascist leader Benito Mussolini from captivity. As O. Skorzeny himself later recalled, he had orders to kill or kidnap J. Stalin, F. Roosevelt and W. Churchill by infiltrating the British Embassy.

of underground pro-fascist organizations in Iran, which were unable to fully accomplish the tasks assigned to them, including the elimination of the leaders of the three allied states. Our intelligence officers managed to obtain evidence and inform Moscow in advance that Hitler's special services were preparing an assassination attempt on the "Big Three". Working out the

Gala dinner on the occasion of W. Churchill's birthday, November 30, 1943

details of the possible operation was entrusted to Hitler's favorite, the most experienced "commando" Otto Skorzeny.

In the summer of 1943, six paratroopers, including two radio operators, were dropped in the vicinity of the city of Qom, 140 kilometers from the Iranian capital. According to Skorzeny, the advance party was to get into Tehran, establish radio contact with Berlin and prepare the conditions for the main landing. The sabotage itself was planned to take place on November 30, the birthday of the British Prime Minister.

Apart from them, since the beginning of the war, an extensive network of more than 300 German agents had been operating in Iran, led by 29-year-old SD captain Franz Mayer (pseudonym "Max") under the guise of a gravedigger from an Armenian cemetery. In 1942–1943, members of his group carried out a number of successful acts of sabotage along the Iranian part of the lend-lease corridor. The numerous anti-Soviet migrants from the USSR living in Iran also posed an undoubted threat to the conference



F. Mayer. 1940s

participants. Among them were the Whites from the entourage of General A.I. Vygornitsky, Armenian nationalist Dashnaks of Movses Kasparian, Azerbaijani Musavatists led by Doctor Azadi, Georgian national democrats and others. The British and Americans showed a favorable attitude towards them, considering them as a personnel reserve for transfer to the USSR.

However, all these dangerous elements were under the control

A.M. Gerasimov. The Tehran Conference of the Three Powers. 1945.  
© Tretyakov Gallery

of the Soviet foreign intelligence residency in Tehran, which at that time was led by state security major Pavel Matveevich Zhuravlev ("Makar") and his deputy Ivan Ivanovich Agayants ("Ford"). In difficult conditions, when our legal intelligence officers were monitored by both the local police and the British, P.M. Zhuravlev and I.I. Agayants decided to rely on young assistants from among the patriotic migrants from the USSR who lived in Iran. The leader of this group, codenamed "Light Cavalry", was the 17-year-old son of an experienced Soviet deep cover intelligence officer Andrei Vasilyevich Vartanyan, Gevork Vartanyan.

At the height of the war, Vartanyan Jr. ("Amir") managed to assemble a squad of a dozen peers of several nationalities who were fluent in most of the languages spoken in Iran. Acting on foot and on bicycles under the guise of couriers and young sellers of newspapers and sweets, members of his squad put already identified German agents under surveillance and by the autumn of 1943 they detected about 400 of their connections. Thanks to the "Light Cavalry", most of the agents from Max's group were quickly arrested, including F. Mayer himself and his closest assistant Otto Engelke. G. Vartanyan's squad also managed to obtain information about Skorzeny's saboteurs and determine the location of the advance party, after which Berlin decided to abandon sending new combat groups to Iran.

In total, by September 1943, the intelligence services of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition managed to neutralize more than 160 German



agents. At the same time, the danger of a terrorist attack remained, since, according to intelligence information, in addition to the remnants of Max's group, ready at the Fuhrer's command to join in the preparation of the assassination attempt at any moment, 49-year-old Abwehr Major Berthold Schulze-Holthus was also in Iran; he established close contacts with the Qashqai separatists operating in the south of the country and actively recruited people from this tribe to commit acts of sabotage. Since July 1943, SS captain Martin Kurmis, a former executioner of the Jewish ghetto in Kaunas, Lithuania, who had specially arrived in Tehran, worked with him. There were other threats as well.

To stop them, on the eve of the "Big Three" meeting, a group of

experienced Soviet intelligence officers was sent from Moscow to Tehran, among whom, under the guise of a diplomatic courier, was the head of the German department of the foreign intelligence service, Alexander Mikhailovich Korotkov (by the way, it was he who became the prototype for the main character of the film "Tehran-1943" – deep cover intelligence officer Andrei Borodin, and his young assistant Nartai was "drawn" from the commander of the "Light Cavalry" Gevork Vartanyan). Literally a few days before the conference, A.M. Korotkov was able to identify among the many dubious personalities detected by G. Vartanyan's squad an "Iranian businessman" known to him from his work in Berlin, who in 1943 took an official post in the Iranian police. Reasonably suspecting him of

**In total, by September 1943, the intelligence services of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition managed to neutralize more than 160 German agents.**

**The information Stalin received from the foreign intelligence service became a great help in developing his tactics for negotiations with Western leaders.**

having connections with German intelligence, A.M. Korotkov caught the Iranian on the way to work and, after a short but intense conversation, managed to obtain both the necessary confession and consent to work for Moscow.

The conference itself was held under unprecedented security measures. The Soviet delegation

settled in the USSR embassy; the American delegation headed by President F. Roosevelt stayed in the same building as well, having accepted the invitation of J.V. Stalin due to the high terrorist threat. This was not only a gesture of trust, but also an urgent need, since the US embassy was located on the outskirts of Tehran in a dangerous district. In turn, W. Churchill and

those accompanying him stopped at the British embassy, which stood about 50 meters from the Soviet one on the opposite side of the street. This made it possible to create a safe covered corridor in between (a tarpaulin was pulled up), along which the British Prime Minister went to the Soviet mission, where all the meetings took place. Around the entire diplomatic complex Soviet and British intelligence services set up three rings of reinforced security, supported by armored vehicles. During the conference, telephones, telegraph and radio communications

*J.V. Stalin and W. Churchill shake hands at the end of the conference*



were shut down throughout the city, and the press did not work.

The negotiations between the heads of state were not easy. The sticking point was the opening a second front, which our Western allies did not want to rush in. The USA and Britain hoped that the war would greatly exhaust the USSR and Germany, which would allow the Anglo-Saxons to dictate terms of the post-war world. W. Churchill and F. Roosevelt tried to convince Stalin that the landing in northern France was complicated by a lack of transport and that a more advantageous scenario would be to strike Germany from the south, drawing Turkey into the war. However, due to reports from the Soviet intelligence service, the USSR leader knew that the West was working on the idea of concluding a separate peace with Germany and stood his ground. When the conversation once again reached a dead end, Joseph Vissarionovich expressed his readiness to leave the conference: "We have too much work at home to waste time here. Nothing worthwhile is coming out, as I see it." W. Churchill realized that he could not delay this issue any longer, and made a compromise. As a result, the Allies promised to open a second front in France no later than May 1944 (in fact, the landing of troops in Normandy began on June 6).

It should be noted that the information Stalin received from the foreign intelligence service became a great help in developing his tactics for negotiations with Western leaders. Together with A.M. Korotkov, the head of the "eastern" division of the Foreign Department of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (INO NKVD), Andrei Mikhailovich Otroshchenko, who had worked in Iran in 1937–1939,



**Interesting fact.** In 2007, W. Churchill's granddaughter Celia Sandys came to Moscow to shoot a film about her grandfather. At the press bureau of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, she met G. Vartanyan, who personally told her the story of the attempted assassination. S. Sandys thanked our intelligence service for saving her grandfather.

as well as 23-year-old interpreter Zoya Vasilievna Zarubina, who had come to work in intelligence service in the summer of 1942 and spoke English and German, arrived in Tehran in November 1943. In Tehran, her official duty was to translate communications between the security personnel of the Soviet and American leaders, but most of her time was occupied by urgent translations of document materials for the negotiations in English, which Soviet intelligence officers were then able to obtain directly from Roosevelt's entourage.

The leadership of the USSR highly appreciated the work of the foreign intelligence service in Iran. At the end of the conference, thirty employees of the Tehran residency, as well as their curators and colleagues from Moscow, including the above-mentioned A.M. Korotkov, Z.V. Zarubina and the head of the foreign intelligence service Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin,

were decorated with government awards. As for the young members of the "Light Cavalry" led by Gevork Vartanyan, the strict rules of secrecy did not allow them to receive awards immediately: this was done in the late 1940s – early 1950s, when the grown-up "cavalrymen" returned to the USSR.

Gevork Andreyevich Vartanyan, who continued his service as a deep cover agent, was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union in 1984. The life of this amazing man, whose 100th birthday the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service will celebrate in February 2024, will be the topic of a separate article in the next issue of "Razvedchik".



Film "True Story. Tehran-43"

# The true story of deep cover agent Parparov

Text: Maxim Ktorov

November 23, 2023 marks the 130th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Soviet deep cover agent Fyodor Karpovich Parparov. On the eve of this anniversary, the SVR of Russia declassified and for the first time presents to your attention a number of archival documents dedicated to the turning point in the life of F.K. Parparov, when at the end of the 1930s he was groundlessly arrested, but then completely acquitted and reinstated in service, continuing to carry out intelligence missions abroad.

Fyodor Parparov was one of the first Soviet deep cover agents who used the “defector” legend for naturalization abroad. In the summer of 1930, after five years of work at the USSR trade mission in Berlin, he announced to the German authorities his desire to domicile in Germany with his wife Raisa Iosifovna and six-year-old son Lev. All this time, Fyodor Karpovich had good standing with both his superiors and his colleagues, and was deservedly considered a competent expert. Fortunately, even before 1917, he

had served for ten years as a clerk in export companies and banks in Riga and Petrograd, was fluent in German, and in 1924 had received a degree on the Faculty of Law of Moscow State University. True, in 1921, F.K. Parparov as a “class alien element” – the son of a clerk at the Timber Exchange – had been expelled from the Bolshevik Party, despite the fact that he had joined it back in 1918, and had served in 1919–1920 as political inspector and commissar in the 5th Red Army, chasing the Kolchakists all the way to Irkutsk.



Austrian passport  
of Fyodor Karpovich  
Parparov



F.K. Parparov with his wife Raisa Iosifovna. 1920

Only a few people in Moscow and Berlin probably knew that F.K. Parparov had been secretly reinstated in the party on the personal recommendation of the head of the OGPU INO M.A. Trilisser back in 1925, before leaving on his first mission abroad. Having become a deep cover agent with the pseudonym “Evgeniy”, Fyodor Karpovich used his cover at the trade mission to obtain sensitive information in the circles of German financiers, major industrialists and businessmen, where “red diplomats” from the USSR Embassy were practically denied access.

True, by 1930, due to the intensification of German counterintelligence, Parparov’s opportunities in Berlin also decreased noticeably. It was then that the legendary master of deep cover intelligence, Artur Khristianovich Artuzov, who headed the INO OGPU, gambled on new, unconventional methods and techniques of intelligence activity. So, along with the search and recruitment of assistants, as they say, “for growth”, that is, from among smart Western students, as well as the hunt for foreign ciphers and encoders, Artuzov proposed infiltrating deep cover agents abroad under the guise of fugitives from the USSR, which, as in the case with Fyodor Parparov, was especially relevant for employees of legal residencies already “exposed” as employees of Soviet foreign institutions. In 1930–1931, the “whistleblower of the VCheKa”, lieutenant and holder of the Cross of St. George Boris Lago-Ozerov, the son of one of the leaders of the Russian All-Military Union (RAMU) General Fyodor Abramov, Nikolai Abramov, and Fyodor Parparov, began to work successfully in the



Norwegian passport of Raisa Iosifovna Parparov



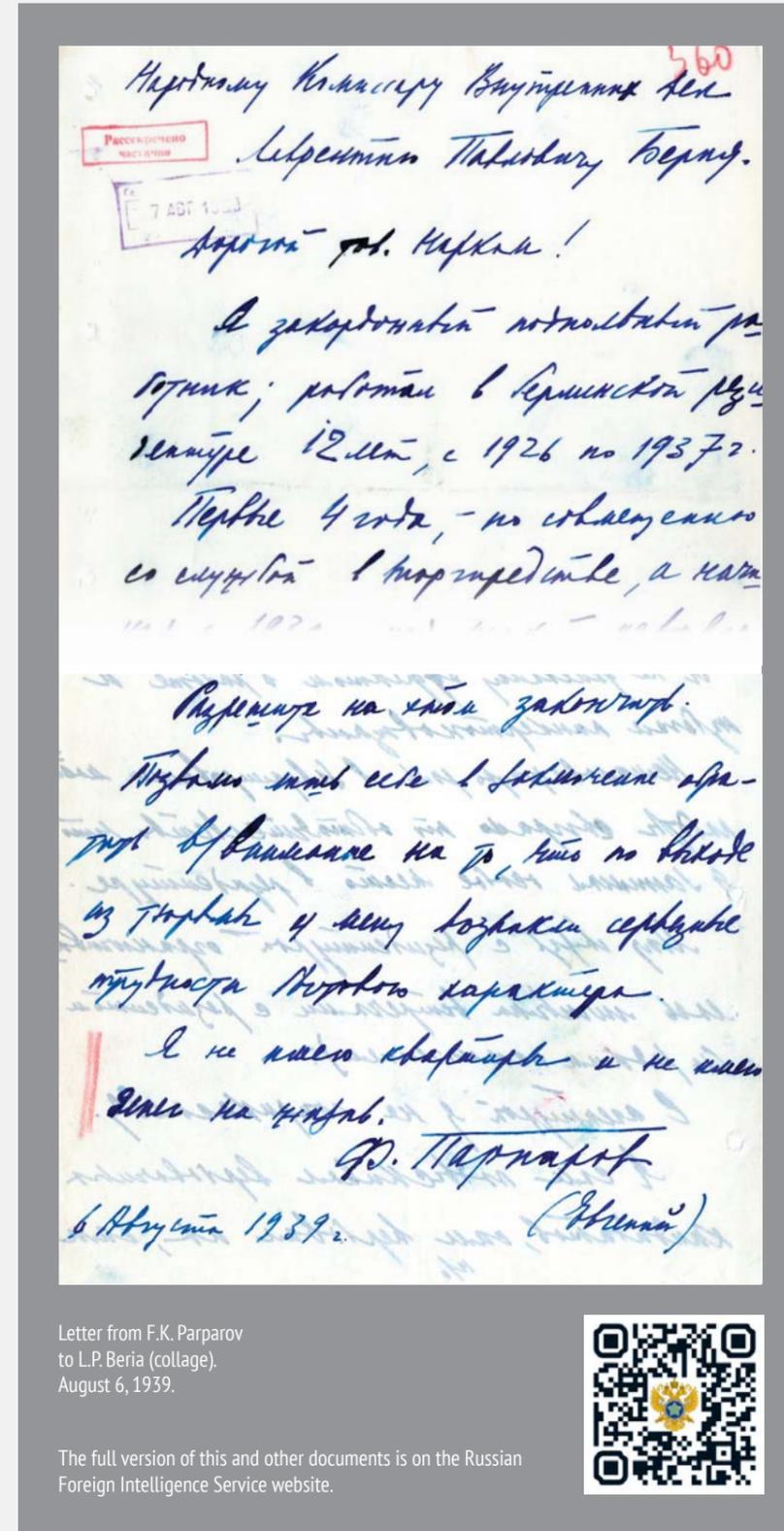
Business card of “merchant” F.K. Parparov. Spain. Barcelona. 1935

West under this legend.

