

MAGAZINE

RAZVEDCHIK

We search for knowledge not for glory's sake – But to learn the truth for the good of our State! N° 1 (2) MARCH 2023



«LET ME TELL YOU STRAIGHT:
WE PARTED, LONG AGO, WITH
WHATSOEVER ILLUSIONS»

S.V. Lavrov

RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT
OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES
IN THE WORLD ECONOMY

G.Y. KRASNIKOV:
«KNOWLEDGE SHOULD
SERVE PEOPLE...»

AN UNACCOUNTED FACTOR:
80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ATOMIC PROJECT OF THE USSR

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THERE IS A WORD "KNOWER" – IT IS A COMPOSITE IMAGE:
A PERSON WITH A VAST EXPERIENCE AND A DEEP KNOWLEDGE!
INQUISITIVE MEANS PROPHETIC,
THE ONE WHO CAN FORETELL FUTURE (IN ADVANCE, FOR A CENTURY)...
WE BELIEVE – THOSE OLD WORDS
BRING US CLOSER TO LEARNING THE TRUTH,
FOR IF THE HEAD IS IN ITS RIGHT PLACE,
WE WILL COMPREHEND THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE UNIVERSE!



Magazine «Razvedchik»
№ 1 (2) 2023

16+

Founder

«Soglasie» – charitable foundation for promotion of social protection of the officers and veterans of the foreign intelligence Russia, 119034, Moscow, Ostozhenka Str., 51, building 1

Publisher

Club for assistance in conservation of historical and cultural legacy

Chief editor

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Photos

«Razvedchik» magazine, RIA Novosti

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

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

ISBN 978-5-7164-1244-6

Circulation: 2000 copies

Date of publishing: March 10, 2023

Printed in JSC «Order of October

Revolution, Order of Labour Red Banner Pervaya obraztsovaya tipografiya» Printing house, «Chekhovskiy pechatny dvor» branch 142300, Moscow region, Chekhov, Poligrafistov Str.,1
Order No.: 790



Russian diplomacy in a changing world

I am glad to have the opportunity to address the readers of the socio-political magazine “Razvedchik” (“Intelligence officer”), to share an assessment of the current situation on the world stage and the priorities of Russian foreign policy.

Text: Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

We live in times of geopolitical change of truly historic proportions. As President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin noted, “changing milestones is a painful process, but a natural and inevitable one. The future world order is being formed before our eyes.”

It has been said many times that the main trend of modern international development is the strengthening of multipolarity. New world centers in Eurasia, the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America are achieving impressive successes in various areas - relying on independence, state sovereignty and cultural and civilizational identity. Guided primarily by their fundamental national interests, they pursue an independent foreign policy. Thus, they objectively contribute to the formation of a new, more sustainable, fair, democratic polycentric world order, reflecting the natural, inalienable right of peoples to determine their own destiny, models of internal political and socio-economic development.

This truth, by the way, is beginning to be recognized, albeit “through gritted teeth”, by some politicians in the West as well.

For example, French President Emmanuel Macron repeatedly talked about the end of Western hegemony in international affairs, although this was even before he joined the “banners” of the pro-Ukrainian anti-Russian coalition set up by Washington. Another thing is that the correct conclusions are not translated into practical actions, into the restructuring of foreign policy philosophy on the principles of international law and equal and indivisible security. On the contrary, the “collective West”, led by the United States, is trying its best to revive the outdated unipolar mode, to force the world to live according to a fictitious Western-centric “rules-based order.” And it seeks to punish those who disagree with these rules, which, by the way, no one has seen anywhere.

We have never been mistaken about who we are dealing with. We were well aware that after the end of the Cold War, Washington and its NATO satellites aimed at achieving total hegemony and solving the problems of their own development at the expense of others. An integral part of this selfish line in the Euro-Atlantic was NATO’s aggressive expansion to the east, despite the political

promises made to the Soviet leadership about the non-expansion of the alliance, as well as the commitments undertaken at the highest level not to strengthen its own security at the expense of the security of others.

Numerous decisions of the OSCE and Russia-NATO summits saying that no group of states or organization can be given primary responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in a region or consider any part of it as a sphere of influence have been violated. All these years, NATO has been acting in exactly the opposite way.

The West has been purposefully working for decades on the geopolitical “development” of the post-Soviet space, on the formation

of an “arc of instability” along the Russian borders. It is well known that the United States and NATO countries have always viewed Ukraine as one of the anti-Russian instruments. In order to finally transform our neighbor state into “anti-Russia,” Western political strategists provoked and then supported an anti-constitutional coup in Kyiv in February 2014, organized in spite of the guarantees of Germany, Poland and France for a peaceful political settlement of the conflict between the government and the opposition.

For eight years, Westerners not only turned a blind eye to the genocide of the inhabitants of Donbass, but directly condoned the Kyiv regime’s preparations for a forceful seizure of these territories. The recent confessions of Angela Merkel and François Hollande are indicative. Both admitted that the Minsk “package of measures” was needed only to allow Kyiv to increase its military potential. Another signatory of the document, Petro Poroshenko, had made a similar cynical statement. What is this if not evidence of the hypocrisy of the Western political establishment and the Kyiv regime it has fed?

The true goals of Western politicians were once again revealed when Washington and Brussels rejected proposals put forward by Russia in December 2021 to provide our country with security guarantees in the western direction. It is obvious that the situation in and around Ukraine is just one of manifestations of a large-scale collision associated with the attempts of a narrow group of Western states to secure global dominance and reverse the objective process of the formation of a multipolar architecture. Acting in the worst colonial traditions, the Americans and their followers are trying to divide the world into “democracies” and “authoritarian regimes.” And if we call a spade a spade - into the chosen few who have some kind of “exclusivity”, and everyone else who is obliged to follow the interests of the “golden billion”. The quintessence of this cynical philosophy was the openly racist statement of the head of European diplomacy, Josep Borrell, that

“Europe is the Garden of Eden, and the rest of the world is a jungle.” A Freudian slip. The true nature takes over.

It is no coincidence that, besides Russia, threats and blackmail continue to be addressed to many states. The strategic goal of systemic containment of China, including within the framework of the so-called “Indo-Pacific strategies,” was declared. The vicious practice of interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, including our brotherly Belarus, continues. The long-term trade and economic blockade of Cuba has not been lifted. There are many examples. In general, today no one is safe from the raider and bandit “attacks” of the Americans and their NATO satellites.

In the interests of pushing through an international agenda that is beneficial to them, Washington and Brussels are seeking to “privatize” international organizations and force them to serve their narrow selfish interests. I will mention only a few precedents. This is the endowment of the OPCW Technical Secretariat with attributive functions unusual for it. This includes the transformation of the Council of Europe into an instrument of anti-Russian policy - essentially, into an “appendage” of NATO and the EU. Almost the same can be said about the OSCE, which was created precisely to conduct an honest pan-European dialogue. And now the Vienna organization has turned into a purely marginal structure, accumulating streams of dirt and lies with which the West decided to “drench” the fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act. It is clear that serious issues of European security now cannot be resolved in the OSCE. And the Westerners themselves are actively destroying the remnants of the Organization’s potential, in particular, by initiating the creation of a private “European political community” without Russia and Belarus.

Today, our relations with the United States and the European Union are at their lowest level since the end of the bipolar confrontation. After the start of the special military operation, the “historical” West declared a total hybrid war on Russia. Its goal

is to defeat us on the battlefield, destroy the Russian economy, and undermine internal political stability.

We have drawn the appropriate conclusions. There will be no more “business as usual” with such unscrupulous counterparties. We do not intend to knock on a closed door, much less make unilateral concessions. If the West comes to its senses and proposes resuming contacts, we’ll see what exactly is at stake and we’ll make a decision based on Russian interests. Any hypothetical agreements with Westerners must be legally binding and provide for a clear mechanism for monitoring their implementation.

Let me tell you straight: we parted, long ago, with whatsoever illusions regarding the possibility of “convergence” with Europe, the prospects of obtaining “registration” in a pan-European home, or building a “common space” with the EU. All these slogans heard from European capitals turned out to be a myth, a cover operation. Recent events clearly demonstrate that the extensive trade and economic ties between Russia and the European Union have not played the role of a so-called “safety net.” The EU members easily sacrificed energy cooperation with us, on which their well-being was largely based. This confirmed that the European elites, demonstrating complete lack of

Any hypothetical agreements with Westerners must be legally binding and provide for a clear mechanism for monitoring their implementation.

independence, invariably “follow the lead” when they receive instructions from Washington, even if this causes direct damage to their citizens. We fully take this reality into account in our foreign policy planning.

We also continue to carefully analyze the prospects and feasibility of our participation

Speech at the UN
General Assembly, NY,
September 25, 2022



in those mechanisms of multilateral cooperation where Westerners, through manipulating the rules of procedure and secretariats, manage to impose their narrowly selfish agenda to the detriment of Russian priorities and equal interaction. In particular, we have already left the Council of Europe and a number of other structures.

Together with our reliable international partners, we are actively working on the transition to mutual settlements in foreign trade in currencies alternative to the dollar and euro, on the formation of an infrastructure of interbank and, in general, financial and economic relations that is not controlled by the West.

If Westerners suddenly decide to abandon the current Russophobic course and make a choice in favor of equal cooperation with Russia, then this will benefit themselves, first of all. At the same time, we are realists and are aware that in the near future such a scenario is unlikely. In addition, our trust, as they say, is "worth a lot." Washington and Brussels today need to work hard to earn it.

The world is large enough besides the USA and the EU. The modern world is

the international community as the ultimate truth, nor as an ideal of democracy, freedom and prosperity.

Against this background, the domestic diplomacy continues to implement an independent, self-reliant, multi-vector foreign policy course and to increase activity in a variety of geographical areas. The Russian-Chinese strategic partnership is deepening and serves as an important balancing factor in world affairs. Today, relations between Moscow and Beijing are the best in their entire history. The special privileged strategic partnership with India is steadily developing. Ties with Brazil, Iran, the UAE, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and many other friendly countries are being strengthened. The holding of the second Russia-Africa summit in July 2023 in St. Petersburg is intended to contribute to further expansion of Russian-African contacts.

The focus of the world economy, as well as politics, continues to shift from the Euro-Atlantic to Eurasia. The same European Union can no longer claim political, economic and value leadership in the Eurasian space. The countries of the continent now have real freedom to choose development models, international partners, as well as participate in various integration initiatives.

Cooperation within the Union State continues to strengthen and reach new heights. One of the most dynamically developing regional associations is the Eurasian Economic Union, which Russia chairs this year. The effectiveness and relevance of the EAEU is proved by its extensive international connections. Cooperation within the CSTO remains an integral factor of regional stability. Cooperation within the CIS is advancing: in the Commonwealth, by the way, 2023 has been declared the Year of the Russian Language as the main instrument of interethnic communication.

A striking example of multipolar diplomacy, mutually beneficial, equal multilateral partnership in Eurasia, and in the world as a whole, is the activity of such interstate

The modern world is both global and multipolar. Attempts to isolate Russia, surround it with a "cordon sanitaire", and turn it into a "rogue" are a complete fiasco.

both global and multipolar. Attempts to isolate Russia, surround it with a "cordon sanitaire," and turn it into a "rogue" are a complete fiasco. The states of the World Majority, which are home to about 85% of the world's population, do not want to pull chestnuts out of the fire for the former colonial parent states. Today the West, which, as our President aptly puts it, is an "empire of lies," is no longer perceived by

associations as the SCO and BRICS. Russia takes quite an active part in their work. There are no "leaders" or "followers", and decisions are made based on consensus. Within their framework, countries with different political and economic systems, with distinctive value and civilizational platforms, effectively cooperate in various fields. An increasing number of states are striving to establish ties with these structures and become their full members. This once again proves their growing relevance.

We attach great importance to the issues of harmonization of various integration mechanisms. We proceed from the fact that the economy should become the basis on which the architecture of peace and mutual trust can be built in the future. It is this philosophy that is inherent in the idea of President Vladimir Putin to create a Greater Eurasian Partnership (BEP). Member states

The European Union can no longer claim political, economic and value leadership in the Eurasian space. The countries of the continent now have real freedom to choose development models, international partners, as well as participate in various integration initiatives.

of the EAEU, SCO, ASEAN, including our Chinese and Indian friends, have already shown interest in the Russian project.

In particular, in accordance with the logic of the BEP, work is underway to combine the development plans of the EAEU and the

Arrival in Indonesia for the G20 summit. November 13, 2022





international life, the formation of a renewed multipolar world order based not on force, but on international legal regulation.

Of course, the turbulent geopolitical situation has an impact on the functioning of the domestic foreign policy service. The large-scale Russophobic campaign directly affected our diplomats. They have to work in almost extreme conditions, sometimes at risk to life and health. Even during the darkest years of the Cold War, there were no such massive simultaneous expulsions of diplomatic mission workers.

The situation required transferring our entire foreign policy service to a special regime. Diplomats continue to conscientiously fulfill their professional duties in full. They do everything necessary to protect the rights and interests of our citizens and compatriots abroad, to defend the interests of Russian economic operators.

We will continue to adapt the Ministry's personnel potential as flexibly as possible to the tectonic shifts taking place in the world. And if necessary, quickly "transfer" resources to the most needed areas of foreign policy work.

We pay priority attention to ensuring the continuity of generations. I am pleased to note that the number of people wishing to enter the diplomatic service is growing steadily. Every year, purposeful, creatively thinking young people who are trained as international affairs specialists and have successfully passed additional tests for employment join the friendly Foreign Ministry family. Our subordinate institutions – MGIMO and the Diplomatic Academy – remain the "forge" of personnel.

The most important condition for successful work on Smolenskaya Square is constant self-improvement and a willingness to keep up with the times. The Diplomatic Academy annually conducts a number of specialized advanced training courses. The distinguishing feature of Russian diplomats has always been their excellent knowledge of foreign languages, including rare ones.

At the XVIII meeting of the Meeting of the heads of security agencies and intelligence services of the CIS member states. September 30, 2022

Chinese "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Deepening integration within the Union State of Russia and Belarus also makes a useful contribution to common efforts.

We will continue to promote a unifying agenda in the international arena, to contribute to strengthening global security, stability, and political-diplomatic resolution of numerous crises and conflicts. Together with those who share our ideas, we intend to achieve the practical application of the principles of the UN Charter, including the sovereign equality of states and non-interference in their internal affairs. In general, to promote the democratization of

Excellent opportunities for improving linguistic training are provided by the Higher Courses of Foreign Languages of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry and our foreign agencies continue to make maximum use of the potential of digital diplomacy, the opportunities of the Internet and social networks to convey the Russian point of view on current events to the widest circles of the world community. We intend to further increase efforts in this promising area, using creative, innovative methods and approaches.

Of course, the work on patriotic education of young people has been brought to the

proper level. It is conducted, among other things, through the Council of Veterans, the Association of Russian Diplomats, and the Center for the History of the Russian Diplomatic Service. In turn, the Council of Young Diplomats of our ministry implements numerous educational and charitable initiatives. I would especially like to note the repeated provision of humanitarian aid to the children of Donbass. We will continue to encourage this "fusion" of diplomatic experience and youthful energy in every possible way.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the readers of the magazine good health, prosperity and all the best. 🇷🇺

At a press conference in Nouakchott (Mauritania). February 8, 2023. RIA News



Dear readers!

A year after the start of the special military operation in Ukraine, the realization that our world is changing rapidly and there will be no return to the past seems to have come to all, even to the most remote, corners of our planet. We, the intelligence community, who closely follow the events in the world, know about it firsthand. At the same time, as history teaches us, the transformation of the global world order is always accompanied by systemic crises, economic and social upheavals. In order for Russia to emerge from this prolonged period of turbulence not only without serious losses, but also to be among the leaders of the new world emerging before our eyes, it is necessary to carry out a rapid renewal and readjustment of all systems here, inside the country.

We have already discussed some of the most acute problems concerning Russia's politics and economy on the pages of the December issue of 'Razvedchik' and will certainly return to them repeatedly in the next issues. In this issue we propose to start a discussion on the vital problems of Russian science and culture, inviting the most competent, in our opinion, representatives of these spheres. We are deeply grateful to the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Gennady Yakovlevich Krasnikov and writer and publicist Yuri Mikhailovich Polyakov, who willingly responded to the editorial board's request and found an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas with the readers of 'Razvedchik'.

In addition, we are launching a new column – 'The Story of One Object', in which we plan to introduce you, dear readers, the most interesting exhibits of our museum, including operational equipment and personal belongings of famous spies. To begin with, we would like to show you three items related to the legendary married couple of deep cover agents – Morris and Leontine Cohen.

In the spring issue of the magazine the editorial board could not ignore our dear women and prepared two publications about them. These were the article 'The



Union of Intelligence and Diplomacy' about the successful joint work of the Soviet envoy Alexandra Mikhailovna Kollontai and the legendary intelligence officer Zoya Ivanovna Voskresenskaya-Rybkina, who later became a famous writer, in Sweden, as well as an interview with our contemporary – deep cover intelligence officer Tamara Ivanovna Netyksa, whose vitality, inexhaustible optimism and endless devotion to the Fatherland have inspired several generations of young officers of the Service.

In the next issues we will definitely return to such an important topic as the role of women in intelligence. Of course, there will be new interesting guests, exclusive reports and archive materials. So, do not miss the announcements on of the Foreign Intelligence Service' website.

See you again and a nearest Victory!

Best regards, Mikhail Pogudin

From the history of creation of the Foreign Department of VChK

On December 7 (20), 1917,

by decision of the Council of People's Commissars, the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission (VChK) headed by Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky was created to combat counter-revolution and sabotage

20
december
1917/1920

On December 20, 1920,

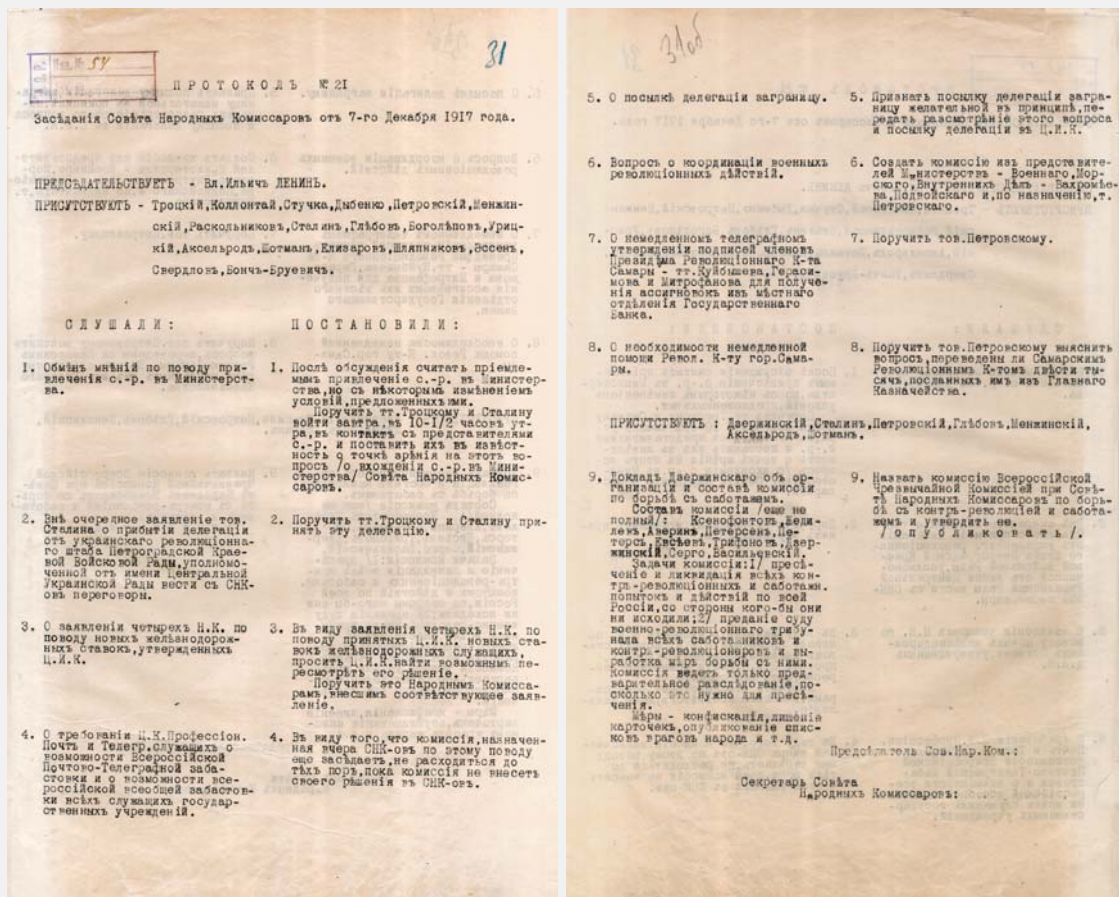
the Chairman of the VChK, F. E. Dzerzhinsky, signed order No. 169 on the creation of the Foreign Department (INO) within the Commission - the Soviet foreign intelligence

On December 20, Russia annually celebrates the Day of Security Service Employees. People far from our profession hardly think about it, but, in fact, the holiday unites two events: the creation, by decision of the Council of People's Commissars of December 7 (20), 1917, of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission (VChK) headed by Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky and the appearance within the structure of the latter of the Foreign Department, that is, foreign intelligence. Order No. 169, memorable to all security officers, on the establishment of the Foreign Department was signed by "Iron Felix" exactly three years after the creation of the VChK - on December 20, 1920. Whether there was some kind of idea here or this is nothing more than a coincidence, it is hardly possible to find out after so many years, but both dates are significant for intelligence officers.

Archival documents indicate that the decision to create an independent body, which would be in charge of foreign intelligence, was a hard-won one. All three years – from December 1917 to December 1920 – the leadership of Soviet Russia, including Felix Edmundovich Dzerzhinsky himself, made persistent attempts to organize obtaining secret information from abroad. The reason was the extremely

unfavorable situation that had developed at the borders of the young state: the "parade of sovereignties" of the former outskirts of the Russian Empire from the Baltic to Ukraine and the military intervention that began in February 1918.

The first Soviet intelligence officers were instructed and sent abroad personally by



Minutes of the meeting of the People's Commissars Council on December 7 (20), 1917

the chairman of the VChK. Alexey Frolovich Filippov, a native of Mogilev born in 1869, was among them. Having extensive experience in journalistic work and wide connections in foreign business circles, Filippov, under the guise of a journalist, went to Finland in January 1918 (pseudonym "Arsky") to conduct political

and economic intelligence. The information he collected helped Soviet Russia avoid the war with Helsinki and conclude peace agreement with Germany in March 1918. Another important result of his secret mission was the rescue of the Baltic Fleet by relocating it from Helsingfors and Revel to Kronstadt.



Credentials of the VChK of Alexei Frolovich Filippov
Georgy Georgievich (Georges) Lafar
Veteran of the VChK Mikhail Mikhailovich Adamovich ("Kolesnikov")



In December 1918, 24-year-old Georgy Georgievich (Georges) Lafar (pseudonym "Charles"), the son of a Russified French engineer, was sent as an illegal station chief of the VChK to French-occupied Odessa by personal order of F. E. Dzerzhinsky. Having penetrated the headquarters of the interventionists, he passed most valuable information to Moscow until his failure and death in April 1919. The work of G. Lafar was continued by his comrades Kalistrat Sadzhaya and Pyotr Insarov ("Kale" and "Apostle") until the complete liberation of Odessa by the Red Army in February 1920.

Taking into account the experience accumulated by the VChK, F. E. Dzerzhinsky, back on April 11, 1919, at a meeting of the Organizing Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, proposed creating a specialized intelligence unit within the structure of the Commission - "foreign intelligence", but at that time his idea did not receive support of the party leadership. Nevertheless, in December of the same year, the Special Department of the VChK (military counterintelligence) was created, which, among other things, was given the task of "organizing overseas agents." At the beginning of 1920, an employee of this department, Mikhail Mikhailovich Adamovich ("Kolesnikov"), managed to penetrate into the army of Baron Wrangel that invaded the Crimea.

The final argument for the advisability of creating an independent foreign intelligence

ПРИКАЗ Всероссийской Чрезвычайной Комиссии № 169. Москва. 20-го Декабря 1920 г.

- § 1.
1. Иностранный Отдел Особого Отдела ВЧК расформировать и организовать Иностранный Отдел ВЧК.
 2. Всех сотрудников, инвентарь и дела Иностранному Отделу ООВЧК передать в распоряжение вновь организуемого Иностранного Отдела ВЧК.
 3. Иностранный Отдел ВЧК подчинить Начальнику Особотдела тов. Меньжинскому.
 4. Врид. Начальником Иностранного Отдела ВЧК назначается тов. Давыдов, которому в недельный срок представить на утверждение Президиума штаты Иностранного Отдела.
 5. С опубликованием настоящего приказа все сношения с за-границей, Наркоинделом, Наркомвнешторгом, Центрозвзаком и Бюро Коминтерна всем Отделам ВЧК. производить только через Иностранный Отдел.

Председатель ВЧК ДЗЕРЖИНСКИЙ

agency was put forward by the unsuccessful for Soviet Russia war with Poland in the summer and autumn of 1920. Chekist intelligence officers remember the words of Felix Edmundovich, which were said at a meeting of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks in September 1920: "We went to Warsaw blindly and suffered a disaster. Taking into account the current international situation, it is necessary to raise the issue of our intelligence to the proper height. Only serious, properly conducted reconnaissance will save us from random blind moves." █

Order No. 169 of December 20, 1920

«Only serious, properly conducted reconnaissance will save us from random blind moves.»

Ф. Дзержинский

11
January
1913

Leontina Teresa Cohen, an illegal intelligence officer, was born in a poor family of Polish immigrants in Massachusetts (USA). In 1936 she joined the Communist Party of the USA, in 1941 married Morris Cohen, who collaborated with Soviet intelligence. Without hesitation, she agreed to her husband's offer to assist the USSR in the fight against the Nazi threat. In the 1940s, she was a contact agent for Soviet foreign intelligence in New York; in the early 1950s, she was sent to London as a contact radio operator for the illegal station of K. T. Molody. Hero of the Russian Federation. He was also awarded with the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of Friendship of Peoples.



12
February
1898

BMikhail Mikhailovich Adamovich, an illegal Soviet intelligence officer, was born into a working-class family in Riga. Being a teenager, he began his career at the Provodnik plant in Riga, with which he was evacuated to Moscow in 1916. In November 1917 he joined the factory detachment of the Red Guard, and in December 1918 he was enrolled in the VChK. Since 1932 he served in foreign intelligence. He spent most of his service abroad working undercover. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, two badges "Honorary Worker of the VChK – OGPU", and personal weapon three times.



19
January
1923

Markus Wolf, the legendary intelligence officer, was born in Hechingen (Germany). After the Nazis came to power in 1934, his family emigrated to the USSR. In 1942, he became a member of the Communist Party of Germany and, at the direction of its leadership, was sent to a school for illegal intelligence officers in Bashkiria. In August 1951, he was summoned to Berlin to organize a foreign policy intelligence service. In December 1952, at the age of 29, he was appointed head of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Stasi in the GDR, which he headed for more than thirty years. M. Wolf accounted for a significant part of the secret information received by the Soviet leadership from NATO countries. He was awarded many orders and medals of the GDR and the USSR.



21
February
1913

Marina Ivanovna Kirina, a Soviet intelligence officer, was born in the village of Kinel-Cherkassy, Samara province. In 1937, after graduating from the Moscow Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, she was sent to work in the NKVD, translating and analyzing secret materials obtained. During the war, she was present as a translator at the interrogations of captured Germans, including F. Paulus. From 1946 to 1972 she worked abroad undercover. She was awarded the Order of the Red Star and the "Badge of Honor", medals "For Courage" and "For Military Merit".

21
January
1903

Igor Vasilyevich Kurchatov, an outstanding physicist, was born in the village of Simsky Zavod in the Ufa province. On August 29, 1949, the first successful nuclear test in the USSR took place under his leadership, in 1953 a thermonuclear bomb was developed, in 1954 the world's first nuclear power plant was launched, in 1959 the world's first nuclear icebreaker was launched. Three times he got the title of Hero of Socialist Labor. He was awarded five Orders of Lenin and two Orders of the Red Banner of Labor.



1
March
1923

Sergei Aleksandrovich Kondrashev, a Soviet intelligence officer, was born in the city of Sergiev Posad. In 1947–1951 he worked in counterintelligence agencies, and from 1951 in foreign intelligence. In 1953–1955 he served as a station chief in London. In this capacity, he contacted Soviet agent George Blake. From 1957 to 1962 he was a station chief in Austria. Upon his return, he worked in the central office of the KGB, served as deputy chief of foreign intelligence, senior consultant to the chairman of the KGB of the USSR Yu. V. Andropov on intelligence and foreign policy. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Patriotic War, II class, and many medals and badges.



7
February
1898

Pyotr Yakovlevich Zubov, a representative of the first generation of Soviet intelligence officers, was born. He began his service in the security agencies in 1920 in Vladikavkaz. In 1927, he went to Istanbul according to the task of foreign intelligence. In 1931 he was sent to Paris, from 1933 to 1937 he served in the central office, then until the start of the Great Patriotic War - in Prague. During the war, at the request of P. Sudoplatov, he was enrolled in the Special Group - the 4th Directorate of the NKVD/NKGB of the USSR. He was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st class, the Order of the Red Star, personal weapon, and many medals.

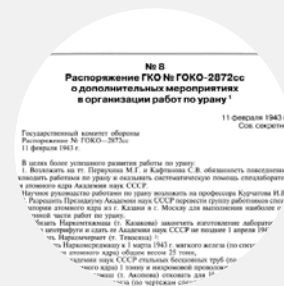


10
March
1943

by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR, the "Excellent Intelligence Officer" badge was established. It was awarded to soldiers and junior commanders of the Red Army who showed exceptional results in carrying out missions of conducting reconnaissance-in-force operations and obtaining intelligence data. During the Great Patriotic War, this badge was awarded to K. T. Molody and G. A. Vartanyan.

11
February
1943

the State Defense Committee of the USSR adopted a resolution to begin practical work on the creation of nuclear weapons. Scientific management of the work was entrusted to I.V. Kurchatov, general administrative management was entrusted to the deputy chairman of the State Defense Committee V.M. Molotov.



18
March
1918

Heinz Fölfe, an active assistant to Soviet intelligence, was born into the family of a police officer in Dresden (Germany). He studied at the Universities of Berlin and Bonn. In 1941, he joined the security police staff of the Main Directorate of Imperial Security (RSHA). In 1943 he was transferred to foreign intelligence. Since 1951, he proactively collaborated with the USSR. In the same year, he got a job at the headquarters of the Gehlen Organization, on the basis of which the German Federal Intelligence Service (BND) was created, there he worked for ten years. H. Fölfe's assistance was extremely helpful. More than 15 thousand photocopies of secret documents were transferred by him. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of the Red Star, and the badge "Honorary State Security Officer."



