

La Libre Belgique 29 June 67

Since the First of the ;Year

A Serious Blow Has Been Given the Soviet Espionage in East Europe

From Which Comes, without doubt, the Replacement in Moscow of the Secret Service Chief

Since the beginning of 1967 a series of exposures has dealt a serious blow to Soviet espionage and subversion in Europe. In January Soviet military intelligence officer Vladimir TCHERETOUNE, in Brussels under cover of "Aeroflot representative", was forced to leave Belgium as a result of his efforts to obtain classified information on military aviation matters.

Shortly after TCHERETOUNE's expulsion from Belgium, the Dutch arrested and expelled another Aeroflot representative, V. A. GLOUKHOV who, in contrast with the cool self-control one associates with Soviet spies such as SORGE or ABEL, cried like a stuck pig (a braille comme un veau) when he was arrested

Last March the arrest in Italy of the Soviet spy RINALDI and several of his agents led to the exposure of numerous Soviet intelligence officers who were obliged to leave the countries to which they were assigned:

Y. K. PAVLENKO (Attache in Italy), I. P. OTCHOURKOV (trade delegate in Greece), B. M. PETRINE (Attache in Greece), N. I. RANOV (Aeroflot representative in Cyprus), A. M. ZAKHAROV (2nd Secretary in Cyprus), and others.

In April the spotlight was again focused on Belgium when TASS correspondent Anatoli OGORODNIKOV was arrested and expelled for espionage. Third Secretary of Embassy Vitali BALACHOV and Soviet film representative Oleg SEMIKOV were also invited to leave Belgium as a result of their subversive activity. One of the agents handled by the OGORODNIKOV-BALACHOV-SEMIKOV troika also identified her former KGB masters in Tunis -- A. N. ZELENIN and Y. G. MURATOV. In another North African country, Morocco, t Aeroflot representative K. A. AKSENOV was also demasked as a Soviet intelligence officer.

The kindly Swiss were finally goaded by the aggressiveness of Soviet subversion into expelling I. Y. PETROV -- a Soviet official of the International Telecommunications Union who tried to recruit a Swiss citizen to obtain political information.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHOD 5 EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Many other Soviet intelligence officers have also been unmasked in 1967:

K. G. LEMZENKO of the Soviet Trade organization "Sovfrakht" in Italy; "Professor" S. A. TCHOUMOVSKY who was in the Netherlands earlier this year; G. Y. BALAN and A. V. SOLOVOV, both formerly in Italy; P. I. LOMAKINE, Military Attache in Cyprus; M. E. KLEIMENOV with the UN in Geneva; Victor PETROUKHINE and Nikolai MACHKOVTSSEV, both formerly in Cyprus. Other Soviets will undoubtedly be exposed as a result of the recently uncovered Soviet espionage net in Norway.

The publicity resulting from the massive exposure of Soviet espionage has detracted attention from one tenaciously pursued Soviet activity -- the destruction of anti-Soviet emigre groups. Ever since the creation of the CHEKA (the original name for the Kremlin's principal espionage and subversion organization now called the KGB), a primary effort has been made to wipe out anti-Soviet emigre organizations. High on the list of emigres who are anathema to the Soviets are the Ukrainian nationalists. These are a people who cling tenaciously to their own culture, who refuse to be Russianized and whom the Soviets fear--especially those Ukrainians who live abroad rather than submit to the Soviet regime.

Indeed, a separate component was set up within the CHEKA (KGB) solely to deal with emigres. This department organized the plan which brought about the assassination of the world-renowned Ukrainian emigre leaders, Stepan BANDERA and Lev REBET in 1957 and 1959 -- acts carried out in Germany.

The unending war against Ukrainian emigres most recently erupted in France and passed almost unnoticed because of the attention focused on the other arrests of Soviets and their agents in Europe already mentioned.

Last February French police quietly approached the benches near Place des Ternes in Paris and arrested one T. BIDNYK. BIDNYK, a fifty-seven year old Ukrainian emigre had been working in Europe against the Ukrainians and for the KGB for almost ten years. His mission for the Soviets was to infiltrate the Ukrainian emigre group called OURF (Organization of Ukrainian Workers in France) and betray them. This he did successfully by making himself very useful to OURF officers and members in Paris

Munich and other cities. Always very efficient, always ready to be helpful, BIDNYK served OURF people -- visiting their summer youth camps, chauffeuring dignitaries, meeting visitors at the station -- a perfect dogsbody.

The price of his betrayal reportedly was 650 ^{French} francs a month from his Soviet masters.

The arrest of BIDNYK by the French police will doubtless precipitate some action on the part of French authorities and may result in the expulsion of his Soviet employers in France. Coincidentally, ever since the arrest of BIDNYK, Ukrainian nationalists in France have noted the conspicuous absence of Alexander DAVIDOV, a Second Secretary in the Russian UNESCO Delegation in Paris. DAVIDOV was well known among the emigres in Paris and his absence leads them to conclude that he was involved with BIDNYK.

In addition to efforts to penetrate anti-Soviet emigre organizations, the Soviets also organize and control pro-Soviet emigre groups. Many emigres of Russian origin have obtained citizenship of the country in which they now live but in Soviet eyes they are still Soviet citizens. They are pressured to register with the Soviet Consulate, to obtain a Soviet passport for refuges living abroad and to perform services including espionage for the Soviets. In Belgium the Union des Citoyens Sovetiques has sections in principal Belgian cities.

While the recent rollup of Soviet spies has not incapacitated the massive Soviet espionage effort, it is believed to have had serious consequences on the KGB itself. In addition to its world wide espionage activities, the KGB also has the responsibility of insuring that both its own agents and those of the GRU (military intelligence) are protected from counterespionage. The recent rollup of both GRU and KGB agents is proof that the KGB underestimated European security services and did not adequately carry out its counterintelligence responsibilities.

According to a TASS announcement of 19 May, Vladimir SEMITCHASTNI was recently replaced as Chief of the KGB (Chairman of the Committee for State Security) by Yuri ANDROPOV. It is speculated that the change in KGB leadership was provoked by recent exposures of Soviet espionage.

Among ANDROPOV's other qualifications for the job as Chief of the KGB, he served as Ambassador in Hungary from 1954 to 1957 and helped in the suppression of the Hungarian revolt.

ANDROPOV will certainly make every effort to avoid the errors of his predecessor and to prove the effectiveness of Soviet espionage. As the new European Capitol and center of NATO, Brussels will be high on his target list.