By 1934, Fyodor Karpovich, using his commercial skills and connections, obtained real passports of Costa Rican citizens for himself and his family. At the same time, he created a whole network of commercial offices throughout Europe – from Turkey to Spain – to sell the products of German military factories. Of course, all information about their latest developments immediately became known in the Center.

Along with this, in the early 1930s, Parparov managed to recruit a most valuable source of information – the wife of a high-ranking employee of the German Foreign Ministry, who was given the pseudonym “Augusta”. Since her husband had direct access to secret documents of the Third Reich and often worked on them right at home, “Augusta” secretly copied them and passed them on to “Evgeniy”, who demonstrated an interest in lobbying his business interests through her husband’s capabilities. The obtained materials were transferred to Moscow through the INO residency in Berlin and reported personally to I.V. Stalin.

In May 1936, with the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, F.K. Parparov, like most of his colleagues in deep cover intelligence, focused his efforts



Letter from F.K. Parparov to L.P. Beria (collage). August 6, 1939.

The full version of this and other documents is on the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service website.



20. 9. 39. Рассекречено 316/

В НКВД Союза ССР  
 Нач. Секретариата Наркома  
 тов. Мамулову.  
 Дорогой товарищ!

Статья на моя шею  
 от 6/8 и 4/9, о чем я хочу  
 напомнить тов. Наркому  
 просьбу укоротить  
 моею волею.

Все негодные  
 тов. Мамулову, в  
 которые постра  
 ...

Уважаемый тов. Мамулов,  
 к вам и буду с  
 ожидать вашего ответа.

С уважением  
 Федор Парпаров

Мой адрес: Спальня,  
 Ч. Короленко №1/4  
 кв. 51.

Letter from F.K. Parparov addressed to the head of the NKVD secretariat S.S. Mamulov (collage), September 20, 1939

on finding sources of information about the rapidly changing situation in the Pyrenees, where military contingents of Nazi Germany and Nazi Italy were hastily sent. In a crisis situation, Fyodor had to contact INO employees more often, who, with the beginning of the "Great Purge" in 1937, started being recalled to Moscow one after another. "Evgeniy" himself returned to the Center in November 1937 "to prepare for departure for a new important mission abroad". At the same time, the head of the INO, A.A. Slutsky, described Fyodor Parparov as follows: "An excellent recruiter by his vocation, courageous, educated... He speaks German, English, partly French and Spanish. He gave several serious, good cases that have not lost their significance even now..."

However, on February 17, 1938, A.A. Slutsky died of a heart attack right on the Lubyanka. Zalman Passov, who replaced him as head of the INO and came from counterintelligence, did not hide his distrust of Parparov. On the morning of May 27, 1938, Fyodor Karpovich left his room at the Hotel "Moscow" in high spirits, intending to discuss plans for intelligence work at the upcoming, as he had been told the day before, personal meeting with People's Commissar Yezhov. The next day at four o'clock in the morning there was a loud knock on the hotel room door. Parparov's frightened wife, who let the strangers in, was told that her husband had been arrested on suspicion of spying for Germany.

Later, Fyodor Karpovich reluctantly said that in prison he was tortured, tormented by hunger and insomnia, threatened with the arrest of his wife and son, and promised to give no more than ten years in the camps in exchange for a sincere confession. But he flatly refused to



F.K. Parparov, Berlin, 1925

admit guilt or sign any papers. On June 30, 1939, "for lack of evidence of a crime", he was released from custody. Parparov was lucky: by that time the peak of the Yezhovshchina had passed, and many of his persecutors, including Passov and Yezhov, along with "Evgeniy's" comrades had perished in the millstones of repressions.

Having settled with his family after his release in the apartment of his father-in-law Iosif Prudovsky, Fyodor Karpovich began to struggle for his reinstatement in the service. On August 6, 1939, he wrote a statement addressed to the new People's Commissar of Internal Affairs L.P. Beria: "It is my desire and responsibility to take up work again with redoubled energy... If for some reason the 5th Department (intelligence) does not need my services, then I could equally well work in the military system. If I need to leave intelligence, then I could expediently be used in other NKVD bodies" (see sidebar on p. 69).

The leadership of the NKVD responded positively to this and subsequent F.K. Parparov's requests,

Рассекречено Свертено секретно. 316/

Температуру Секретариату НКВД  
 тов. Вассарионову Сталину

Завление.

Я работником подполья. Все  
 негодные работы около 70 лет  
 в Москве Беринской президентуре  
 намерен разведки.

В октябре 1937г. из-за пре-  
 дательства намерен президента в  
 Томландии и Гле отозван.

По намерен предательство  
 сына Иосифа НКВД, и Яковлев был  
 в феврале/марте 1938г. снова  
 послать за-границу со специаль-  
 ными заданиями активной разведки

И кончая это письмо в  
 моем уведомлении, что я буду  
 всем возвращен в свои права

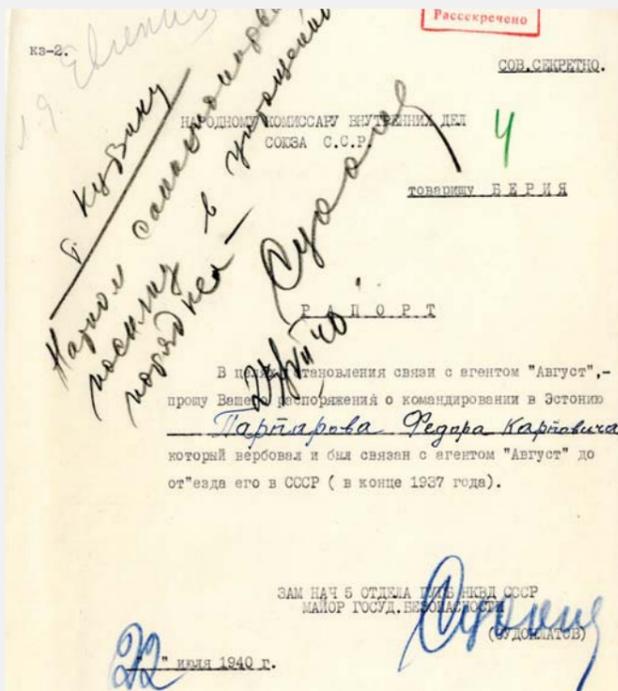
Пылко предания Вам.

Парпаров

П.С. Прислать копии моего письма в НКВД.

1 ноября 1939  
 Спальня, Ч. Короленко №1/4 кв. 51

Letter from F.K. Parparov addressed to I.V. Stalin (collage), November 1, 1939. The printed version of the document is posted on p. 82 in the "Declassified archives" section



Left: report of P.A. Sudoplatov. July 22, 1940.

Above: code telegram to Comrade Fitin. February 21, 1941

which clarified and supplemented his explanations in connection with the arrest and previous intelligence work. This is evidenced, for example, by the resolution of the head of the secretariat of the People's Commissariat S.S. Mamulov on a letter from Fyodor Karpovich dated September 20, 1939: "To Comrade Fitin. Please help" (see sidebar on p. 70). However, for the time being, all these official personnel actions did not have concrete results. The fact is that in 1930, before leaving for Berlin, Parparov had not been not a certified employee of the OGPU, had not received special ranks, while his personal file had been destroyed during the period of mass arrests.

After several months of bureaucratic runaround, red tape, F.K. Parparov, on November 1, 1939, decided to personally appeal to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, I.V. Stalin: "...I devoted myself entirely to work and day after day I put my life on the line. I am fully

worthy of the title of security officer and I am proud of it. That is why I decided to address you personally on an issue so important to me. I cannot sit idly by, I cannot stand outside the living flow of Soviet life, I cannot feel like a useless person for even one extra day. I finish this letter with the full conviction that I will be restored in my rights by you. PARPAROV, deeply devoted to you." (See document 2 in the section "Declassified archives").

A few weeks after sending this letter, Fyodor Karpovich was indeed reinstated in his service: he was assigned to the central intelligence apparatus. And already in July 1940, on the personal order of L.P. Beria, he summarily went on a business trip to Estonia to urgently restore contact with "Augusta" – that very wife of the German diplomat who was then working in Tallinn.

In October 1940, "Evgeniy" received from "Augusta" most valuable information about the strategic plans

of the Axis countries (Germany, Italy and Japan) to prepare an attack on the USSR. The INO resident in Tallinn urgently sent this information to Moscow to the head of foreign intelligence, Pavel Fitin, who immediately reported it to Stalin.

Until the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, F.K. Parparov worked fruitfully in the field of intelligence in the Baltic states, then was called to Moscow to serve in the Special Group under the People's Commissar, created at the end of



Captivity of F. Paulus. January 31, 1943

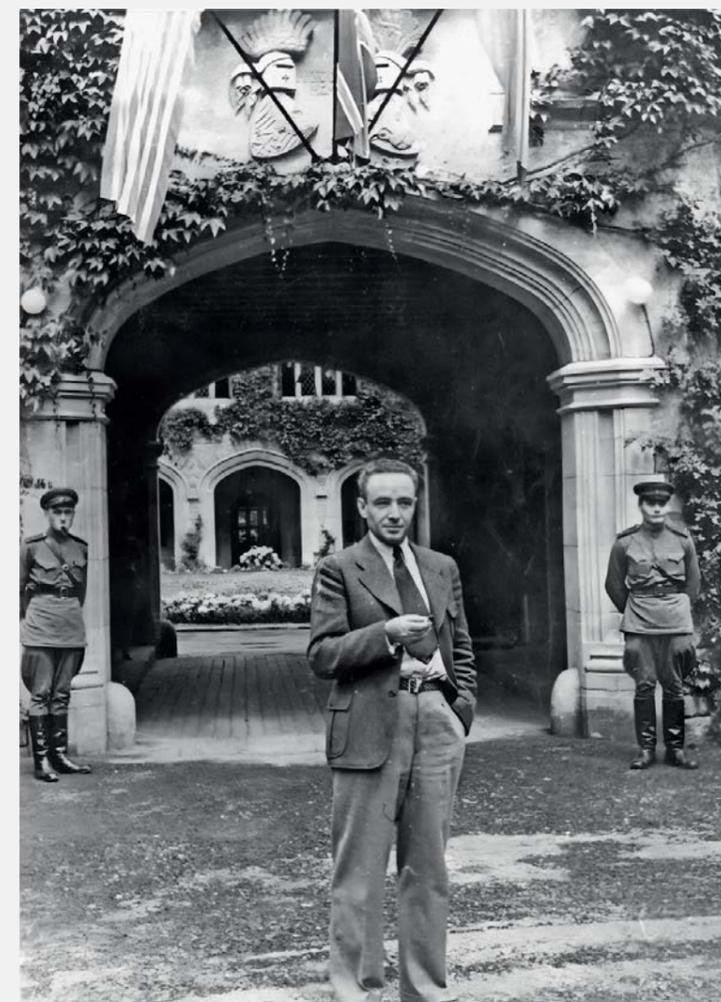


Son of F.K. Parparov Lev. Stalingrad. 1943

June 1941 and led by the legendary P.A. Sudoplatov, and its troops – the legendary OMSBON. In the fall of 1941, Parparov was promoted to the rank of senior lieutenant of state security service, after which he, with a Costa Rican passport, went to one of the countries of the Middle East as a deep cover agent.

In April 1943, having been promoted to the rank of major of state security service, F.K. Parparov returned to Moscow, where, under the name of Fyodor Georgadze, he became the main "guardian" of the German Field-Marshal Friedrich Paulus, captured at Stalingrad. Having established confidential contact with F. Paulus, Parparov in February 1946 accompanied him as the main witness for the prosecution at the Nuremberg judgment. It is noteworthy that in the corridors of the Palace of Justice Fyodor Karpovich met his son Lev (read more about this unexpected meeting in the interview with Parparov's granddaughter Maria Lvovna on p. 74).