Awarding the winners of the 2022 Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Prize

On January 31, 2023, the Great Hall of the press center of Rossiya Segodnya news agency in Moscow hosted an award ceremony for the laureates of the 2022 SVR of Russia Prize in Literature and Art, named after Academician Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov. Opening the event, Dmitry Konstantinovich Kiselev, General Director of the agency, noted that, despite the secrecy, the intelligence profession was so bright and heroic that it invariably served as a source of inspiration for cultural figures, and as the secrecy was lifted, new exciting works were born.



The winners of the 2022 SVR Prize are:

For the creation of the serial feature film “Chief of Intelligence” – actors Sergey Marin (performing the role of Pavel Fitin), Igor Petrenko (performing the role of Alexander Korotkov), Yekaterina Volkova (performing the role of Elizabeth Zarubina), scriptwriter and general producer Artem Chashikhin-Toidze and chief producer Yaroslav Generalov.

The film premiered in the spring of 2022 on Channel One. It tells the story of the difficult period of the Soviet foreign intelligence and its legendary chief Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin, who headed the Service in the pre-war year of 1939 and led it through the hard times of the Great Patriotic War. The name of P.M. Fitin is associated with the restoration of the Soviet intelligence after the

repressions of the 1930s and the undeniable weighty contribution of intelligence officers to our country's victory over fascism.

“The creative team of the series creators managed to convey the

spirit of that time, to show the highest professionalism, courage and patriotism of the Soviet foreign intelligence officers,” noted the Director of the SVR S.Y. Naryshkin.



For the creation of the serial documentary film “The Scout's Exploit” about the legendary Soviet illegal intelligence officer Dmitry Aleksandrovich Bystroletov - General Director of NTV Television Company JSC Alexey Zemsky, Advisor to the General Director

Yuri Novikov and Chief Production Producer of the project Natalya Kamratova.

“Especially for this documentary, our Service declassified some materials about the secret part of Dmitry Bystroletov's professional

life, and the result was a wonderful and historically accurate film,” said S.Y. Naryshkin.

Intelligence historians call D.A. Bystroletov an outstanding master of recruitment. The most complex operational combinations carried out by him made it possible for the Soviet intelligence in the pre-war years to obtain the ciphers of the diplomatic missions of Italy, Austria, Britain, France and Germany. He spoke twenty languages, and the intelligence operations carried out by him to this day cause admiration of experts. D.A. Bystroletov went through many years of trials by the repressive machine, but remained a staunch patriot of the Motherland.



For the creation of the musical and choreographic performance “The History of Intelligence - the History of the Country. Nuclear Shield» — the Children’s Song and Dance Ensemble named after V.S. Loktev of the Moscow Palace of (Youth) Creativity.

Staged at the Theatre of the Russian Army, the performance is dedicated to the joint work of Soviet intelligence officers and scientists in the USSR atomic project. The performance was created with the support of the SVR of Russia, the Russian Historical Society, the Moscow Department of Education and Science, as well as the Moscow Palace of Pioneers on the Vorobyovy Gory, and includes dance numbers and video footage with memories of direct participants

of those events. Speaking about the performance, S. Y. Naryshkin emphasized that it touched upon a completely non-childish topic: “The



essence of the stage narrative is very simple: it contains the thesis that our country, our people have always been and will always be winners.”

For the creation of the series of portraits “Great Intelligence Officers” — Nikas Safronov, People’s Artist of Russia, Academician of the Russian Academy of Arts.

The name of this laureate is well known. On the eve of his 65th birthday, he presented a new project - a series of 33 portraits of Soviet and Russian intelligence officers. They are the pride of the foreign intelligence of the country: Africa de las Heras, Vladimir Barkovsky, George Blake, Joseph Grigulevich, spouses Leontina and Morris Cohen, Pavel Sudoplatov, William Fisher, Yuri Shevchenko and many others. All the portraits have been donated to the Foreign Intelligence Service and are displayed in a permanent exhibition at its headquarters. “It is



a special honor for active officers and veterans of the Service to see in their ranks our senior colleagues, teachers, and for some, even friends,



captured by the artist, to honor their exploits without the right to glory, for the glory of the State,” noted S.Y. Naryshkin.



For the creation of the monument to Russian illegal intelligence officers — sculptor Vladimir Ivanov, member of the Moscow Union of Artists.

The opening of this monument on the territory of the headquarters of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service was also timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of illegal intelligence. It is based on the literary image of the Soviet deep-cover agent Maksim Isaev-Stierlitz, brilliantly played by Vyacheslav Tikhonov in the television series “Seventeen Moments of Spring.” The monument bears the famous words from the song featured in the series: “One must always remember one’s duty from the first moment to the last.”

SVR Director Sergey Yevgenyevich Naryshkin, who presented the winners with diplomas and badges, emphasized that 2022 was a special year for the Service, as employees and veterans celebrated the 100th anniversary of illegal intelligence. Most of the works submitted to the contest were dedicated to this significant event, so the organizing committee decided to award five prizes instead of the usual three.

Concluding the award ceremony, S.Y. Naryshkin, on behalf of the employees and veterans of the Service, thanked all the award winners, as well as cultural figures and creative teams awarded with medals and diplomas of the SVR of Russia for their contribution to strengthening cooperation with the Service, and for creating highly artistic works of literature, fine arts, cinema, theater and television dedicated to the activities of Russian foreign intelligence. 🚩

The SVR Prize in Literature and Art was established on January 6, 2000. Its main goal is to draw the attention of the general public to the best artworks about intelligence. Since 2019, the Prize has been named after Academician Yevgeny Maksimovich Primakov, who served as Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service in 1991–1996.

US elections: internal division continues to widen

The results of the November midterm US Congressional elections surprised many experts and observers. Despite the fact that control in the lower house passed to the Republican Party, it failed to have a landslide victory, and the Republican majority in the new convocation turned out to be almost as symbolic as the Democrats' had been: by a margin of only nine seats. The Senate remained entirely with the Democratic Party, which was even able to slightly expand its representation.

Text: Victoria Yuryevna Zhuravleva, the head of the Center for North American Studies, the IMEMO RAS named after E. M. Primakov

Traditionally, midterm elections in the United States are elections of “angry voters.” These are the voters who usually come to the elections two years after the main ones to express dissatisfaction with the current economic situation in the country and the unfulfilled pledges of the master of the White House. In fact, this is a vote of confidence: citizens come to express support to or, on the contrary, disagreement with the policies of the head of state. Therefore, the results for the president’s party, as a rule, are not very good. Over the entire period, there were only three exceptions: in 1934, 1998 and 2002.

However, this time the elections became a vote of confidence not in Joseph Biden, but in his predecessor, Donald Trump,

whose presence in the political life of the country after leaving the Oval Office remains at an all-time high. Unlike many other former presidents, D. Trump did not leave the stage and remains the informal leader of the Republicans, actively participating in the election campaign. In the run-up to the November vote, he supported conservative candidates, many of whom managed to win the primaries, but were not so successful at the federal level, when all Americans made their choice.

As a result, D. Trump’s dominance had a rather negative impact on the results of the Republicans, since his bet on right-wing conservatism, which had ensured his victory in 2016, did not work out, and the party lost the support of moderate voters.

A new round of investigations against the former president also had an impact, giving the Democrats the opportunity to once again play the “card” of saving the country from political extremism, thereby diverting the population’s attention from the low rating of their candidate and mobilizing the

most left-wing electorate. J. Biden also joined this game, contrary to his moderate politician image.

Ardent left-radical rhetoric made it possible to unite the democratic electorate and, as in 2020, to turn the midterm elections into another uprising of “progressive”

Americans against the “extremist” D. Trump. At the same time, it has significantly increased the degree of radicalization of society in the United States and brought even more opposing populist politicians into Congress, making compromise virtually unattainable over the next two years.

The populist agenda was so successful that the Democrats managed to overcome even such traditional barriers as economic instability and the low ratings of their president. Indeed, on the eve of the elections, the economic situation did not inspire optimism: inflation was at a record high for





the United States level of 7.1% (while normal rate is 2%), and GDP showed a decline in the first two quarters of 2022 in a row (by 1.6% and 0.6%, respectively), but in the third quarter grew by 2.9%. At the same time, unemployment in 2022 consistently decreased: from 4% in January to 3.6% in March-June and 3.5% in July. In November, the number of unemployed was about 6 million people, while the number of employed was 158 million, which was approximately the same as the pre-crisis level. However, labor market factors traditionally have less influence on Americans' electoral sentiments than inflation that directly affects their incomes.

The record rise in prices on the eve of the elections became one of the main problems for the US economy. It was due to a whole

range of reasons: pent-up demand since 2020, unprecedented federal stimulus cash payments to the population in 2020–2021 as part of several packages of anti-crisis measures, disruptions in supply chains (shortages of electronic components, building materials, etc.) amid the pandemic, explosive growth in demand for housing and cars with limited supply. There were also external factors, which included, first of all, military operations in Ukraine and a prolonged lockdown in China.

The mood of citizens in such conditions was appropriate, which did not fail to affect the president's rating, that had been falling since the beginning of 2022 and reached a minimum of 38.1% by the summer. By November, it had risen to 42.3%, but these figures mean that on the

eve of the election, more than half of Americans negatively assessed the policy of the head of state. Even worse, J. Biden's popularity began to decline steadily even among fellow party members: if in January 2021 he was supported by 98% of Democratic voters, then by November 2022 this figure dropped to 78%, while among the Republican electorate the current president's rating consistently remains below 5%.

And all this despite relatively good successes in the field of lawmaking: unlike his predecessors, in the first two years of his presidency, Biden managed to pass through Congress five important bills that laid the foundation of radical changes in several priority areas for the Democrats – environment, healthcare, tax fairness, public safety.

However, Americans are tired of the polarized political struggle imposed on them, which only leads to a change in control over the White House and Congress, but has almost no effect on improving the overall state of affairs in the country. Recent polls show that 60% of voters believe America has lost its way. Moreover, this disappointment concerns not only the current government, but also both parties, the level of support of which over the past 20 years has fallen by almost half: from 56% in 2003 to 33% in November 2022.

Such record low figures for the United States are due to the growing number of unaffiliated voters – those who do not identify themselves with any political forces and prefer to vote for a specific candidate. In 2018, D. Trump's rating among such Americans was 34%, and then many experts called this figure a record low, but

in 2022, J. Biden "broke" this anti-record – only 28% of independents were ready to vote for him.

Meanwhile, now it is this part of the electorate that is becoming the decisive force in the election process. The current era of polarization is a time of swing voters who are an unstable stratum between two ideologically impassioned, though not monolithic, groups in the divided country. In party affiliation surveys, they call themselves "independents" and are by far the largest category: 41% of respondents, while 29% identify themselves as Democrats and 28% as Republicans. Moreover, among the youngest voters, the so-called "Millennials" and "Generation Z", the number of independents already exceeds 50%, and this figure continues to grow.

If independent voters are such a promising group, why do traditional parties still continue to focus on their supporters? The reason is that independents are a difficult audience for political strategists, because unlike the emotionally charged "core" electorate, who are ready to vote for one candidate or another just because he represents "their" party, the swing voters tend to evaluate the work of politicians by real results.

The sentiments of this part of American society is difficult to monitor and predict. A reorientation towards it would require a shift in the political agenda to the center of the ideological spectrum, that is, a departure from polarization and overt populism. In the current conditions of electoral logic prevalence, which actually nullifies the social functions of political parties, such a departure goes against the basic principle of party struggle in the United States, which

The era of polarization is a time of swing voters who are an unstable stratum between two ideologically impassioned, although not monolithic, groups in a divided country.

has not changed for two centuries: the success of the election agenda is determined by a single criterion – victory. And since this requires the mobilization of the "core" electorate, it can best be achieved through populist rhetoric.

And yet this time the system failed. Despite generally good results, the Democrats were defeated. The voices of the dissatisfied were enough for a change in party control to occur even in conditions of unprecedented populist "pumping-up". Or maybe it was exactly the "pumping" that made the swing voters cast their ballots not the way it had been expected? Anyway, the Americans have once again gotten divided party control over the

legislative branch of government, which will inevitably complicate the interaction of the Democratic administration with the Congress, put the implementation of the social agenda on pause, and lead to an increase in radical sentiments in society. Populism has won once again, and it will inevitably dictate its logic and rules for organizing the political struggle, turning the next two years into a new race – now for a place in the White House. ↴



At the same time, it has significantly increased the degree of society radicalization in the United States and brought even more opposing populist politicians into Congress, making compromise virtually unattainable over the next two years.

Russia in the context of structural changes in the world economy



A change in technological and world economic structures (WES)¹ is always accompanied by systemic crises and world wars, when the leading states' economics plunge into protracted depression, military-political tensions intensify, and the arms race accelerates. At the same time a "window of opportunity" is opening for the economic breakthrough of new technology leaders unencumbered with costly, outdated production facilities.

Text: Sergey Yuryevich Glazyev, Member of the Board - Minister in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the EEC, Doctor of Economics, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences

We are witnessing the industrial age's sixth technological shift². From the point of view of historic analogies, the decade after the 2008 financial crisis is similar to the Great Depression that preceded World War II. The USA and EU have temporarily alleviated their structural problems through enormous monetary stimulus, but their economies are in a state of prolonged stagnation. The accumulated loss of potential GDP is comparable to the damage caused by the decline in production in the 1930s. Then it was possible to overcome it relatively quickly. In order to maintain its dominant position, Great Britain initiated the First World War and was responsible for the Second World War between Russia and Germany – its two main rivals. However, despite geopolitical successes,

¹ **The world economic structure** is a system of interconnected international and national institutions that ensure expanded reproduction of the economy and determine the mechanism of global trade and economic relations. The institutions of the leading country are of basic importance, exerting a dominant influence on the world market and the global financial and economic system. (Author's note.)

² **Technological structure** is a set of technologies that ensure the creation of a new level of production capabilities and the development of productive forces in society. (Author's note.)

economic performance lagged behind that of the USA and the USSR, around which by the late 1940s and early 1950s two centers of the new world economic structure were formed.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia abandoned the principles of socialist construction and tried to “jump” into the “last carriage” of the capitalist world going to a dead end, the inevitable collapse of which the West managed to delay for 30 years through the predatory development of the resources of the countries of the former socialist camp, the republics of the USSR and highly profitable

large enterprises in Russia. It is now more than obvious that the American-centric, or “imperial” financial and economic system has reached the limits of its potential and begun to disintegrate.

The global hybrid war unleashed by Washington in 2014 is, in fact, the death throes of the old world, the last attempt of the power elites to retain global hegemony by weakening or destroying countries that do not obey them. Wars of the past were fought over the possession of territory. The current goal is to possess control over the global economic and, most importantly, financial system.

Due to the privatization of the global money issuance function, the Western oligarchy has long been able to exploit all humanity by exchanging fiat money for real material goods and assets. A US victory in this war would mean the widespread formation of puppet regimes, who would not be asked to do much: to comply with IMF recommendations to ensure openness of economies and free movement of capital; abandon national monetary management systems; privatize state-owned enterprises in favor of American corporations; transfer control of media and telecommunications to the West; purchase American

military equipment from time to time and follow in the wake of Washington’s foreign policy.

At the same time, the American Empire does not need to keep occupation troops in the countries under its control. The “native” elite, trained in universities of the USA and Great Britain, would enthusiastically follow all instructions, receiving part of the income from the exploitation of national wealth by American capital. In exchange, the supervisors would “free” it from worries about the economic development of their states, whose well-being would be entirely in

the hands of Western investors. As the experience of many years of US control over Latin American countries has shown, it is enough for Washington to keep its agents in senior positions in central banks, ministries of finance and foreign affairs in order to pursue the desired policy regardless of the heads of state and executive authorities elected by the local population. The economic consequences of such a “soft” occupation are quite comparable to the damage caused to the defeated countries during the world wars.

However, the era of neo-imperialism is inexorably moving toward its decline. Due to the objective regularity of the change in the WES (world economic structure) the West, led by the United States, is doomed to defeat. Washington has already lost the trade war with Beijing, having largely curtailed the protective duties imposed by President Donald Trump on the import of Chinese goods. The new system of industrial relations and management institutions that emerged in China and was copied by many other countries that can be conditionally designated as the Asian or “integral” WES, is way more effective than the “imperial” system. This is evidenced not only by the record growth rates of China’s GDP over the past three decades, but also by China’s emergence at the forefront of scientific and technological progress.

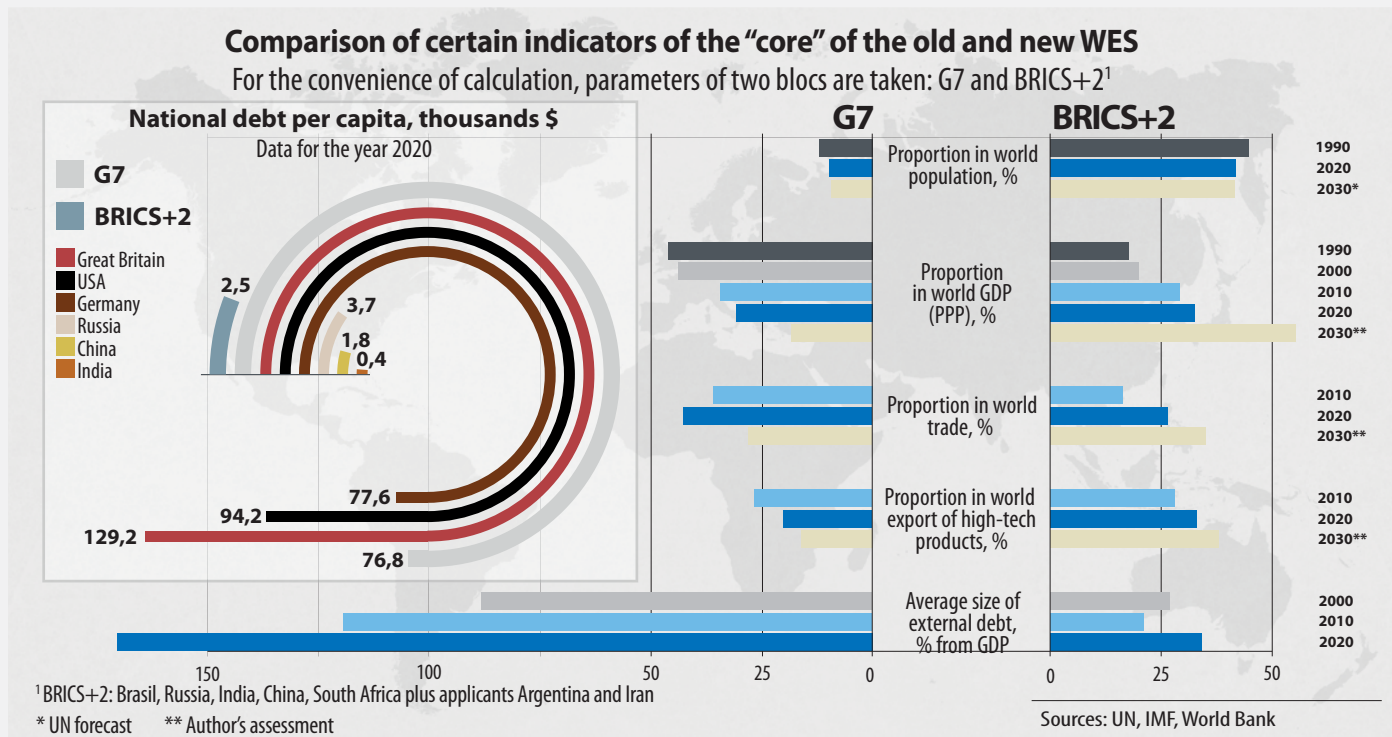
While maintaining the Soviet political system and the socialist system, the Chinese communists abandoned dogmatism and took an unconventional approach to economic reforms. They were able to subordinate market mechanisms to the goals of increasing social welfare and the competitiveness of their economy, and learned to use entrepreneurial energy for the benefit of the entire society. At the same time, the Chinese authorities continue to improve the system of economic regulation, trying to ensure the highest possible level of investment and innovation activity through state control methods.

Japan at one time tried to follow a similar path before its rise was artificially halted by the Americans through the sharp revaluation of yen in the mid-1980s, as well as South Korea before the Wall Street financier-induced Asian economic crisis of 1998. Now the experience of the PRC is being actively adopted in Vietnam, India, the states of Southeast Asia and even Ethiopia. All of them demonstrate faster rates of GDP growth against the backdrop of stagnation in leading Western countries. The American secular systemic cycle of capital accumulation is being replaced by the Asian one, and the center of the world economy is shifting to the Asia-Pacific region.

Within the framework of the British, or “colonial” WES, the well-being



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A modern socially oriented state is an integrator of various social groups based on creative activities to improve public welfare.

of the elites in the parent state was ensured through the direct robbery of the colonies. The basis of the American-centric model is to serve the interests of the "golden billion" through financial robbery and unequal trade with the countries "at the periphery", whose population is five times larger than in the developed countries. The formation of an "integral" WES with the center of capital accumulation in Asia is intended to ensure the well-being of the majority of the planet's inhabitants

through fair and mutually beneficial cooperation, which coincides with the Eastern mentality that strives not for hegemony and leadership, as in the case of Anglo-Saxons, but for harmony of interests.

The main motive for international integration promoted by China, India and other countries of the "core" of the new WES is not liberalization of markets for the benefit of transnational corporations, but the growth of production through the implementation of joint projects

that take into account interests of all the participants. Cooperation and dialogue are conducted despite differences in political systems, with respect for the historical and cultural traditions of the partners. The same principles were laid down when creating such regional associations as ASEAN+, BRICS, EAEU, SCO, and related financial institutions (BRICS Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Eurasian Development Bank, etc.).

The formation of a new WES is accompanied by a radical reform of the world economic order and the entire system of international relations. The revival of socio-economic development planning and state regulation of capital's reproduction main parameters, an active industrial policy, control over cross-border capital flows, and currency restrictions – all this

is already turning from a "menu" prohibited by Western financial organizations into generally accepted economic instruments.

The future financial architecture's foundation should be based upon an international treaty that would make it possible to build a new, fairer system for regulating global finance. In particular, the shares of national representative offices in new international banking structures and in the formation of reserves for the possible issue of a new world currency should be established according to the following criteria:

- country's GDP per capita in purchasing power parity terms (as percentage of the world's total);
- the country's share in global trade terms;
- size of the territory (as percentage of the global total) as an integral indicator of the country's natural, resource and climatic potential;
- population (as percentage of the global population);
- the country's place in the current global financial system (the volume of its gold and foreign exchange reserves and the use of the national currency in international payments and reserves are taken into account).

Against the background of the agony of the capitalist world the successes of socialist China, India and the states of Southeast Asia make us choose: whether to return to the "high road" of socialism or perish at the periphery of the agonizing American-centric financial and economic system. Of course, we are talking about renewed socialist construction – using market mechanisms and entrepreneurial energy, relying on traditional moral and spiritual values. The era of class struggle and forceful coercion of millions

of people to work is forever in the past. A modern socially oriented state is an integrator of various social groups based on creative activities to improve public welfare.

The transition to a new WES will require us to revise radically our economic policy and increase the efficiency of both public administration and the activities of private enterprises. A skillful combination of strategic planning and market self-organization, state control of the banking system and free enterprise, state ownership of infrastructure and private enterprises are needed in competitive sectors of the economy.

Having lost its reproducible integrity with the collapse of the USSR, the Russian economy is being integrated into the "Asian" WES as a raw materials periphery. Theoretically, being the leading country of the Eurasian Economic Union, Russia is able to become one of the key players, to enter the "core" of the emerging world order, of course if it manages to create the basic production capacities for new technical specifications timely, that will be based on information technology, nano- and bio-industry, robotics, 3D engineering, new energy, etc.

This requires an rapid transition to a system economic policy, that

should be based on a mixed model of technological development: dynamic industrial catching up in industries with a slight lag and accelerated development of the basic industries of the new technological structure. Concentrated resources should be invested in creation of promising production and technological complexes, in this context a centralized financial management system is vital. The implementation of such a system, that includes the mechanisms of monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies, should become the core of the anti-crisis strategy. Another key condition for efficiency is the synergistic effect, which presupposes the formation complexity of new technological structure production's related clusters and the consistency of macroeconomic policy with the priorities of advanced technical and economic development.

For the time being we still have an opportunity to make the qualitative breakthrough that Russian President V.V. Putin is talking about. To do this, we need to understand the patterns of ongoing global changes, clearly formulate medium and long term goals and objectives, have the political will and enjoy popular support to achieve them. 🚀

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G.Y. Krasnikov: «Knowledge should serve people...»

At the meeting
with the President
of the Russian
Federation V.V. Putin.
November 11, 2022.
RIA News

Gennady Yakovlevich, first of all, we would like to thank you for finding the opportunity to give an interview to our magazine, despite your busy schedule. You headed the Russian Academy of Sciences at a difficult time: because of the conflict in Ukraine, the West is trying to isolate us, including in science and culture. Tell me, please, do you already feel this somehow or do scientists still manage to stay out of politics?

It is impossible to be outside of politics. Of course, the main role of science is the search for new knowledge. But this knowledge must serve the people, the interests of society and the state. At the meeting with President V.V. Putin in November 2022, I said that we saw the main task in the speedy integration of the Russian Academy of Sciences in the state decision-making system. In the current conditions, highly professional, unbiased, objective expertise, which allows the country's leadership to avoid costly mistakes, is more important than ever. The Academy employs over 5 thousand specialists who annually conduct about 37 thousand expert examinations – more than half of the total volume of such work in the country. We plan to further expand this activity, attracting the most qualified personnel.

In addition, the Academy intends to strengthen its influence on scientific research in Russia. At the initial stage of forming a state order, it is necessary for research institutes, together with thematic departments of the Russian Academy of Sciences, to discuss lists of works included in the state order. We must determine to what extent certain studies are in demand, how their results will correlate with the world level, or whether we are lagging behind, whether any key indicators have been underestimated. We have already begun to create expert commissions that should analyze the work of scientific institutions. Besides the additional control, this will allow them to be assisted in more successful development, for example, by improving the instrumentation base.

We also intend to increase the role of the scientific councils of the Russian Academy of Sciences. These are unique science management tools, since they include not only members of the Academy, but also representatives of specialized universities and high-tech companies, that is, actually all specialists in a particular field of knowledge. It is assumed that each scientific council will oversee a specific program of government funding for scientific research. I gave an example at the meeting with the President.



The government charged the Council on Quantum Technologies, which I lead, to analyze “roadmaps” for all the research in this area. And this includes ROSATOM which has its own program of quantum computing and quantum simulators, RZhD (Russian Railways) carrying out developments in the field of quantum data transmission and quantum cryptography, and State Corporation “Rostec” which develops quantum sensors. With the big picture in mind, the Council can make necessary adjustments to these “roadmaps”, aligning joint efforts and thereby making them more effective.

Russia has declared the years 2022–2031 the decade of science and technology. This places increased demands on the Academy of Sciences as the main coordinator of this area.

The Academy is one of the most active participants in all events held within the framework of the decade of science and technology. Let me remind you of one important date: on January 28 (February 8), 1724, Peter the Great signed the decree on the creation of the Russian Academy of Sciences, thus, in 2024 the RAS will celebrate its 300th anniversary. This is a significant event, and not only for our country. UNESCO and other international organizations are providing active support for all events related to our anniversary. We are expecting representatives of many national academies to attend, including those along the International Association of Academies of Sciences (IAAS) line.

personal contacts with colleagues around the world. In general, we are actively developing international cooperation, and the Academy’s role in “scientific diplomacy” is growing.

In one of your recent interviews, you said that the beginning of the Russian special operation in Ukraine was a turning point that changed the state’s approach to science, the introduction of domestic developments and know-how in order to ensure technological sovereignty. What other significant obstacles are there along this path?

February 2022, undoubtedly, is a milestone that will determine the development of our country for many years. By the way, it was then that I decided to nominate myself for the post of President of the Russian Academy of Sciences. And I see how much the attitude of the state leadership towards the Academy has changed, starting with the President, Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Ministers, and how much more serious attention is now being paid to the potential of our scientific institutes.

If we talk about specific problems, the most pressing one, in my opinion, is the implementation of scientific developments. Our scientists have many achievements, many of them, by the way, arouse great interest abroad. However, bringing it to applied solutions is difficult. Of course, in principle one cannot demand instant practical results from fundamental research, but there is no insurmountable wall between fundamental and applied science. As academician Zhores Ivanovich Alferov said, quoting Nobelist George Porter, any fundamental science is applied, it’s just that sometimes the implementation occurs after five, and sometimes after 50 or 100 years.

Of course, I do not suggest sitting idle and waiting. We are currently reviewing the entire fundamental research program until 2030, taking into account the new challenges that our country faces. The most important areas of work primarily related to solving the problems of ensuring technological sovereignty have already been agreed upon

with the government. At the same time, the Academy is ready to take on the functions of the main government coordinator in the implementation of the Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of Russia. This formula is optimal and gives good results. Examples include the Soviet atomic project, as well as space exploration, where we were able to be many years ahead of the rest of the world.

We also promote the idea of forming consortia that include the entire chain of creating new things: fundamental, sectoral, university science, as well as high-tech enterprises. Moreover, financing of such chains can come from various sources: both government ones represented by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Health and others, and through private business, which is also very important. Thus, we solve two problems at once: we attract additional funding on the one hand, and demonstrate the practical significance of fundamental research, which will result not only in scientific articles, but also in tangible outcomes in production - on the other hand.

Let me remind the readers that a hundred years ago, in the 1920s, when the young Soviet state was under conditions of severe international isolation, one of the main tasks of foreign intelligence was to obtain industrial secrets. And it successfully coped with this task, ensuring the advanced development of our country for decades. The contribution of our intelligence officers to the USSR atomic project is also widely known, its implementation made it possible to achieve military parity with the United States in a short time. In modern context, do you believe that the role of scientific and technical intelligence remains a significant one, or in our digital age, hackers are much more successful in obtaining all secrets?

Of course, the information gathered by our intelligence officers enabled us to significantly reduce the time needed to create an atomic bomb. Out of several solutions, the intelligence service helped us to find the optimal one. But it is important to emphasize that despite the fact that we were not the

first to make a nuclear bomb, our scientists managed to “get going” the atomic project so much that the USSR became a pioneer in the creation of a thermonuclear bomb.

All countries of the world are engaged in intelligence activities, including the use of technical means. This also applies to information technology. The Internet and cyberspace are also areas of confrontation between intelligence services. And by the way, one of the tasks facing domestic science is to ensure the security of the state in this extremely important area, too.

Of course, this work is not advertised. However, there are also well-known facts. Thus, there is currently an active process of replacing foreign software with domestic software to eliminate the so-called undeclared features. For example, the Research Center for Trusted Artificial Intelligence was created on the basis of the Institute for System Programming of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Its key technology missions are to analyze, identify and counter threats specific to artificial intelligence technologies, including injection and malicious code attacks.

