

SECRET
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE U.S.S.R.

DURING the night of April 25-26, 1953, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the U.S.S.R. received information that an unidentified foreign plane had violated the Soviet border and appeared over the territory of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. It has been established that foreign intelligence agents were dropped by parachute from this plane.

Measures taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the U.S.S.R. led, on April 27, to the location and arrest of two parachutists who called themselves Vasily Vasilyevich Vasilchenko and Leonid Nikolayevich Matkovsky.

The captured parachutists confessed that they were saboteurs who had been smuggled into the U.S.S.R. from abroad by the American secret service in order to carry out tasks of sabotage, terrorism and espionage. The saboteurs stated that during the night of April 25-26, 1953, they had been dropped by parachute on to the territory of the Ukrainian S.S.R. from an American four-engined plane carrying no identification marks.

During the interrogation, Vasilchenko and Matkovsky confessed that they were going under assumed names given them by American intelligence and that their real names were, in the case of "Vasilchenko," Alexander Vasilyevich Lakhno, alias Alec in the espionage service; and in the case of "Matkovsky," Alexander Nikolayevich Makov, alias Pete in the espionage service.

Lakhno and Makov testified that two other saboteurs—American intelligence agents known under the aliases of "John" and "Dick"—had been dropped together with them from the same plane.

As a result of measures taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the U.S.S.R. the saboteurs "John" and "Dick" were also located and arrested on the same day, on April 27. "John" turned out to be Sergei Izosimovich Gorbunov, and "Dick" turned out to be Dmitry Nikolayevich Remiga.

At the time of their arrest the parachutists were found to be in possession of firearms, poison (potassium cyanide), four short-wave sets of American make, radio beacons for indicating targets to planes, cryptographic materials, means for the production of Soviet documents, large sums in Soviet currency, foreign gold coins and printing blocks with the texts of anti-Soviet leaflets.

Open parachutes were found at the points where the saboteurs had landed.

The investigation into the case of the arrested saboteurs established that during the years of the Great Patriotic War Lakhno, Makov and Gorbunov had already been active accomplices of the German fascist occupation authorities, betraying Soviet people who were engaged in patriotic activities against the fascist invaders, and taking part in the operations of German punitive detachments against the partisans. Thus, for example, the prisoner Lakhno had betrayed five Soviet patriots who were shot by Gestapo agents; the saboteur Makov had repeatedly taken part, in the "Black Sea" punitive battalion, in the atrocities and violence employed by the German fascist invaders against Soviet patriots.

After the defeat of Hitler Germany, Lakhno, Makov, Gorbunov and Remiga fled to Western Germany where they easily succeeded in finding new masters and patrons in the American intelligence agencies.

The traitors to the motherland, Lakhno, Makov, Gorbunov and Remiga, who were already experienced in foul treachery, were enrolled in the American intelligence service and sent to a special school of espionage and sabotage maintained by

Perennial Varieties of Wheat

Scientists and workers in agriculture are busily engaged in trying to improve the hybrid perennial forms of wheat with a view to submitting the best forms for large-scale tests. They are also tackling the problem of obtaining by 1956 a new variety of wheat which, in a single year, will produce one crop for grain and a second for hay.

American intelligence in the small town of Bad Wisse, near Munich, Bavaria.

Under the instruction of American intelligence officers who went under the aliases of "Bill," "Bob," "Captain" and "Vladimir," the traitors Lakhno, Makov, Gorbunov and Remiga received a thorough grounding in methods of organizing and executing acts of terrorism, sabotage and espionage on the territory of the Soviet Union, and in the use of weapons and explosives. They were also trained in the operation of specially designed American wireless sets, intended for use in espionage.

In the course of the investigation it was learned in particular that one of the "teachers" in the American school of sabotage and terrorist activities at Bad Wisse who instructed the arrested parachutists in methods of sabotage and terrorism, is Holliday, a captain in American intelligence.

As the saboteurs Lakhno, Makov, Gorbunov and Remiga testified, the American school of espionage and sabotage at Bad Wisse is not the only "educational institution" of this kind in Western Germany. "Schools" like it also exist in Munich, Frankfurt-on-Main, Kaufbeuren and Bad Werishofen. In all these "schools" the American intelligence service is secretly training spies, saboteurs and assassins with a view to smuggling them into the Soviet Union and the people's democracies.

The American intelligence agent Major Ronald Otto Bollenbach, who in 1946-47 held the post of assistant air and naval attache of the United States in Moscow, is employed as an instructor at one of these "schools," in Kaufbeuren, Bavaria, under the assumed name of "Pepper Jim."

The saboteurs Lakhno, Makov, Gorbunov and Remiga testified that after completing the course of training at Bad Wisse, they were supplied by the American intelligence agents with forged Soviet passports, forged certificates of service, weapons, poisons, wireless sets, codes, cryptographic and other materials, and on April 23, 1953, accompanied by the aforementioned American intelligence officer, Captain Holliday, they were taken in an American military plane from Munich to Greece and landed on an aerodrome in Athens.

At the Athens aerodrome the saboteurs were met by Major Harold Irving Fidler of the American intelligence service, who in 1951 made three visits to the Soviet Union in the guise of a diplomatic courier of the U.S. State Department.

During the evening of April 25, the saboteurs were equipped with parachutes and were placed by Fidler in the aforementioned American four-engined plane that was without identification marks, which brought them to their destination, where they were dropped on to the territory of the Soviet Union.

The arrested saboteurs testified that they had orders from the American intelligence service to make their way to Kiev and Odessa, and try in the first place, by all possible means, down to the murder of Soviet people, to obtain genuine Soviet documents to take the place of the forged documents fabricated for them by American intelligence, to settle in the aforementioned cities, using these documents, and by means of the wireless sets given them, to establish communication in code with the American intelligence radio centre in Western Germany for the purpose of receiving further instructions from American intelligence with regard to the practical execution of acts of terrorism and sabotage on the territory of the Soviet Union.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the U.S.S.R. completed the investigation into the case of the saboteurs A. V. Lakhno, A. N. Makov, S. I. Gorbunov and D. N. Remiga and referred their case to the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R.

Having recently considered the case of Alexander Vasilyevich Lakhno, Alexander Nikolayevich Makov, Sergei Izosimovich Gorbunov and Dmitry Nikolayevich Remiga, the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R., taking into consideration the gravity of the crimes perpetrated by them against the Soviet state, sentenced them, on the basis of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. of January 12, 1950, "On the Execution of Traitors to the Motherland, Spies and Saboteurs," to the highest penalty—death by shooting.

The sentence has been carried out.

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