In 1950, Fyodor Karpovich, who by that time had risen to the rank of



F.K. Parparov. Germany. 1945

lieutenant colonel, retired, and then he was offered to head the military department at his alma mater – M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University. Along with teaching students the intricacies of military translation, the experienced security officer managed to select among the university youth several talented candidates for work in foreign intelligence.

The outstanding intelligence officer died on April 9, 1959. Many students of F.K. Parparov also came to give the last honours to their teacher.

It was then that the participants in the mourning ceremony at the New Donskoye Cemetery first saw "Evgeniy's" military awards: two Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Second Degree of the Patriotic War, and the honorary badge "Honored Employee of the NKVD". However, only decades later it became possible to talk about what feats these illustrations of the highest professional valor were awarded for. ♣



**Maria Parparova:**  
**“Grandfather was a man of high morality, responsibility for his words and actions was the highest value for him”**

**On the eve of the 130th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding deep cover intelligence officer Fyodor Karpovich Parparov, “Razvedchik” talked with his granddaughter, Maria Parparova, who shared interesting facts from the life of her unique family.**

**Maria Lvovna, when and in what circumstances did you find out that your grandfather was a deep cover intelligence officer?**

First of all, I want to say that I am very proud to be a granddaughter of the outstanding intelligence officer Fyodor Karpovich Parparov, and I am grateful to the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service for declassifying archival documents related to his work. My grandfather was a direct participant in significant events in the history of our country, one of those whose intellect, talent and selflessness forged the glory of Soviet intelligence. It so happened that my father, Lev Fyodorovich, dedicated his life to serving the Motherland, too. He was a military translator and participated in the training of intelligence officers.

When I was born, my grandfather was no longer alive, but it was not customary in the family to talk about his professional activities. Something, of course, was discussed, but as if between the lines. Much later, when I was already 15 years old, I was told for the first time about the life and work of Fyodor Karpovich. My father, Lev Fyodorovich, began to write memoirs about him, and I helped him type the text. Thus, I plunged into the history of my family, and through it, into the history of our great country. This was very significant for me, a feeling of belonging and pride arose, and I began to understand what a serious and important work my grandfather did.

**How did your father speak about Fyodor Karpovich? What was the relationship between them?**

It must be said that grandfather objectively could not pay much attention to upbringing his son; work occupied most of his time. Therefore,

as a child, Lyova lived in gymnasiums: first in Switzerland, then in Spain. However, in those rare moments when dad shared his memories of his father, he, of course, spoke about him with admiration. He admired, first of all, the human qualities of Fyodor Karpovich. He always spoke of him as a man of high morality, exceptionally honest and decent, for whom responsibility for his words and actions was the highest value. My father was brought up in this atmosphere, and I try to cultivate these same qualities in my daughter.

Dad also noted that Fyodor Karpovich was always very calm and never raised his voice at his son. Even when little Lyova committed some misdeeds, he did not hear moral teachings, edifications or criticism addressed to him. Grandfather did not put pressure on him with authority, but gently said: “I advise you,” giving his son the opportunity to choose for himself what to do in a given situation.

In addition, Fyodor Karpovich was not attached to material wealth; valuable things meant little to him. This is well illustrated by the situation when, leaving Europe in 1938, he handed over to the leadership of the NKVD the keys to a richly furnished apartment in Barcelona, where there was silverware, Persian carpets and other luxuries – mandatory attributes of the life of a successful businessman, which, according to legend, my grandfather and his family lived abroad.

**Surely among your father’s memories there were some funny moments associated with your grandfather’s work abroad...**

By virtue of office, Fyodor Karpovich often had to visit crowded places, where he, apparently, met with his sources. In 1936, he and my father went to the Olympic Games in Berlin, and in 1937 to the World Exhibition in Paris.

### **Maria Lvovna Parparova**

Born in Moscow. A graduate of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of the Russian Academy of Education and the Academy of Civil Service under the President of the Russian Federation. Currently, she is the head of her own IT company and a professional psychologist, specializing in crisis and post-conflict psychology.

My father recalled that a number of cases actually happened then that prompted him to talk to my grandfather for the first time about his professional activities, although Lev was only 13 years old at that time. So, one day they were sitting in a cafe in Paris, and suddenly Fyodor Karpovich's face got distorted into a grimace, he grabbed a handkerchief, covered his face with it and leaned towards the table. Frightened Lyova rushed to his dad, but he said that he just saw a familiar person and did not want to be recognized.

Another time, when they were walking in the Montparnasse area, Fyodor Karpovich bought his son roasted chestnuts and asked him to wait for him at the appointed place, saying that he had urgent business. After 20 minutes, he appeared as if out of nowhere, and Lyova asked him directly: "Dad, are you a spy?" Fyodor Karpovich answered evasively that he was allegedly engaged in anti-fascist activities. "And mom?" – the boy inquired. "And mom helps me." And indeed, my grandmother, Raisa Iosifovna, grandfather's faithful companion, always helped him in everything: at the risk of her life, she more than once transported letters, documents, photographs across borders and handed them over to the necessary people.

**If you don't mind, I'll ask a question about the tragic page in the history of your family – the arrest of Fyodor Karpovich. How did your father perceive this situation, how did Raisa Iosifovna cope with it?**

This was, of course, the most difficult period in the life of the family. In the spring of 1938, Fyodor Karpovich arrived in Moscow with his wife and his son. On May 27, he had an appointment with People's Commissar of Internal Affairs Nikolai Yezhov. Dad recalled that his father was joyfully excited, he carefully prepared for this meeting, and intended to discuss plans for his intelligence work in Europe. However, he did not return to the hotel either in the evening of that day or the next day. Instead, early in the morning NKVD officers came to the hotel and reported that Fyodor Karpovich had been arrested.

Lev Fyodorovich was 14 years old at that time. Of course, he could not remain indifferent,

could not come to terms with the fact that he had become the son of an enemy of the people. He wrote letters twice to I.V. Stalin, carried them to Kuznetsky Most and dropped them into the box of the NKVD pass office. He asked to look into the matter of his father, an honest man and a worthy son of his Motherland. He never received an answer to his letters...

My grandmother also took her husband's arrest very hard and cried all the time. For some time, she and Lev wandered around trying to find help from their relatives. In order to earn at least some means of subsistence, she sold in commission shops the few things that they had managed to take with them from Europe. Having a diploma from the Paris Institute of Beauty, Raisa Iosifovna began doing cosmetic business at home. Dad later said that among her clients were famous theater actresses of that time...

**How long did Fyodor Karpovich's imprisonment last?**

He was held in solitary confinement about a year and two months in Lefortovo prison, where he was tortured. My father recalled that Fyodor Karpovich's back was disfigured, that is why he was then embarrassed to undress. Grandfather himself preferred not to remember this story, but it is known that in prison he, being a courageous man with a strong character, did not incriminate himself or his comrades. On June 30, 1939, by order of Beria, Fyodor Karpovich was released. Despite the fact that he returned from prison depressed, even broken-hearted, grandfather made every effort to reinstate himself in intelligence and continue serving the Fatherland.

**After the Victory, Fyodor Karpovich, as a specialist in the field of Germany, took part in the preparation of the Nuremberg judgment and was even, as the media wrote, the curator of Field Marshal Paulus. Is that so?**

Fyodor Karpovich was a member of the Special Group under the NKVD under the leadership of the legendary Pavel Sudoplatov. One of the tasks assigned to him during the preparation for Nuremberg was the cultivation, or, in

intelligence language, the re-recruitment of F. Paulus so that he would appear at the trial as a witness for the prosecution. It is curious that the fate of my father, Lev Fyodorovich, at that time was also connected with Paulus. After the Field Marshal was captured in 1943, dad was assigned to him as a translator. They spent a lot of time together, which allowed them to create a warm, almost friendly relationship. Dad said that F. Paulus was fond of drawing and even gave him one of his watercolor works.

So, a truly unique story happened in Nuremberg: father and son Parparov unexpectedly met in the corridors of the Palace of Justice! Lev Fyodorovich arrived at the trial as a translator as part of the Soviet delegation, and Fyodor Karpovich, along with other members of the Special Group, was involved in transporting the defendants and was responsible for their safety. My father later told me more than once how he was walking along the corridor and saw a familiar figure ahead. They met their gazes and, of course, immediately recognized each other, but did not even show that they knew each other, since it was strictly prohibited. This is a very important and sentimental story for our family.

**Have you ever thought about going into the intelligence service yourself? In your opinion, what qualities should a real intelligence officer have?**

In my childhood my father more than once said with a smile that I was "not much of a scout". I am an open and emotional person, it is difficult for me to hide my feelings, and this certainly upset me. However, it so happened that for success in my professional activities I need qualities such as empathy, the ability to communicate with people, understand them and motivate them. All the years of working in the field of personnel management, I, one might say, was engaged in "recruitment" – I looked for and enticed highly qualified specialists into a large company, I searched "keys" to people in order to make them the right offer. As the saying goes, you can't escape genes!

As for the qualities of an intelligence officer, for me the absolute ideal is my dad. The ideal



Colonel of the Soviet Army Lev Fyodorovich Parparov. 1970s

of both a person and a professional. Erudition, broad outlook, sense of humor – he had it all and it always admired me.

I am convinced that decency, moral values, a sense of dignity and the ability to take responsibility for words and actions are significant for any person. This is no less relevant today than it was fifty or a hundred years ago. In addition, such qualities as the ability to analyze and forecast, and calculate the development of a situation are also important for an intelligence officer.

**Do you think that a profession such as intelligence officer will be in demand in the future?**

This profession will always be valuable and important. I have no doubt that in Russia there are enough talented, far-seeing, interesting young people for whom this choice – serving the Motherland – will, without exaggeration, become fateful, and they will want to devote their lives to it. 🇷🇺



Video version of the interview

Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin and Anna Michurina

19.XI-34г.

Своей поездкой в Испанию я закончил реализацию намеченной программы расширения торговой сети и переменял местожительство. Создание новых торговых пунктов вызвано известным Вам планом организации резервных линий связи. В моих предыдущих письмах я излагал Вам мои соображения о порядке выполнения организационной стороны этого плана. В соответствии с этим я и вел свою работу, организовал конторы в Турции и Испании и обеспечил поездки из Берлина в Грецию в качестве раз, ездного агента швейцарской фабрики часов.

Практическое использование этой новой обстановки будет зависеть от Ваших решений. Однако, независимо от того, когда и в какой степени Вы найдете нужным этим воспользоваться, я прошу уделить внимание всей моей организации с тем, чтобы так или иначе активизировать мою работу.

С этой целью я ниже перечисляю все имеющиеся в моем распоряжении деловые связи на сегодняшний день.

Моя турецкая контора функционирует в виде отделения Берлинской конторы. Буду там главным образом интересоваться военными заказами. Назначенный туда А. заведующим конторой /все данные о нем у вас имеются/ установил прямые отношения с военным министерством и военными заводами. Он вошел в персональный контакт с влиятельными лицами. Он, правда, не обладает достаточным коммерческим опытом, но к роли связующего звена и прикрытия вполне подходит. Я неослабно руковожу каждым его шагом.

Для этой конторы я обеспечил себе представительства нескольких немецких заводов, которые являются поставщиками Рейхсвера. В настоящее время я занят увеличением числа представительств.

Document 1.  
Special message  
from Comrade  
Evgeniy  
(F.K. Parparov).  
November 19, 1934

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Испанскую контору я открыл в северной части Испании. Там же я оформил свое местожительство. Этой конторе я придал характер самостоятельной испанской фирмы, совершенно отделив ее от Берлинской конторы. Сделано это для того, чтобы дела этой фирмы были подконтрольны немцам и таким образом лучше маскировать мой денежный вопрос.

Это положение защищает меня также и в Испании от вмешательства в мои денежные дела.

Во главе конторы я поставил испанца, который до последнего времени был моим районным агентом. Его характеристика у вас имеется. Он предприимчивый человек и думаю, что он будет на месте. Контора будет развивать свою деятельность в качестве представителя иностранных фирм в Испании, Марокко и в Португалии. Контора будет иметь свой агентурный аппарат в количестве около 30 человек.

В настоящее время мы заняты подбором этих агентов и поисками представительств.

В Германии я не ограничился берлинской конторой и создал еще один опорный пункт в Баварии, в . . . . ., в 5 часах езды от Мюнхена. Я вошел в соглашение с небольшим красочным заводом, который передал мне руководство торговым отделом с моим участием в прибылях завода, но без вложения капитала, а в виде компенсации за работу. Следовательно, я являюсь компаньоном немецкого завода, что весьма улучшает мое положение в Германии.

В Швейцарии я имею представительские договоры с концерном часов "Омега" и с другой, менее крупной фабрикой. Кроме того, имею деловую связь с Лозанской фирмой, которая является моим представителем по продаже красок баварского завода.

Document 1.  
Special message  
from Comrade  
Evgeniy  
(F.K. Parparov).  
November 19, 1934

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Имею также агентов в Тегаране и Кабуле и занят сейчас организацией агентур в Чехословакии, Бельгии, Дании, Швеции, Норвегии и Финляндии. Имею, между прочим, три текущих счета

Учтите, что настоящее положение обеспечивает мне возможность не только бывать в местах нахождения контор и агентур, но также позволяет мне под солидным прикрытием свободно передвигаться в транзитных странах.

Свершено очевидно потому, что эти возможности должны быть использованы. Рискую иначе сделаться крупным купцом и превратиться в малодетельного чекиста.

Я серьезно надеюсь, что в скором времени вы сведете меня в том или другой мере с надежными людьми, которым я мог бы содействовать в работе.

Содержание торгового аппарата обойдется в 2000 марок в месяц, из расчета:

800	мрк	-	Берлин
700	"	-	Турция
500	"	-	Испания.