The work on import substitution is carried out not only in software, but also in hardware. This process is costly and challenging, since

At a round-table in the House of the Russian Historical Society. January 20, 2023



We are currently reviewing the entire fundamental research program until 2030, taking into account the new challenges that our country faces.

It is pleasant to note that today there are 460 foreign members working at the RAS. They participate in scientific forums, publish the results of their research, and maintain

it is associated not so much with science as with politics and economics. Nevertheless, we are quite competitive today in fundamental research, in the scientific aspect and in the field of electronics.

The long-term goal of the Academy is to look into the future in order to anticipate the threats of tomorrow associated with, say, the development of quantum cryptography based on the methods of quantum physics. Everything is very complicated here, since all information transmission technologies are vulnerable. It is extremely important for us not to fall behind in this area, or better yet, to get ahead of our geopolitical competitors. And here we cannot do without fundamental science.

Thus, scientists are already talking about the necessity to replace the natural lens of the eye of participants in interplanetary expeditions with an intraocular lens (implant) that is resistant to cosmic rays.

On behalf of the President of the Russian Federation, the Academy of Sciences (together with the Government of the Russian Federation, Russian Historical Society, Russian Military Historical Society and the Knowledge Society) is entrusted with the task of developing mechanisms for popularizing modern scientific knowledge among young people. How do you generally see the work with young people in Russia now and what, in your opinion, needs to be improved so that young people should be more willing to go into science?

First of all, it is necessary to increase the prestige of the scientific profession and create appropriate conditions for scientific work to encourage young people to go into science more willingly. To this end, we are currently doing a lot, from increasing the financial support of scientists to the construction of world-class mega-science facilities, where the most advanced research can be carried out.

As for the popularization of science, this is not only one of the tasks prescribed in the statutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, but also the duty of every scientist. When we talk about sovereignty, there is another essential aspect to consider: the independence of thought. Instilling a scientific approach, or at least its elements, from a young age is the most important step towards ensuring the spiritual health of the nation in the conditions of widespread computerization and informatization. Further improvement of the technosphere is undoubtedly a significant task and point of effort for academic science, but it must be harmonized with the development of the spiritual and intellectual potential of the individual and the entire society.

As for creating an “extended version” of human, this task will probably be solved in the foreseeable future. And not only in the interests of intelligence, but also, for example, for exploration of the deep sea or space.

Returning to the popularization of science, I would like to note that immediately after my election, as a priority task, I proposed that academician secretaries heading RAS departments in different areas should present

the most significant scientific results at the beginning of each meeting of the Presidium of the Academy. I am sure that this will have a positive impact on the image of a scientist and researcher in society.

In addition, the Russian Academy of Sciences has its own award. Last year it was given in three categories: “Best popular science book about the life of scientists and the logic of the development of science”, “Best popular science podcast” and “Best artist, illustrator, designer of a popular science project”.

It is worth mentioning the “Basic Schools of the Russian Academy of Sciences” initiative, launched in 2018, which involves 108 educational organizations from 32 regions of our country. Its main goal is to create favorable conditions for identifying and training talented children, fostering their interest in pursuing successful career in the field of science and high technology. Representatives of the Russian Academy of Sciences also joined the public expert council of the new federal project “Popularization of Science and Technology”. It is planned to annually create more than three thousand articles, reports and videos about science within its framework. It is expected that only in 2023 the content will be viewed and read by about 50 million Russians of different age.

The All-Russian Organization of Inventors and Innovators, which celebrated its 90th anniversary last year, is actively working in the field of popularizing science. Under the leadership of its current head – the Chairman of the Central Council Vladimir Mikhailovich Kononov - All-Russian Organization of Inventors and Innovators organizes master classes and lectures, publishes fascinating books about Russians, Russian scientists and inventors. This is important and necessary work, especially since the organization covers the majority of Russian regions and has over 100 thousand members.

And of course, restoring the authority of the Russian Academy of Sciences is the best way to attract young people to science. This will enable it to become the main support of the state on the path to building a worthy future.



There are students and schoolchildren among our readers, many of them are patriotic and ready to be useful to the country, but have not yet decided on their field of activity. What could you wish them?

At the Second Congress of Young Scientists in the Sirius Park of Science and Art. December 2022. RIA News

Live your life guided by the motto of polar explorer Sanya Grigoriev from Veniamin Kaverin’s novel “Two Captains”: “Fight and search, find and don’t give up!”

Thank you very much for such a meaningful and useful conversation! We would like to wish our science new achievements, new talented names and discoveries, and to you - health, strength and success in a difficult but extremely important field! 🇷🇺

Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin

In order for young people to go into science more willingly, it is necessary, first of all, to enhance the prestige of the scientific profession and create appropriate conditions for scientific work.

US military biological activities are a global threat to peace

The United States declared the cessation of its offensive military-biological program in 1969, in 1975 it ratified the International Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). This, however, did not prevent it from continuing work in the field of creating biological weapons, which is still being carried out both in the United States itself and in third countries, although now under the guise of activities not prohibited by the BTWC, including within the framework of defense and anti-terrorist programs.

Text: Vladimir Maksimov, candidate of military sciences, retired colonel of the SVR

Over time, the US military's approach to the role of biological weapons and methods of their use has drastically changed. The Pentagon, particularly, came to the conclusion that the concept of using traditional biological warfare agents (BWAs) (1) and the means of their delivery is outdated, since it allows the enemy not only to detect the use of biological weapons, but also to identify the attacker quickly. The solution may be to use pathogens of little-known natural infections with a high fatal outcome, which have a delayed effect and cause symptoms of common diseases, as BWAs, which will ensure secrecy and sufficient efficiency in waging "biological wars."

Currently, it is this approach that substantially determines the activities of all specialized Pentagon

units previously involved in the US offensive military-biological program. First of all, we are talking about the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (the notorious Fort Detrick), the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the Naval Medical Research Center, which were long ago refocused on researches into pathogens of dangerous infections and the search for new pathogens that can become sources of mass human diseases.

The ever-expanding network of Pentagon-controlled bio centers in other countries, which makes it possible to solve several problems at once, plays an equally important role in modern US biological research. Firstly, to collect in a targeted manner samples of new infections pathogens from

natural foci, to identify viruses and bacteria among them that have a high pandemic potential, and to study the factors of their spread and mutations in different climatic conditions. Secondly, to conduct researches and experiments with BWAs without fear of American public protests. Thirdly, to evade responsibility, since formally biological objects belong to the countries where they are located, and if any violations of the BTWC are discovered, all charges will be brought against them.

(1) The United States considered the pathogens of such dangerous diseases as smallpox, tularemia, plague, anthrax, etc. as "traditional" BWAs.

Currently, there are about 400 dual-purpose biological laboratories



controlled by Washington operating abroad. The territories of other countries serve as a natural testing ground for the study of pathogenic microorganisms typical for the natural environment of a particular area and their impact on the local population. As a rule, low-income volunteers are recruited as subjects, from whom biomaterials are collected before and after contact with BWAs. The resulting samples are sent to the Pentagon research centers, replenishing the database of the genetic characteristics of various nationalities, the characteristics of their immune system, resistance to pathogens, and reactions to antibiotics. The tasks of foreign biocenters also include modeling the spread of epidemics and studying other factors influencing the susceptibility of people and animals to specific diseases.

The absolute "leader" in the number of biological objects is

the African continent, where the Americans, in addition to collecting and analyzing information about pathogenic viruses and bacteria, conduct tests of new vaccines and medications. Large-scale dual-purpose biological researches are being conducted in South America and Southeast Asia. In recent years, the United States has been actively "developing" the Middle East and the post-Soviet space in military-biological terms. To obtain permission to open its laboratories, Washington disguises their activities as humanitarian goals and provides the host countries with considerable financial support. This combination, coupled with the provision of diplomatic status to American specialists, allows the Pentagon to conduct research of interest with virtually no control.

It should be noted that in a number of regions with a high concentration of American biological objects, unusual outbreaks of infectious

In 2018, the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) launched the Friend or Foe program, within which technologies for extracting pathogens of infectious diseases from various habitats and methods for assessing their danger to humans are being developed. The extracted viruses and bacteria are then placed in a laboratory system that simulates the human body to determine specifics of their reproduction, mutation and effect on people.

HISTORICAL FACT

The first case of the biological weapons use during the war was recorded in 1763, when the British military sent blankets contaminated with smallpox to the camp of Indians besieging Fort Pitt (present Pittsburgh, USA).

In 1942, again the British, under the leadership of Paul Fields, the director of the biological laboratory in Porton Down, England, worked out operation «Vegetarian», during which it was supposed to spray anthrax spores over pastures in Germany in order to infect livestock, thereby causing food shortages. As an experiment, a biological bomb was dropped on the deserted island of Greenard near Scotland, which subsequently had to be quarantined until 1990. The operation itself was scheduled for the summer of 1944, but was canceled after the landing of American troops in Normandy.

diseases are reported from time to time, which are difficult to explain by natural causes. These include, for example, the Ebola fever epidemics in Africa in 1976, 1995, 2000, 2007 and 2014, outbreaks of "bird" (2003, Southeast Asia) and "swine" flu (2009, Mexico), an outbreak of Zika fever in Brazil in 2015, which quickly spread across the whole continent.

Along with the study of infectious agents, Pentagon specialists pay great attention to carriers of

dangerous diseases, including identifying the transmission mechanisms of such diseases to humans through insects, mammals and wild birds, whose migration routes are also carefully studied. All this makes it possible for American military biologists to model scenarios for the spread of epidemics and to work out "biological routes" of the introduction of atypical infections into territories of interest through third states.

US biological activities in other countries are an important, but only the initial stage of a large-scale program to develop new BWAs. Abroad, the American military, without formally violating the BTWC, is only forming a scientific basis for the creation of new bioagents capable of overcoming the immune defense of specific regions' residents. Processing of collected materials and conducting in-depth research

on their basis is further carried out in the United States itself, where about 200 biological laboratories affiliated with the Department of Defense are located.

To avoid accusations of violating the BTWC and American law, a number of bioprograms are "farmed out" to civilian departments and private companies such as Battelle Memorial Institute, Metabiota, Southern Research Institute, Black and Veatch and others. The most "sensitive" projects are implemented at top-secret

facilities. Within these projects genetic engineering work with pathogens of especially dangerous infections is carried out, and with the use of biosynthesis methods, new pathogens deadly to humans, including coronaviruses, can be created. For instance, at the military training ground Lothar Salomon Life Sciences Test Facility in Utah field experiments with modified BWAs, simulating their combat use, are carried out.

The information available to the SVR indicates that American

specialists have achieved significant results in researches related to the modification of the cellular and molecular structures of living organisms - potential BWAs. Particular attention is paid to studying the interaction of "improved" pathogens with the human body, for which tests are carried out on animals with similar immune systems (monkeys). Work with such bioagents is aimed at increasing their virulence, resistance to the external environment, developing fastness to medications, imparting the ability to suppress the immune system and cause diseases with unusual symptoms, which is intended to complicate their diagnosing and treatment.

The United States has also made significant progress in the field of synthetic biology, where they are aimed at creating, using methods of directed synthesis, pathogenic microorganisms with specified properties that do not exist in nature. The most important feature of such artificial BWAs will be that their structure will be known only to the developer. It will be extremely difficult to detect and identify them in time, not to mention providing emergency assistance in case of damage. The Pentagon's obvious goal for the future is to develop such modified microorganisms against which there will be neither diagnostic facilities nor treatment.

And, of course, the focus of American military biologists' attention is on the mechanisms of transfer of genetically modified or artificial viruses to their "targets", which may be people, domestic animals, and agricultural plants. It is noteworthy that the Insect Allies project announced by the Pentagon in 2016, assuming use of beetles, mosquitoes and other insects to



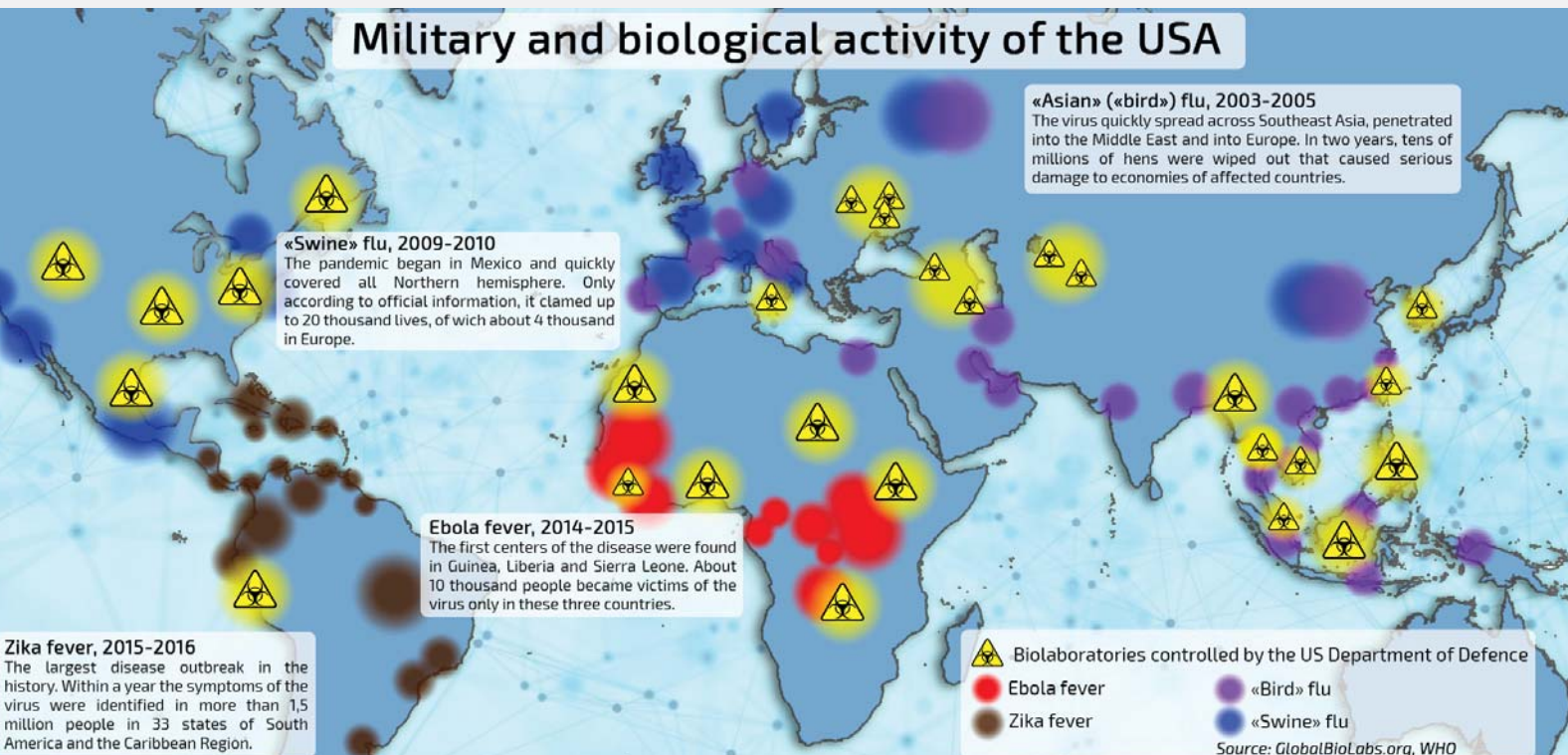
The Pentagon's obvious goal for the future is to develop such modified microorganisms against which there will be neither diagnostic facilities nor treatment.

spread genetically modified viruses (under the seemingly plausible pretext of crop protection), has caused a mixed reaction even among the US European allies, in particular Germany.

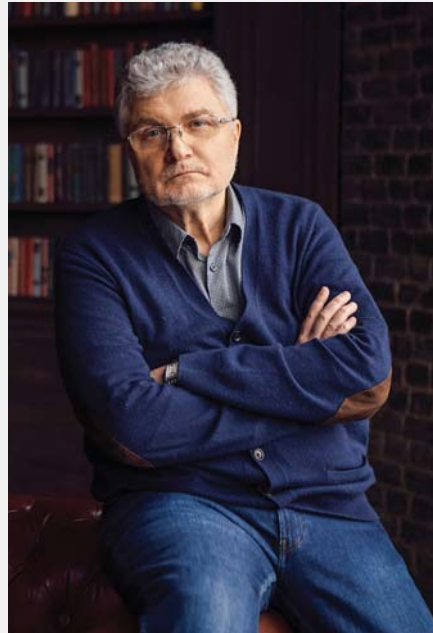
All the above clearly demonstrates that the American offensive military-biological program has only altered its appearance and, under the auspices of Pentagon defense projects in the United States, bypassing the BTWC, the development of the latest directed-action BWAs for waging hidden "biological wars" is in full swing. Modified pathogens of fatal infections, as well as artificial pathogens with a long incubation

period, high drug resistance and the ability to overcome the immune defense of the local population, can be used as bioagents in the near future. Moreover, their use can be disguised as natural outbreaks of various epidemics, and the scale and negative consequences, as the coronavirus pandemic has shown, may cross the boundaries of a single region. █

Military and biological activity of the USA



Intelligence of the future



Yuri Polyakov

During the years of my Soviet childhood, when assessing a person's moral and business qualities, the expression was often used: "I would go with him on reconnaissance!" Or, on the contrary, wouldn't go... Although this phrase was used partly ironically, it had quite a serious meaning. In that society, brought up on the heroism of the Great Patriotic War, they understood that war, and even more so raids behind enemy lines, brought out all his qualities in a person - both high and low. First of all - courage, reliability, devotion to the

Motherland, loyalty to the goal. With someone who does not possess such qualities, it is not worth going not only on reconnaissance, but also not worth taking on any more or less serious business. If we continue this analogy, then it is important for any government or state to realize, especially in years of historical trials, how reliable those strata and population groups on which the system relies are. I wouldn't talk about the reliability of the people as a whole. Only unscrupulously deceived people are unreliable, but that's a completely different topic.

Belonging by occupation to the field of culture, I will focus on the properties of the modern Russian creative intelligentsia, which has traditionally played a large role in the fate of our Fatherland. Nowadays it's not fashionable to refer to Lenin, but I'll still take the risk. He has a concept of two cultures in one society, developed, however, in the class spirit of opposition between revolutionary progress and protective reactionism. However,

Slavophiles, who were often under the secret surveillance of the police, somehow do not fit into this dichotomy. But what theory is without flaws?

So, in the current Russian culture, two cultures also coexist and oppose each other - state-patriotic and liberal-pro-Western. Of course, these "cores" have periphery and transitional forms, but it is the principle that is important. If anyone thinks that the "state-patriotic" wing is called that because the state is behind it, they are mistaken. On the contrary, for more than thirty years, since the beginning of the 1990s, the government has consistently given gifts to, supported, and promoted precisely the liberal direction. Paradox? Not at all. Firstly, at the beginning, the liberal version of culture as an apolitical service corresponded to the course of joining the "family of civilized peoples", of sharing universal human values, of renouncing "imperial ambitions" in order to shake off the Soviet "dust from our feet." Secondly, the generously funded apoliticality of the "masters of thought" helped to minimize criticism of the comprador course of the Yeltsin period. Thirdly, the principle "the authorities support culture, but do not control the results, because the creative act is unpredictable" coincided with the hedonistic moods of the "masters" who were tired of serving the Fatherland. As a result, almost the entire cultural space of the country was monopolized by Western liberals. This is not a hyperbole, but a medical fact.

This situation suited both the authorities and a significant part of the "creators", who perceived the phrase "patriotic culture" as an oxymoron. Speaking as the editor-in-chief of "Literaturnaya Gazeta" at the congress of the Union of Journalists, I was forced to object to Nikolai Svanidze, who stated without hesitation that "liberal" is the best synonym for the word "journalist". "Where will you put Katkov, Menshikov, Suvorin in this case - the

undisputed rulers of the thoughts of the pre-revolutionary public, loyal to the order of things of that epoch?" There was no answer.

Our advanced creative elite mastered the technology of cancellation to perfection long before the current excesses with the bans of Chekhov and Tchaikovsky in the West, only this concerned the legacy of conservatives, which was not truly appreciated by the throne, that collapsed, in particular, for this reason. The authorities have a dangerous illusion that it is always easier to come to an agreement with liberals than to meet the too high demands of patriots.

Of course, after 1991 there was also a patriotic version of national culture in Russia, but it existed like Cinderella, who was sometimes invited to feast on leftovers out of decency. It is enough to analyze who predominantly received the laurels of the "Golden Mask", "Big Book", "Kinotavr", etc. However, the list of State Prize laureates is very typical as well. At one time, I noticed that in the list of books recommended for extracurricular reading, a significant place was occupied by emigrant authors, not of the first, not of the second, but of a very specific third wave. Here we should also add the opening of the Dovlatov Museum in Pushkingorye and the installation of monuments to Solzhenitsyn and Rostropovich on the site where a memorial to Karamzin was planned for his 200th anniversary. The authorities, therefore, themselves seemed to emphasize: a great artist must at least once come into conflict with the regime, and we are not talking about an ideological and aesthetic conflict, but rather a political conflict.

No wonder that a significant part of the creative intelligentsia opposed the special military operation, and, I am sure, not for humanitarian reasons. Consistent pacifists should have raised their voices back in 2014, when the shelling of Donetsk began. No, they didn't, focusing on the "road map to glory" that the government itself had been offering them for so many years. No doubt, the SVO made us look at many things differently. It became clear that our well-fed, but by no means apolitical, creative elite, designed to personify freedom of speech and creativity for the West in post-

Soviet Russia, turned out to be, in a collision with the same West, something like a suitcase without a handle, without wheels, and most importantly, without anything inside.

But that's not even the main problem. The persistently inculcated concept of the cultural sphere as a system of favours, and not as service to art, the people and the state, played a cruel joke on the Russian state. The illusion has firmly taken root that it is enough to change the agenda, set a new task, allocate serious funding, and immediately "the one who hinders us will help us!" And what? Nothing. The scheme doesn't work.

There is one subtlety that our government cultural managers constantly forget about. It's hard for me to imagine that the quality of armor produced at a defense plant would depend on the worldview of the director of the enterprise, unless, of course, he is an obvious saboteur, that is, a foreign agent. But the orientation of the play, film, book and, accordingly, their impact on the viewer and reader directly depend on the worldview of the artistic director of the theatre, film producer or publisher. Of course, for the sake of money and maintaining a position, you can make an effort on yourself. What's the point? Birds will not be born from fish. Is it not for this reason that in more than a year since the beginning of the SVO, we have not had a single noticeable film, play, musical series, etc., dedicated to these events? Mind you, the film "Lad from Our Town" (based on the play by Konstantin Simonov) was released on the screens of the USSR in the fall of 1941!

The thinking layer of society, the scientific and creative intelligentsia always, among other things, perform the function of forecasting and modeling the future. Such forecasts can be of key importance for making management decisions. And the future of the Russian state, and indeed of our entire multinational people, largely depends on which of the two cultures that currently coexist in Russia will be entrusted by the authorities with "reconnaissance of the future," or rather, with whom they will go on this reconnaissance. 🚩

«The atomic bomb must be made at all costs»

The material was prepared together with the National Research Center 'Kurchatov Institute'

The problem of splitting the nucleus of an atom in order to obtain a new source of energy was worrying the minds of physicists around the world. Research in this sphere was also carried out in the Russian Empire, but with the outbreak of the World War I it was practically stopped. The new Soviet government quickly appreciated the potential of atomic research. It's hard to believe, but already in 1918, in the country seized by perturbations, the world's first State Institute of Roentgenology and Radiology was created. For equipping it with X-ray technology and other devices, the government assigned 50 thousand golden rubles. In 1921, to organize systematic scientific work in the field of nuclear physics, the Atomic Commission was formed, and in 1922, the Radium Institute was established, headed by the master of Russian science, the Academician V.I. Vernadsky.

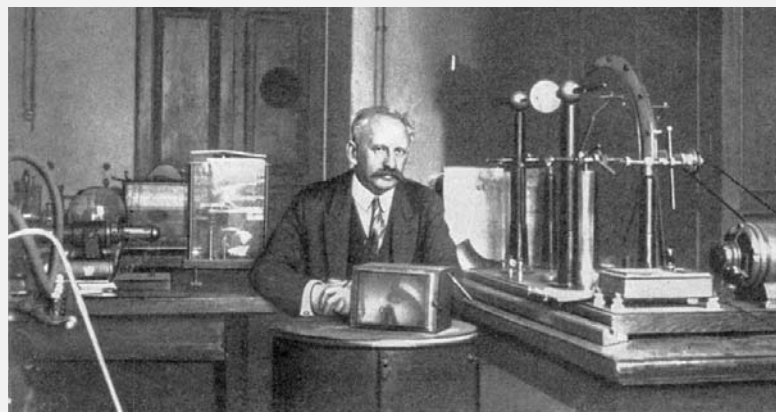
By the end of the 1920s, through the efforts of the first director of the Institute of Physics and Technology,¹ the Academician A.F. Ioffe, a mighty scientific school was formed in Leningrad, Moscow and other large cities of the USSR, from which a constellation of young talented physicists emerged. Many of them subsequently became the elite of world science. Among them are the future Academicians P.L.

Kapitsa, A.P. Alexandrov, B.P. Konstantinov, I.V. Kurchatov.

The mid-1930s and early 1940s were marked by a series of breakthrough achievements by our physicists, which brought Soviet science to the world's forefront. After Niels Bohr's sensational report on the discovery of uranium nuclei's fission presented in 1939, all publications on nuclear theme disappeared from Western scientific literature. This was noticed in the USSR. Our scientists were worrying not only about the possible lagging behind the world science in the study of peaceful atoms, but also about the threat of the use of atomic energy for military purposes, primarily by Nazi Germany. In 1940, at their request, the Soviet government passed a resolution on establishing a Commission on the Problem of Uranium under the Presidium of the USSR's Academy of Sciences, with the task of

¹ Created in 1921 on the basis of the Physical and technical Department of the State Institute of Roentgenology and Radiology.

A.F. Ioffe in the physical laboratory of the LPI. 1924



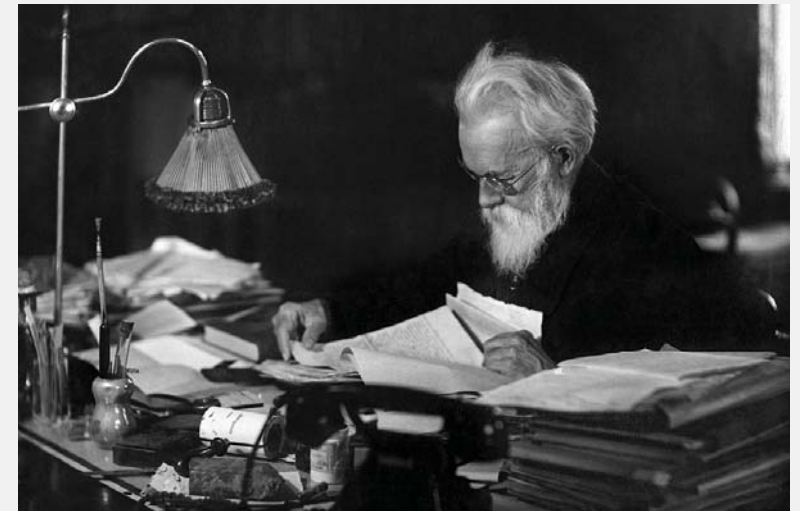
planning and coordinating research in this area.

A sad coincidence: Pravda newspaper, which arrived at newsstands on the morning of June 22, 1941, proudly reported on the final stage of construction of a cyclotron, the largest in Europe and so much needed by our physicists, in the Leningrad Institute of Physics and Technology. However, amid the events of this day which became tragic for the country, the message was forgotten.

With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, most Soviet nuclear scientists abandoned their research, switching to the needs of the front. Scientific institutes were evacuated to the rear – to Kazan, Alma-Ata, Ufa, only some laboratories in Moscow and Leningrad remained. Nuclear physicists began research in the field of weapons and the defense industry, that was vital at that time: development of acoustic and radar equipment, improvement of the quality of armor steel and gunpowder mixtures for rocket artillery shells, protection of ships from magnetic mines, and much more.

Meanwhile, already in January 1941, information about foreign atomic research began to flow to the Soviet leadership through foreign intelligence. Our intelligence officers managed to obtain highly important technical information, including the calculation of the critical mass, the project of the separation plant, the details of the design of the membranes, and also, they reported the main thing – that the West expects to develop a uranium bomb within the next two years (!). As the Commissioner of the USSR State Defense Committee (GKO) for science S.V. Kaftanov affirmed, it was intelligence that had the decisive word on the issue of the full-scale launch of the Soviet nuclear project.

In September 1942 and February 1943, the State Defense Committee held special meetings, the agenda of which included one issue: the development of research in the USSR to create an atomic bomb. On February 11, 1943, the Resolution No. 2872 of the USSR State Defense Committee was issued, formulating priority measures for organizing atomic research. Scientific supervision of work on uranium was entrusted to I.V. Kurchatov. The intelligence information could not have been more



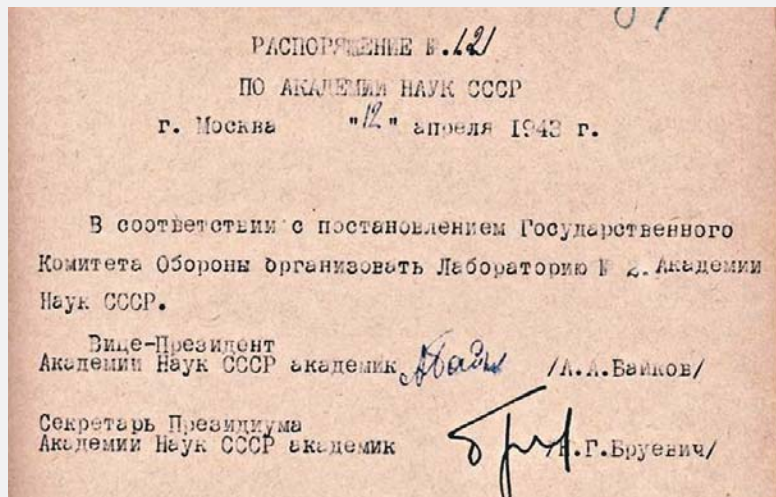
We are approaching a great turn in the life of mankind... The time is near when the man obtains atomic energy, a source of power that will give him an opportunity to build his life as he wishes. ...Will the man be able to make use of this power, to direct it to good, and not to self-destruction? Has he grown up to the ability of using the power that science will inevitably give him? Scientists should not turn a blind eye to the possible consequences of their scientific activities and of the scientific progress. They must feel responsibility for all the consequences of their discoveries.

Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky. 1922

opportune. I.V. Kurchatov was the first of the Soviet physicists to become acquainted with the materials obtained by intelligence which revealed the progress of work on the atomic bomb in England. At the beginning of March 1943, he spent several days in the reception room of V.M. Molotov, studying intelligence reports.

Pravda newspaper, No. 171, June 22, 1941. Collage





Order No. 121 of the USSR Academy of Sciences on the organization of the Laboratory No. 2 dated April 12, 1943

This is what the outskirts of Moscow looked like, where the construction of the Laboratory No. 2 began in 1943

In such army tents, assembling of the first F-1 reactor began in the Laboratory No. 2



of a Laboratory No. 2. The scientific team formed in such a difficult time for the country, which included graduates of the Leningrad Institute of Physics and Technology, students of A.F. Ioffe – A.P. Aleksandrov, A.I. Alikhanov, L.A. Artsimovich, I.K. Kikoin, G.N. Flerov, Y.B. Khariton and others, stood at the head of the project on creating the first Soviet atomic bomb, grandiose in complexity and scale. I.V. Kurchatov was given the broadest powers to attract institutes, design offices and factories, to summon the necessary specialists from the army and military enterprises.

The Laboratory No. 2, to which was allocated a vast territory on the northwestern outskirts of Moscow, began with a group of two dozen employees. By February 1944, it employed about a hundred people (for comparison: in the same year, about 130 thousand people were involved in the Manhattan Project). At first, as the saying goes, they were “scraping the bottom of the bucket,” collecting scientific instruments and equipment in organizations and industries throughout the country.

The first achievements filled hearts with joy. In 1944, the only cyclotron then functioning in the USSR was built and put into operation in the Laboratory No. 2; some of its parts were stored in the Leningrad Institute of Physics and Technology and, as soon as the blockade was broken, they were transported to Moscow. As new challenges were emerging, different scientific organizations, factories and industries, even entire People’s Commissariats, were drawn into the laboratory’s orbit. And all this happened in the conditions of a warring country, of wartime science and economy.

On July 16, 1945, the day before the opening of the Potsdam Conference, the United States successfully tested a nuclear bomb in the Alamogordo Desert. Just a couple of days later in Potsdam, the American President Henry Truman approached the Soviet leader and nonchalantly said to him: “We have a new weapon of extraordinary destructive power.” J.V. Stalin, without showing emotion, thanked him for the information provided. G. Truman and W. Churchill decided that he did not understand what the point was. In fact, the Soviet leader, with the help of the intelligence, was well aware

of the progress in working on the Manhattan Project.

On August 6, the Americans dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, and on August 9, another bomb destroyed the city of Nagasaki. The ruthless act of aggression, which had no military goal, was intended to demonstrate the capabilities of the new world hegemon to its main competitor – the Soviet Union, and to all mankind. The fragile balance of power that had been established at the end of World War II by the decisions made in the Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam Conferences, was collapsing before the eyes, yesterday’s allies were rapidly turning into adversaries. All this made the Soviet leadership sharply intensify the work on the nuclear project.

On August 20, 1945, a Special Committee was formed within the State Defense Committee of the USSR, the main task of which was to develop and to create, in a short time, the first Soviet nuclear weapon. The Special Committee was headed by People’s Commissar of Internal Affairs L.P. Beria, and I.V. Kurchatov was appointed scientific supervisor. All organizational issues of supporting the Soviet nuclear project were entrusted to the First Chief Directorate (PGU) under the Council of People’s Commissars of the USSR – in fact, a special branch of the defense industry, the prototype of the future Ministry of Medium Machine-Building of the USSR. At one of the meetings, Stalin outlined the main task as follows: ‘The atomic bomb must be made at all costs.’

Everything worked for the atomic project – economics, ideology, education. Scientists and production workers received everything they needed on a priority basis. Construction of facilities throughout the country was carried out at an accelerated pace. In the Volga region, in the Urals, in Siberia, closed cities and factories grew up in a short time: Arzamas-16, Chelyabinsk-40, Chelyabinsk-65, “Kombinat-813” (the future Sverdlovsk-44) and others. Giant testing sites were laid near Semipalatinsk and in Kapustin Yar. In dozens of universities, special physics, chemistry, and mathematics faculties were opened. Work was in full swing everywhere under the organizational control of the PGU under the Council of People’s Commissars of the USSR, and the scientific supervision of the Laboratory No. 2.



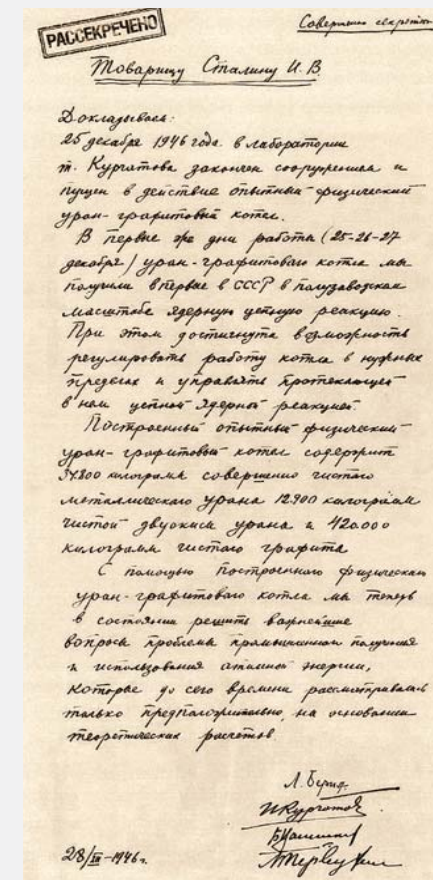
Manhattan Project. Installation K-25 (plutonium plant) in Oak Ridge. 1944

At first, the pace of work was slowed down by the lack of uranium in the country. In the summer of 1945, more than 300 (!) geological parties were formed and sent throughout the USSR to search for uranium ore deposits and to assess the prospects for their industrial extraction. The first plant for the production of uranium concentrate was founded in the same year in Tajikistan. However, its capacity was not enough, and due to the lack of roads, the ore had to be carried down from the mountains along trails on the backs of donkeys.

Report to I.V. Stalin dated December 28, 1946

The problem was largely solved with the help of an advanced group of scientists who were sent to Germany to study the achievements of the Germans in creating the atomic bomb. They managed to export to the USSR high-tech equipment and, most importantly, 130 tons of uranium oxide, from which a sufficient amount of fissile material was then obtained. This significantly reduced the time for creation of the first Soviet atomic bomb.

On December 26, 1946, the entire Laboratory No. 2 was in high spirits. A day earlier, in the F-1 reactor, supervised by I.V. Kurchatov, for the first time on the European continent, a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was obtained. L.P. Beria listened to the message of the scientific supervisor and,



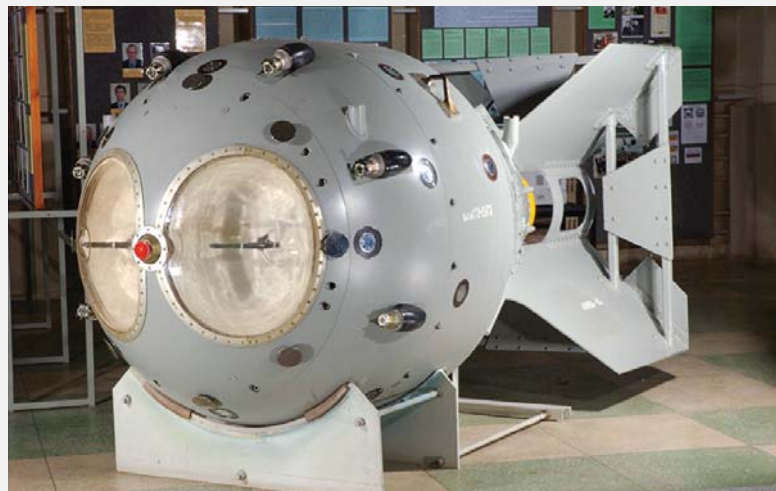


Setup of the F-1 reactor. 1946

in a wish to verify everything personally before presenting the report to J.V. Stalin, asked to start the nuclear chain reaction again in his presence. Having seen the leap of the galvanometer pointer and heard the increasing frequency of clicks from the reproducer, he exclaimed: 'Is that all? And nothing more?!' Then, turning to I.V. Kurchatov, he added: 'And when will there be a bomb?'

Product RDS-1

A few more words should be said about the procedure for scientists to work with secret information obtained by intelligence. Soviet



«...With its work in revealing atomic secrets, foreign intelligence has paid off not only its entire past, but also its future.»

V.M. Molotov

legal and illegal residencies in the United States and Western Europe, having received the appropriate task from the Center, managed to find quite valuable sources and, with their help, to penetrate into the most guarded secrets. The intelligence officers managed to obtain the results of scientific research, descriptions and drawings of equipment, and even samples of materials. All intelligence information on the atomic project was received in Moscow and sent to Department "S", specially created in the central apparatus of the NKGB of the USSR, addressed to its chief P.A. Sudoplatov. From there, in an impersonal form, they were transferred to I.V. Kurchatov, who analyzed them, gave an assessment, and formulated clarifying questions, which were then sent back to the foreign apparatus. At the same time, he had the right to show these documents only to the narrowest circle of scientific supervisors, and only by special permission. The information on where these materials came from, remained a mystery to them. This ensured the safety of valuable sources.

It is also necessary to emphasize the indisputable fact that the measures taken in the USSR made it possible to prevent the leak of information on the Soviet nuclear project. Who knows how the opponents would have behaved if they found out that the Soviet Union was rapidly catching up with them, and very soon their monopoly in the nuclear field would be destroyed.

To the frequently asked question whether Soviet science and industry could have created an atomic bomb independently, without the help of intelligence, experts have long ago agreed: of course they could. V.M. Molotov, well acquainted with all aspects of the Soviet nuclear project, knew perfectly well how much effort, money and time had been saved, how many mistakes and dead-end directions of research and development had been avoided thanks to the information received. His assessment was as follows: '...with its work in revealing atomic secrets, foreign intelligence has paid off not only its entire past, but also its future.'

At the end of 1948, I.V. Stalin was informed about two atomic bombs – RDS-1 and RDS-2, which were in different stages of readiness for the assembly. The first was an exact copy of the American bomb dropped on Japan, and the second was of national design, with parameters significantly

superior to those of the first. The time factor forced the leader to make the decision in favor of the former, especially because the design had already been tested... alas, on living people. This decision, as Y.B. Khariton later explained, was not technological, but purely political.

The country's leadership was well informed and understood that they had to hurry. Just two months after the surrender of Japan, the first plan appeared in the United States, which included the nuclear bombing of 20 Soviet targets. Then the American military began to churn out similar plans, two per year, which differed from each other in an increasing number of supposed targets in the USSR and of atomic bombs intended to be used. In March 1947, the White House proclaimed the Truman Doctrine, declaring the entire globe a sphere of US national interest.

On August 29, 1949, at the testing site in Semipalatinsk, under conditions of the strictest secrecy, a successful test of the RDS-1 product ("Special Rocket Engine – 1") took place. The abbreviation RDS was also deciphered as "Stalin's rocket engine" and "Russia makes it on its own." But this was not that important. The bomb exploded, and this explosion announced to the whole world that the US monopoly on nuclear weapons had been destroyed. The country, rising after a terrible war, had managed to go through a difficult path in just four years. According to I.V. Kurchatov, at one of the ceremonial events on the occasion of the successful test, I.V. Stalin remarked: 'If we were late with the atomic bomb for one year, or one year and a half, we would probably have "tried" it on ourselves.'

On October 29, 1949, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR issued four secret decrees on decorating 845 people with high awards, but the reason of it was not explained anywhere, only the standard wording appeared: "For exceptional services to the state while performing a special task." Among those awarded was a large group of scientists from a very small team – that Laboratory No. 2, who back in 1943 had taken on the heavy burden of responsibility for the fate of the Motherland and fulfilled their duty with honor.

The Laboratory No. 2, which implemented the historical mission in the atomic project, was



destined for a long and successful fate. Initially formed for military purposes, it soon transformed into the Institute of Atomic Energy, which in 1960, after the death of Igor Vasilyevich Kurchatov, was named after its first director.

I.V. Kurchatov, G.I. Budker, B.N. Koblelev. 1957

A.P. Alexandrov in the Pacific Fleet. 1980



In 2010, the Kurchatov Institute became the first Russian National Research Center. Along with research for the benefit of the country's defense capability, the Kurchatov Institute initiated many unique scientific directions and technologies in the field of peaceful atomic energy. Among its successes are many truly global scientific projects. In 1954, in the city of Obninsk, the world's first pilot industrial atomic power plant was launched – the progenitor of all atomic power engineering. The elaboration of ship-based atomic power plants in the late 1950s marked the start of developing the building of atomic ships, including submarines; and the launch of the world's first atomic icebreaker "Lenin" gave start to the creation of a unique icebreaker fleet in our country. In the 1950s, the Institute began to develop the sphere of thermonuclear energy, and the first domestic tokamak was created. The history of the Soviet, and then Russian, Internet began in the laboratories of the Kurchatov Institute. Research on isotope separation gave a powerful impetus to the development of nuclear medicine.

The National Research Center "Kurchatov Institute", as a multidisciplinary center, coordinates scientific activities not only in the field of atomic energy, but also in the field of synchrotron and neutron research, and even genetics. Through the efforts of its president, Mikhail Valentinovich Kovalchuk, the institute is developing a new direction of convergence of modern technologies with living nature, making research in the field of nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, medicine, artificial intelligence, and materials science.

This year, the National Research Center "Kurchatov Institute" enters the ninth decade of its existence as a flagship of Russian science, one of the leading scientific centers in the world, and a participant in major interdisciplinary projects.

The editorial board of the Razvedchik magazine, on behalf of all readers, congratulates the staff of the Kurchatov Institute on their 80th anniversary and sincerely wishes them prosperity and further success in their activities for the benefit of the Motherland! 🇷🇺

The Academician Kurchatov Square. 2022



Address to the students of Russian universities

Dear colleagues, future internationalists, economists, political scientists!

The magazine 'Razvedchik' together with the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO RAS) announces the launch of the All-Russian competition of student research papers.

The world economy and international relations are going through a period of profound transformations that will unfold before our eyes for several decades to come. The modern world is no longer the unipolar structure of the 1990s - early 2000s. A truly multipolar, polycentric world order with a renewed, fairer system of principles and institutions of its political and economic organization and regulation is emerging. These processes are based on the establishment and development of a complex multi-faceted system of cooperation and competition. The role of emergence and strengthening of new regional and global centers of economy and politics in the emerging world order will only increase in the foreseeable

future. At the same time, the former leaders, who at the end of the Cold War built the system of international relations and security exclusively in their own interests, will try their best to retain their dominant positions.

All these processes require deep understanding, study and formation of their long-term perception. This is not only a scientific task, but also a practical one - in order to fulfil the goals of socio-economic development and to ensure national security, Russia will need a balanced, well-considered foreign policy based on a systemic understanding of the changes taking place in the world.

And for this purpose, it is extremely important to have an independent point of view on world events and their significance for our country, free from externally imposed stamps and clichés. Such a vision of world processes should be holistic, reasoned, based on a systematic analysis of reliable sources. That is why today's youth need to develop



critical thinking, sharpen their skills in navigating information flows, learn to identify truly significant facts in them, accustom themselves to independent scientific search, as well as to work in a team. Our creative competition is aimed at developing these skills of scientific and analytical work.

F. G. Voytolovsky
Director of the Primakov IMEMO of the Russian Academy of Sciences,
Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

M. V. Pogudin
Chairman of the Council of Veterans of the Foreign Intelligence Service,
Editor-in-Chief of the magazine 'Razvedchik'

In 2023, the contest will be held in three categories:

- Best analytical work on topical issues of the world economy and trends in technological development.
- The best analytical work on regional conflicts and global security issues.
- The best analytical work on the problems of international relations and strategic forecasting.

The competition is open to works done by scientific student societies (SSS) or student teams of universities. Participation of individual researchers, scientific supervisors and teachers is not envisaged. Applications for the competition are registered until 1 June 2023 on a special section of the IMEMO RAS website. No more than three papers (one in each nomination) by different SSS or student teams can be submitted from one university.

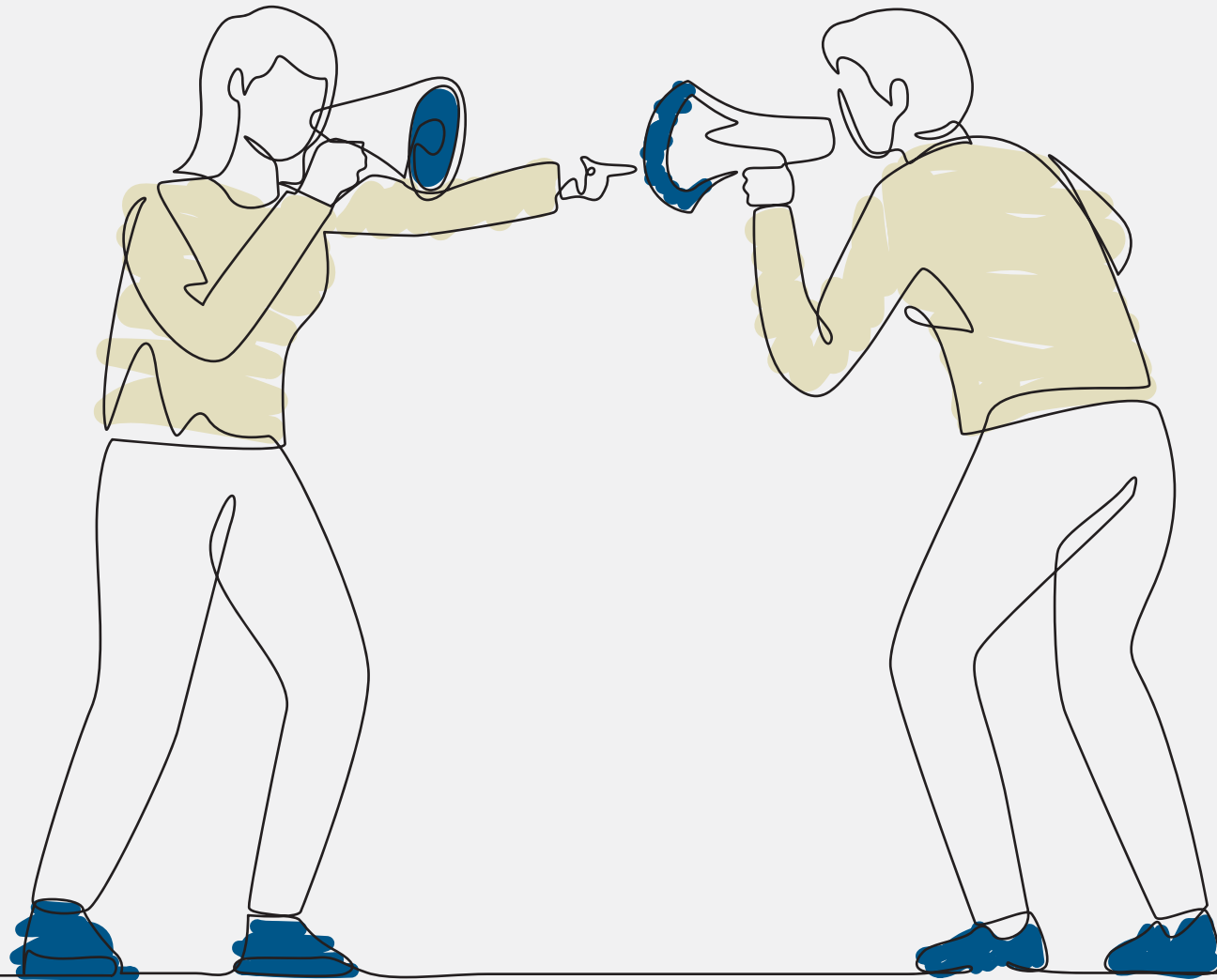
According to the results of the competition, the following awards will be given in each nomination:

- I place – 150,000 rubles;
- II place – 120,000 rubles;
- III place – 90,000 rubles;
- IV place – 70,000 rubles;
- V place – 50,000 rubles.

The Organizing Committee may award special prizes to the contest participants at its discretion.

All finalists will be informed about the results of the contest, date and place of the award ceremony by 10 October 2023.

We wish the contest participants thoughtful, fascinating research and deserved victories.



Beware of conflict!

We live in a difficult time, when many things are changing: the old is collapsing, and the new is still being formed. These changes also affect us: the growth of general tension and anxiety in society provokes a decrease in self-control, increased conflict, and a willingness to engage in open confrontation. This has a particularly painful effect on our relationships in the family, as well as with colleagues in professional teams.

There are more than enough reasons for conflict: differences in characters and temperaments, intolerance to dissent, painful perception of other people's advice, distorted view of ourselves and other people, fierce competition, discrimination on various grounds and, finally, emotions.

How to prevent conflict and harmonize interpersonal communication? How to correctly and gracefully get out of a conflict situation? Today we'll talk about it.

**"It takes two palms to clap."
Any conflict always involves two or more parties!**

What is important to do when a conflict is brewing?

1. Let your opponent "blow off steam" and calm down. When a person is overwhelmed by emotions, he does not perceive any arguments, feeling himself an instrument of injustice. Give him a chance to speak. At this point it is difficult for us to remain calm. It is important to distance yourself as much as possible from negativity and not allow your interlocutor to "wind you up." To do this, you can use the "Five finger" exercise or the abdominal breathing technique, which we told you about earlier. For the most effective solution to the problem, it is important to wait until the emotions subside. If the conflict episode drags on, you can use cunning, for example, asking permission to make a phone call or leave the room under a plausible pretext.
2. Show empathy, this will help you to understand the other person's emotions. Listen attentively to the interlocutor. You can be guided by gestures and facial expressions, the ability to highlight emotional notes, understand the elements of movement and the timbre of voice.
3. Use validation – confirm the other person's experience. "Yes, of course, it's hard for you, I understand you," "It's very important what you say."
4. Take a listening stance. Listen, but do not speak out! It is necessary to show tolerance and not to judge the actions, appearance or personality of the other party to the conflict. Avoid giving advice, as well as quarrelling.
5. Avoid using expressions like "Yes, but...". It is much more productive not to deny the other person's point of view, but to gently indicate your disagreement. To do this, use phrases like: "I understand your feelings, and at the same time...", "You are right, and at the same time...", "You and I agree on the following points..." This tactic involves excluding the particle "but" from your vocabulary, which can aggravate contradictions.

In the speaker's position do not do:

- Do not accuse**, as it generates greater emotional intensity in the interlocutor.
- Do not invent motives** for a person's behavior, because they may not be what they seem.
- Do not defend yourself**, as defense and self-justification are not always perceived adequately by people.
- Do not generalize**, as this will only inflame your opponent.

In the process of communication, interlocutors should adhere to certain principles and rules of conversation that allow them to coordinate their actions and statements. This largely helps to prevent conflict situations from arising.

Herbert Grice and Geoffrey Leech's rules of pragmatic competence

Say **only what is necessary**. There is no need to be more informative than required.

Tell **only the truth**.

Say only, **what is relevant to the content** of the conversation.

Minimize the inconvenience for the recipient **and maximize the benefits** for him. We are talking about the boundaries of the personal sphere. You should not touch upon topics that are, in fact, potentially dangerous to discuss: private life, individual preferences, salary level, woman's age, marital status, occupation.

An important condition for successful communication is a **realistic self-assessment**. A highly exaggerated or highly underestimated self-esteem has a negative effect on establishing contacts ("Praise yourself less, blame yourself more").

«Good listening» technique

«**Echo**» — repeat the opponent's last word or thought. Use wisely, avoiding repeating other people's entire phrases, as there is a high risk of turning into a famous bird.

Paraphrase, i.e. paraphrase what the interlocutor has said. Use introductory words: "the meaning of what you are saying", "in your opinion", "in other words", "that is", "it means", "as far as I understand you", "so you want to say" and so on. This technique helps to restrain yourself, as often strong emotions and categorical judgements arise before comprehension of someone else's words comes.

«**Uh-huh-yes**.»

Pause in a conversation.

Use «I-messages». In a conflict situation, it is important to express your position using the "I-message". Speak from yourself, describe only your feelings and sensations, and then you will get more from your interlocutor than when using "You-messages".

You can read more about these and other techniques of conflict resolution in the books of the famous Russian psychologist, author of a number of textbooks on psychology, Y.B. Gippenreyter.

It's important to remember! Be the last to enter in the conflict! Withdraw first. Don't prove anything to anyone.

Effective rules of behavior in a conflict situation

Formulated by the famous Russian psychologist and business coach **N.M. Vlasova**

Tune in to a positive or at least neutral attitude towards your opponent, create a basis for trust. Try to accept his point of view.

Switch from the emotional **to the rational** mode of psyche. Speak when your opponent has cooled down. Listen confidently, but not arrogantly.

Demand that your opponent calmly **express his claims**. But it should be noted that you will consider facts and objective evidence, not emotions.

Suppress possible aggression with unexpected techniques. Switch the conversation, ask for advice on what he would do in this or that situation. Do something unexpected, but generally appropriate to the situation. If the situation allows, say a compliment, praise your opponent. Perhaps this is what will bring down the aggression.

Suggest that your **opponent express his vision** of how to solve the problem. Do not look for someone to blame. Try to find an objective basis for consensus (regulations, rules, instructions).

Give your opponent the opportunity to save his face! There is a rule in rhetoric: nothing disarms a person as much as giving him the opportunity to save his face!

Don't be afraid to apologize if you feel like you are at fault, but do it quickly, decisively, and not at the end of the

conversation. Only confident and mature people are capable of this.

Formalize the accepted agreement and discuss future relationship.

«**Save your face too**», stay in a position of "equal footing". If the conflict turns into a scandal, end the conversation first.

Avoid characterizing the opponent's emotional state at all costs.

10 things you mustn't do in a conflict situation

1. Critically evaluate your partner.
2. Attribute base qualities or intentions to the opponent.
3. Demonstrate your superiority.
4. Blame the opponent and make him solely responsible for the conflict.
5. Ignore the interests of your opponent.
6. Diminish the merits and contribution of the opponent to the common cause.
7. Exaggerate your own merits.
8. Get irritated, shout, attack.
9. Touch the opponent on the raw and his vulnerabilities.
10. Complain excessively about the person.



T.I. Netyksa: «We were incredibly romantic and highly patriotic»



Tamara Ivanovna, you once said in your interviews that you met your husband Vitaly in your first year at the institute and that almost the next day he proposed to you, and literally a week before the wedding he announced his intention to join the intelligence service. How did you feel about this decision? Do you remember that day?

Well, how can I not remember that?! Such things cannot be forgotten! It was the month of May, we were walking on the embankment near the present hotel "Balchug"... We were incredibly romantic then and highly patriotic. It seemed to us that we could do anything, we really wanted our country to become stronger, more beautiful... And when my future husband said that he wanted to be an illegal intelligence officer, this caused delight and admiration. You know, when I was a child one of my favorite films was "Secret Agent" ("Podvig razvedchika") and I still watch it with pleasure. So, when Vitaly said that he wanted to become an intelligence officer, I accepted it with great pride.

Did you have any doubts about whether or not you could cope with such a complex and unusual job? And did your basic education help you? You graduated from Moscow Aviation Institute, didn't you?

Yes, both my husband and I graduated from Moscow Aviation Institute. You know, we didn't have any big doubts, because if others can do it, then it can be done. There was only a desire to work with dignity and be useful... And

MAI helped us a lot, the students are taught to reason, think, and make decisions quickly. And in general, my technical education was very useful to me in intelligence: receiving and sending telegrams, codes, preparing the drops...

Tamara Ivanovna, where did your passion for art come from? You studied ballet and art history...

I studied ballet at school and loved it very much. And my husband Talik played the violin well and loved music. Do you know what the first question he asked me when we met? «Do you like Saint-Saens' music?» But for me, Saint-Saens is, first of all, "The Dying Swan" (laughs.) In general, he and I quickly got along with this. Then I studied at the Stroganov School, and abroad I received a diploma in art history. All this was incredibly useful to me in my work!

What personal, let's say innate, features of your character helped you in the early stages of your illegal life, and which ones were you able to develop out of necessity?

I am a very sociable person. For example, it doesn't cost me an effort to make friends; I've always gotten along very easily with people, with anyone. Making acquaintances has never been a problem for me. I had friends from a president to a bus driver. But there are people for whom making contact is such work! You can't work like that in intelligence; an intelligence officer must be decisive, sociable and always natural.

Retired Colonel Tamara Ivanovna Netyksa was born on January 4, 1949 in the city of Serov, Sverdlovsk Region. In 1972, she graduated from the Moscow Aviation Institute with a degree in electrical engineering for aircraft control systems. In the same year, she was hired into foreign intelligence. She completed a full course of special training for an illegal intelligence officer and became fluent in Spanish. She worked abroad under special conditions with her husband from October 1978 to August 1998. She was directly involved in solving operational problems and proved herself to be a resourceful and decisive employee. She was awarded the Order of Military Merit, the Medal for Military Merit, the badge for Service in Intelligence and other awards. Widow. Husband - illegal intelligence officer Vitaly Vyacheslavovich Netyksa, Hero of Russia, retired major general, died in 2011.

And about what was missing... You know, an intelligence officer must be able to listen. It's not as simple as it seems, it's much easier to talk. But to be able to listen, to be able to interest a person - this, of course, comes with age... In addition, notwithstanding all the thoroughness of our preparation, there are a lot of nuances that cannot be taught: how to fill out a form in a specific hotel, how to answer the phone... All this comes with experience, too.

Did you somehow develop your skills of observation and memory?

Of course. Moreover, as a woman and mother of two children whom I gave birth abroad, I had a special responsibility. I had to be very vigilant, and careful, and attentive. As for memory... You know, we had a lot of drops in the course of our work, especially at first. They had to be selected and memorized. You can't write it down, everything must be in your head! So, when I went to bed, I gave myself the task of remembering this or that. In general, it was not easy. But since then I haven't complained about my memory!

In your opinion, is a woman in intelligence, especially illegal intelligence, more of an assistant to a man in a married couple or an independent combat unit capable of performing all tasks on an equal basis?

Well, I can only say for our family. But in general, when a family of illegal intelligence officers prepares for a business trip, the woman undergoes a full course of preparation. Firstly, she must speak a foreign language fluently, she must be able to receive and send telegrams, write reports, conduct dead-drop operations... Secondly, she must be vigilant, see and understand what is happening around their home and family. It is she who is responsible for communication with the concierge, with neighbors, with teachers at school... She should be good at giving presents; this is very important! In general, I believe that a woman in illegal intelligence is a full-fledged participant in the intelligence group, although the man, of course, is its leader, and he always has the last word when making key decisions. I am absolutely sure of this.