Из этой суммы около 1000 мрк будет расходоваться на оплату шести сотрудников и социальное страхование. Остальные на содержание контор.

Мои оперативные расходы можно вместо 500 мрк определить в 300 мрк в месяц.

Ной получает 200, Т. 1260.....

Таким образом, мне понадобится на содержание контор, оплату н/агентуры и на оперативные расходы 3760 марок в месяц.

Отдельно стоит вопрос о моем личном содержании.

В свое время, когда я жил всей семьей в Берлине, я обходился с суммой в 1050 мрк в месяц. После отправки сына

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в Швейцарию, понадобились 1550 марок. В последние месяцы расходы еще больше увеличились из за болезни жены и вследствие того, что все трое живем раздельно.

В связи с переселением в Испанию, это положение несколько изменится тем, что жена будет жить вместе с ребенком.

Отпадут дорогие стоящие гостиницы и часть расходов по воспитанию сына в Швейцарии. Практически это можно будет осуществить только в июне м-це следующего года по окончании учебного года у сына. До тех пор остается по старому.

Потребные расходы для нас троих выражаются в сумме 1850 мрк в месяц по следующему расчету:

850	мрк	жене, из них: на оплату гостиницы-450,
		на лечение 150, на одежду и пр.расходы - 250.
450	мрк	сыну, из них: 300 мрк школа, 150 мрк -
		одежда и пр.расходы.
550	мрк	мне, из них: 390 мрк комната с пансион-
		ном, 160 мрк- папиросы, парикмахер и пр.

Я свои расходы сократит до максимума, учитывая траты на лечение жены и необходимость поставить ее в более лучшие условия. Она ведет одинокую, незавидную жизнь.

В заключение несколько слов о Т.

Работа идет нормальным порядком, она всецело в наших руках в лучшем смысле этого слова. Жаль только, что Вы медлите с командировкой работника для связи с ней. Я подготовил ее к приезду работника еще в августе. Считаю затѣжку этого вопроса нецелесообразным.

Привет ЕВГЕНИЙ.

Рассекречено

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СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО

ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОМУ СЕКРЕТАРЮ ЦК ВКП(б)

Иосифу Виссарионовичу СТАЛИНУ

З А Я В Л Е Н И Е

Я работник подполья. Вел нелегальную работу около 12 лет в системе берлинской резидентуры нашей разведки.

В октябре 1937 года из-за предательства нашего резидента в Голландии я был отозван.

По планам тогдашнего руководства ИНО НКВД, я должен был в феврале (марте 1938 г. снова поехать за границу с специальными заданиями активной разведки.

Но руководство сменилось, и меня арестовали по обвинению в шпионаже.

Я пробыл в заключении около 13 месяцев (с конца мая 38 г. по июнь 39 г.) и был освобожден за прекращением дела.

По выходе на свободу, я вот уже 4 месяца, как <sup>еще</sup> ~~тщательно~~ пытаюсь письмами и личными запросами добиться в НКВД работы или увольнения.

К сожалению, мне не только не дают работы, но ставят затруднения в легализации моего положения и тем

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самым в приобщении к трудовой жизни.

Мне говорят, что у руководства нет еще твердой установки в отношении меня. Одновременно мне предлагают устраиваться на работу вне органов НКВД. Вместе с тем мне отказывают в оформлении моего увольнения. Мне хотят втолковать, что по вине прежнего руководства мое зачисление в штат не было оформлено приказом. Поэтому нет, якобы, документальных оснований к моему увольнению. Больше того, мне отказывают в выдаче справок и характеристики, необходимых при поступлении на работу и для воинского учета.

Короче говоря, как раз в данный момент, когда я нуждаюсь в поддержке, НКВД отвернулся от меня и оставил меня наедине с тюремной справкой.

Нет надобности доказывать, что оказанная мне единовременная помощь в сумме 2500 рублей (с предварительным лишением меня содержания) отнюдь не решает моего вопроса.

Если здесь уместны мои личные выводы, то я должен отметить исключительную несправедливость в обращении со мной.

Казалось бы, что напряженная и успешная работа прошлых лет должна обеспечить мне место в первых

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рядах нашей разведки. Единственно, что могло бы вызвать отрицательные для меня размышления, это моё исключение из партии. Я был исключен во время чистки 1928 года. Но я не сбился с пути и своей последующей многолетней работой в качестве подпольного резидента выжег это пятно. Эти годы были не только годами трудной борьбы, но и внутреннего роста и самовершенствования.

Если все же я не могу быть использованным в дальнейшем, то с работой в разведке, значит, кончено.

Но во имя чего мне отказывают в моем законном праве быть уволенным с честью?

Ведь никому из работников 5 Отдела НКВД не следует рассказывать о том, что трудовой стаж — честь советского человека.

В чем же смысл подобных действий?

Наконец, моя ли вина в том, что я кем-то не был оформлен?

Но каковы бы ни были мотивы, ясно одно: я всего себя отдавал работе, и изо дня в день ставил на карту свою жизнь. Совершенно недопустимо вычеркивать из моей жизни 12 лет этой самоотверженной работы. Я вполне достоин звания чекиста и горжусь этим.

Вот почему, убедившись, что к моим доводам не прислушиваются, я решился в столь важном для меня вопро-

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сом обратиться лично к Вам. Думаю, что поступаю правильно, и что это не может быть истолковано, как недисциплинированность.

Я не могу сидеть сложа руки, я не могу стоять вне живого потока советской жизни, я не могу ни одного лишнего дня чувствовать себя бесполезным человеком.

Другая моя забота — материального характера. До настоящего момента к трудностям моих бытовых условий проявлено полное равнодушие.

Моя просьба о предоставлении квартиры и доставке моих вещей из-за границы, оставлены без ответа.

Я спрашиваю себя, правильно-ли поступаю, обращаясь к Вам и с этой моей заботой? Но в данный момент мне и моей семье (жена и 15-ти летний сын) действительно приходится жить в тяжелых условиях.

Я кончаю это письмо в полном убеждении, что я буду Вами восстановлен в своих правах.

Глубоко преданный Вам

ПАРПАРОВ

Р.С. Прилагаю копии моих писем в НКВД.

1 ноября 1939 года

Сокольники, ул. Короленко 4/14  
кв. 51

с-10

Сов. секретно.

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

О РАБОТЕ ГЕРМАНСКОЙ АГЕНТУРЫ В ИРАНЕ  
ПРОТИВ СССР.

В результате следствия по делам немецких агентов, арестованных в Иране, установлено, что при поддержке бывшего шаха и его окружения из числа профашистских элементов, немцы, начиная с 1936-1937 г.г., проводили в Иране активную работу по превращению этой страны в придаток германского фашизма, для того, чтобы осуществить с иранского плацдарма военное нападение на Советский Союз.

Опираясь на влиятельные германофильские элементы, в Иране, фашистская Германия открыла себе свободный доступ в эту страну. Германская разведка под видом различных "торговых представителей", "специалистов", "научных работников", "туристов", забросила в Иран значительное количество квалифицированных агентов и фашистских организаторов из числа офицеров военной разведки, гестапо, членов отрядов "СА" и "СС", которые проникли в государственные, промышленные, военные и хозяйственные организации Ирана.

Как установлено следствием, германская разведка в Иране широко использовала в шпионских и диверсионных целях белоэмигрантские и националистические элементы (члены РОСС'а, и муссаватистских организаций) и забрасывала эти кадры в Закавказье и Среднюю Азию для шпионажа, диверсии и организации повстанчества.

Так, например, один из арестованных германских разведчиков в Иране - ФРИК показал, что по заданию германского посольства в Иране, он установил контакт с ирано-подданным ГАДАН-МАМЕД-ОГЛИ, возглавляющим антисоветскую националистическую организацию под названием "Мили-Мудафа", члены которой действуют в Кировабаде, Нахичевани, Баку и Тбилиси.

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ФРИК поручил ГАДАН-МАМЕД-ОГЛИ забросить в Азербайджан вооруженную группу агентов для выполнения диверсионных заданий и активизации деятельности указанной выше антисоветской организации "Мили-Мудафа".

Другой агент разведки ВЕТКЕ показал, что наряду с работой по подготовке фашистского переворота внутри Ирана, немцы из Ирана забрасывали агентуру в Советский Союз, с целью организации повстанчества в республиках Закавказья.

Значительную антисоветскую работу фашистские агенты провели среди армянских белоэмигрантов, проживающих в Иране, имеющих связи в Армянской ССР.

Как показывает ВЕТКЕ, некто САФАРИ, выходец из Баку, являющийся техническим директором военного арсенала в Тегеране, имеет в Джульфе "своих людей", которые выполняют его шпионские задания. С этими лицами САФАРИ поддерживает радиосвязь.

Арестованный в Иране германский агент ФРАНЧЕК показал, что в мае 1940 года германской разведкой из Ирана в Туркмению и Закавказье были заброшены 6 агентов с заданием по сбору шпионских сведений военного характера: в октябре 1940 года были перебросены на советскую территорию белоэмигранты САРДАРОВ и САТАРОВ с заданием пробраться в Тбилиси для сбора разведывательных данных; в тот же период были заброшены в Ашхабад для сбора шпионских сведений агенты ПЕТРОСЬЯНИ и ПАТКЬЯНИ; в июне 1941 г. были заброшены агенты КОВАЛЕВ и ТАРНОВСКИЙ в Ашхабад, ТУРТОМ и СТЕДАНБЕКЬЯНИ в Тбилиси, ПАНЬЯНИ Алекс в Баку. Также в июне 1941 г. германской разведкой заброшена в Баку группа белоэмигрантов в составе ФЛИННОВА, ПЕТРОВА, ПАВЛОВИЧА и ПЕНЕБА с заданием пробраться на оборонные предприятия и совершать диверсионные акты.

415 3.-

Как установлено материалами следствия, фашистская Германия в своих планах отводит особое место захвату Закавказья, подготавливая соответствующие кадры "политических деятелей". Один из руководителей агентов германской разведки в Иране - арестованный ГАМКЕЛЬБЕРГ показал, что германские правящие круги наметили список "политических деятелей" для Закавказья на случай его оккупации. ГАМКЕЛЬБЕРГ назвал ряд таких лиц, из числа которых установлены:

ВАШАДЗЕ Носим-Петр Спиридонович, профессор, проживает в Тбилиси, разрабатывается НКВД Грузии по подозрению в шпионаже;

НИКОМЕ Михаил Алексеевич, военный врач в госпитале в Тбилиси, разрабатывается НКВД Грузии по подозрению в шпионаже;

ГЕИНСЕЛЬМАН Николай Андреевич, содержится в настоящее время под стражей в НКВД Грузии, по обвинению в антисоветской деятельности;

ВЕГЕНЕЛЬ Густав Фридрихович, арестован 16 июня 1941 г. НКВД Грузии по обвинению в шпионаже;

НИЗЕРАКСЕ Ратаял Виссаронович, уроженец Сванетии, сын священника, арестовывался в 1930-1936 и 1938 г.г. по обвинению в шпионаже, осужден к 10 годам ИТЛ, отбывает наказание в Севвостлаге НКВД;

1. ЛИСИНИАН Степан Лавилович, проживает в Ереване, активно разрабатывается, как националист и пораженец;

АБОВЕИ Константин Варданович, преподаватель немецкого языка в Ереванском пединституте, арестовывался в 1937 году за антисоветскую деятельность;

ВЛИЩЯН Гурбен Меерович, осужден к заключению в ИТЛ на 10 лет за антисоветскую деятельность, отбывает наказание в Ясном лагере НКВД и

Document 3.  
Special message  
of the NKVD.  
June 16, 1942

416 4.-

ТЕР-ТОРОЯН Корбан Торосович, проживал в Леннакане, осужден в 1937 году на 10 лет ИТЛ.

Часть активных агентов германской разведки после вступления советских войск в Иран скрылась и перешла на нелегальное положение (ГАМОТА, МАЙЕР и др.). Эти агенты продолжают вести подрывную работу против СССР в Иране и несомненно будут пытаться наладить связи с германской агентурой, находящейся на территории Закавказья и Средней Азии.

При этом направляются наиболее характерные показания арестованных в Иране германских агентов - ГАМКЕЛЬБЕРГА, РАДАНОВИЧА, ГЕЙСЕРА, ВАСМАНА, ВЕТКЕ, ФРИКА и ВЕРХОЛЬЦА и список выявленных следствием германских разведчиков.

п.п. НАЧАЛЬНИК 2-го УПРАВЛЕНИЯ НКВД СССР  
КОМИССАР ГОСБЕЗОПАСНОСТИ 3 РАЙОНА - ФЕДОТОВ.

"16" июня 1942 г.

Верно: НАЧ. 6 ОТД. 1 ОТДЕЛА 2 УПР. НКВД СССР  
КАПИТАН ГОСБЕЗОПАСНОСТИ

(ТАМАРОВ)



More documents on the  
SVR of Russia website

Document 3.  
Special message  
of the NKVD.  
June 16, 1942

# Named after Heroic Intelligence Officers Diamonds

Text: Valery Ilyin

**At all times and in all countries, diamonds have been valued for their rarity and exceptional hardness, superior to metal. In the east they were called “almas”, which means “the hardest”, in ancient Greece – “adamas”, that is, “invincible”. Intelligence officers, especially deep cover agents, are the same “custom-made goods”, unique people whose willpower and fortitude are in no way inferior to the hardness of diamond.**



In the fall of 2020, on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, its head, Sergei Yevgenievich Naryshkin, presented to the public a personalized precious crystal with high quality-weight characteristics, which joined the permanent exhibition of the Diamond Fund – “100 Years of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation”.

Like everything related to intelligence, the valuable exhibit retains an element of mystery. The numbers indicating its mass – 116.91 carats – encrypt the number of historical order No. 169 on the creation of the Foreign Department of the Cheka (the future Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia), signed by Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky on December 20, 1920.

The crystal, rare in its characteristics, has become the fourth in the Diamond Fund’s collection related to foreign intelligence. Earlier, at the suggestion of the director of the SVR, the Gokhran of Russia assigned the names of outstanding intelligence officers to three other rough natural diamonds included in the list of unique ones: “Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan”, “Alexei Botyan” and “Alexey Kozlov”. I will tell you about the exploits of these people

Diamond “100 years of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service”



below, but first, a few words about how these stones were mined.

## Pipes with excellent “tobacco”

At the end of the Great Patriotic War, the industry of the USSR began to recover rapidly and badly needed strategic raw materials, which the Soviet authorities had to buy abroad. Currency was also in short supply at that time, so the country’s authorities decided to start searching for diamonds in order to sale them on the world market later.

At first, they started digging beyond the Urals, but hopes for large-scale mining of jewels soon waned. Multiple groups of geologists had to go to Yakutia to search for at least one kimberlite pipe with a sufficient amount of content.

In the fall of 1948, a geological expedition led by Grigory Fanshtein set off towards the Vilyuy and Chona rivers. The first diamond was found on August 7, 1949 on the Sokolinaya

sand spit. Then geologists found twenty more diamonds, and soon the richest diamond placer. On August 21, 1954, geologist Larisa Popugayeva and worker Fyodor Belikov discovered the first kimberlite pipe in our country.

I don’t know whether it’s true or fiction, but they say that a fox brought romance into the hard labor of geologists. In the evening, when the rays of the setting sun illuminated the exposed roots of a tall larch, geologists saw scattered bluish rock underneath them. It seemed to be thrown out by a red fox digging her hole under the tree. In this rock, which was undoubtedly kimberlite, pyrope, the eternal companion of diamonds, sparkled with its “red eye” alluringly. Thus, in the remote taiga on a tributary of the Vilyui, a deposit of the most valuable jewel was discovered. At that moment, none of the expedition members suspected that they were standing in the very center of the largest kimberlite pipe on the planet. The next day, they sent an encrypted radiogram to Moscow:



Yakutia. Mir kimberlite pipe. Diameter 1200 m, depth 525 m

“We have lit the peace pipe, the tobacco is excellent! Avdeyenko, Yelagina, Khabarov.”

Two years later, diamond miners started developing the Mir pipe by open-pit mining, breaking deep into the permafrost, blasting the ground with dynamite. They abandoned quarry mining only in 2001 and switched to the mine method. In the kimberlite pipes “Mir” and “Udachnaya” in the 1980s, rare stones were found, which were included in the collection of the Diamond Fund under the names of outstanding intelligence officers.

**In the footsteps of his father. Hand in hand – with her husband**

Of the three personalized crystals, the diamond “Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan” is the smallest – “only” 25.29 carats – and at first glance does not contain anything unique. However, if you look closely, it becomes clear that the jewel consists



of two diamonds fused together. This emphasizes the eternal union of two hearts that beat as one for many years.

Gevork and Gohar – the legendary “Henri” and “Anita”. They met in pre-war Tehran in 1940, when they were the same age as the characters of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”: he was 16, she was 14. Gevork was the son of the Soviet deep cover intelligence officer Andrei Vartanyan, who worked abroad under the guise of a businessman. With the beginning of the war, Vartanyan Jr. began to actively help his father and at the age of 16 he was included in the Tehran residency. He organized a mobile group from his peers, the so-called “Light Cavalry”, whose tasks included detecting and observing German spies.

In November 1943, on the eve of the Tehran Conference, Vartanyan’s group managed to identify Wehrmacht saboteurs who were preparing an assassination attempt on the leaders of the “Big Three” – I.V. Stalin, F.D. Roosevelt, W. Churchill (read more about it in the “Intelligence Service in History” column). All this time, Gohar was a faithful assistant, running around the city on par with the boys for 14-16 hours a day.

They got married after the war, in 1946. Until 1951, the Vartanyans continued to work in Iran, then the couple of deep cover intelligence agents were brought to the USSR in order that they could pursue studies. After completing the studies, the spouses went on a long working voyage to distant countries, from

Left: the Vartanyan couple. 2007  
Below: diamond “Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan”



“Henri” and “Anita”. 1950s

which they returned home only in 1986. One can only guess how many difficulties they had to overcome living and working abroad, since their personal files have not yet been declassified. However, there is no doubt that their life was heroic: back in 1984, by a closed decree, Gevork Andreevich was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

After retiring, Gevork and Gohar continued to benefit the country sharing their invaluable experience with young people until their last days. But time is inexorable: Gevork Andreevich passed away on January 10, 2012, and was buried with honors at the Troekurovskoye cemetery in Moscow. Seven years later, November 25, 2019, Gohar Levonovna joined her husband to continue the journey together, hand in hand. Now into eternity.

**Deep cover agent from the dry cleaner’s**

Deep cover intelligence officer Alexey Mikhailovich Kozlov, after whom another unique diamond is

named, for many who are familiar with his biography, has become a symbol of the unbending spirit and fortitude of a foreign intelligence officer. Due to betrayal, he was arrested in South Africa and spent more than a year in prison. When the Soviet leadership managed to exchange him, he weighed only 57 kilograms (at the moment of arrest – 90). Hence the weight of the name stone: 57.74 carats.

The “nugget” was born on December 21, 1934, in the village of Oparino in the Kirov region. Having an innate talent for languages, he mastered German perfectly while still in school. It allowed him to enter MGIMO easily, amazing the admissions committee with his abilities.

The talented young man was immediately noticed at the university. Alexey Kozlov gladly accepted the personal invitation to serve in intelligence. After three years of intensive special training, he went to work under a deep cover in Germany, then in Denmark. At first he worked as a draftsman, then got a job as a loader at a large dry cleaner’s. He quickly rose to the position of a travelling representative for a reputable international company that traded in machines and materials for stain removal.

Our deep cover agent traveled halfway around the world. Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, France – he carried out special assignments of the Center everywhere. Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia – this is not a complete list of states in which traveling salesman Otto Schmidt – under this name Colonel A.M. Kozlov traveled around the world – sold equipment for dry cleaners, in between obtaining a specific “product” so necessary to ensure the security of his Homeland.

Finally, in South Africa, the intelligence officer discovered the fact of testing nuclear weapons. At a private party in Malawi, a lady told how she celebrated the launch of a military nuclear project with the Israelis in the mid-1970s. There was no reason to doubt her competence: the woman held the post of secretary to the general director of the South African nuclear center. A.M. Kozlov immediately reported valuable information to Moscow, after which the USSR government attracted the attention of the international community to this problem. Relying on facts obtained from the reliable hands of foreign intelligence, the top Soviet leadership managed to force European states and the United States to put pressure on the South African authorities to abandon attempts to acquire their own nuclear arsenal.

But the one who managed to obtain invaluable information had to pay severely for it. As a rule, failure in intelligence work occurs owing to betrayal. Alexey Kozlov did not escape such a fate. Coming off the



A.M. Kozlov. May 1956



Top: "Alexey Kozlov" diamond  
Left: A.M. Kozlov was presented with the Gold Star medal of the Hero of Russia. 2000

plane at Johannesburg airport in June 1980, our "trader" immediately fell into the hands of South African counterintelligence, which charged him... with terrorism. As a consequence, deprivation of the right to legal assistance and a ban on communication with the outside world.

The torturers did everything in attempts to find out at least something about Kozlov's work and connections on the Black Continent. Our deep cover agent was kept in an internal prison of the counterintelligence and subjected to endless torture. The prisoner spent six months on death row and was repeatedly taken out "to execution". But it was all in vain: it turned out impossible to break will of the Russian.

Moscow learned about Kozlov's arrest a year later from Western media. No one doubted the fortitude of our comrade; his release from prison became a matter of honor. As a result, Alexey Mikhailovich was exchanged, as he himself put it later, at a rate of one to eleven: for Kozlov's release ten West German agents arrested in East Germany and a South African army officer captured

in Angola were handed over to the enemy.

On December 7, 2000, "for the courage and heroism shown during the performance of a special task," Colonel A.M. Kozlov was awarded the title of Hero of Russia. The legendary intelligence officer died on November 2, 2015, and was buried at the Troyekurovskoye cemetery.

### The legend of the special forces

The largest diamond of the glorious trio is "Alexey Botyan". It contains as much as 100.45 carats. In 2017, representatives of the Gokhran of Russia presented Alexey Nikolaevich with a certificate confirming the assignment of his name to a unique stone. That year, the hero of the occasion turned 100 years old.

Alexey Botyan was born on February 10, 1917 into a peasant family in Western Belarus, which in 1921 became part of Poland. After graduating from school, he was drafted into the Polish army, and in September 1939 he fought with

the Nazis. After the reunification of Belarus and the USSR, he received a Soviet passport and worked as a primary school teacher. By a Komsomol direction he was sent to intelligence school, which he graduated from in June 1941.

Enlisted in OMSBON at the beginning of the war, at first he took part in the defense of the capital, but in late autumn he headed a reconnaissance and sabotage group that went behind the front line. Operating deep behind enemy lines on the territory of Ukraine and Belarus, the fighters of Alexei Botyan's detachment went on raids and carried out subversive acts successfully. So, on September 9, 1943, the Gebitskommissariat building was blown up in Ovruch near Zhitomir, where 80 fascist officers gathered for a meeting.

In May 1944, Botyan's special group approached Krakow. The young officer, who had an excellent command of the Polish language, quickly got into contact with people. Representatives of Polish units fighting a common enemy often turned to "Lieutenant Alyosha" with a request for joint raids. Due



A.N. Botyan before the war

plans included mining bridges across the Dunajec River and the Roznov Dam. With the destruction of the latter, the flooding of a vast territory and, as a result, the disruption of the offensive of the 1st Ukrainian Front under the command of Marshal Konev became inevitable. The Nazis also did not ignore Krakow: in the event of a retreat, they planned to turn it into ruins. The occupiers stored the amount of explosives to carry out all the above in an ancient Jagiellonian castle.

to these raids many local patriots were freed from fascist dungeons, and warehouses with weapons and ammunition were seized.

At the end of 1944, the special group soldiers captured the Polish engineer-cartographer Zygmund Ogarek who had a map of fortifications near the city of Nowy Sącz. The prisoner said that the Nazis intended to carry out an act of sabotage in the midst of the offensive of the Red Army. Their

It seemed that nothing would stop the Fritzes from carrying out their plan, but an unaccounted factor represented by Alexey Botyan's special detachment turned out to be a "spike in the wheel". An accomplice in the brigade of loaders carrying the hellish cargo to the castle basement managed to discreetly place a small land mine with a timing mechanism under a stack of mines. Early in the morning of January 18, 1945, the bomb went off, and the Jagiellonian Castle blew up. The Nazis lost not only the

means to destroy strategic objects, but also hundreds of soldiers and officers who were buried under the rubble.

After the end of the war, Alexey Botyan was enlisted in the foreign intelligence operational staff. Two years later, he went abroad as a deep cover intelligence officer and carried out important assignments throughout Europe. Upon his return, he advised the Vympel special forces. According to his colleagues, even in old age, Alexei Mikhailovich's hand remained steady and his eye sharp. In 1983, he retired to the reserve with the rank of colonel.

In May 2007, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, Alexey Botyan was awarded the title of Hero of Russia "for the courage and heroism shown during the operation to liberate the Polish city of Krakow." On February 13, 2020, three days after his 103rd birthday, the legendary intelligence officer passed away. He was buried in the Alley of Heroes of the Troyekurovskoye cemetery. 🇷🇺



Left: A.N. Botyan. Krakow. 2008  
Below: diamond "Alexey Botyan"



## V.M. Kononov: «Russian scientists and inventors have always done a lot for intelligence»



**Vladimir Mikhailovich, you are the deputy of the State Duma and at the same time the head of the All-Russian Society of Inventors and Innovators (VOIR in Russian), as the saying is, “two in one”: you have information about what is happening in the field of lawmaking and in the field of real inventions. Tell us, how do inventors help our Motherland in security matters?**

First of all, I would like to note that the security of the country is a paramount task, especially today, in the context of unprecedented sanctions and a hybrid war actually unleashed against us. It would not be an exaggeration to say that since the times of the Cold War, our country has not been in such a tough confrontation with the collective West, which, as it turns out, has never stopped attacking Russia, striving for our complete submission and actual deprivation of sovereignty.

In this situation, the Foreign Intelligence Service played a key role; we managed to stop literally on the edge of an abyss. So, the professionalism of our intelligence officers, who promptly informed the Russian leadership about NATO’s aggressive plans, helped our President to make the only possible decision – to initiate a Special Military Operation.

As for inventors, let me remind your readers that historically Russian scientists have done a lot for intelligence. A little of history: everyone knows about the role of intelligence in the nuclear project. Razvedchik already wrote about this. But there were other episodes.

In 1945, on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the international children’s camp “Artek”,

children presented the USA Ambassador to the USSR A. Harriman, who had been invited to the anniversary, a wooden panel with an image of the Great Seal of the US Secretary of State carved on it. The wood article was made very skillfully, and the touched official hung it on the wall of his office in the Moscow residence Spaso House. Of course, the gift was carefully examined by American security specialists, but nothing suspicious was found. And anyway, they could not. The bug hidden inside the article could not be detected by any of the methods known at the time. The panel had been decorating the office for seven years, it outlived four American ambassadors, and the Soviet secret service was able to hear everything that happened inside.