Has it ever happened in your practice to take a deliberate risk, and if there were such episodes, who made the decision: you, your husband Vitaly, or together?

Of course, sometimes we had to take risks, and such moments happened throughout all the years of work. As a rule, Talik and I discussed everything together. In our group, we were both full-fledged employees. Due to our social status, our functions differed in some aspects, but decision-making was always shared. We analyzed carefully and took risks only in cases of serious need.

One day I had to make a difficult decision alone: my husband was not around, he was away. It was urgent to transmit important information to the Center, and the connection in the place where we lived did not work well. I saw how our satellites flew by, I even climbed onto the roof to transmit a message, but the signal did not pass through. Then I decided to go to another country. But I couldn't take my children with me, because my son—he was 11 at the time—did not have a permission to leave the country. So, I sent them to live with our friends – local residents – for a week, and I prepared a letter in case something happened to me.

So you were ready for any development of events?

Well, of course. Although, in my opinion, the risk was not very great. I thought about everything: where to go, who to talk to, how to behave, how to make a check. After all, the main thing in our work is not what kind of documents you have, but how you behave in another country and how you communicate with strangers. If your behavior is right, nothing unexpected can happen to you, well, except perhaps betrayal, but no one is immune from this.

You and Vitaly are one of the few married couples of illegal intelligence officers who made a decision to have children. Many refuse, realizing how difficult and risky it is, because if they fail, the whole family will be at risk...

In general, yes. But firstly, we never had any doubts in this regard, we always wanted children. And secondly, the Center immediately supported us, since in the countries where we lived, a young family without children would arouse unnecessary suspicion. Our children helped us incredibly! I can't even imagine how we would have done there without them! As for the increased responsibility for the family, you know, the awareness of this moment forced Talik and me to be more organized, more attentive. Just imagine: how many years we lived abroad, and not once in all these years, even when we walked alone along the seashore and knew for sure that no one could hear us, my husband and I spoke Russian, not a single word! This gave us great confidence that everything would be as it should be.

In all 22 years of your illegal work, did you never find yourself in difficult situations?!

Critical moments certainly happened. If you want, I can tell you one or two... For example, we met a rich man. He had his own yacht and a huge collection of weapons, which, of course, included a Kalashnikov assault rifle. Once he invited my husband to shoot... I can't say that Talik was a good shooter; by the way, I usually did better than him at the shooting range. But then, as luck would have it, he hit the mark, and our friend immediately started joking about Russian spies. Of course, he



didn't have any real suspicions against us, but, nevertheless...

With son and daughter. 1990

Or here's another thing ... I already said that in the host country we had difficulties with radiocommunication. Once we were unable to receive an important telegram that we were really looking forward to. The next day we decided to leave the city and go to a place where the reception would be more reliable. Since in our work all actions need to have legitimate cover, my husband called an old friend who lived 120 kilometers away from the city and said that we missed him and wanted to come to visit him. I called an assistant to babysit our children in our absence. In sum, we left, hit the road. At a certain point we stopped on the road, which at this time of year was completely empty. My husband got out of the car, opened the trunk, where the radio station was located, put on headphones and began to receive the telegram. It was already starting to get dark and then I saw a policeman coming from the bushes towards our car - it turned out that not far from this place in the forest he had a post that was not visible from the road. What to do? I began to think feverishly...

I opened the front door to at least slightly block the trunk and Talik from his view, and began to laugh loudly. The law enforcement

Defending her thesis at the Moscow Aviation Institute. 1972





Tamara Ivanovna, I apologize for the difficult question... At what age did your children find out that their parents were intelligence officers, and how did they perceive it?

I will never forget that day... We flew to Russia in 1999. My daughter was 19 years old at the time, and my son was 14. Our children knew that their mother loved art, and we were going to go to the Hermitage together. At the airport, of course, there were people to meet us, and suddenly they started talking to me in Russian. Our children were quite at a loss... You know, my daughter has progressive views, I would even say she was a communist, she loved the USSR and in her heart, she probably wanted her parents to turn out to be KGB agents. Therefore, when the children found out that they were Russian...

Was that joy?

No. At first it was very difficult. They didn't know a word in Russian, plus the terrible cold - we arrived in winter - and then the time was very difficult, not like now. The only joy was that, as it turned out, their grandmother, my mother, was still alive.

Did they have a desire to return to their normal life abroad or did they quickly adapt to the new reality?

Not quickly, but they adapted. Our daughter got a job in the Spanish-language editorial office of Russia Today, traveled all over the Latin America, interviewed Hugo Chavez and other famous politicians... You know, she was even offered to stay there and go to university, but she refused, she decided that she would be useful here in Russia. And my son became a civil aviation pilot and works at Aeroflot. By the way, he is acquainted with the Argentine football player Lionel Messi - they look similar - and he also loves football very much.

Among our readers there are many young people, students, including girls. What could you wish them?

Go into intelligence service, we really need you! We need strong, healthy, smart, well-read

On J. Blake's 85th birthday. Moscow. 2007

officer approached and asked: "What are you doing here? Is anything wrong?" I answer that everything is fine and continue laughing. He again: "What's wrong with you?" I told him: "I remembered a joke, it's so funny!" - and I started telling...

In Spanish?

Certainly. So, I told him an old joke, really funny. The policeman started laughing with me, and I tried to laugh as loudly as possible so that Talik could hear. He had just finished everything - accepted the telegram on the first attempt - closed the trunk and came up to us. He had already managed to assess the situation and found what to say to the law enforcement officer so as not to arouse suspicion. In the end, we said a nice goodbye, the policeman wished us luck, and we left.

We can say that your resourcefulness saved you...

An intelligence officer must always be resourceful! But this is not the main thing, the main thing is never to deceive. For an intelligence officer this is the law. If you cheated at least once, that's it! The Center no longer believes you, the people you work with stop believing you. And it is very important that your agents trust you in everything. God forbid there is any doubt, this is really risky!..

people. It is you who are to build the future of our country, the life that you will get later. Now, of course, it's a difficult time, it seems to me even more difficult than during the Great Patriotic War, because then the republics of the USSR were with us, and now we are completely alone... And intelligence service is at the very forefront of the struggle, it all starts with it. Therefore, our people must be very loyal, very motivated, very competent and sincerely loving their Homeland! But, if you study, work or serve in other organizations of our great country, defend our Homeland and love it the way we love it!

Tamara Ivanovna, thank you very much for this unique conversation! All the best to you and hopefully see you again! 🇷🇺



Son Eugene and Lionel Messi. Moscow. 2018



In the Hall of Foreign Intelligence History. December 2022

Video version of the interview



Interviewed by Vladislav Ilyin.

Union of Intelligence and Diplomacy

Fate brought Alexandra Mikhailovna Kollontai and Zoya Ivanovna Voskresenskaya-Rybkina together in Sweden during the most difficult period of the Great Patriotic War - in 1941-1944. The former headed the USSR diplomatic mission in Stockholm, the latter was deputy resident of Soviet foreign intelligence, working under the cover of the embassy press attaché.

Text: Alla Alova

At first, the relationship between the two women was not easy: Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina's affiliation with the NKVD had a great influence. Two points in particular were significant. Firstly, certain facts of the biography of A. M. Kollontai herself, namely her

participation in the 1920s in the so-called "Workers' Opposition", which opposed the excessive centralization of power by the Central Committee of the RCP(b) and came under fire of criticism from V. I. Lenin. Most of Alexandra Mikhailovna's comrades from the

opposition camp were repressed, but she, intuitively sensing the danger, adjusted in time her position and wrote a personal letter to the Secretary of the Central Committee I.V. Stalin, asking to be assigned "somewhere far away to a new job." She was preparing to go to the Far East, where the Civil War was still going on, but Stalin offered her a responsible post abroad. His calculation turned out to be far-sighted: the former revolutionary had an aristocratic upbringing and a good education, since pre-revolutionary times she had maintained wide connections in the circles of European social democracy, she was a brilliant speaker and an interesting interlocutor. All this promised success in the diplomatic field.

Press Secretary of the USSR Embassy in Sweden Yartseva (Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina) and Ambassador A.M. Kollontai. Stockholm. 1943



However, participation in the opposition was not forgotten. In the party circles, Alexandra Mikhailovna was considered an unreliable person. She knew about this and was sure that the security officers working at the embassy were watching her, reporting to Moscow about her each step. This largely explained the ambassador's wary attitude towards Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina.

There was another reason. The People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs had assigned serious tasks to A. M. Kollontai, and she was afraid that the activities of the intelligence officers would create obstacles to the success of her mission. Back in December 1939, Alexandra Mikhailovna sent a letter to the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the USSR V.M. Molotov, which, in addition to setting out the position of the Swedish government in connection with the Soviet-Finnish war, contained a request to urge Soviet intelligence officers working in Stockholm "to be extremely careful." A.M. Kollontai wrote: "What our enemies here are trying to achieve, both local activists putting pressure on the Swedish government and England, is to sever diplomatic relations with us because of some kind of 'spy conflict'... This will free our enemies' hands, so that without hesitation... they could provide assistance to Finland in terms of equipment...» It was under the influence of this approach that the ambassador reacted to Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina when they first met.

This acquaintance took place at the end of 1939, at the very height of the Soviet-Finnish war, when the Soviet intelligence officer for the first time was sent to Stockholm to restore contact with agents in Finland and to collect information about the true state of affairs in this country. A. M.



Alexandra Mikhailovna Kollontai

03/31/1872–03/09/1952

A prominent Russian revolutionary, one of the leaders of the international women's communist movement of the early 20th century. People's Commissar (Minister) of the Soviet government, later a diplomat, the first woman in the world to receive the highest diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (1943). Plenipotentiary Representative (Ambassador) of the USSR to the Kingdom of Norway (1924–1926, 1927–1930), to the United Mexican States (1926–1927), to the Kingdom of Sweden (1930–1941), USSR Envoy to the Kingdom of Sweden (1941–1945).



Zoya Ivanovna Voskresenskaya-Rybkina

04/28/1907–01/08/1992

At work in the Foreign Department of the OGPU since 1929. She solved reconnaissance tasks in China, the Baltic states, Germany, Austria, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. From the first days of the war served in the Special Group of the NKVD, which was engaged in sending reconnaissance and sabotage groups and special forces units behind enemy lines. In the post-war years, she headed the German department of foreign intelligence. In 1955 she retired and took up literary activity. She was awarded the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st degree, two Orders of the Red Star, many medals, as well as the "Honored Worker of the NKVD" badge.



Film "Two lives of Colonel Rybkina" from the "Duels" series. 2012

Kollontai met her coldly. She sent a telegram to Moscow with a request to recall Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina, "since the activities of the Soviet intelligence in Sweden could lead to complications." The answer was: "Comrade so-and-so is carrying out the assignment of her superiors."

Therefore, Zoya Ivanovna was pleasantly surprised when, having arrived in Stockholm at

the end of 1941 with her husband, the intelligence officer Boris Arkadyevich Rybkin, she was met with a slightly different attitude from the ambassador. Alexandra Mikhailovna, although she again warned that according to Swedish laws, Soviet intelligence officers could be accused of espionage even for collecting official information, emphasized that she was interested in cooperation and promised the



A.M. Kollontai in her office. 1930.
RIA "Novosti"

the breakup, wherever and however possible, without losing our interests, of course. But in our Union, they may be taking into account the course of things of a different nature, and have things already gone beyond the hopes of maintaining good neighborly relations with Sweden?"

In these most difficult conditions, the joint work of A. M. Kollontai and Z. I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina began. The way the ambassador saw her mission was: to counter the slanderous propaganda of the Nazis and their accomplices in Sweden with the truth about the USSR and the course of the war with Germany. The task was not easy, given that Sweden was flooded with fascist newspapers, books, leaflets, brochures, and the country was constantly showing films and transmitting radio broadcasts glorifying the "great mission" of the Nazi Germany. A. M. Kollontai instructed the young press attaché to organize the regular publication of the "Information Bulletin" with reports from the Sovinformburo (Soviet Information Bureau) and gave orders to catch radio reports at night when Moscow transmitted them to Soviet regional newspapers. The Nazis jammed these transmissions, nevertheless it was possible to make them out. In addition, it was planned to negotiate with cinemas to show Soviet films and contact progressive Swedish newspapers to publish publications of Soviet writers and journalists. Not a single day could be lost, since the Swedish media, including the popular evening publication Aftonbladet, had already rushed to inform readers: "Moskva

"dear press attaché" assistance in expanding ties.

A.M. Kollontai was an experienced diplomat, accustomed to solving complex problems, and at that time she was really interested in interaction. Sweden remained one of the few European countries that retained neutral status. The ambassador was required to do everything to keep the country in its previous positions, but neutrality was very shaky. Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina wrote in her memoirs: "Sweden declared itself neutral. But how fragile this neutrality is! Along with the advance of Hitler's troops on the Soviet front, this concept of neutrality is becoming increasingly aligned with Germany, and it looks as if it might overturn... German propaganda services are spreading rumors about the "sinister" plans of the Soviet Union regarding Sweden, sowing panic... publishing photographs of "atrocities of Red Army." The photographs are truly terrifying, but... they depict the

"work" of the fascists themselves in the temporarily occupied territories."

We must not forget about the economic interdependence of the two countries. In 1940, 83% of all iron ore imported by Germany came from Sweden. The latter, in turn, was completely dependent on German supplies of coal. The country did not have its own energy resources. When gasoline disappeared, cars in Stockholm ran on wood, including the king's car. In April 1939, the country's Social Democratic government assured Berlin that it would continue to supply Germany with ore even in case of war. For the Germans, the last neutral state of Scandinavia became increasingly important.

Strong and decisive, A. M. Kollontai, however, had doubts. In a letter to V. M. Molotov, she wrote: "I ask for instructions: in what position do we see our relations with Sweden in the orbit of world politics? We are doing everything we can to prevent

Head of the press bureau of the Soviet embassy, Madame Yartseva (Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina). Stockholm. 1944

har fallit" ("Moscow has fallen"), and Stockholm's neutrality became largely unsteady.

A.M. Kollontai informed the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that a press bureau had been formed at the Soviet embassy, which was headed by "Madame Yartseva" (under this name the Rybkin spouses worked abroad). Since the end of November 1941, the "Information Bulletin" began to be published. It was printed in three languages - Russian, Swedish and English - and sent to the editorial offices of newspapers, magazines and news agencies, to prominent political and public figures, as well as to representative offices of the allied states. They purchased telephone directories of cities and towns and began sending them out at random to every fifth or tenth addressee. It happened that the bulletin was returned with an abusive letter, but mostly there were letters of greetings in which the Swedes expressed support for the fighting Soviet Union, wishing for a speedy victory over the invaders. At first, the circulation did not exceed one thousand copies, but quickly grew to 20 thousand, then to 30 thousand. And when the embassy received a note from the Soviet government dated January 2, 1942 about the monstrous atrocities of the Germans in captured Soviet cities and towns, it was published in an unheard *ура* at that time circulation of 200 thousand copies.

Bulletins were sent out in sealed, stamped envelopes. Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina recalled how a few days later a



visitor came to the press bureau and reported that the German embassy, having learned about the mailing, filed a protest with the Swedish Foreign Ministry. As a result, many envelopes were not sent and were dumped in the basement awaiting destruction. The actions of the Swedish authorities were illegal: the postage for each letter was fully paid. The indignant A.M. Kollontai called the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs Christian Günther and, in a harsh tone that was not typical for her, demanded the immediate dispatch of the

items, expressing the hope that "Mr. Minister would personally stop the lawlessness of postal officials." The call had an effect: letters were sent out and responses poured in. The majority of the ordinary Swedes reacted with anger to the fascist atrocities and expressed sincere sympathy. However, there was another position. Minister K. Günther invited A. M. Kollontai to his place and demanded to stop distributing among the population of his country letters that were "damaging to the mental health of Swedish citizens." The demarche

was undoubtedly the result of pressure from German diplomats, who frightened the Swedish Foreign Ministry with the situation on the Soviet-German front, which indeed remained extremely difficult for the USSR.

The issue of showing Soviet films was also being resolved with great difficulty. Cinema owners refused the USSR press attaché, citing the non-commercial nature of the proposed film products. But even here a solution was found: a building with a cinema hall was purchased for the needs of the press bureau. Being the property of the embassy, it had extraterritorial status, and residents of Stockholm got the opportunity to get acquainted with Soviet cinematography for free. There were many people who wanted to attend the film shows. And on Station Square, in the building of the Intourist representative office, a showcase was organized in which reports from the Sovinformburo, photographs from the front and rear and other illustrative materials were placed. It quickly became popular among the residents of Stockholm. Tram drivers made a special stop in



"Irina" and "Kin" (operational pseudonyms of the Rybkin couple)



During the years of disgrace. Vorkuta camp. 1954

front of Intourist so that passengers could get acquainted with the latest information.

On New Year's Eve, in 1943, while recording a report from the radio, Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina heard D.D. Shostakovich's Seventh, Leningrad Symphony for the first time. She later recalled: "The report is finished, and suddenly music is heard. A powerful melody breaks through the crackling radio air. It excites with its severity and light notes, grief and hope". That same night a telegram was sent to Moscow with a request to send its score. On behalf of A. M. Kollontai, the press secretary turned to the director of the best Swedish Göteborg Symphony Orchestra, and within a few weeks the Leningrad Symphony was presented to the Swedish public. The effect exceeded all expectations: "the public sat spellbound, women wiped away their tears. The audience listened to the final chords standing." This was the first performance of this piece of art in Europe, and Minister K. Günther immediately received a protest from the German embassy "in connection with the violation of Swedish neutrality."

A little later, the embassy managed to reach an agreement with local newspapers to publish stories and essays by Soviet writers. A. M. Kollontai approached a friend of hers Ilya Ehrenburg with a request to send articles written "as brightly as you know how...". Swedish readers accepted these publications with great interest. The editor-in-chief of one of the central newspapers did not hide: the days when the materials of the Soviet journalist were published were the most profitable: all copies were quickly sold out; additional circulation was required. Thus, step by step, Swedish public opinion was influenced.

During the same period, "Kin" and "Irina" (the operational pseudonyms of the Rybkin couple) were assigned the most difficult tasks by the Center. Sweden remained one of the few sites in Europe where Soviet intelligence could obtain information about the enemy. At the same time, the German and British intelligence services were well "rooted" in this country, while our intelligence positions were weak. Working 16–18 hours a day, the Rybkins were able to quickly establish surveillance over German

military transit; an intelligence group was formed that recorded the nature of cargo transported by sea. And all of this was organized under conditions of almost total control over the Soviet embassy by local intelligence services.

However, the results of the effort were worth it. Z.I. Voskresenskaya-Rybkina recalled the following episode. She was summoned by A. M. Kollontai, who had just returned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she had had a tough conversation with K. Günther: "He made excuses in every possible way, referring to the fact that Sweden does not violate neutrality: the Germans allegedly transport only the wounded in transit or return the recovered, the same with military equipment - for repair and from repair. In response, I laid out to him all the figures I had received from you. The minister had nothing to say to it..." the plenipotentiary told with indignation.

The main task, the solution to which both diplomats and USSR intelligence officers were looking for in Stockholm, was how to get Finland out of the war with the help of the Swedes. Specific information was required about who could provide real assistance in this matter and who would prevent a break with Hitler in Sweden and in Finland itself. Various names were mentioned by contacts of our intelligence officer, including a promising politician, the future President of Finland in 1946–1956, Juho Paasikivi. Thanks to the A. M. Kollontai's contacts, they managed to persuade Juho Paasikivi to negotiate with the Soviet side.

At the end of February 1944, J. Paasikivi arrived in Stockholm. Secret meetings with A. M. Kollontai took place at night in the private sanatorium "Salchsjöbaden" not far from the capital. There the



Juho Paasikivi

ambassador was treated after she had suffered a stroke, which served as a good cover for conversations. They lasted until the end of March and were painfully difficult. Despite J. Paasikivi's membership in the opposition, which demanded Finland's withdrawal from the war, he sought to make this withdrawal a "win-win", without territorial concessions and material compensation. Several times the politician went to Helsinki with the results of preliminary discussions, as he said, "to break the backs of stubborn people." A.M. Kollontai fully demonstrated her extraordinary talent as a diplomat and polemicist. Seemingly insurmountable obstacles were broken down by her convincing logic. However, the search for paths to peace was not easy. And here intelligence helped again. One of the sources of the Rybkin couple spoke about the struggle that unfolded in Finnish political and military circles after having received preliminary truce conditions from the Soviet side, and about a sharp intervention of Hitler, who demanded that negotiations with the USSR be immediately interrupted. The agent's report also said that the negotiations in Stockholm were a cover, because

at the same time Marshal K. Mannerheim and Finnish President R. Ryti guaranteed the Germans that Helsinki would continue the war by tripling the purchase of weapons, ordnance and ammunition from Sweden. It became clear that only the defeat of their main forces could force the Finns to leave the war.

When the valuable information was obtained, it was immediately sent to Moscow and, as subsequent events showed, did not go unnoticed. Powerful attacks by Soviet troops on the Karelian Isthmus and South Karelia soon followed. As a result, the entire northern part of the Leningrad region, as well as the territories of the Karelo-Finnish Republic previously occupied by the Finns, were liberated. On August 25, 1944, the Finnish authorities approached the USSR with a proposal for a truce, and on September 19 the corresponding agreement was signed. Historians are unanimous in their assessments: the key to victory was the coordinated actions of the Red Army, Soviet diplomacy and foreign intelligence.

For A. M. Kollontai herself, the Swedish mission turned out to be a very difficult physical test. Back in 1942, at the age of 70, she suffered a stroke, which confined her to a wheelchair. In her memoirs, she wrote: "I paid for the negotiations with paralysis of my left arm and left leg. But I continued to work and remain on the battlefield until the departure of the Finnish government delegation to Moscow, after which I came down with nervous exhaustion and pneumonia." In March 1945, the first Soviet female ambassador completed her diplomatic career and returned to her Homeland. In September of the same year, she was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, and in 1946, Finnish politicians nominated A. M. Kollontai for the Nobel Peace Prize. 🚩

Unaccounted factor: towards the 80th anniversary of the USSR atomic project

On July 16, 1945, at 5:30 a.m., the world's first atomic bomb was successfully tried at the Alamogordo testing site in New Mexico (USA). And just three weeks later, the US Armed Forces used nuclear weapons on living people, bombing the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where more than 150 thousand people died in the fire of the atomic apocalypse.

Text: Evgeniy Dolgushin

The possession of weapons of colossal destructive power plunged the American military and political elite into a state close to euphoria. The understanding that the atomic bomb is not only a strategic advantage in the military field, but also a reliable foundation for establishing a world order without regard to the positions of other states, became determinative in the foreign policy of the White House.

As US President Harry Truman said, 'If the bomb goes off, and it will, then I'll have a good stick for the Russian boys.' In September 1945, at a meeting of the foreign ministers of the victorious powers in London, US Secretary of State James Francis Byrnes told the Soviet representative with ominous humor: 'If you don't give up your position, I will pull an atomic bomb out of my pocket and bring it down on you.' And these words were pronounced

just two months after the Potsdam Peace Conference, at which all its participants, including the United States and Great Britain, made a solemn promise to establish on the planet a lasting peace...

The American military's awareness of its impunity resulted in the preparation of numerous plans for preventive nuclear strikes on the Soviet Union, which was seen by Western politicians as

the main obstacle on the path to world hegemony. The first plan (codenamed Totality) was ready by the end of 1945. It was followed by Pincher (1946), Sizzle, Charioteer (1948), Dropshot (1949), differing from each other only in the number of targets to hit and of atomic charges to be used. The basis of all these plans was the concept of an unanswered nuclear strike due to the lack of weapons of comparable power in the USSR.

At the same time, Western experts quite reasonably wondered: when would the Soviet Union be able to create its own atomic bomb? American intelligence also conducted its research in this regard, and at the same time it began to develop the concept of so-called "preemptive initiatives," that is, preventive nuclear strikes to influence international relations in a direction beneficial to the United States. In 1948, CIA Director Roscoe Henry Hillencotter stated with confidence that the USSR would have an atomic bomb only by the mid-1950s, 1953 at the earliest.

Testing of the first Soviet atomic bomb in August 1949, that is, five to seven years earlier than the wildest forecasts, caused real confusion in the minds of the US military and political leaders and created frustration. According to eyewitnesses, when President Truman was informed that the Soviet Union had its own atomic bomb, he responded with the question: 'So what do we do now?' One of his first orders, by the way, was the dismissal of R.H. Hillencotter.

The true reasons for such a gross miscalculation by American analysts became known to the general public only many years later, in the mid-1990s, when the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service made public the main "unaccounted factor" – an outstanding operation aimed to obtain Western atomic secrets, codenamed Enormous.

The word "enormous" in English means "huge", "monstrous", "incredible". And if the definition of "monstrous" fully applies to atomic weapons, the concepts of "huge" and "incredible" precisely characterize the operation itself, which had no analogues both in geographical scope and in the

number of forces and means involved in it. It is impossible to tell about all its participants in a short magazine article, but on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the legendary Laboratory No. 2, now the famous Kurchatov Institute, we would like to pay tribute to the foreign intelligence officers who, working shoulder to shoulder with outstanding Soviet scientists and talented engineers, forged the nuclear shield of the Motherland.

The Operation Enormous itself began in the summer of 1940, with the events which at first sight were quite ordinary. Leonid Romanovich Kvasnikov, who at that time held the post of Deputy Director of the Scientific and Technological Intelligence Section (STI) of the 5th Department of GUGB NKVD, drew attention to the disappearance of all works on nuclear issues from foreign scientific journals. Having reported this fact to the head of foreign intelligence, Pavel Mikhailovich Fitin, L.R. Kvasnikov suggested that this may be connected with the beginning of practical work in the West on the use of nuclear energy for military purposes. P.M. Fitin took the words of his subordinate seriously. As a result, the residencies in the most technically developed countries (USA, UK, Germany, Sweden, Japan) were urgently focused on collecting information regarding possibly ongoing work on the use of atomic fission energy for military purposes.

Subsequently, the task was many times clarified and specified. For example, in the operational letter No. 1-XY dated January 27, 1941, and addressed to the head of the New York station, uranium-235 was mentioned for the first time in the documentation of Soviet foreign intelligence.

"The Bomb. Our Guys
in Los Alamos"



Testing of the first
American atomic bomb.
Alamogordo.
July 16, 1945



Leonid Romanovich Kvasnikov

06/02/1905–10/15/1993

In 1934, after graduating from the Moscow Institute of Chemical Engineering, he was hired as an engineer at a chemical plant in the city of Dzerzhinsk, and at the same time began working on his MS thesis. In 1938, a few weeks before the defense of the thesis, he received an offer to join foreign intelligence service, which he immediately accepted.

In 1942, he was sent on a mission to the United States as a resident of the scientific and technological intelligence in New York, where he led the work of penetration into the secrets of the Manhattan Project. In 1945, due to a betrayal, he was forced to return to Moscow. From 1948 to 1963, he headed the Scientific and Technological Intelligence Section, in 1966 retired. On June 15, 1996, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, L.R. Kvasnikov was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation (posthumously).

The first documentary information about the work carried out in Western countries to create nuclear weapons, was received by the London station in September 1941 from members of the legendary Cambridge Five Donald Maclean and John Cairncross. Among the materials passed over by them, was a shorthand record of the meeting of the UK Uranium Committee and a special government report on nuclear issues (the code name for the English project was Tube Alloys).

A task of reviewing the documents in all details and drawing up a message to the Center based on them was entrusted to a young employee of the STI line, Vladimir Borisovich Barkovsky. There was a lot of material, but the intelligence officer immediately identified the main thing: it was a matter of creating a fundamentally new superpower weapon – a uranium bomb. In addition, executors of individual works were identified and completion dates given – two years. V.B. Barkovsky urgently prepared a brief summary and a detailed report, in which, in particular, he informs of

the critical mass of a nuclear charge calculated by the British – “from 10 to 43 kg”, and other technical details (see *Document 1 in the Declassified Archives section*).

The information was reported to the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs Lavrentiy Pavlovich Beria, who perceived it with skepticism, considering it to be a disinformation aimed at diverting forces and resources from the needs of the front. Partly it was understandable – the battle for Moscow was in full swing, the Germans were rushing forward. The evacuation of government institutions and civilians from the capital began. And here came a report about some kind of superweapon that had yet to be created. Nevertheless, he ordered to examine the received materials.

The review dated October 10, 1941, from the 4th Special Department of the NKVD, which was a large research center with its own laboratories and production base, was evasive. A specialist, obviously familiar with physics but not a nuclear scientist, did not reject the idea but noted

that this was not a matter of the near future, but of the next decade, or even later.

Meanwhile, the work on obtaining information did not stop. V.B. Barkovsky established a liaison with an agent, a direct participant in English research. The first meeting made an indelible impression on both. When the Englishman realized that the “simple” phrase he had uttered about “the diameter of the section for the capture of neutrons by uranium-235 atoms for the successful going of a fission reaction” did not find the proper understanding with his interlocutor, he asked how further communication was planned to be realized. The proposal to transmit to him questions from Soviet scientists, to which he would give written answers, was immediately rejected as unproductive. The young intelligence officer was offered to purchase a nuclear physics manual written in English, and only after studying it properly to plan a new meeting.

V.B. Barkovsky completed a nuclear physics course in a month (!), reading it at night. Already at the next meeting, he participated in discussing the transmitted information on the same level as the agent and thus earned his respect, which later grew into a mutual sympathy. In 1942, the intelligence officer already had liaisons with three agents in the “atomic” sphere, one of them working directly at the UK Uranium Committee.

It should be emphasized that most of the assistants established contacts with Soviet intelligence not for the sake of money. The basis of their cooperation was the resemblance of world views and the similarity of life goals. Some of them initially shared socialist principles, others joined the fight against fascism, and there were those not satisfied with the impending US hegemony, which



Gayk Badalovich Ovakimyan

08/11/1898–03/13/1967

In 1929, he graduated from the Moscow N. Bauman Higher Technical School, in 1931 he defended his MS thesis at the Moscow D. Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology. In the same year, he was accepted into foreign intelligence. From 1933 to 1941, he was a deputy resident, then a resident in New York. While working in the USA, he defended his doctoral thesis at the New York Institute of Chemistry. On May 5, 1941, he was arrested by the FBI. Released after the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, on the personal order of US President F. Roosevelt. From September 1943 he was the First Deputy Chief of Foreign Intelligence, supervised the atomic sector.

threatened the world with nuclear catastrophe. Intelligence worked with the intellectual elite of mankind, who was perfectly aware not only of the physics of the atomic nucleus, but also of the surrounding reality. Regardless of their political views and beliefs, scientists quickly realized the danger of unilateral possession of atomic weapons. Perhaps this is where the incredible effectiveness of the Operation Enormous lies.