The eavesdropping device was discovered by accident, which provoked a scandal. The Americans brought the “gift” to the UN Assembly as an evidence of the USSR’s intelligence activity. But then they once again found themselves in an awkward situation. Being asked to demonstrate how it worked, they couldn’t do anything. The device hidden inside the wooden panel, had neither batteries nor electronic components. Even US specialists and scientists did not understand what it was, what the principle of its operation was. Amid caustic remarks and sarcastic laughter, the Americans were forced to retreat.

For a long time, the principle of operation of the device remained a mystery. The author of the device was the brilliant Russian inventor Leon Theremin, who also invented the world-famous musical instrument, the thereminvox. He also created another eavesdropping system – “Buran” (Snowstorm), which turned

### Vladimir Mikhailovich Kononov

Born on March 13, 1958 in Novosibirsk. Graduate of the Novosibirsk Institute of Electrical Technology. In 1985 he founded the Youth Initiatives Foundation, in 1991 – the “KONKOR” company. In 2011, he was elected deputy of the State Duma, and since 2021 he has been a Deputy Chairman of the Duma Committee on Science and Higher Education. Since June 2022, Chairman of the Central Council of the All-Russian Society of Inventors and Innovators. The Russian Government Prize winner in the field of science and technology.



American diplomats demonstrate the eavesdropping device

out to be effective as well. This system was inspired by an ordinary gramophone. Just as the gramophone needle reads information from a disc, the infrared ray focused on the window of the room where negotiations take place, reads the slightest vibrations and turns them into words. Thus, intelligence received another powerful source of information, and Leon Theremin was awarded the Stalin Prize in 1947.

Another Russian scientist, Dmitry Mendeleev, created smokeless gunpowder. And note that for making it, our great chemist, while being in France, simply monitored the number of carriages coming to the gunpowder factory. Having analyzed what ingredients and in what volumes were being brought to the factory, he derived the exact formula of French gunpowder. But it seemed imperfect to him, and he created his own recipe, which is still used throughout the world.

The great Russian traveler Nikolay Przhevalsky, the explorer of the Far East Vladimir Arsenyev and many other scientists were also intelligence officers. The intelligence service is a great honor and trust!

#### What inventions and discoveries made in our country nowadays can serve to strengthen the state security?

Modern inventors also do not sit with their arms folded, hind quarters, but, as you understand, I am not authorized to disclose details of inventions which may have a dual purpose. Instead, I propose to speculate on which of the existing scientific achievements could be useful to our intelligence and

counterintelligence officers. For example, the facial recognition system applied in many Russian cities, is capable of identifying the routes of foreign spies and potential terrorists, which greatly simplifies their search. The algorithm developed by Russian scientists, does not practically fail. Besides, interception of telecommunications traffic is very effective in our country. Similar systems are used all over the world, but our system is perhaps the most advanced. Well, collecting information and making decisions is another matter. In this case, technologies based on artificial intelligence can be useful, they are able to process large data arrays.

In general, I would like to note that modern inventions are complex systems with a large scientific component. Therefore, VOIR works closely with the Russian Academy of Sciences. By the way, the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Gennady Yakovlevich Krasnikov, fully supports inventors in our country.

#### Does it mean that soon intelligence will be completely dependent on high technology, and a man will take a secondary place in it?

This will never happen. In intelligence, the key role has always been given to a man, his intellect and abilities. Inventions have been and will be only auxiliary items. At the same time, we must acknowledge that, with the implementation of new technologies, the volume of information received has increased several times, and the methods of obtaining it also have changed significantly. Of course, the scientific and technological race between states will continue, so the role of scientists and inventors will increase.

#### And the last question: a year ago you headed VOIR, the organization that played a significant role in the field of invention in the USSR. What is being done today to revive VOIR, to breathe new life into it?

A year ago, VOIR turned 90, and today it is experiencing a rebirth. Now, many years passed, inventors again feel the attention from the state. In particular, a Board of guardians has been created, headed by the Deputy Chairman

of the Government of the Russian Federation Dmitry Nikolaevich Chernyshenko.

The "Festival of VOIR: science and innovation for life" took place in Russia from June to November this year. More than 300 thousand people from all parts of our country have participated in it. This is a unique and large-scale project aimed at searching, demonstrating and supporting the latest developments, ideas, projects and solutions of Russian scientists and inventors. The festival program included live and online popular science events for a wide audience: conferences, forums, exhibitions and much more.

The leading event of the festival was the first all-Russian competition "Inventor of the Year", the results of which were summed up at the end of November at the 3rd Congress of Young Scientists in the "Sirius" Science and Art Park. I would like to note that there has been a lot of interest to the competition; applications for participation in it came from all parts of the country. We hope that the festival will be held annually; in any case, we can safely say that it has already become an event. Also, VOIR took part for the first time



At the "Army-2023" forum

Interviewed by Alexander Rzheshhevsky

«A year ago, VOIR turned 90, and today it is experiencing a rebirth. Now, many years passed, inventors again feel the attention from the state.»



Video from the VOIR's Festival in 2023

in the International Military-Technical Forum "Army" in Patriot Park this year. In September 2023, under the auspices of VOIR and the State Duma, the 10th All-Russian Conference "Young Technicians and Inventors" was held. A lot of work has been done within the scope of the Russian Industrial Week at the Central Exhibition Complex "Expocenter", and many other events have taken place.

We expect that in the coming years VOIR will continue to expand, its regional branches will appear in all corners of our great country, including new territories. A young generation will come and continue the glorious path of Russian inventors. And new discoveries will more than once serve the intelligence service, and others. 🚀

# A Mission to Paris

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

Ending.

Leaving the house, Max figured out that a person had been following him for about a kilometer. Having walked from one street to another several times, he became convinced that someone was really watching him. He whisked into a gateway and hid by the wall. The tail entered after him and, rounding the corner, bumped into Max. With a dagger in his hands aimed at the tail's stomach, Max asked him in Russian:

'Why are you following me?' and made a movement with the dagger, as if preparing to strike. The tail timidly retreated and muttered in Russian:

'I was told to follow you.'

'Come on, stand here, turn to the wall. Hurry up!'

Max quickly searched the tail's pockets.

'Who sent you? Tell quickly!'

'Kraskov,' the tail murmured.

'Then tell him,' Max said, grabbing the tail by the collar, 'that I don't like such jokes. Get away quickly. Scat!'

The tail quickly disappeared behind the corner.

Max went to the other exit, but it was too late. Three strong guys approached him and, before he could shout, they pushed him into a van. A rag was stuffed into Max's mouth, and his hands were tied. The guys did all this in silence.

About half an hour later, the van drove into the yard of an old house. The guys pushed Max out and quickly led him to the door. He was conducted into an apartment where four people were sitting. One of them was Kraskov, and the others were not familiar to Max.

#### 4. Apartment of a sabotage group. Paris

'Tie him to the chair, and take out the gag,' the elder ordered.

Max fixed his eyes on Kraskov and angrily shouted to him:

'Do you think this way you can learn details about the letter you stole from me at night? You're a thief and a fool!'

Kraskov rushed at Max swearing, but the old man stopped him.

'Calm down, Kraskov,' he said and added addressing Max: 'We have read the letter. It is of interest to us because it promises to give us an opportunity to carry out one of our plans. We need connections in Russia. You either tell us voluntarily who has written this letter to you, where this person can be found and what he is doing for you, or we will force you!'

'You have hastened too much, because we could have agreed more peacefully, without all this drama. If it's so important for you to know my connections, ways and people, then explain what the matter is, and I'll see if I can help you.'

'Well, you, my dear, have no choice,' the old man grinned. 'We will find a person who can replace you. He will look like you, he will talk like you. You will tell me the password, and everything will be fine.'

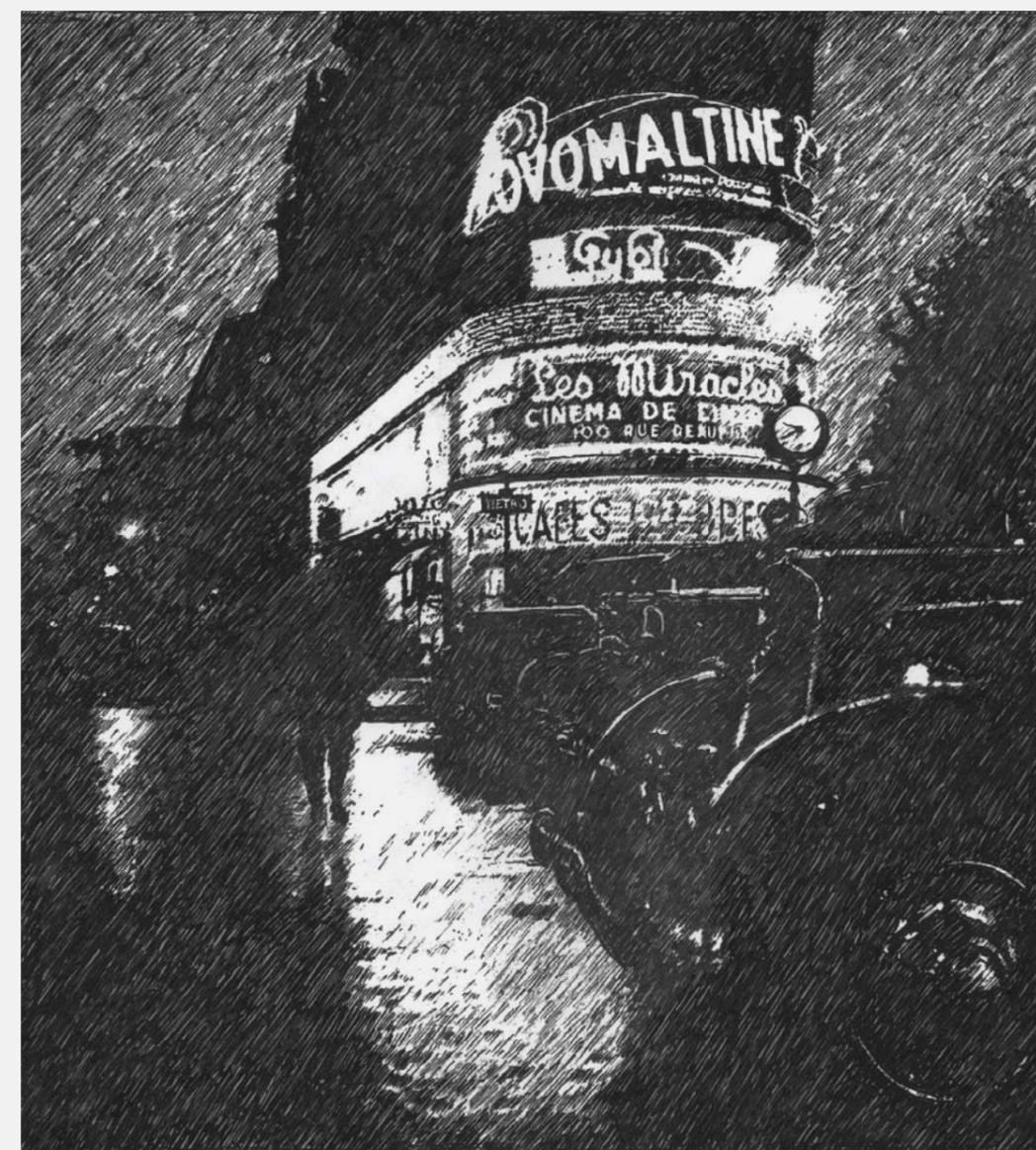
'In order for your man — my double — to be able to play this role, he needs to know too much. I will force you to kill me before I say a single word. Untie me and stop playing children's games from cheap books. Speak up!'

'Untie him,' the old man said slowly.

'Now,' Max continued, 'expel those who have nothing to do here. I only want to deal with the leader.'

The old man silently pointed at the door to everyone except Kraskov, then began to speak:

'The point is this, sir. This man, your acquaintance, needs to get to Russia. He will go with those three who have brought you here. They must be helped to cross the border secretly, through a secure passage, and



brought to the nearest large city, from where they will continue to move on their own.'

'Is that all?' Max laughed. 'All this comedy was necessary for this? I won't undertake to transfer four at once. Too many of them. It's impossible to do so. I'll take two. If you need four, I will transfer them in twos, otherwise it won't work.'

'This is impossible. You can't take less than four.'

'Nonsense,' Max objected. 'There are other difficulties. You must ensure the arrival of all four to a neutral country – Latvia or Poland, which of them exactly, we will see later. And I can't help you with this. This is up to you. Get the people to the border. I take the border and the other side on myself. This is the case. Either you believe me or not. There is no choice. You think some more time. I'll be at Kraskov's in the evening. Let him tell me. Goodbye.'

'Let him go,' the old man grumbled.

Max went to the restaurant, where he ordered lunch and a glass of vodka. He believed that after all that had happened to him, vodka would not hurt.

It was clear to him that the fish had really taken the bait, but instead of a single shark there had been several. So far, the game was going in his favor. His pressure was paying its way. But the fact that he had managed to convince the saboteurs that they needed him alive, did not mean that they would leave him alone. On the contrary, it was to be expected that he would be followed, and when the need for him had passed, they might even kill him.

#### 5. Evening of the same day. Kraskov's apartment. Paris

When Max came up to the Kraskovs', he was met by the hostess alone. Her eyes were tearful, and she looked unhappy.

'What has happened, Agafya Iraklievna?' Max asked.

'My husband came home and scolded you. He found the letter I'd written to my father and tore it up. He beat me.'

She burst into tears.

'Here, take a sheet of thin paper. Write your letter again now, and I will take it to a safe



place. Don't waste your time, and don't cry,' Max said confidently. Agafya stopped crying. He folded the letter into four and put it in his wallet.

In the street, he caught a taxi and drove to Cité, where he took the subway and arrived at the station which was located near the Chernik's store. Max wandered through the streets and made sure that he was not being followed, then he entered the store and gave Chernik a letter from Agafya Iraklievna.

Once again in the subway, Max chose a different route and returned to the Kraskovs' again. It was seven o'clock in the evening. The hostess met him at the door.

'Ivan Vasilyevich is at home,' she whispered.

'That's good. I need him,' Max answered.

The host was sitting in the dining room. The same old man, dressed in the field uniform of an infantry colonel, was with him. Max looked at them with a smile.

The old man examined Max carefully and after a short pause said:

'We will make use of your services. Kraskov and another one will go first. They will travel light. When you return, you'll transfer the others. They will carry a load. Before all the four meet, you must provide Kraskov and his companion with a shelter. When will it be possible to know the exact date of the departure? How much should we pay for these services?'

'Let's go step by step... The interval between the transfers will be not more than of two or three days. Bring your people to Riga. There, Kraskov should try to establish contact every morning at ten o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays...'

'Why such terms?' the old man interrupted him. 'Is it possible for them to stay in Latvia for so long?'

'It's up to you. If you cannot do this, then you have nothing to do in Russia, and even more so, there is no need for me to get mixed up with

you. I don't take money from you, I do it for free, you just pay for the guides and bribes at the border. Provide people with everything needed to spend 10 or 12 days in Riga. If you can't, there will be no transfer. This is not a railway line with a precise timetable. I need to choose conditions, time, place, and they are constantly changing. Really, you are reasoning like children, and you want to do a serious business! I've agreed to help you, but now I'm starting to doubt.'

'Don't worry,' the old man admonished him. 'Everything will be done. We have enough money, and documents as well, we have connections in Moscow and St. Petersburg, and with their help we will find others. We just need you to escort these four to the nearest big city. The conditions require four, there can't be less of them.'

'It's up to you,' Max repeated. 'I'll tell you tomorrow when you need to leave for Riga. In the meantime, get ready. You'll probably have to leave one of these days. Goodbye.'

While leaving, Max whispered to the hostess:

'The letter is on its way. The answer will be in a month, or maybe earlier.'

'Thank you, thank you,' the joyful Agafya answered.

He left the Kraskovs' and went to meet his contact.

'How are you?'

'Everything is fine. We have to hurry. They don't suspect anything, but it's risky for me to stay here.'

Max told what had happened to him the day before and continued:

'You see, we must not let them gather their wits. Let them go to Riga. Inform Moscow and ask to arrange a reception as quickly as possible. Today I must tell them the approximate date of departure to Riga. I'm planning it in five days.'

'I understand everything,' the messenger said. 'I'll convey the message. See you soon.'

Max visited the Kraskovs and told the host that he appointed the departure to Riga in a week. In the meantime, he would begin organizing the transfer and, as soon as everything was ready, he would meet him at the appointed place.

'Don't talk about the trip,' he warned Kraskov before leaving. 'Good luck.'

Kraskov silently escorted Max out and closed the door behind him.

The next day Max was already in Berlin, and six days later he received a detailed information from Moscow about the planned operation and headed to Riga. Meanwhile, the old man's surname became known. He was a former colonel of the tsarist army, Brestskiy

#### 6. Eight days later. Latvian border

In Riga, Max met with Kraskov, whose group's transfer was scheduled for the night.

'The conversations with the Latvian border guards will be short,' Max said. 'Ten dollars a head. Prepare. Twenty for you, another twenty for me and the guide. Forty in total. On the other side we will manage without money. Today at five o'clock come to the station with one person from the second group. I will get to know him at the entrance to the platform. The transfer of the second group will take place on Sunday. Today you and your partner leave by train at six p.m. I've put a note with the station's name and a map of the area into the left pocket of your coat.'

That same night, five kilometers from the Latvian guardhouse, Max met with Kraskov. Even before the meeting, he heard Kraskov and his partner passing by. He let them pass by him and walked unnoticed about thirty paces behind for several hundred meters. Then he caught up with them and stopped them.

'Who behaves this way?!' angry Max exclaimed. 'I've been walking behind you for God knows how long, and you haven't noticed me. On the other side you need to be much more careful.'

'We know,' Kraskov answered, 'our contacts ensured our passage from this side.'

'What?' Max flared up. 'Have you talked to anyone here about the transfer? I told you frankly: you shouldn't do this. God knows what kind of people you are!'

Max made the prearranged signal, and a man came out from behind the bushes. Kraskov looked around fearfully and grabbed his revolver.

'Be quiet!' Max ordered. 'Explain to me what you or your contacts agreed on and with whom?'

Kraskov calmed down and began to talk.

'The colonel told me, and he is also here, that he had managed to obtain a permission to cross the border at this point for the two of us, and for the other group on Sunday. Corresponding orders have been given to the post commanders.'

'So, listen to me. You cross anyway you can, since you are such smart people. Give me the map and let's go behind these bushes.' In the flashlight, Max marked a point on the Soviet border with a pencil. 'I will wait for you in this place ten minutes exactly, starting at one forty. Don't go to the other side before or after one thirty. While crossing, crawl quietly, on your stomach. There are three oak trees at the road's turn, and bushes behind them. Wait there in the bushes. Don't smoke. Don't make any noise.'

Max thought that it looked like a provocation. He decided that he had to cross the border earlier and to wait for Kraskov and the second terrorist on the other side.

'Let's do it this way. You cross with the help of your border guards. We will follow you through your passage. You wait for us where I indicated, and we will go along together till we reach the shelter. God be with you.'

Max called his guide and went back down the road. They approached the border and made sure that everything was calm, then carefully, crawling, crossed it to the Soviet side. After waiting about five minutes, Max took a flashlight out of his pocket and, protecting the beam so that it could not be seen from behind, gave a signal. There was no answer, and Max moved

deeper into the border strip. He walked about three hundred meters, then gave the signal again and heard a quiet whistle in response.

Two border guards were meeting them. Max answered their question with a password and reported the situation.

'When they get over, I don't know yet where exactly, but somewhere nearby, fire several shots to alert them, but let them pass. Most likely, the other group will also cross today, all four will meet somewhere here, and they will move together. Still, it's better to capture all the four.'

'We have already prepared, but we will pass on your final instructions to the groups,' the border guard answered.

Max decided that if his assumptions were correct, and the four crossed the border on their own, without his help, they would head exactly to the guardhouse he had told them about. Max approached the edge of the forest, saw a guardhouse and let out a faint whistle. An answer was heard from the left, and Max and his friend went there. About ten people were

sitting in the bushes. There was a border guard commander among them whom he knew from Moscow. Max sat down in the middle of the group and briefly outlined his thoughts to them.

'This is what, I believe, will happen,' he said in conclusion. 'The first group will cross and hide in the guardhouse. In an hour and a half, I hope, the second group will cross over. We'll catch the first group and play a trick on them quickly. Let's divide into two groups. One group, in civilian clothes, will be able to grab Kraskov and another man. The other group will act out a comedy: about five minutes after the first group drags Kraskov and his partner into the guardhouse and locks themselves in the cellar, the other group will pretend to be on patrol and to inspect the guardhouse, and then return here. Is it clear to everyone?'

'Clear,' the commander said.

They quickly divided into two groups and dispersed through the forest, covering the approaches to the guardhouse. At about two o'clock in the morning, the group which included Max saw two sneaking figures. When they approached the bush, they were silently



caught. With their hands tied and their mouths gagged with rags, the detainees were taken to the guardhouse, where a passage to the cellar was opened, and pushed down. A lamp was lit there. Kraskov saw Max and pressed himself against the wall in horror. Max approached him and hit him on the cheek with all his strength, saying:

‘Did you want to do it in your own way? Did you think you were dealing with fools? Take this! Take this! Tell me, bastard, what you and your colonel have agreed on. Come on! Fast!’

Suddenly a man of the group came down from above. He quickly closed the entrance to the hiding place, put his finger to his lips and whispered: ‘Patrol.’ Max put the gag into Kraskov’s mouth and, threatening him with a dagger, ordered: ‘Make a sound or move, and you won’t live another day.’ The second terrorist was also calmed down. They could hear approaching footsteps, creaking door, and heavy thud of boots on the floor. ‘There’s no one here, comrade commander,’ said a voice. ‘Yes, apparently they took a different road. Let’s go!’ The footsteps moved away, the door creaked, and a minute later everything was quiet.

They waited another two minutes, then Max took the gag out of Kraskov’s mouth.

‘Come on,’ he shouted, ‘speak!’

Kraskov stammered:

‘We thought that you were Cheka officers.’

‘Fools,’ said Max. ‘What are you planning? Speak up, otherwise you’ll get more punches!’

‘The colonel didn’t believe you,’ Kraskov began, ‘and therefore he conspired with Kutepov’s people. They gave him contacts in Latvia. They wanted to catch you, they thought you were Cheka officers.’

‘Well, what is next? Where are you going? What will happen to the other group?’

‘There’s a second group of three people coming,’ Kraskov continued, ‘the colonel is with them. We thought of going to Smolensk, where

the colonel has a brother, and from there, I don’t know how, but we must get to Moscow.’

‘When will the second group be here?’ asked Max.

‘They will cross today, two hours after us. They’ll probably arrive soon. Tell me, who are these people with you?’ Kraskov asked in a whisper.

‘These are my people. They’re helping me. So, I think that the troubles you have caused me here and your behavior invalidate our agreement. I will let you out of here only after you pay a thousand rubles. I hope you have that much with you.’

‘No, I only have five hundred, the colonel has the rest, he has a lot, the British gave him more than two thousand.’

‘Ah!’ said Max. ‘So, you are working for the British now.’

‘The French also gave something,’ Kraskov answered.

‘Okay, let’s wait for the colonel. Where should you meet?’

‘Here,’ Kraskov answered.

‘We’ll wait.’

In less than half an hour, the watchman reported in a whisper: ‘They are coming.’ Three people entered the guardhouse one by one with lanterns in their hands.

Max and his two comrades lit candles. Max shouted in a loud voice:

‘Hands up!’

The colonel grabbed his revolver.

‘Calm down, Colonel,’ Max said. ‘You are among old acquaintances, and if you want to resist, look around you. There are six of us, and three of you.’

The border guards lit their lanterns, and the interior lightened. The colonel saw revolvers

aimed at him. Confused, he lowered his weapon.

Max took the gag out of Kraskov’s mouth and ordered: ‘Explain to the colonel.’

Kraskov told what had happened to them, how the patrol had gone away.

‘Well,’ Max said when Kraskov finished. ‘That’ll be a thousand rubles from you for the troubles. We will lead you to the road, and then act as best as you can. I wash my hands of the whole business. I have never met such bastards before.’

Then one of the ambush men approached and handed Max the package, whispering something to him. Max opened the package and saw that there was Soviet money in different banknotes.

‘Ah!’ he turned to the colonel. ‘You hid it, and we have found it. What we found is ours. Well, well, calm down, Colonel,’ Max stopped him, seeing how excited he was. ‘Actually, you have no objections. I could, of course, argue with you, but I see it’s useless. Step back, don’t take your hands off the wall!’

While the border guards were keeping the three terrorists under guard, Max quickly searched them and took away their weapon and money. He put all the money in a pile on the floor and placed the weapon in the far corner. In addition to the money from the package (five thousand), there were almost two thousand rubles.

‘Well, well,’ Max shook his head. ‘Seven thousand! Your masters are generous. I’ll tell you something. I’ll take the package, we’re leaving now, and you can go out whenever you want. Don’t even try to start a fight, it won’t work.’

Max and his group quickly left the cellar and hid in the bushes. A minute later they saw five terrorists going out and, looking back, heading towards the sunrise.

This was the end of Max’s assignment. The five terrorists will be placed under surveillance, carefully watched over and immediately

arrested as soon as they establish a contact with their agents.

## 7. OGPU Foreign Department. Bolshaya Lubyanka, 2. Moscow

Three days later, Max was sitting in his commander’s office in Moscow reporting on the work that had been done. The commander listened to him carefully and then said: ‘Everything has gone well. A commendation has been issued for you, as for the rest of the participants. We traced the group of terrorists to Smolensk. They won’t escape. They will show us their contacts, and then we’ll see. Good operation! Now wait for further instructions.’



**Rudolf Ivanovich Abel**

Real name: William Genrikhovich Fischer

Soviet deep-cover intelligence officer. Born on July 11, 1903 in England to a family of Russian immigrants who returned to the USSR in the 1920s. In 1927, he was recruited

by the OGPU INO. Since 1948, he led the network of Soviet “atomic intelligence officers” in the United States, worked with the Cohen spouses and many other prominent deep-cover intelligence officers of that epoch.

In 1957, he was arrested due to a betrayal. In order to let Moscow know about his arrest and that he was not a traitor, at the moment of his arrest he introduced himself by the name of his late friend R. Abel. During the investigation, he categorically denied his affiliation with intelligence, refused to testify and rejected the FBI’s attempts to persuade him to cooperate. By court decision, he was sentenced to 30 years in prison, but in 1962 he was exchanged for the American pilot F. Powers, who was shot down in 1960 over the USSR territory.

After medical treatment and rest, W. Fischer worked in the Central Office and took part in the training of young deep-cover intelligence officers. He died on November 15, 1971, and was buried in Moscow at the Donskoye Cemetery. For his outstanding service he was awarded the Order of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star and many other prizes.