One of the sources subsequently substantiated his agreement to share nuclear secrets with Soviet intelligence as follows: ‘There is no country other than the Soviet Union that could be trusted with such a terrible thing. But since we cannot take it away from others, let the USSR know about its existence, let it be aware of progress, experience and construction. Then the Soviet Union will not find itself in the position of a country that can be blackmailed.’

In March 1942, the total volume of information obtained on foreign nuclear research exceeded a certain threshold, after which L.P. Beria, despite his skepticism, ordered to prepare a memorandum, intended to be signed by him personally

and addressed to I.V. Stalin (see *Document 2*). It contained a proposal to form a scientific advisory body under the State Defense Committee (GKO) for coordinating research and practical steps to create Soviet atomic weapons. Beria was in no hurry with the report; the document was officially sent to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief only on October 6, 1942, when a positive decision on the atomic project had already been made (GKO's order “On the organization of work on uranium” No. 2352-ss dated September 28, 1942). Historians find it difficult to name the



Vladimir Borisovich Barkovsky

10/16/1913–07/21/2003

He came to intelligence in 1939, after graduating from the Moscow Machine and Tool Institute. In November 1940, he was sent to Great Britain as an operative on the STI line. In London, he recruited a number of valuable sources directly involved in the development of atomic weapons. The information he provided played an important role at the beginning of the Soviet atomic project. On June 15, 1996, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, V.B. Barkovsky was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation.

reasons for this delay, believing only that Lavrentiy Pavlovich could report the paper informally, and J.V. Stalin brushed it aside saying: “There is no time for that”: the Germans were rushing to the Volga, emergency measures were required to stabilize the situation at the front.

By 1942, the London residency had created a wide agent network that uninterruptedly supplied the Center with up-to-date information about the British atomic research. But back at the end of 1941, information had been received that London and Washington decided to coordinate their efforts in the nuclear field. In June 1942, Churchill and Roosevelt agreed to build nuclear facilities on the territory of the United States, since England was being bombed by the Germans. Thus, the focus of Soviet intelligence interests within the framework of the Operation Enormous gradually shifted overseas, which was confirmed by a detailed report received from London at the end of 1942, from which it followed that the Americans were significantly ahead of the British in developing the atomic bomb.

At the same time, the New York station could not then boast of the

same success in Operation Enormous as their colleagues in London. And this was happening despite the fact that by 1941 it had an impressive intelligence network, including that on the STI line, with which experienced and active officers worked. The reason is that, with the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the main forces and means of foreign intelligence were focused on obtaining political information – it was necessary to keep abreast and to report to the Center US plans to open a second front, to identify signs of possible attempts to conduct separate negotiations with Germany. The STI line in America was also not idle, but it was focused on obtaining information on conventional weapons.

Of course, in 1941–1942, our intelligence officers in the USA took a number of steps to acquire “atomic” agents. In particular, they involved in cooperation a group of young scientists who subsequently provided a significant amount of valuable materials on the American atomic project. But, as you understand, the moment of acquiring an agent is not identical to the moment of receiving a valuable information from him, especially when it comes to young people. It takes time, and sometimes a lot, before they “grow up” to getting the access to the information of interest. Therefore, at the end of 1942, L.P. Beria decided to send L.R. Kvasnikov to New York to intensify work within the framework of the Operation Enormous. As Leonid Romanovich himself recalled, the People’s Commissar summoned him, informed him of the new appointment and gave him the minimum time to get ready. And finally he added: ‘You have started this mess, now you go and clear it up.’

L.R. Kvasnikov arrived in New York at the beginning of 1943.

During his journey to his new duty station, significant events took place in Moscow. And the most important of them was the creation of the Laboratory No. 2, headed by Igor Vasilyevich Kurchatov, who became the scientific supervisor of the atomic project. The materials obtained by the intelligence were handed over to him for assessment. On March 7, 1943, he gave a positive review (*see the insert*), in which it was specially emphasized that the materials were trustworthy, and if they contained any inaccuracies, these should be considered errors of English physicists, and not faults of Soviet intelligence officers. Thus, the dispute about atomic “disinformation” finally came to an end.

For intelligence itself, the most significant effect from the creation of the Laboratory No. 2 was the synergy from joint work with Soviet scientists. Soviet intelligence officers undoubtedly had an excellent technical education and were outstanding individuals, otherwise the intellectual elite of the West would not have made contact with them. But nuclear physics was a young science at that time; there were barely more than a dozen specialists in it all over the world. And it was necessary to conduct a conversation with assistants from among Western scientists, using only the language of science, a striking example of which the story of V.B. Barkovsky became. Qualified scientific assessment of the information obtained, made by Kurchatov’s team, became an important aid and a reliable “compass” for the intelligence.

Immediately after his arrival in America, L.R. Kvasnikov began to “hack” the Manhattan Project – this was the name given to the American program of creating nuclear weapons in 1942. It was extremely difficult to approach it due to the unprecedented

security measures taken by the FBI in relation to all its participants: scientists, engineers, technicians and even ordinary workers concentrated in Los Alamos. Young intelligence officers Anatoly Antonovich Yatskov and Alexander Semenovitch Feklisov were transferred to the subordination of Leonid Romanovich.

Major successes of the STI line of the New York station in the Project Enormous began only in 1944, after a group of British scientists, among whom were our agents, arrived in the United States in December 1943 to work on nuclear weapons. On the recommendation of the Center, for communication with valuable sources, it was decided to use liaison agents from among American citizens, who had incomparably greater freedom of movement around the country.

From time to time, pleasant surprises happened that could not be explained in any other way than a good luck. For example, in the summer of 1944, an unknown person brought to the Soviet Consulate General in New York a package addressed to Ambassador A.A. Gromyko. It contained top secret materials on the Manhattan Project. The stranger remained unidentified. Having received the documents, the Center assessed them as “exceptionally interesting,” but reproached the residency for missing a potentially valuable source.

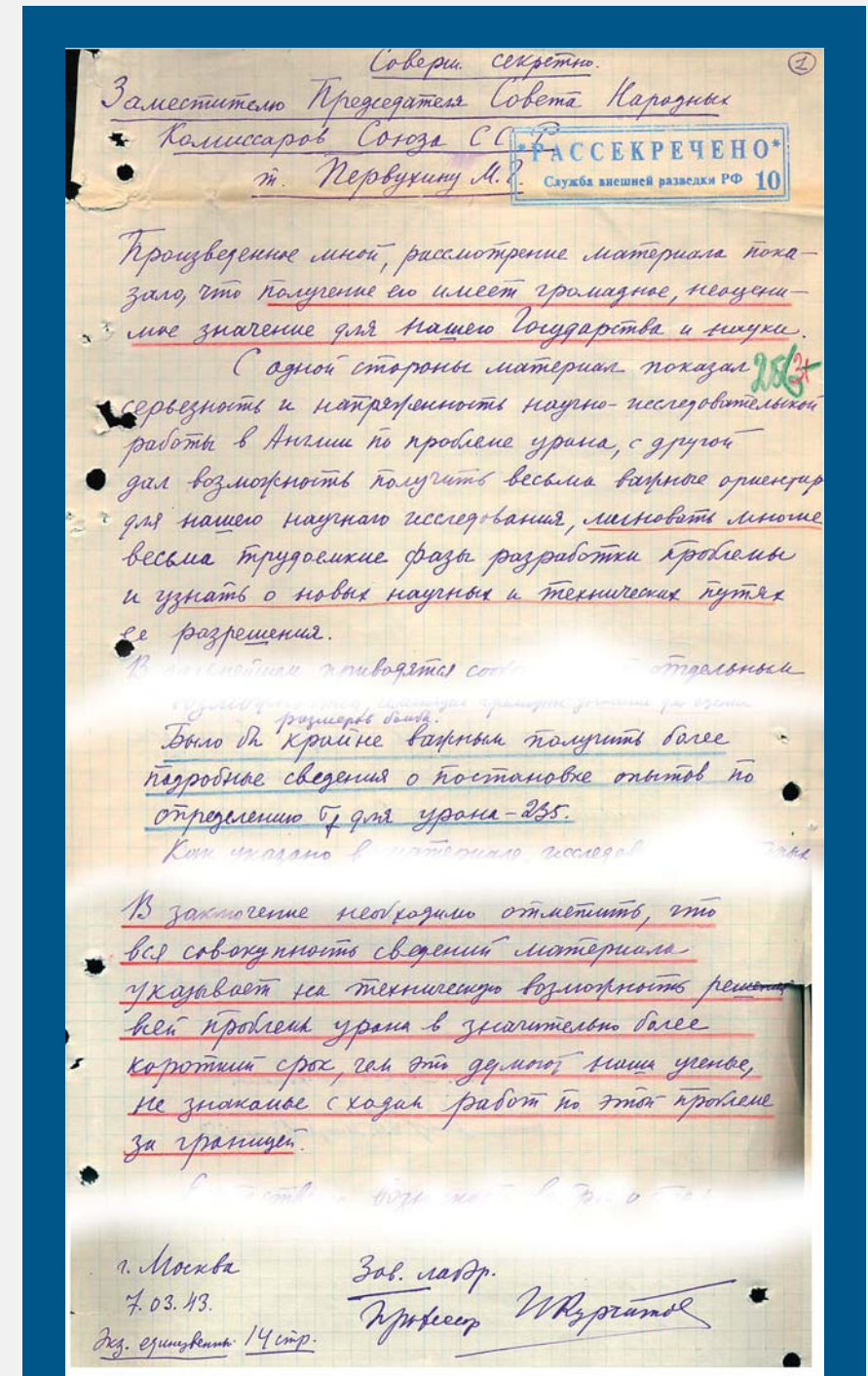
And yet, until September 1944, when A.S. Feklisov managed to establish contact with an American citizen who sympathized with the struggle of the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany, successes with Project Enormous in the United States were episodic. As it turned out, the husband of the new agent worked in Santa Fe at a factory that fulfilled orders for the Manhattan Project. In December 1944, he was also attracted to cooperation with

Soviet intelligence, after which uninterrupted receipt of materials on nuclear research carried out at Los Alamos was established. And at the beginning of 1945, L.R. Kvasnikov managed to acquire several more agents from a top-secret American laboratory.

The information regularly supplied by the Soviet intelligence invariably received high praise from the scientists. In the reviews of I.V. Kurchatov and a number of his colleagues who had access to classified materials, concrete questions began to appear, which gave intelligence activities the necessary direction and had a positive impact on the pace of work on the creation of nuclear weapons in the Soviet Union.

At the beginning of June 1945, the New York station received detailed documentation on the construction of the atomic bomb. In addition, sources informed the Soviet intelligence about the first test of the American “wonder weapon” scheduled for July 10, 1945. Due to weather conditions – the wind was blowing deep into the territory of the United States, and there was a risk of transferring a radioactive cloud to densely populated areas – the tests were postponed for a week, and the first nuclear explosion occurred on July 16, 1945.

In 1946, British scientists returned to London, and communication with our sources was again interrupted. In September 1947, A.S. Feklisov arrived in England to serve as deputy resident on STI line, with the task of restoring contact with valuable agents. The Center’s order was carried out already at the end of the same month: important information was received from scientists about the UK’s work on nuclear weapons. They also shared with the Soviet intelligence the principle of the hydrogen bomb, which Professors E.



I.V. Kurchatov's review on materials from the atomic sphere obtained by the foreign intelligence. March 7, 1943

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



Fermi and E. Teller worked on at the University of Chicago.

In 1948, at one of the meetings with the Soviet intelligence officer, a British agent surprised A.S. Feklisov by noting that the USSR was “rushing at full speed towards success.” Alexander Semenovitch later recalled that he was even confused and could not find what to say in response. Then the scientist smiled and explained: “I see this from your questions.” He turned out to be right – there remained less than a year for I.V. Kurchatov and his team before they achieved

success. On August 29, 1949, the first successful test of the Soviet atomic bomb RDS-1 (“product 501”) took place at the Semipalatinsk test site.

Subsequently, in their memoirs and interviews, “atomic” intelligence officers repeatedly noted: nuclear weapons were created with the selfless work of scientists, engineers and workers, and foreign intelligence only helped them in this difficult labor. Scientists argued that thanks to the information obtained, it was possible to significantly reduce the financial costs of the

Soviet nuclear project, eliminating many dead-end directions of scientific research and design and development work. And this had the most important effect of reducing the time required to create a Soviet atomic bomb by half, according to the most conservative estimates. Such is the contribution of these modest people, the “unaccounted factor,” to the creation of the nuclear shield of the Motherland, which kept the world from a nuclear apocalypse, and our country from guaranteed destruction.

The story of “atomic” intelligence would be incomplete without mentioning Morris and Leontine Cohen, a married couple of liaison agents (Volunteers group) who made an invaluable contribution to the success of Operation Enormous.

It is possible to tell the following episode. Leontine was given a task to meet with a source from Los Alamos. Manhattan Project employees were allowed to visit only the cities closest to the laboratory which were declared closed to a free entry. For conducting the undercover operation, the nearby Albuquerque resort was chosen, because it was conditionally opened to non-locals who had a doctor’s prescription. The intelligence agent procured a certificate confirming the need to undergo a course of pulmonary treatment and arrived in Albuquerque. She lived there for a month waiting for the agent, who finally managed to come out for a meeting. The materials handed over by him were a bundle of paper of a considerable thickness; all that remained was to get to New York and to hand them over to A.A. Yatskov.

While buying tickets at the station, Leontine noticed that all departing passengers had their documents



Anatoly Antonovich Yatskov

05/31/1913–03/26/1993

After graduating from the Moscow Polygraphic Institute in 1939, he was accepted into foreign intelligence. After training in 1940, he worked at the Center on the STI line. In 1941, he was sent to the station in New York. Conducted operations to obtain highly classified and important information on nuclear issues. He led the “Volunteers” intelligence group. Recruited a number of valuable agents. On June 15, 1996, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, A.A. Yatskov was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation (posthumously).



Alexander Semenovitch Feklisov

03/09/1914–10/26/2007

In 1939, after graduating from the Moscow Institute of Communications Engineers, he was accepted into intelligence. In 1940, he joined the staff of the American branch of the 5th Department of the GUGB NKVD. From 1941 to 1946, he was on a mission in New York. He made a significant contribution to the residency’s work on the nuclear issues, completed a number of important tasks to obtain classified scientific and technical information, including in the field of electronics, radars, and jet aviation. In 1947, he was sent to London as a deputy resident on the STI line. On June 15, 1996, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, A.S. Feklisov was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation.



Morris Cohen

07/02/1910–06/23/1995

Born in New York into a family of immigrants from Russia. Graduated from the Columbia University. In 1937–1938, as a member of the International Brigade, he took part in the Spanish Civil War and was wounded. In 1938, he was involved in cooperation with the Soviet intelligence on an ideological basis and sent to the United States as a liaison agent. At the beginning of 1941, he registered a marriage to Leontine Theresa Petke, who agreed to help him in his intelligence activities. In 1942, he was drafted into the army and took part in battles against the Nazis in Europe. In November 1945, he was demobilized, and after returning to the United States, he restored contacts with the Soviet intelligence. Since 1948, together with his wife, he maintained a secret connection with a number of the most valuable sources of the New York station who were working in the atomic sphere. On July 20, 1995, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, M. Cohen was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation (posthumously).



Leontine Theresa Cohen

01/11/1913–12/23/1992

She was involved in secret cooperation with the USSR on an ideological basis through her husband. During the war and in the post-war years, she was used as a liaison agent for the foreign intelligence station in New York, and was in touch with A. Yatskov. Since 1949, she worked with W. Fischer (R. Abel). Following the instructions of the Center, she obtained uranium samples in Canada and ensured the transfer of important documents on the US Manhattan Project to Moscow. On June 15, 1996, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, L. Cohen was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation (posthumously).

began frantically rummaging in her purse, while anyone could see that it was full of ladies’ little things, among which documents and a train ticket were hopelessly lost. When there was less than a minute left before the train departure, the passport, the doctor’s certificate and the ticket were finally found and shown. Having received permission to board, the lady hurriedly headed to the carriage, “forgetting” about her napkins. The man in civilian dress was so courteous that he caught up with the absent-minded passenger and handed her the box without checking its contents. The secret documents of the Manhattan Project safely arrived in New York and were transported to Moscow. Leontine Cohen was that sort of person – quick-witted, courageous, prone to risky actions.

In 1950, due to the threat of failure, the Cohens were taken to the USSR, where they received Soviet citizenship. In 1954, after additional special training, they were sent to the UK as radio operators of the illegal station of Konon Molody (Gordon Lonsdale) with passports in the name of the New Zealand spouses Peter and Helen Kroger. From 1955 to 1960, they transferred to the Center a large amount of top-secret documents, including those on missile weapons. In 1961, due to the betrayal of the head of the Polish intelligence department, M. Goleniewski, they were arrested and sentenced to 25 (Morris) and 20 (Leontine) years’ imprisonment. While in prison, they showed courage and perseverance. In August 1969, they were exchanged for an agent of Western intelligence services and taken to the USSR. The couple lived in Moscow for more than 20 years, working in the illegal intelligence department and training young intelligence officers. 🚩

checked and their personal belongings inspected. She kept her head and immediately began to implement the plan that had instantly arisen in her mind. The documents were moved from her handbag to the box of paper napkins, which were an attribute of the legend of her staying at the resort, because she allegedly had bad lungs and was prone to coughing attacks... All she needed to do was to wait so that she should appear on the platform in an

appropriate moment, just before the train departure. And so, a slightly absent-minded and eccentric lady came out from the station building, hurrying to board. She had her purse in one hand and a large box of paper napkins in the other. Having heard the request to show her documents, she was confused for a couple of seconds, but then she found a way out of the situation by handing the box of napkins to the inspector. The intelligence agent

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО
Служба внешней разведки РСФСР

№ 379

Из ЛОНДОНА

Получена 27-го IX 1941 г. 00 ч. 17 м. Расшифр. 27-го IX 1941 г. 18 ч. 30 м.

Для резолюций и пометок	Куда, кому
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16 сентября состоялось очередное заседание уранового комитета

Ниже сообщаю отдельные факты из материалов к заседанию этого комитета. Сейчас уже нет никаких причин сомневаться в том, что в течение двух лет может быть изготовлена удовлетворительная бомба, особенно если компания "Империл Кемикал Индастрис" будет обязана сделать ее с наивозможной быстротой. По предложению Сфергюссона (из Вулвичского арсенала) конструкция подходящего запального механизма может быть разработана в течение нескольких месяцев. Минимальная скорость относительного перемещения массы взрывчатого вещества, равная 6000 футов в секунду, не обязательна. Нет никакой возможности ее достижения большой процент бомб будет взрываться преждевременно, но даже и в этом случае взрыв, хотя и менее эффективный, будет иметь невероятную силу по сравнению с обычным взрывчатым веществом. До последнего времени FISSION CROSS SECTION fu 235 прямо

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается.

Отп. _____ экз. Экз. № _____	Экз. № 1 _____ Экз. № 2 _____ Экз. № 3 _____
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Подлежит возврату через 48 часов во 2-ю группу 11 отд-ния

11-е отделение (2-я группа)

Вх. № 4968
27-го IX 1941 г.
1-е Упр. НКВД СССР

Документ 1.

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вх. № _____ 379

Из _____

Получена _____ 194 г. _____ ч. _____ м. Расшифр. _____ 194 г. _____ ч. _____ м.

Для резолюций и пометок	Куда, кому
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- 2 -

не была измерена, а поэтому предполагаемая критическая масса была величиной умоузырительной. С другой стороны, там где затрагивается вопрос о быстрых нейтронах, все доказательства прямо свидетельствуют о том, что значительного различия в CROSS SECTION между fu 235 и обычным ураном не будет.

Предполагается, что необходимые измерения будут произведены к декабрю сего года. Также предполагается произвести соответствующие опыты для обеспечения максимальной эффективности взрыва с помощью измерения плотности нейтронов в пространстве между двумя соприкасающимися массами U 235.

Компания "Метрополитен Виккерс" получила заказ на изготовление 20 ступенчатого аппарата еще 3 месяца тому назад, а разрешение начать конструирование было дано только недавно. Предполагается принятие мер для первоочередного выполнения этого заказа. Производство уранового Гекса флюорида еще не началось, но компания "Им-

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается.

Отп. _____ экз. Экз. № _____	Экз. № 1 _____ Экз. № 2 _____ Экз. № 3 _____
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Подлежит возврату через 48 часов во 2-ю группу 11 отд-ния

11-е отделение (2-я группа)

Cipher telegram from London. September 27, 1941

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО

ШИФРТЕЛЕГРАММА Вх. № _____ 380

Из _____
 Получена " _____ 194 г. " ч. " _____ м. Расшифр. " _____ 194 г. " ч. " _____ м.

Для резолюций и пометок _____
 Куда, кому _____

- 3 -

периял "Кемикал Индастрис" имеет контракт на осуществление этого производства. Недавно в США был взят патент на значительно упрощенный проект производства, основанный на использовании уранового нитрата. Комитет для них урегулирования докладывал информацию о лучшем типе диффузионных мембран может быть получена в Америке.

20 сентября на заседании комитета начальников штабов решено немедленно приступить к строительству завода для производства урановых бомб в Англии.

Просим для нашей ориентировки сообщить нам оценку посланных Вам материалов по этому вопросу.

25.1X.41г. № 1065. Вадим.

Вх. № 4968
 "27" / "11" 1941 г.
 1-я Упр. НКВД СССР

Снятие копий категорически воспрещается.

Отп. № <u>2</u> экз.	Экз. № 1 адресату
Экз. № <u>1</u>	Экз. № 2 в дело
Экз. № 3	Экз. № 3

Подлежит возврату через 48 часов во 2-ю группу 11 отд-ния

13 отделение (2 экз. в дело) *Вуленко*

Cipher telegram from London. September 27, 1941

т. 3

СССР
НАРОДНЫЙ КОМИССАРИАТ ВНЕШНИХ ДЕЛ

" марта 1942 г.
 № _____
 г. Москва

РАССЕКРЕЧЕНО
 Служба внешней разведки РФ 10

СОВ. СЕКРЕТНО 61
 Экз. № 1 *Ж*

ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ ОБОРОНЫ
 СОКЗА С.С.Р.

товарищу СТАЛИНУ

В ряде капиталистических стран в связи с проводимыми работами по расщеплению атомного ядра, с целью получения нового источника энергии, было начато изучение вопроса использования атомной энергии урана для военных целей.

В 1939 году во Франции, Англии, США и Германии развернулась интенсивная научно-исследовательская работа по разработке метода применения урана для новых взрывчатых веществ. Эти работы ведутся в условиях большой секретности.

Из прилагаемых совершенно секретных материалов, полученных НКВД СССР в Англии агентурным путем, характеризующих деятельность Уранового Комитета по вопросу атомной энергии урана видно, что:

а) Английский Военный Кабинет, учитывая возможность успешного разрешения этой задачи Германией, уделяет большое внимание проблеме использования атомной энергии урана для военных целей.

б) Урановый Комитет Военного кабинета, возглавляемый известным английским физиком Г.П. ТОМСОНОМ,

Ваше Уведомление 9/11 Шиф. Т. Берия's list информации о работе Комитета по вопросу атомной энергии урана в Англии. 1941 г.

*испрет 6
 1941 г.*

Draft memorandum from L.P. Beria to I.V. Stalin. March 1942

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2.

координирует работу видных английских ученых, занимающихся вопросом использования атомной энергии урана, как в отношении теоретической, экспериментальной разработки, так и чисто прикладной, т.е. изготовления урановых бомб, обладающих большой разрушительной силой.

в) Эти исследования основаны на использовании одного из изотопов урана, U-235, обладающего свойством эффективного расщепления. Для этого используется урановая руда, наиболее значительные запасы которой имеются в Канаде, в Бельгийском Конго, в Судетах и в Португалии.

г) Французские ученые ЖАЛЬБАН и КОВАРСКИЙ, эмигрировавшие в Англию, разработали метод выделения изотопа урана-235, путем применения окиси урана, обрабатываемого тяжелой водой.

Английские ученые профессор ПЕЙЕРЛС и доктор физических наук БАЙС разработали способ выделения реактивного изотопа U-235 при помощи диффузирующего аппарата, спроектированного д-ром СИМОН, который и рекомендован для практического использования в деле получения урана, идущего для изготовления урановой бомбы.

д) В освоении производственного метода выделения U-235, помимо ряда научно-исследовательских учреждений Англии, непосредственное участие принимают Вульвичский арсенал, а также фирмы "Метро-Виккерс", химический концерн "Империал Кемикал Индастриес". Этот концерн дает следующую оценку состоянию разработки метода получения U-235 и производства урановых бомб:

3.

"Научно-исследовательские работы по использованию атомной энергии для урановых бомб достигли стадии, когда необходимо начать работы в широком масштабе. Эта проблема может быть разрешена и необходимый завод может быть построен".

е) Урановый Комитет добивается кооперирования с соответствующими научно-исследовательскими организациями и фирмами США (фирма Дюпон), ограничиваясь лишь теоретическими вопросами.

Прикладная сторона разработки основывается на следующих главных положениях, подтвержденных теоретическими расчетами и экспериментальными работами, а именно:

Профессор Бирмингемского Университета Р.ПЕЙЕРЛС определил теоретическим путем, что вес 10 кг. U-235 является критической величиной. Количество этого вещества меньше критического устойчиво и совершенно безопасно, в то время как в массе U-235 большей 10 кг. возникает прогрессирующая реакция расщепления, вызывающая колоссальной силы взрыв.

При проектировании бомб активная часть должна состоять из двух равных половин, в своей сумме превышающих критическую величину. Для производства максимальной силы взрыва этих частей U-235, по данным профессора ФЕРТКСОНА из Научно-Исследовательского отдела Вульвичского арсенала, скорость перемещения масс должна лежать в пределах 6.000 футов/секунду. При уменьшении этой скорости происходит затухание цепной реакции расщепления атомов урана и сила взрыва значительно уменьшается, но все-же во много раз превышает силу взрыва обычного ВВ.

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4. #

Профессор ТЕЙЛОР подсчитал, что разрушительное действие 10 кг. U-235 будет соответствовать 1.600 тонн TNT.

Вся сложность производства урановых бомб заключается в трудности отделения активной части урана - U-235 от других изотопов, изготовлении оболочки бомбы, предотвращающей распадение и получении необходимой скорости перемещения масс.

По данным концерна "Империал Кемикал Индастриес" (JSC) для отделения изотопа U-235 потребуется 1.900 аппаратов системы д-ра СИМОНА, стоимостью в 3.300.000 фунтов стерлингов, а стоимость всего предприятия выразится суммой в 4,5-5 миллионов фунтов.

При производстве таким заводом 36 бомб в год, стоимость одной бомбы будет равна 236.000 фунтов стерлингов по сравнению со стоимостью 1.500 тонн TNT в 326.000 фунтов стерлингов.

Изучение материалов по разработке проблемы урана для военных целей в Англии приводит к следующим выводам:

1. Верховное Военное командование Англии считает принципиально решенным вопрос практического использования атомной энергии урана (U-235) для военных целей.

2. Урановый Комитет Английского Военного Кабинета разработал предварительную теоретическую часть для проектирования и постройки завода по изготовлению урановых бомб.

3. Усилия и возможности наиболее крупных ученых научно-исследовательских организаций и крупных фирм Англии,

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5. #

об"единены и направлены на разработку проблемы урана-235, которая особо засекречена.

4. Английский Военный Кабинет занимается вопросом принципиального решения об организации производства урановых бомб.

Исходя из важности и актуальности проблемы практического применения атомной энергии урана-235 для военных целей Советского Союза было бы целесообразно:

1. Проработать вопрос о создании Научно-Совещательного органа при Государственном Комитете Оборона СССР, из авторитетных лиц для координирования, изучения и направления работ всех ученых, научно-исследовательских организаций СССР, занимающихся вопросом атомной энергии урана.

2. Обеспечить секретное ознакомление с материалами НКВД СССР по урану видных специалистов с целью дачи оценки и соответствующего использования.

Примечание: Вопросами расщепления атомного ядра в СССР занимались академик КАПИЦА - в Академии Наук СССР, академик СКОБЕЛЬЦИН - Ленинградский Физический Институт и профессор СЛУЦКИЙ - Харьковский Физико-Технический институт.

НАРОДНЫЙ КОМИССАР ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ
СОЮЗА С.С.Р.

(Л.БЕРИЯ)

The museum-apartment of the Cohen family

January 11, 2023, on the 110th anniversary of the legendary illegal spy Leontina Cohen, the unveiling ceremony of a memorial plaque was held at the house № 2/6 on Bolshaya Bronnaya Street, where she and her husband Morris had lived for more than 20 years after their release from prison and their arrival in the USSR.

Text: Pavel Smelov



«They worked in different countries, but achieved outstanding success as members of the illegal residencies in the US and in the UK. In particular, they played an active role in a brilliant intelligence operation to obtain secret information about the American nuclear agenda. For their heroism during this and other difficult and dangerous missions, Morris and Leontina Cohen were posthumously awarded the high title of Heroes of Russia».

S. E. Naryshkin

Sergey Naryshkin, Head of the Foreign Intelligence Service, who participated in this event, noted the invaluable contribution of the «Cohen family residency» to the achievement of the nuclear parity between the USSR and the USA.

In this new section - «The history of one object» - we offer our readers to have a look at some of the Cohen couple's personal belongings in their Moscow flat, which was turned into a museum by the staff of the Foreign Intelligence Service.

First of all, a few words about the house itself. In different years, it was home to representatives of the creative and scientific intelligentsia: Yuri Nikulin, Rostislav Plyatt, Svyatoslav Richter and others. The story of how the Cohens received a flat in this house is unusual. During the first months after the exchange and arrival in the USSR, the couple lived in a country house belonging

In the Cohens' flat

to the Service, until the intelligence officers received their own apartment in a typical new building in Novye Cheryomushki. The modest Cohens thanked for the flat and began to prepare to move to the new location. They were soon invited to the chairman of the KGB, Yuri Andropov, to be awarded the Order of the Red Banner. During the conversation, Yuri Vladimirovich asked Leontina whether she liked the new flat, and the witty woman replied jokingly that her cell in the English prison was more spacious. They both laughed, of course, but the next day an order was issued to provide the heroes with «a decent accommodation».

The new flat included a vast entrance hall, a large hallway, two isolated rooms, a medium-sized kitchen and a bathroom with a separate toilet. As veterans recollect, the Cohens were pleasantly surprised by such accommodation, and Y.V. Andropov came himself to the housewarming party.





in his army rucksack - at the front. The photo of his beloved wife was with him even in the prison cell!

It was this photo in the same frame that stood on the bedside table by Morris's hospital bed on the day of his death. Afterwards, according to an unspoken tradition, when their friends and colleagues gathered in the Cohens' flat over the years to commemorate the legendary illegal intelligence officers, this photo was invariably removed from the wall and placed in a prominent place at the head of the table next to the photo of Morris himself and the traditional shot of vodka covered with a piece of black bread...