The head of the CIA, Allen Dulles, once gave a high assessment of the professional significance of W. Fischer: “Abel is a unique person. He felt equally confident in both art and politics; he was not only a talented artist, a good musician and an excellent photo reporter, but also an exceptional linguist, a capable mathematician, physicist, and chemist. Knowledge was his ideal.”

In connection with the opening of a monument to Felix Dzerzhinsky at the SVR Headquarters, we, veterans of the service, would like to remind the readers of the magazine some poems written by Felix Edmundovich's contemporaries, and, of course, to share our own writings, born on the occasion of this, without exaggeration, epoch-making event.

### Vladimir Mayakovsky

#### Soldiers of Dzerzhinsky (1927)

To you, poet,  
to you, singer,  
What do you care of GPU?!  
Iron — doesn't need  
flattering compliments.  
You can't be  
neither praised  
nor swept away.  
In simple words  
I say —  
about iron  
necessity.  
Hold on tight!  
We won't be eaten  
By the enemy.  
By soldiers  
of Dzerzhinsky  
the Union  
is cared.  
Enemies around  
the Republic  
are prowling.  
Weakness is out of place,  
as well as the softness  
of spring.  
There will be  
battles  
louder  
than the Crimean  
earthquake.  
There are die-hards  
around  
and inside —  
keener  
and with both eyes,  
you, Chekist,  
stare!  
We stand  
with the enemy  
cheekbone to cheekbone,  
and death stands  
awaiting the harvest.  
GPU  
is our dictatorship's fist  
risen.  
Keep paths and rivers,  
blood  
and shelter,  
take the enemy,  
officers,  
beat him down,  
KRO!

#### Good! (extract from the poem)

To a young man,  
thinking  
of his living,  
deciding —  
whose example to follow,  
I'll tell you  
without hesitation —  
"Follow  
our comrade  
Dzerzhinsky."  
Bones of some  
And ashes of others  
under the walls' feet  
rest in peace...  
Or even  
ashes vanished.  
Of labors,  
of prisons  
and of bullets,  
and no one  
almost —  
after long years.  
And it seems to me  
that on the red graveyard  
comrades  
are tormented  
with the poison of alarm.  
It walks through the ashes,  
oozes down the bones,  
comes out  
into the light  
treading on herbs  
and on flowers.  
And herbs  
and flowers  
rustle in anxiety.  
— Tell us —  
are you here?  
— Tell us —  
haven't they yielded up?  
Are they advancing?  
Don't they stay still? —  
— Tell us.  
Will  
the commune  
of light and steel  
be completed  
by your Republic's  
modern residents? —  
Hush, comrades, sleep...  
Your  
teen-age country

with each  
spring  
is more dazzling,  
growing stronger,  
powerful and slim.  
And again  
rustle is heard  
in the ash vase,  
wreaths  
babble  
with ribbon tongues:  
— And in their  
black  
Europes and Asias  
are there fear,  
naps and chains? —  
No!  
In the world  
of violence and money  
prisons  
and tying nooses —  
your  
great shadows  
walk,  
waking up  
and leading on.  
— And are you  
not affected  
by omnipotent scum?  
Officiality  
in your brain  
haven't made a web?  
Tell us —  
is it safe?  
Tell us —  
is it united?  
and ready  
to battle,  
the party force? —  
Sleep,  
comrades, quiet...  
Who  
will take your peace away?  
And we'll stand up,  
our bayonets risen,  
with the first  
order:  
"Forward!"

### Mikhail Pogudin

#### Monument

There were a lot of disputes and doubts,  
TV debates and polar opinions.

And now, friends, we'll draw the line  
Under the debate: to put or not to put.  
Again Dzerzhinsky is on duty,  
Standing on a pedestal again.

In a testing year for the country,  
Appearing like a phoenix bird  
From the Museon perfect silence,  
"Iron Felix" has returned to us.

After thirty years of disgrace,  
Dzerzhinsky's legacy lives on.  
After all, his portrait still  
Hangs in the Service offices.

And still we say about ourselves  
That we've "come out of his greatcoat".  
Whether desiring it or not,  
We draw parallels with the past.

And every time we seek in him  
Our heroes and anti-heroes.  
We're putting someone on the throne,  
We're grinding someone into powder,  
We're hiding truth about someone.

But now, all the i's are dotted,  
And time arranges powerfully  
All heroes to their places  
In textbooks for high school.

For them to know — "whose example to follow",  
For teenagers in this difficult world.  
Now the examples are the SMO heroes,  
But there were true knights in the past...

We want the time to be in joint,  
We glorify our fathers and grandfathers' feat...  
Let's remember the heroes and sing about them,  
Let's erect the monument altogether.

## Andrey Kudrin

### Where is Iron Felix looking?

Ilyich appreciated him: He's smart!  
*He will definitely carry the can!*  
 And, despite ill health,  
 Appointed him head of the Cheka.  
 Disease was choking him, but he held on  
 and didn't even show any trace:  
 he fought against the counter-revolution,  
 and didn't forget about sabotage.  
 He guarded national interests  
 and security of the country,  
 he also got onto other processes –  
 they also were important then:  
 homelessness, hunger, devastation...  
 And to transport, so much efforts applied!  
 Plus his personal simple modesty –  
 Where he worked, that's where he lived!  
 And people asked to immortalize him,  
 some ordinary citizens of our country,  
 and they even announced a competition  
 (unfortunately interrupted by the war).  
 But some time later they returned to this idea,  
 and the patriotic initiative was realized:  
 he was called exactly as before –  
*the Cheka Officer Number One!*

No wonder that the nickname IRON  
 he confirmed with his whole life,  
 and his lifelike image in bronze  
 was erected on one of the squares.  
 Sculptor Vuchetich (not Vuyachich!)  
 coped well with this difficult task,  
 he precisely reconstructed all the features,  
 and FELIX climbed to the pedestal!  
 In a greatcoat, with a proud posture,  
 a soldier of the night patrol –  
 he covered Lubyanka with his back,  
 and he was looking towards the Kremlin!  
 He was overthrown in ninety-one,  
 when another forces came to power...  
 Did "democrats" lose their nerve,  
 Or did a "nuisance" engulf them?

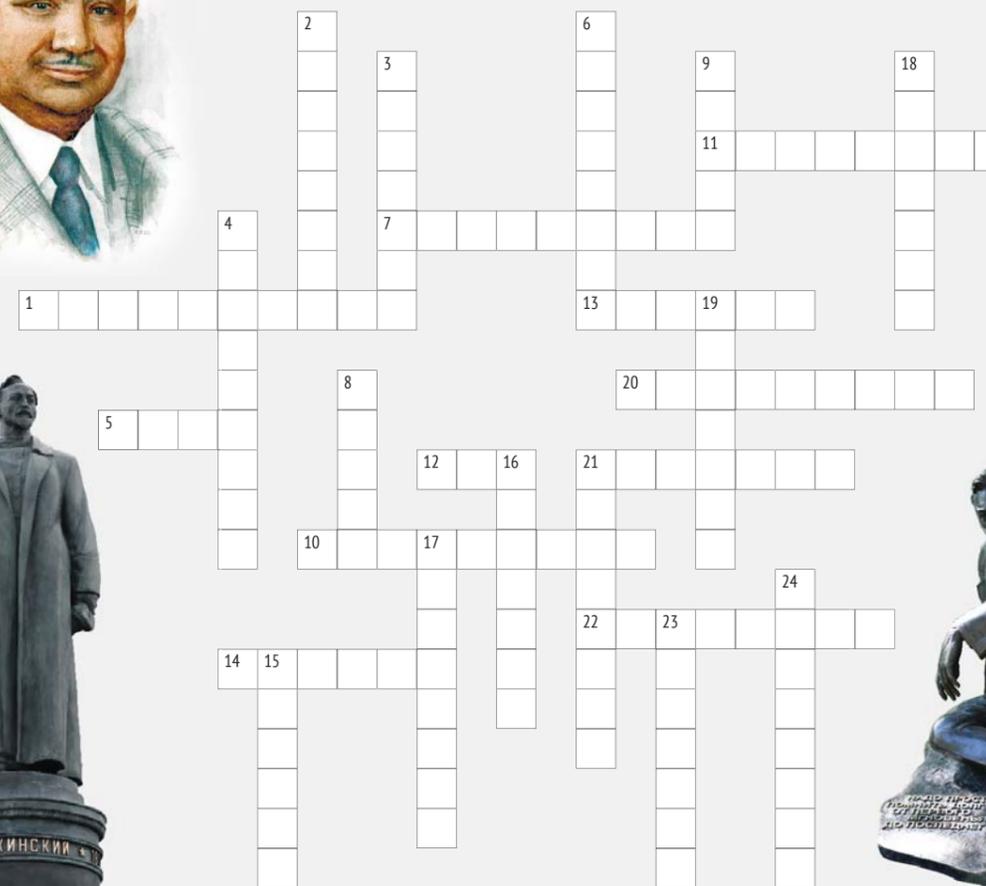
I can't convey my feelings to you,  
 but tears flowed involuntarily:  
 a noose was placed around his neck,  
 and he was pulled down with a crane...  
 Erected now in a new place  
 (amidst the Yasenevsky forest),  
 where people of valor and honor  
 guard Russia's vital interests.  
 New threats have come from the northwest?  
 We have got used to them already –  
 let's shake dreams out of the Balts and the  
 Polish,  
 we'll manage to defend our country!  
 We are not afraid of enemy obstacles –  
 we'll sweep them away at any cost!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 DZERZHINSKY is looking to the right place!  
 And we are ready to fight for him!  
 2023/09/11

## Anatoly Pshenichny

### Phoenix

In order for our Motherland to grow  
 stronger,  
 Bonding centuries with the truth,  
 Felix, having risen from the ashes,  
 Stood up on the ground of the Cheka.  
 He created you, Foreign Service,  
 In a year when there was darkness ahead.  
 You are a highlight for Russia,  
 For us not to lose our way!  
 And now, he stands looking northwest:  
 There, above the country's edges,  
 A fiery smell of the war  
 Is stretching its hands to the throat.  
 Know this, the pack angry and squeaky  
 Of devils whose memory is empty:  
 Our Felix has risen again,  
 And not in vain he is looking ahead!



#### Across:

- An outstanding deep cover intelligence officer who became the Ambassador of one state to three others.
- A married couple of deep cover agents who worked in the United States on a nuclear project.
- Intelligence officer and diplomat, Hero of Russia, former director of the Foreign Intelligence Service.
- A country in Latin America, where the network of intelligence officer I.R. Grigulevich operated during the war.
- Director of the cult film about the intelligence officer Isaev-Stierlitz.
- The first name (abbreviation) of the Academy of Foreign Intelligence named after Y.V. Andropov.
- One of the leaders of the INO station in Iran which thwarted plans to eliminate the leaders of the Big Three countries.
- A sports organization whose 100th anniversary was celebrated in April 2023.

- Poet and bard, founder of the "Wind of Victory" club of author military song.
- Former director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, currently heading the CIS Secretariat.
- German offensive operation on the Kursk Bulge.

#### Down:

- A deep cover intelligence officer who gained access to the Third Reich's secrets through the source named Augusta.
- Sculptor, author of the monument to Dzerzhinsky on Lubyanka Square.
- A woman diplomat, the first in the world to receive the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.
- A woman officer of Soviet intelligence who translated secret documents obtained at the Tehran Conference.
- The real name of a deep cover intelligence officer who was exchanged in Germany for the downed American pilot F. Powers.

- People's Artist of the USSR, who has created a gallery of portraits of intelligence officers "They Fought for the Motherland".
- Author of the monument to Dzerzhinsky installed at the SVR Headquarters.
- The surname of a married couple of deep cover agents who have worked in Latin American countries for more than 20 years.
- Veteran of the SVR, one of the heroes of A.M. Shilov's portrait gallery.
- Operation of the Soviet intelligence aimed to obtain atomic secrets of the United States and Britain.
- The name of the Moscow district where Pavel Fitin Street is located.
- A unique dynasty of deep cover intelligence officers, three generations of whom successfully worked abroad.
- The capital of the state where the first meeting of the leaders of the Big Three countries took place in 1943
- Hero of the USSR, commander of Winners partisan detachment.

Answers on p. 106



Drawing by Vladimir Mochalov

Considering T's strained circumstances, in order to strengthen relations with him, I passed to his children some sugar, a piece of cheese and several cookies. He was embarrassed, but took the food with great joy.

## Selected moments of operational correspondence

The foreigner is well versed in the laws of social development, which is confirmed by his persistent demands for an increase of monetary allowance.

On the eve of the important event, the source visited a Catholic and a Protestant churches, as well as a synagogue, and, according to him, "just in case" he prayed everywhere.

The object assured that he was ready to take out for us from his institution "even an elephant, if it were there, though not all at once, but in parts".

During the whole period of the mission, people of a certain type stuck to me and, I must say, I was never able to completely unstick myself from them until the end of the mission.

"Thor" apparently kept the verification attaché case in a hen house, since nothing but cockcrow could be heard when listening to the control record.

In a joking manner, as if by chance, the foreigner remarked that "apparently, the Russians are preparing a conspiracy against him, since his dessert was sprinkled with sugar, and the operative's dessert wasn't."

The foreigner's face represents a kind of visual illustration to the negative impact on a man of various human vices: hard drinking, gluttony, debauchery.

## In the next issue:

**SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming**

«The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a new global center of power»

**Deep cover intelligence officer Lyudmila Nuikina**

«The role of women in intelligence is difficult to be overestimated»

**To the 100th anniversary of Hero of the USSR G.A. Vartanyan**

The elusive "Henri" and "Anita"

**Beautiful Red Orchestra**

In memory of the immortal female feat



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