Let's talk about the second item. These are women's plastic-rimmed spectacles of the late 1950s fashionable shape with pointed corners. Lona bought them in the UK during the period when, according to their cover story, she and Morris were for the surrounding public New Zealand businesspersons Peter and Helen Kroger. Manufactured by a reputable London company, the glasses came with a leather eyeglass case and a piece of suede for wiping the glasses.

It was in Britain that Lona who had never complained about her sight noticed that started seeing worse. She had to order glasses; at first, she couldn't stand wearing them considering them a symbol of belonging to the bourgeoisie she hated. And the reason for her eye problem was her intensive intelligence work: in the basement of the house they lived in there was set up a radiostation. For long ours, in semi-darkness, Lona sat writing down

So, we are looking at a photo portrait of Leontina, or Lona, as she was known to her loved ones. The photo was taken on the day of her wedding to Morris - the 4th of July 1941. At the wedding ceremony, the intelligence officer wore the same outfit in which she had met her future husband during her work as a nurse in the hospital. The young woman is pictured in a medical coat, with a scarf on her head and a nursing badge at her neck.

According to our veterans who knew the Cohens personally, Morris loved this photo most of all and took it with him everywhere: on business trips around the country and foreign trips - at the bottom of his suitcase,

Photo portrait of Leontina Cohen

Personal belongings of the intelligence officers Leontina and Morris Cohen



and deciphering telegrams, photographing secret documents, making microdots...

The glasses were confiscated by British counter-intelligence officers during arrest and were stored in a special prison warehouse for the entire nine years of imprisonment. After the release, the Cohens were allowed to take the glasses with them, along with other few belongings. When they lived in the USSR, Lona continued to use these glasses every day: she took an interest in embroidery and she decorated the family's modest household with personally embroidered napkins and towels. In addition, Morris inspired her with reading, the couple had a rich library, some of the books were brought from Great Britain, others were bought after their arrival in the USSR.

The third item we would like to mention here is a pair of glass punch cups with views of London, also acquired by the Cohens during the British period of their work. The couple could not live without each other, and they

had everything in common. That was also true of the traditional punch that they always drank together on winter evenings to keep warm in cold weather. The drink is especially good when you take it sitting in a cosy armchair under a soft plaid next to the fireplace. There was no fireplace in the Cohens' Moscow flat, but there were armchairs, plaids and long winter evenings...

According to veterans' memories, the Cohens were loyal to their foreign habits to the end of their days. They regularly drank punch or Irish coffee with special ceremonies and generously served these drinks to their guests.

Things outlive their owners, and the heroes of our story are also no exception... Fortunately, after the death of such great people as the Cohens, not only material objects are left behind, but also the feeling of gratitude that we, now living, continue to feel towards them. And it is an encouraging sign, because a grateful memory, passed down from generation to generations, can claim immortality... 🚩

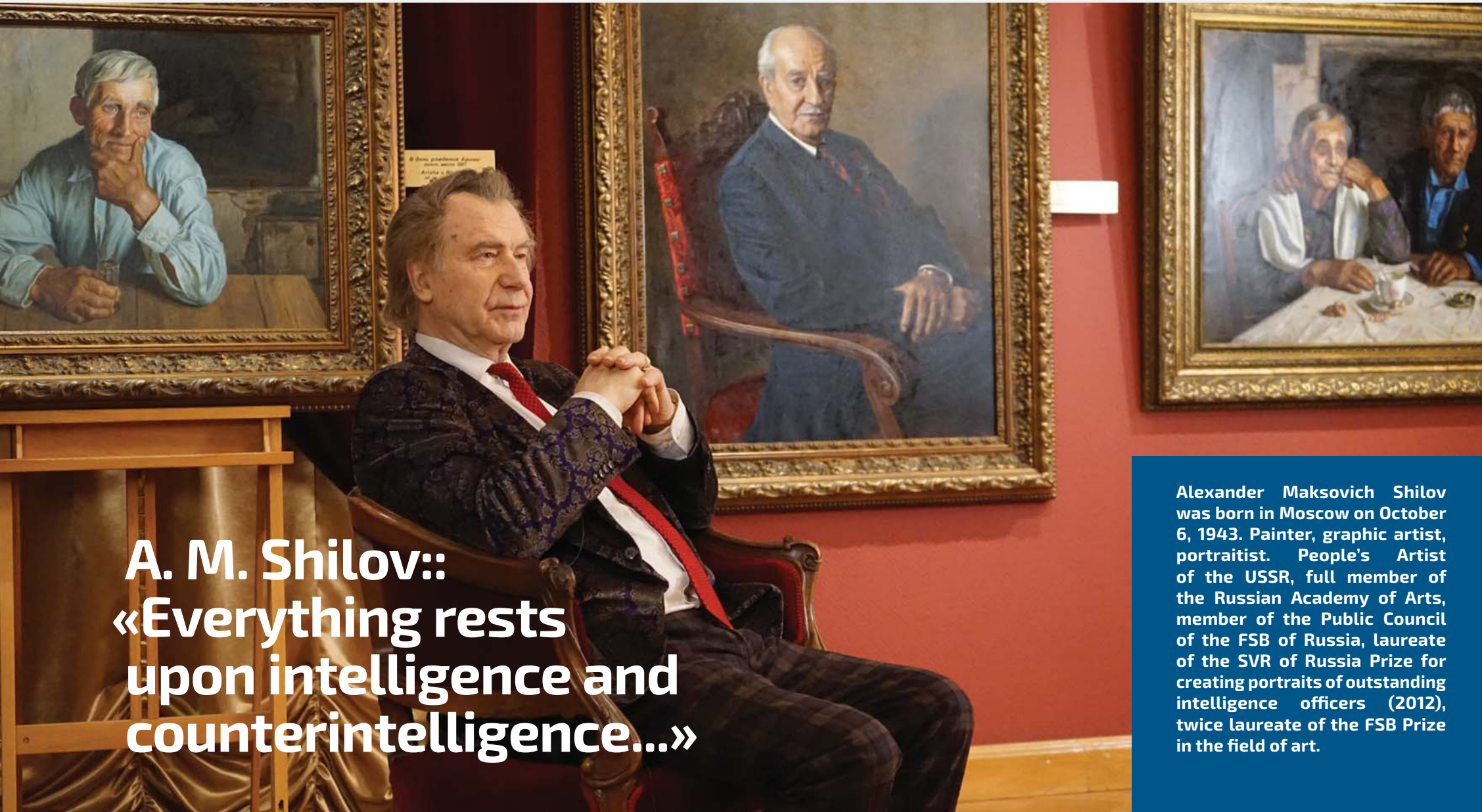
The library in the museum-apartment of the Cohens

More photos here



Documentary series "Legends of Intelligence": Morris and Leontina Cohen





**A. M. Shilov::
«Everything rests
upon intelligence and
counterintelligence...»**

Alexander Maksovich Shilov was born in Moscow on October 6, 1943. Painter, graphic artist, portraitist. People's Artist of the USSR, full member of the Russian Academy of Arts, member of the Public Council of the FSB of Russia, laureate of the SVR of Russia Prize for creating portraits of outstanding intelligence officers (2012), twice laureate of the FSB Prize in the field of art.

Alexander Maksovich, in May 2022 your gallery celebrated its 25th anniversary. How many works are represented in it today?

At the opening on May 31, 1997, I gave my word that everything I would do not on order, and this is 99% of my works, I would donate them to the state if I was not ashamed of them. To date, 1660 works of painting and graphics have been handed over. And how many of them are on display - please excuse me...

The series "They Fought for the Motherland" occupies a special place in the gallery. Tell me, have the current events, I mean the start of the special military operation and the subsequent rise of patriotism in Russia, somehow affected the attendance?

The question is essential, you hit the nail on the head. Indeed, now even on weekdays there are queues at the gallery and the hall in which we are sitting attracts a lot of attention [of visitors] in connection with the military operation. Because

portraits of the greatest people, grand patriots of our country are exhibited here - all those who fought, gave their lives in hard times, in the hardest days of wars.

I would also like to say that the entire staff of our gallery is proud that our President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin was here twice and both times began his visit from this room. During his second visit, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Great Victory, he said: "It would be good to take this hall of yours, as a sign of gratitude

and appreciation to these people, to hero cities, cities of military glory." And we have already been to 19 cities, we have visited Volgograd, Murmansk, Sevastopol. At the same time, I continue to paint portraits of modern fighters for the security of our Motherland. These are intelligence and counterintelligence officers, military personnel, fighters...

Where did your interest in representatives of domestic intelligence services come from in your life?

In my post-war childhood there was a popular film – "Secret Agent" ("Podvig razvedchika") with Pavel Kadochnikov in the title role. Our entire generation, brought up including on this film, treats intelligence officers with deep respect. I, too, have always wondered what kind of people they are. In September 2003 in Moscow, at a reception on the occasion of City Day, I met the then director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, Sergei Nikolaevich Lebedev, a great patriot, with whom, by the way, we have been good friends since then. I asked him if there was a worthy declassified person in the Service to pose for me - I'd been waiting to paint a portrait of an intelligence officer for so long... He smiled: "An unexpected offer, I'll think about it."

Soon we got on the phone, and Sergei Nikolaevich invited me to come to the SVR headquarters in Yasenevo, where he promised to introduce me to an outstanding person. I arrived, was shown around the museum - I really liked it there, by the way - and then Gevork Andreevich Vartanyan, Hero of the Soviet Union, who had been a deep-cover agent for forty-seven years, came up with a smile on his face! And being a deep-cover agent, as I later learned, is like "intelligence within intelligence"... I thank Sergei Nikolaevich Lebedev with all my heart for trusting me and for the opportunity to paint these great people who defend our Motherland!

Besides Vartanyan, your collection of portraits of intelligence officers includes George Blake, Alexey Botyan, Vitaly Korotkov, Ivan Yevtodiev and Kim Philby. Which of them do you remember more than others?



Portrait of Hero of the Soviet Union G.A. Vartanyan. 2004

Portrait of I. P. Evtodiev. 2015

I think it's still Vartanyan and Yevtodiev. Gevork Andreevich and I somehow got along very quickly. When he first came to pose for me, I was struck by his modesty. Despite the fact that he was a great intelligence officer, his services to the Motherland were extraordinary, he turned out to be very easy to communicate with. We talked a little, although usually when I paint someone, I ask a lot of questions - this is necessary to get to know the character better. But in this case I understood that Gevork Andreevich did not have the right to tell everything, and with my questions I could put him in an awkward position. Nevertheless, even from the little information about intelligence work that Gevork Andreevich shared with me, I realized that this was the cutting edge. I really think so, and no one will move me off this point of view: everything, the entire security of the country, rests upon intelligence and counterintelligence. It all starts with them... And with Ivan Pavlovich we are still friends!

How difficult was it to work with George Blake, since he is a foreigner after all?

On the contrary, for me, as an artist, it was interesting and pleasant to paint Blake - I felt him well. And then, he had such an impressive appearance! The only difficulty was that he did not know Russian very well, but, as they say, let God everyone know English like that!.. At the same time, he turned out to be difficult inside, I would even say, explosive. He told me how he escaped from the British prison. I asked him: "Where did you hiding?" "There was a house next to the prison. For some reason, no one thought about searching there..."

George Blake did a lot for our state, and I am glad that I was able to paint his portrait. Having met people like Blake, Vartanyan and our other great intelligence officers, you want to take off your hat and just bow to them. I believe that their exploits - often unnoticed, unadvertised, but really existing in life - should be used to educate the younger generation. It is extremely important to teach patriotism to young people, because patriotism is the foundation of a person's worldview. And you know, the stronger the foundation, the stronger the house, the more patriotic the society, the stronger the state.



Alexander Maksovich, your invariable creative principle is to paint portraits only from life, but in the case of Kim Philby you made an exception, why?

What is a portrait? It is necessary, with absolute external similarity, to express the inner world of a person, his nature, depth, character. You need to touch the viewer's nerve, make him stop at the canvas and think about what kind of person he was. This almost never happens with photography.

But when your Service approached me with a request to paint this outstanding intelligence officer, one of the members of the "Cambridge Five", gave me literature to read about him, and I learned about his exploits... This is

inconceivable! Take, for example, the Battle of Kursk in July 1943, when Kim Philby helped adjust the formation of our troops before the general battle - this decided a lot! For this episode alone, I would have awarded him the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and would definitely have named the street after him to perpetuate his memory!

So, Kim Philby's wife, Rufina, allowed me to take his clothes: they brought me his suit and a pipe, which he did not let go off his mouth, he loved it very much. I made an arrangement with a model, he posed for me very carefully, his hands looked similar. You see, without nature it is impossible to make a living person, and I need life enclosed in a frame...

Russian President V.V. Putin inspects the exhibition. 2015



Portrait of George Blake. 2008

Portrait of Harold Adrian Russell Philby (Kim Philby). 2017

In the fall of 2017, a presentation of the portrait took place here in the gallery. A large group of SVR leadership was present, including [director] Sergei Evgenievich Naryshkin, and, of course, Rufina Ivanovna. For me, she was the main judge... When she approached the portrait and tears began to flow from her eyes, I felt a little relieved. "I can talk to him," she told me. Although I am usually my own chief judge - no matter how much I am praised, I must see my own shortcomings - this was a different case, since I was not personally familiar with him. But when colleagues and Kim Philby's wife recognized him, my soul somehow calmed down.

Your words convey great respect for the intelligence profession. Tell me, did you ever dream of going into intelligence as a child?

To become an intelligence officer, you need special qualities, first of all, patience and endurance, which, unfortunately, I lack. Artist - what is this? As Kramskoy said, this is a state of mind, he must paint with his heart, his nerve...

You know, I often remember my youth: three children, fatherless, living in poverty. At the age of seventeen, I went to work as a loader - I worked for more than six years

to help my mother and grandmothers. I still wonder how I became an artist. But this is my destiny! Returning to intelligence: intellectually, psychologically, I understand what qualities an intelligence officer needs, but I don't have them. But it is an honor to paint these great patriots!

Are you going to continue the series of works devoted to foreign intelligence and security officials?

I'm not just going, I'm ready at any moment! I spoke to [SVR director] Sergei Yevgenievich [Naryshkin] about this more than once. At a recent meeting of the FSB Public Council, I said straightforwardly: "Find me, regardless of the stars on their shoulder straps, a person who is currently fighting, risking his life so that our Russia continues to be a full-fledged country, I will paint him with pleasure." It's an honor for me, I worship people like that! What can I say - these are people of heroic deeds. I have always believed that without security services, Russia would instantly cease to exist, in a split second... And I will make portraits of intelligence officers as soon as the SVR offers it, I will immediately put everything aside.

And finally, what could you wish to the readers of our magazine?



Presentation of the portrait of Kim Philby. 2017

Victory! Now all the sons and daughters of our Fatherland are thinking about the military operation. There, on the battlefields, the main question is being decided: will Russia exist or not? This is not an exaggeration; people in your profession know this better and know more about it than I do. The Western world has long been striving to absorb us, they envy us, we have a huge territory, talented people and rich resources. Many politicians in the West, no longer even ashamed, openly talk about the fact that Russia needs to be divided, saying that it is too big and independent...

I think it's right that we are now starting to remember our great marshals and ordinary soldiers who won the war. In his time, Georgy Zhukov very precisely said: "As it is in the rear, so it is at the front." The main thing is the sense of patriotism, which needs to be nurtured from the cradle.

Returning to what wishes. First of all, media should adequately talk about those who are now fighting, about the important contribution they make to the existence of our state. We

need the whole country, every single one of us - and this is my point of view - to move towards one common goal. There must be "everything for the front, everything for victory", as during the Great Patriotic War. There should be no strangers. To win, we must all participate in this military operation: some with our souls, some with our hearts, some with our heads - with whatever we can. Only then - and this is again my personal point of view, and no one will dissuade me - when we join hands and close ranks, only then will we win. And we have to win at all costs, otherwise it's the end of everything, the end of our Motherland.

Therefore, I wish us a speedy victory, after which we will become even more united, an even stronger state! And of course, success to counterintelligence and intelligence of all kinds. As always, a lot depends on their great service! 🇷🇺

Video version of the interview



Interviewed by Maxim Ktorov.

Reviving the historical memory of Novorossiya

Modern Russian society has gone through a painful period of searching for a national idea capable of transforming separated people absorbed in routine into a united state, aware of why it exists and what goals it pursues. The absence of a state ideology in the 1990s and early 2000s forced the population to seek answers to complex ideological questions by itself. The answers to these questions, readily offered by foreign guides, formed a destructive system of views, making contempt and hatred for Russia a fashionable youth trend, in fact, depriving our country of its future.

Text: Nikolay Pavlovich Ovsienko, deputy chairman of the Russian Military Historical Society, member of the Board of Trustees of the fund "History of the Fatherland"

Awareness of the need to restore social foundations forced the country's leadership to turn to centuries-old Russian history, drawing from it examples of a high sense of citizenship and service to the Fatherland. The realization that the biased interpretation of historical facts by Western ideologists, the suppression of Russian victories and achievements, and a deliberate emphasis on dramatic and unpleasant episodes, constitute an act of cognitive warfare, a battle for meaning, has demonstrated the particular importance of defending one's own version of past events – of a past that one can be proud of. The Russian Military Historical Society (RVIO) has become one of the tools for conveying to people a patriotic view of Russian history.

Re-established by Decree of the President of Russia in 2012, the RVIO chose monumental art as one of the main directions of its work. Over the past decade, hundreds of monuments have been created with the assistance of the Russian Military Historical Society, ranging from majestic compositions on the streets of major cities to modest obelisks on mass graves in rural settlements. The Society's work in Novorossiya has been of particular significance. It began in December 2015, when a solemn ceremony was held in Amvrosievka to bury the remains of 38 unknown soldiers discovered by the Republican Search Association "Donbass". At the mass grave of the defenders of the Fatherland, a monument to a Soviet soldier was erected. This is a mournful figure of a Red Army soldier bowing his head in memory of his fallen comrades.

The RVIO initiative to perpetuate the memory of Soviet soldiers who had fought the Nazi occupiers during the Great Patriotic War was warmly welcomed in the DPR. For the war-weary people of Novorossiya, the Soviet period of our shared history was a symbol of unity and mutual aid, an example of how by joint efforts you can bring victory over the enemy closer.

Politicians can divide territory with borders, but it is impossible to divide a nation which honors common heroes, worships common shrines, and preserves common historical memory.



Prince Igor monument near the settlement of Stanitsa Luganskaya

Donbass, which has not betrayed the memory of its ancestors, the victors of Nazism, has been given the hope that Russia will return to its ancestral lands. Politicians can divide territory with borders, but it is impossible to divide a nation which honors common heroes, worships common shrines, and preserves common historical memory.

In 2019, at the suggestion of veterans of the Great Patriotic War, the Russian Military Historical Society erected a bust of Hero of the Soviet Union, Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Semyonovich Biryuzov, in the city park of Donetsk. As Chief of Staff of the Southern Front, he took part in the Donbass operation and the liberation of Crimea.

What appears to be an insignificant episode to a resident of Russia is interpreted quite differently in a situation where the Ukrainian authorities are deliberately pursuing a policy of denigrating the Soviet past, where at the state level there is a substitution of concepts, where school textbooks are being rewritten, where instead of defenders of the Fatherland executioners and traitors are being imposed on society as national idols. In such a situation,

even a small step towards the return of historical truth is perceived as a breath of fresh air, as a hope that society will shake off the pernicious darkness that turns yesterday's neighbors into irreconcilable enemies.

For Ukrainian society, driven crazy by Western political strategists and having lost its moral guidelines, the subject of the Great Patriotic War has become a demarcation line. On the one side there are those who, from mercenary motives, being deceived or out of ordinary cowardice, have abandoned not only the memory of the heroic deeds of their ancestors, but also the Russian identity. On the other side, there are the same common people who, despite the promises of an abundant life, bullying in the media and threats of physical violence, have remained faithful to their ideals, setting spirituality above their own well-being.

The parable of Christ being tempted by the devil in the desert involuntarily comes to mind. For the sake of spiritual salvation, he gave up worldly goods and stood the test of pride and the promises of power over the world. Novorossiya is populated by ordinary people, with their merits and demerits, but



Saur-Mogila memorial (DPR)

at the moment of a fateful choice they set an example of spiritual fortitude and firmness. The Ukrainian society, on the contrary, proved to be unable to resist temptations and, like a pig herd possessed by demons, it rushed off a cliff into the abyss, dragging the country down with it. Hating those who were able to resist the temptations, in impotent rage they try to cause damage to the churches and parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church, sliding into outright Satanism, totally losing their human face.

With the beginning of the Special Military Operation, when the DPR and LPR, anticipating an attack of Ukrainian punishers, appealed to the Russian leadership to protect the population of the battling republics, the RVIO began a new, more fruitful stage of its activity on the territory of Novorossiia. In the cities of Melitopol and Donetsk, the RVIO unveiled busts of Pavel Anatolyevich Sudoplatov. In the 1930s, the NKVD conducted a large number of operations abroad. One such episode involved the liquidation of the leader of Ukrainian nationalists Yevhen Konovalets in Rotterdam, carried out by Sudoplatov himself. The installation of the busts was not merely an act of tribute to the memory of the outstanding

Soviet intelligence officer; it also symbolized the irreconcilable attitude of the people of Novorossiia towards the flawed ideas of Ukrainian nationalism, imbued with eternal envy of Russian and Polish cultures.

The restoration of the Saur-Mogila memorial in the Shakhtyorsk district of the DPR, dedicated to the liberators of Donbass who died during the Great Patriotic War, was a significant project of the RVIO. During the fighting in 2014, the memorial was practically destroyed by Ukrainian artillery. Because of the obvious connection between times and generations, it was decided to complement the existing sculptural ensemble with three relief pylons dedicated to the heroes of our days. Cast in metal, real participants in military operations look at us. These are troopers, pilots, soldiers from the Rosgvardia and the People's Militia.

An equally significant event was the restoration by the RVIO of the memorial complex "Unconquered" in Krasnodon (LPR). Created in memory of the Komsomol underground organization «Molodaya Gvardiya» ("Young Guard"), which fought against the occupiers during the Great Patriotic War, for many years it was a symbol of the people's memory of young



Memorial complex "Unconquered" in Krasnodon (LPR)

heroes, who had demonstrated an example of true patriotism, courage and willingness to sacrifice for the sake of the common victory.

RVIO experts not only restored the memorial, but also organized an open-air exhibition with a brief story about the activities of the «Molodaya Gvardiya». The project culminated in the installation in the Krasnodon Museum of a bust of Viktor Tretyakevich, one of the organization's leaders. He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation in September 2022.

Another major project of the RVIO was the restoration of the monument to Prince Igor near the settlement of Stanitsa Luganskaya. It was here in 2014 that the People's Militia of the LPR managed to stop the Ukrainian punishers. The monument is a representation of the Russian literary heritage "The Tale of Igor's Campaign", which allows us not only to look deep into the centuries, but also shows how difficult it was to develop the Northern Black Sea region. The advance of the Russian state into the southern territories became the central theme of the exhibition created by the Russian Military Historical Society near the monument. The exhibition highlights significant episodes

of the Russian history, remembering Vladimir Monomakh, Ivan the Terrible, Catherine the Great, as well as the heroes of the Special Military Operation.

Work on the territory of Novorossiia will continue. The RVIO plans to erect a monument to Catherine the Great in Lugansk in memory of the founder of the city, a memorial at mine No. 4/4-bis, where the occupiers threw down the bodies of civilians tortured by the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War. Furthermore, the RVIO intends to create stelae "City of Labour Merit" in Lugansk and Gorlovka, as well as stelae "City of Military Glory" in Mariupol and Melitopol.

Novorossiia, reunited with Russia, made its choice to be a part of the Russian world and the great Russian history. The RVIO will make every effort to help the people of Donbass to preserve their cultural heritage. Life has shown that care for the past, gratitude to the ancestors and the desire to be worthy of their memory are the foundation of a strong state, the most important condition to mould a united nation capable of overcoming all the adversities and challenges of the time. 🇷🇺

Meeting of the heads of veteran intelligence organizations of the CIS countries

**Borders may have been laid,
Dividing our countries and services,
But we have managed to preserve the bonds of brotherhood –
There are no borders in friendship**

Text: Mikhail Pogudin

These lyrical lines were the leitmotif of the meeting of the heads of veteran intelligence organizations of the CIS member states, which took place in Moscow on December 13-15, 2022. The formal reason for the event was the 30th anniversary of the Veterans Council of the Foreign Intelligence Service, but in reality it was to discuss a whole range of issues related to practical cooperation between our organizations, so to say to «check the clock» on current affairs and outline common plans for the future.

At the invitation of the SVR veteran activists of the security services of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - formerly notable security officers with wide life and operational experience and with great authority among their colleagues in the Commonwealth states - came to Russia.

The meeting began with a ceremony of laying flowers at the foot of the sculptural composition «Fatherland. Valour. Honour» on the territory of the Service's headquarters in Yasenevo and a

A working conference.
December 14, 2022.
In the vicinities
of Moscow



brief talk about the heroic intelligence officers whose bas-reliefs are placed on the pediment of this monument. Then there was a transfer to the park «Patriot» and a tour of the expositions of the museum «The Road of Memory», dedicated to the Soviet people's combat against fascism and the Great Victory to which every nation living in the republics of the former USSR had contributed. This was confirmed by an episode that excited everyone when the members of the Kazakh delegation unexpectedly found in the electronic archives of the museum records about their relatives - participants of the war who died on the battlefields.

The working dialogue took place on the territory of a boarding house in the Mozhaisky district near Moscow. It is symbolic that the Soviet counter-offensive began right here, on the borders of Mozhaisk, exactly 81 years ago, pushing the German invaders far away from the capital. The guests, paying tribute to the memory of those who fell in the battles for the Motherland, laid flowers at the monument to the Soviet soldiers buried on the territory of the boarding house that had been turned to a hospital during the war years.

The theme of the Great Patriotic War ran through the whole event and became one of the main

points at the workshop. In particular, the members of the delegations noted the importance of jointly countering the attempts to falsify history, including the distortion of the truth about military events. In addition, they unanimously approved the idea to publish a book on the heroic exploits of those years, committed by the intelligence officers from the former Soviet republics, by the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory. Besides, the members of the delegations were unanimously in favor of intensifying efforts to promote patriotic education of the younger generation.

At the end of the event the guests expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome, constructive and businesslike approach to the discussion of topical issues concerning the entire veteran community. They also emphasized the importance of the future communication in this format.



Meeting of old friends



In the park «Patriot»

Afghan Zugzwang

Text by Igor Morozov, veteran of foreign intelligence

Illustrations by Boris Klementyev

Continuation.

August 2, 1978, Washington, White House. Operation "Split"

National Security Assistant Brzezinski took his conversation with President Carter quite seriously. He received not only very important information about the events in Afghanistan and a crazy CIA agent who was ready to do anything, including the elimination of the head of state and the ruling party, who was his comrade-in-arms and shared the same ideas. Under his leadership, a week ago a coup d'état was carried out, Prime Minister Daoud and his family were shot, and he was ready to kill again, but this time someone of his own kind. A savage and a barbarian, but they were all like this from the Middle Ages in the East... The main point of the information was on the other side of the coin. After all, having such advantages in Afghanistan, you could play a completely different game of chess against the Russians. And, besides, you could also attract the CIA, the Pentagon with its capabilities, and subsequently well-known think tanks into your team!

Such a unique opportunity to strike the Soviets had never before presented itself to Brzezinski, although he devoted his entire life to the fight against the Soviet regime he

hated so much. In 1972, together with David Rockefeller, who headed the influential private Council on Foreign Relations, at a Bilderberg meeting they promoted the idea and received support for the creation of the International Commission on Peace and Prosperity, which later became known as the Trilateral Commission.

Already in 1973, Brzezinski became its main creator of strategies and concepts aimed against the USSR in various areas and regional problems. Whether it concerned human rights violations or the limitation of nuclear weapons, the Soviet military brigade in Cuba or the "northern territories" of Japan, Brzezinski was always the initiator of such research developments. However, this work was theoretical in nature and did not bring actual results. The Soviet Union and socialist countries continued to develop and successfully advance into Asia and Africa.

And now that **he** became the assistant to the US President, he was the one who was tasked with developing an idea of strategic attack on the communist Soviets.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance," Brzezinski thought to himself, "and I should, no, I must use



it to the fullest. This idea will not remain just a fantasy or the thoughts of the president. You, Zbigniew, must do your best to gradually turn it in his head into a strategy to fight against the Soviet Union, against the communism on a worldwide scale and against the East at the civilizational level. The West, as it was six hundred years ago, must conquer the East. It means a new split needs to be prepared, but not between the Holy Roman Empire and the Eastern Patriarchates, but between Western Europe and the USSR. It must be weakened as much as possible, cut off from foreign funds and getting foreign currency due to trade with the West. To do this, it is also necessary to set it at loggerheads with all governments, those

of Europe and the Arab world in the first place. To destroy its ties with Muslim countries in the Middle East and Africa."

"This is what can be done using Afghanistan!" Brzezinski gloatingly concluded to himself and added out loud, – Put the Soviets in zugzwang in the first game of chess... Afghan zugzwang, so that every subsequent step with any piece will only worsen their position in the world!

He was eager to share his thoughts with his close colleagues in the Trilateral Commission and, especially, with David Rockefeller. Together they could weave such a geopolitical plot that the Western elite would shake with lust, but he remembered Carter's warning and did not dare to break it. So he called the CIA Director Stansfield Turner and arranged a meeting in his office at the White House.

Director of the Central Intelligence Admiral Turner was not very pleased to meet Brzezinski. He, as a career military man, did not like the swagger and frivolous expressions of the presidential assistant. Naval service required a person to have self-discipline, tenacity, and the ability to endure many restrictions in his personal life. This is how the character of a naval officer was forged throughout his service. And Stansfield Turner had experienced everything in his career that a young lieutenant could encounter while serving on the escort carrier USS Palau. And not to mention the strategic tasks and responsibilities that were assigned to the admiral who commanded the Second Fleet of the US Navy, and in 1975 was appointed commander-in-chief of NATO!

Having accepted Jimmy Carter's offer to become Director of the Central Intelligence and, by extension, the CIA, Full Admiral Turner successfully passed Congressional hearings and was unanimously confirmed in this position. The president immediately tasked him with reforming the intelligence community as the intelligence community's reputation had been damaged by the Watergate scandal and a number of other international failures. Plunging into an

atmosphere of interdepartmental conflicts and administrative squabbles in the CIA, he began to take tough measures in a soldier-like manner. It could not but affect the efficiency of the intelligence service, and Turner saw that the initiative and quality of execution of tactical tasks by the operational personnel fell sharply. Having lost career prospects, experienced employees began to quit. That is why the admiral took the information from the CIA station in Kabul so seriously and was now going to Brzezinski to promote it further. This was the only significant result of his management of Central Intelligence in the year and a half, and besides, it was key for the operational staff working on the Asian region. Turner believed that the development of this topic could inspire and stimulate the employees of the operational service, since there were still many changes to be made in his reforms, which clearly would not please the operational conservatives.

After greeting Brzezinski, Turner sat down opposite him without an invitation and put on the table a summary of information on the events in Afghanistan with proposals to overthrow Taraki and help Amin and his team to seize power. Brzezinski, having his own, more sophisticated plan to make good use of the CIA agent, but realizing that the conversation with the admiral would not be easy, tried to win him over.

– I'm glad, Mr. Admiral, that we are going to work together. I hope we can find common ground and information of the CIA will become core to the future National Security Strategy and our cooperation. I have carefully studied the balance of political and military forces in Afghanistan and prepared my thoughts for you. With the capabilities of the CIA agent and our recommendations, the United States can obtain a synergistic effect, and you and I will strengthen the image of the CIA as the most powerful intelligence service in the world, – he began softly.

– Don't you like our proposals, Zbigniew? – Turner asked directly.

– Yes, yes, – Brzezinski hastened to dispel Admiral's doubts. – They are specific and

extremely clear. We'll get to them a little later. But now let's take a look at my thoughts point by point.

Point one. The new government in Afghanistan needs to come into very close contact with the leadership of the Soviet Union. Taraki should ask Brezhnev for increased economic and military assistance with the involvement of military advisers and civilian specialists. This Amin of yours must convince Taraki to work closely with the Soviet ambassador and establish personal correspondence with Brezhnev. The main task is to show the whole world how close the current Afghan leadership is with the Soviet Union.

Point two. Since the Kremlin recognized the coup as a democratic revolution, ordinary Afghans should feel all the "delights" of this communist pseudo-democracy. Amin, being the curator of the security service, should start terrorizing the army and the political opposition, and unleash a war against the clergy, feudal nobility and ethnic groups. To purge the Parcham opposition wing, and then begin to execute his own supporters.

– What's the point? – Turner asked perplexedly. – With whom will he overthrow Taraki and his Soviet minions then?

– Don't rush, Admiral, – Brzezinski continued. – The overthrow of Taraki is yet to follow, and now we must bind the Soviets more tightly to these actions. Therefore, Amin needs to convince Taraki to create a KGB mission under the Afghan special services, a Ministry of Internal Affairs mission under the local home office, and Soviet military advisers should be attached to each military unit. All of Afghanistan should know that arrests, torture and executions come from Soviet specialists.

– And what will Moscow think about it? – the Director of Central Intelligence asked thoughtfully. – After all, they will understand that something is wrong in Afghanistan that is not going as they planned and agreed with Taraki. I believe through the KGB and the international department of the Central Committee, which is the Kremlin's party intelligence, they will quickly correct this line

of Amin. And Taraki himself will not go to such extremes. In addition, today I was informed by our influential agent from the Soviet foreign intelligence that in the near future a KGB mission will be created in Kabul and an agreement will be signed on cooperation between the intelligence services of Moscow and Afghanistan.

– Very good, – Brzezinski responded approvingly to the information of the CIA. – However, while Moscow is analyzing and making decisions on the actions of the official authorities of Afghanistan, our agent must wreak havoc throughout the country. He must affect all ethnic groups, especially the Baloch people. The point is that Balochistan is located at the junction of three states: Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. If you hit them in Afghanistan, they will move to the territory of two other states and will fight against their enemies for decades. Neither the colonial troops of Britain in the 19th century, nor the Iranian Shah Reza Pahlavi with his modern army, equipped, by the way, with American weapons, nor the Pakistani armed forces and interdepartmental intelligence could cope with these tribes because they do not recognize the "Durand Line", – the presidential assistant demonstrated his knowledge of the subject. – And we may need them in the near future, – concluded Brzezinski.

– The historical perspective is clear, but when should the agent carry out a coup and turn Afghanistan towards the United States? – asked Turner, trying to maintain the dialogue.

– I believe that an important point is missing, namely: Taraki's appeal to the Soviet leadership for military assistance and bringing in troops to support the revolutionary gains of the PDPA. Therefore, Amin must convince Taraki to write an official letter with such a request to Brezhnev. Moreover, Amin needs to shake the political situation to the limit: there should be chaos in government administration, in land and water reforms, in Islamic traditions, as well as in other vital areas that are sensitive for the feudal regimes of Asia. This situation will cause increasing resistance to the Kabul government, and the provinces will have to revolt. This kind of revolutionary atmosphere

can push the Kremlin to the main decision – to send Soviet troops into Afghanistan. And the rest is the measures of the second part of the strategic fight with communism, – Brzezinski finished his reasoning.

– And if Moscow does not make such a decision, what should we do in Afghanistan – stage a coup? – the Director of Central Intelligence threw up his hands in bewilderment.

– No, it's too early. You need to involve agents of influence in the KGB, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the Ministry of Defense and the GRU, as well as in the Old Square, so that they will promote from every side information about the plans to deploy American Pershing missiles in the Hindu Kush mountains, about the entry of Pakistani and Chinese troops into Afghanistan to protect their national interests and other nonsense, – explained Brzezinski.

– What do the Chinese have to do with it? – the admiral asked again.

– The Chinese have their eye on the largest copper deposit in the Aynak region, and that is why they are already there. Naturally, a Soviet invasion is in no way included in the PRC's plans, so they will defend it with all available means. And besides, the Uyghurs are Muslims, so it is easy to form militant groups from them on the basis of Islamic solidarity; but this is further work of the CIA.

– Well, if even in this case the Kremlin does not decide to send troops to Afghanistan, what should we do? – Turner kept asking, being aware that he, as a naval admiral, did not have the political knowledge that Brzezinski, who devoted his entire life to political science and geopolitical analysis, possessed.

– This is where your crazy agent is needed, who will eliminate Taraki and, assuring the Kremlin of his loyalty, begin to openly work with the US Embassy in Kabul. This circumstance should explode the situation in the Kremlin and the KGB, and I hope the decision to send troops will be made automatically. I assume they will bet on the Parchamists, and then the latter will launch a new round of escalation in Afghan

society and ethnic groups, – Brzezinski made a confident assumption. – Much will depend on the professionalism of the CIA station in Kabul. It needs to be reinforced by operatives who know the Pashto and Dari languages, have worked in Asia and the Middle East, and most importantly, it needs to be given contacts in Pakistan and Iran.

– Zbig, we probably need to change chairs. You know the operational situation in Afghanistan so well that I envy you and believe we should work closely, – the CIA director noted favorably.

– Stan, – the presidential assistant immediately supported him, – we are pursuing a common cause. I have devoted thirty years of my life to it, working for America's national interests around the world. I have revealed to you only part of our plan, which we will report to the president together, and the second part is of geopolitical nature, but requires more time than the president's first term. Therefore, we must work day and night for Jimmy, and Afghanistan is our chance: yours, mine and, of course, the president's. This operation should be called "Split". The split of the USSR, the weakening of the communist movement and its fragmentation into small segments, the split of the Non-Aligned Movement as it is dominated by India, and the destruction of the Soviets' relations with the Arab world. We can plan the beginning of the geopolitical split in the White House and implement it in Afghanistan. This is how I see the United States National Security Strategy for the next decade.

August 2, 1978, Kabul

The KGB special group from Moscow was met at the airfield by Ambassador Puzanov and KGB officer Yershov. Without introducing anyone, Kryuchkov ordered to go to the embassy, since the heat was unbearable and the stifling air felt like ringing in the ears. Malinin took his belongings from the plane, helped his boss unload a heavy suitcase, and walked to the embassy bus that was waiting for the group. The convoy set off,



accompanied by the Afghan security service and traffic police, who immediately turned on the flashing lights and siren. The security officer sitting in the car used a loudspeaker to disperse trucks and taxis moving along the road. He yelled at the drivers so loudly and menacingly that Kryuchkov, who was driving with the ambassador, noticed that tomorrow all the embassies in Kabul would know about the arrival of his group from Moscow.

Oleg Malinin, meanwhile, looked out the window of the bus at the mountains encircling the capital of Afghanistan, at the donkeys grazing nearby and the skinny,

with protruding ribs, local cows of unknown breed.

"Well, this is not our Kholmogory cow with a two bucket udder", he thought a little triumphantly. "What can you milk from these hatracks: a mug or a half-liter jar. And out there in Spassk, on the Oka water meadows, we get a ten-liter bucket at the lunchtime milking! This is a real cow, and what is grazing here is only a misfortune for the owner," he concluded his mental associations.

Having entered the Soviet embassy, Oleg Malinin looked around the small embassy town and realized: here it was – the place of baptism of fire for which he had been preparing for so many years, studying Dari and German, Farsi and English, frantically playing sports and undergoing psychological preparation, immersing in training on neurolinguistic programming. It was here, in Kabul, that he would polish his operational skills, and transform the knowledge acquired at intelligence school into practical skills. He was happy with his thoughts and even with the dry, sultry air and unusual smells of this eastern city. Having heard that everyone could rest today, he happily stretched out on one of the beds prepared for the group and quickly fell asleep.

In the morning, Malinin woke up from the loud voice of muezzin, calling all devout Muslims to morning prayer. He slowly got out of bed and walked to the window. Despite the early morning, the city was already living an active life. The passersby scurrying along the streets were petty traders, artisans, who had to carry their goods and all sorts of rubbish from their homes to dukans and workshops every day. A donkey and a cart were the usual attributes of their life. As a rule, the houses of dukandors (owners of dukans – small shops) were located near small improvised bazaars, where they spent the major part of their lives. Often bazaars were replaced by ordinary streets, along which rows of shopping stalls stretched as far as the eye could see, beyond the city horizon. The roads in Kabul were clogged with cars of all European and Japanese brands, clearly long past their service life.

With battered bumpers and dented doors, with baggage racks welded or tightly screwed on top and license plates tied with wire, they transported passengers and all the cargo that could be found in Afghanistan. And all these – donkeys, people, taxis and carriers, sirens of government and military vehicles – made so much noise that the traveler who came to Kabul for the first time felt somewhat stunned, almost like in hell.

The military lived a life of their own, as they represented an aristocratic caste that had been formed for centuries. However, in recent decades, more and more people from the less affluent sections of the population appeared in the army, those who had managed to receive education in the Soviet Union and climb the career ladder of military service to command positions. They formed the backbone of the Khalq military wing, which played a key role in the April 1978 coup. Subsequently, they took leadership positions in various government structures and became conductors of a new political course in Kabul and the provinces of Afghanistan.

One of such officers was Asadullah Akbari. He was 26 years old and headed the Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Outwardly fit, athletic, with a good knowledge of Russian, he attracted women and enjoyed their keen interest. Akbari graduated from the Krasnodar Air Force School and was grateful to everything Soviet. He loved Soviet films, he especially liked such masterpieces of the Soviet cinema as "Kidnapping, Caucasian Style", "Gentlemen of Fortune", "White Sun of the Desert"... Asadullah respected the history of the Soviet Union, especially the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War. He loved to talk about it and was happy when he found grateful listeners.

It was he who became Malinin's first official contact after the "Agreement on the establishment of a mission of the USSR KGB and cooperation with the DRA special services" was signed on August 5, 1978. Two days later, having met with Taraki and Amin, the intelligence chief Kryuchkov, along with those accompanying him, flew to Moscow, and a group of Soviet intelligence officers

stayed to work in this mountainous Asian country, not knowing the difficult conditions in which they would have to work in the next two years. But the foreign intelligence officers, except Malinin, had extensive experience working in eastern countries, were well versed in Asian psychology and felt great in extreme situations. And most importantly, they all knew the head of the mission, Bogdanov, for many years, respected him for his professionalism and ability to make independent decisions in a combat situation. It was extremely important for the effective work of the group in conditions of the civil war, which was gaining bloody momentum in Afghanistan every day.

The next morning, Bogdanov held the first operational meeting in a small embassy room. He assigned the employees to the lines of local special services, which were plenty, and set tasks to establish official contacts with their heads.

– Keep in mind that in the near future we must draw up a new structure for the Afghan intelligence service, which I will coordinate with Amin a little later. Your task is to study the heads assigned to you thoroughly so that we know the approximate personnel potential for the Afghan KGB, – he instructed the officers. – Given the fact that a serious personnel purge of the army and special services has begun, we must be prepared that someone will have to be rescued and sent to the Union for safekeeping, and someone will be left behind without us saying them goodbye.

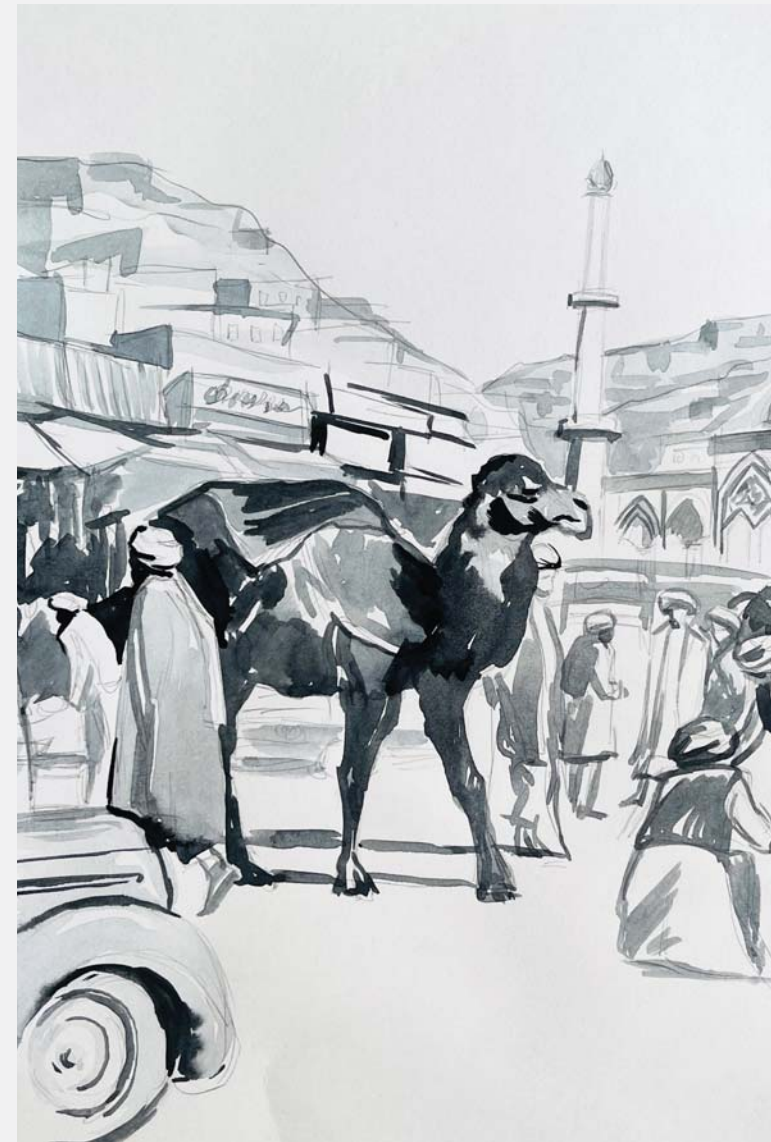
– Why, is Taraki really dealing with the opposition so brutally? – asked one of the representatives of the mission.

– It is not Taraki who is doing this, – answered Bogdanov, – it is Amin. Ambassador Puzanov and I don't understand the foundations of this terror yet. Members of the Parcham faction, career army officers are being eliminated, executions of the feudal nobility and clergy have begun... As if the authorities have set the task of blowing up the situation, and such a policy will bring the leadership of the PDPA to no good! – finished Leonid Pavlovich.

– But the Bolsheviks in 1922 also relied on the Red Terror, – Malinin entered into the debate. – And it gave its results: the young socialist republic was able to survive a powerful wave of pressure from the West and White émigré.

– Oleg, do not mix up the political situation in Russia after the revolution with the current situation in Afghanistan. The entire West united against Soviet Russia, trying to finish it off, wipe it off the face of the earth, so that not even a name remained of it. But no one is threatening Afghanistan now: neither Pakistan, nor Iran... Even the West is not getting involved in its affairs yet, although one of our tasks is to monitor the operational situation and, together with the residency, obtain information about the work of foreign intelligence services operating in Afghanistan, – the head of the mission unexpectedly concluded. – By the way, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is engaged in counterintelligence and specific work on foreign embassies in the current system of DRA special services. So, pay your attention to this part of the work, – he pointed out to Malinin. – It is possible that we will soon face strong opposition from them, so early development of this topic will allow the mission to expand its counterattack maneuver. If there are no questions, then please get to work and I wish everyone success!

The officers of the mission, leaving the embassy room, busily headed to the minibus to go to the assigned departments, and Malinin, inspired, stayed to work out an action plan in several directions at once. The first and extremely important thing was to work with the supervisee on foreign embassies, as the boss said today, and the second one was to organize the security service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Afghanistan. Malinin wanted, in the course of his work and personal contact with the head of this service, to understand the reasons for the mass executions of people by local security agencies. Why and for what purpose the military and political elite were executed every night, as they could be used in the interests of the country and the ruling



party. After all, the revolution had won, the PDPA led by Taraki had come to power! All they needed was to create a new system of government administration considering Afghan traditions and customs, to develop the economy, to strengthen the army, to form relationships with the clergy, who were an integral part of Islamic society...

This is how Oleg Malinin was idealistically thinking, not even suspecting that he would soon be bitterly disappointed in many of his ideas about the Saur Revolution and its driving force. However, now he went to meet the head of the security service, Asadullah

Akbari, with whom he was to work at the KGB mission for almost two years. It was a brief moment for history, but for the young operative it was a whole lifetime, some reminiscences of which would emerge in his memory as soon as he found himself in extreme situations, no matter in what region of the world they arouse.

Kabul. Code telegram from the KGB mission

Secret.

About the situation in Afghanistan in September – December 1978

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan began to carry out reforms in almost the entire country. At the same time, Taraki and Amin did not take into account the fact that the country's population and the party apparatus were not ready for them. This process immediately encountered opposition from the feudal tribal nobility and representatives of the comprador bourgeoisie. The land reform boiled down to the fact that large fertile areas were simply taken from the owners of the land, to whom it had belonged for many decades and even centuries, and given to villagers. In case of resistance from local feudal lords, they were arrested and taken to Kabul or the provincial center to a local prison, where the "death machine" worked around the clock. Gradually, the clergy became involved in opposing the authorities. During preaching, they actively opposed all PDPA reforms, including education, and called on the population to defend Muslim values by force of arms. Considering this position, the "death machine" started to work against the clergy as well.

The large-scale disruption of the usual way of life and traditional norms caused discontent among the general public and not only the wealthy population. Terror and government pressure generated large flows of refugees to neighboring countries. The intelligence services of Pakistan and Iran under the leadership of the US's CIA immediately took advantage of this. They began to form

combat units from these Afghans and return them for armed struggle in Afghanistan, in their provinces, where they became centers of armed resistance and counteraction to the authorities. The tribal commanders were the *de facto* leaders of the area where they came from, and so by the fall of 1978 an alternative center of power had emerged.

The movement of national minorities - Tajiks, Uzbeks and Turkmens - became a powerful source of the formation of counterrevolutionary forces. The historical conflict between them and the Pashtuns, who had always represented the central government, created a favorable environment for armed clashes between the ethnic minorities of the northern provinces and government security forces and the army. At the same time, they were supported by the Baloch people living in three countries: Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan, since the government through mass terror affected their regions and nomadic way of life.

KGB representative Bogdanov

For the first two months, the officers of the mission were familiarizing themselves with the situation in Afghanistan, meeting with the heads of the DRA special services, which consisted of a large number of independent units, and looking into their tasks and methods of work. Therefore, Oleg Malinin was receiving complete information about the situation in the country from contacts with the staff of the residency and diplomats of the embassy, who had been working in Kabul for a long time, as well as from information telegrams and reports sent weekly to Moscow. However, he was observing confirmation of everything that was happening during his visits to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where almost every day he met with his supervisee Asadullah Akbari, and when he talked with his subordinates.

Having got accustomed to their Soviet comrade, they no longer hid from him the night executions at the training ground outside Kabul. These mass actions were



carried out on the personal instructions of Amin, and the murders themselves received a cynical slogan "to send to Pakistan". Malinin repeatedly asked Akbari about the purposes and necessity for the government of such large-scale eliminations of educated people, and always received the same explanation: the revolution was in danger, enemies were uniting against the young republic, the opposition was just looking for an opportunity to carry out a coup and remove Taraki from his post. In this case, it was better to kill an extra hundred Parchamists or weak-willed military men, feudal lords or tribal leaders than to miss one leading oppositionist who could potentially guide a coup in the foreseeable future. This was how the Deputy Prime Minister, comrade and friend of the PDPA Secretary General Hafizullah Amin explained it to them.

This logic of one of the heads of the country's special services, and even with reference to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and curator of the Afghan special services Amin, brought to naught all the large-scale multifaceted work of the KGB mission, which tried to form a new structure of the Afghan security service as quickly as possible, trained operational personnel and supplied them through Moscow with technical equipment and special means for wiretapping telephones and conducting external surveillance. However, the rapid professional development of officers and the technical equipment of units were used by the PDPA leadership only against the political opposition and for punitive actions in the army.

Of particular concern to the KGB mission was the fact that falsified information about the alleged participation of Soviet intelligence officers in the execution of Afghans began to spread throughout Kabul among the diplomatic corps of Western embassies and through their connections was running down to the provinces.

It was time to firmly resist the information attacks of the "Westerners" and at the same time to identify their contacts with the ruling elite of the Afghan government. This task was undertaken by the residency of the Soviet intelligence, but it was becoming obvious that one of the larger players was placing pieces on the chessboard of political events in Afghanistan. The game was getting too coordinated, especially after combat training camps and bases for the Afghan Mujahideen started to be formed in Peshawar (Pakistan) in September 1978, and armed uprisings began in Nuristan (a province of Afghanistan) in October.

Bogdanov convened a meeting of the staff of the mission and demanded more active work in the DRA special services at foreign embassies and, first of all, the residencies of the CIA, Pakistan, Iran and China.

– Use all the forces and means of the Afghan counterintelligence, – he said harshly, – otherwise what are we working here for? We have created a new, most optimal model of

the special service for Afghanistan, provided the latest special equipment, trained management and operational personnel, and now the time has come to test them in action, – he summed it up, and, as everyone understood, he was no longer joking. – I will talk with Sarwari as the head of the Afghan Security Service, and I am convinced that we will be able to find an integral solution to obtaining objective information and countering Western and Asian intelligence services. We need to show the enemy that the KGB of the USSR, through local special services in Afghanistan, is capable of working powerfully and aggressively, and in such a way that their agent ties with local political and military elites, clergy and tribal leaders will be destroyed every single day. Therefore, I ask you to proceed with the task at hand, – he concluded with fewer metallic notes in his voice. – And also, Malinin, you must draw Akbari's attention to the contacts of American diplomats in Kabul, including at diplomatic receptions with colleagues from the Afghan Foreign Ministry. Perhaps we will receive information of operational interest that will allow us to creatively approach the cultivation of some senior officials who have access to serious secrets. I wish you success, young man. Now get to work! – Leonid Pavlovich finished his speech on a completely friendly note.

To be continued.

Wind of Victory. Routes of patriotism

Text: Vladimir Golobokov, Administrative director of the Wind of Victory club of authors' military songs
Photo: archive of the Wind of Victory club



With the beginning of the Russian special military operation, the collective of the Wind of Victory club of authors' military songs could not stand aside: some of its members went to the combat zone as volunteers, others devoted themselves to organizing humanitarian missions to Novorossiya. In addition, members of the Club regularly performed concerts for military personnel undergoing rehabilitation in hospitals and sanatoriums. Wind of Victory also went to work collectives to

maintain working spirit at defense industry enterprises. The largest scale has been given to the program of creative meetings with employees of the Russian holding company Almaz-Antey. Over the past year, club members visited military factories in Bryansk, Dolgoprudny, Yekaterinburg, Izhevsk, Murom, Ryazan, Ulyanovsk and other cities.

On December 21, 2022, a long-awaited concert was performed for students and teachers of the Foreign Intelligence Academy. The program was extremely diverse: patriotic poems and songs written by club members, including those dedicated to intelligence service, alternated with classic romances by Vera Azikova, Vera Klimkovich, Dmitry Yurkov and other authors. But they all had one thing in common – an endless love for Russia.

Another important project for the patriotic education of youth is being implemented by club members together with the Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics (MTUCI). On December 2, 2022, within the walls of MTUCI, Wind of Victory held an event called "Meeting with a Hero" with the participation of our great friend, the veteran of Great Patriotic War Ivan Ivanovich Grishanov. His extremely touching poems about the war did not leave anyone present indifferent,

as evidenced not only by the stormy applause in the hall, but also by numerous grateful comments from students on social networks. Here are just a few of them:

'A great event that helped two generations to become a little closer. The heroes' fates are very interesting and instructive.'

'I really enjoyed the event. I couldn't even imagine that I could feel so deeply into it!'

'I went with my fellow students to listen to the stories of veterans. We didn't regret it at all, Grishanov's poems really touched us...'

'The most memorable parts of the event were the stories from the heroes' lives. Such stories are very motivating.'

According to the general opinion of the authors and performers of Wind of Victory, the potential of such meetings is very high. They carry out the most important mission of preserving and strengthening the historical truth, ensuring the connection of times and generations. Each member of the club, regardless of his past merits, awards and achievements, again is at the front, now an informational one, fighting for the minds and hearts of our youth. 🇷🇺

On February 13 was the founder and permanent leader of the Wind of Victory club, poet A.G. Pshenichny's 75th anniversary! The editors of the Razvedchik magazine on behalf of all readers congratulate dear Anatoly Grigorievich, wish him new creative achievements, good health, good spirits, family warmth, prosperity and peaceful skies above his head!

Poems by members of Wind of Victory club of authors' military songs and veterans of the Foreign Intelligence Service



Evgeny Yushin

Member of the Russian Writers' Union, poet

To Europe

Freedom of vulgarity and chatter
Sometimes is pink, sometimes is blue.
So farewell, the corrupt Europe –
You are not more than American slave.
Goodbye, no matter how angry you are,
Judah's outcome is predetermined:
All you can do is hang yourself,
You have betrayed your people too.
Your road is now slippery and smoky.
And we've united not in vain.
So you live, your God forgotten,
And your life has become stained.
Farewell, we know another way,
Without gold or boundaries,
Where a field of songs ripens
With cornflowers' eyes among the rye.
And if for the fate of our people
We all are going to die,
Angels will greet us by the entrance,
And you will fall into the hell.

Andrey Galamaga

Member of the Russian Writers' Union, poet

Night Witches

Dedicated to the memory of the girls
of the 46th Guard Bomber Air Regiment

You've called us witches, but in vain.
You never cared about witches;
For centuries you have won easily,
Torturing them with iron and fire.
In vain you bare your embittered jaws,
Everything is different this time;
Iron and fire are not in your power,
Now they will fall on you.

For every earthly crime
You are condemned to answer.
We girls are heavenly creatures,
But for the enemy we're worse than a million of witches.

You won't catch us with your bare hands,
When, bravely crossing the spotlights,
We silently start low-flying attack
And approach the target with engines turned off.

Who will lure us with a promise of paradise?
For eighty troubles there is just one answer!
And even if we're burning in the sky,
For those who follow us, we make a rut.

Your hatred, ire, and anger are powerless.
We're here, there, and around – on all sides.
And even if you don't close your eyes,
We in reality are but your awful dream.

And you won't find salvation anywhere –
Huddled in a crevice, crawling or running.
No, we are not witches, we are goddesses of vengeance,
Knowing no pity for the enemy

Sergey Pestov

Captain in reserve

I want to live in Russia

I crave for the influence of a superpower.
Russia is a half of the globe.
But my brothers more often see Cairo
Than native places of their childhood.
I don't have enough arms and strengths to run.
A friend of mine flew to Las Vegas for good.

And the girl next door,
Whom I knew from an early age,
Leaves for Paris searching for happiness.
And now my friends go overseas, and I...

I want to live in Russia,
In the center of the whole world,
At the core of the Universe,
With just and imperishable faith,
With a frank Russian soul.

I want to live in Russia,
Gold-domed and strong,
Near my dear origins,
From Moscow to the east,
In an eternal dispute with a hard destiny,
Russia, I am with you!

Snow covers up traces of escape.
Running is a cure for boredom.
Well, and I in a day,
Like a fish in the water,
Will still keep afloat and be strong.
I want to live in Russia!

You can live in London, Delhi, or Iskra.
You can drink wine, absinthe, or whiskey.
Only where it is for the soul,
You can only decide for yourself.
Maybe it is in Russia itself,
Where you were raised from an early age,
Where in the native silence,
Somewhere in the depths,
Lies your snow.
I want to live in Russia!

Anatoly Pshenichny

Veteran of the SVR

Merry Christmas!

(on behalf of the "partially mobilized")

The candles are burning out in the cartridges,
The guns are choking on smoke...
People don't die on Christmas –
This day people are only born.
Maybe we forgot our private life,
Sparing no brotherly strength,
But from those "partially mobilized"
Nobody here has dodged!
Not "partially" we were kissing
Banners on the parade ground,
Not "partially" we were spitting
At a low-down profiteer!
We'll ram the ire once again
In our hot chambers by companies,
And instead of emetic drops,
They'll see the "mask show" videos!
Not a "partial" uneasiness
Canceled our melancholy –
There is no "partial faith" in God,
And no "partial faith" in Russia!
...Himarses play blind man's buff,
But all their attempts are just vain:
People don't die on Christmas –
This day people are only born!



Drawing by Vladimir Mochalov

The shops in this town sell local souvenirs, including weapons and ammunition

Selected moments of operational correspondence

When asked about the reasons for his concern, the source said in a mournful tone that his wife had given birth to triplets.

When talking about Americans, our source either says nothing or uses obscene language.

The foreigner is disciplined, he tries his best to come to our meetings strictly at the appointed time, although he rarely succeeds.

The foreigner talks about money especially passionately, with a predatory gleam in his eyes.

As "D" confessed, the situation in his family continues to remain tense, although things have not come to blows yet.

According to the subject, he is tired of life and people. As he gets older, he dreams of buying a pig farm, where he would like to spend the rest of his life.

Staying lost in thought and silent for a while, the foreigner said that the best age to determine one's abilities and vocation is 60 years old. At this age you already know exactly what you would have become if you could start life all over again.

In the next issue of the magazine:

**CIS General Secretary
Sergey Nikolayevich Lebedev:**
«Intelligence should be your life...»

White emigration in 1920s
Declassified archives

«Our man in Vatican»
110th anniversary
of Iosif Romualdovich Grigulevich

«Stierlitz! I would ask you to...»
50th anniversary of the legendary movie



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