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CIS: STATUS OF QUEST FOR U.S. MIA'S UPDATED (TAKE 2 OF 3)

///IN MYSTERY FOREVER.

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TEXT QUITE OFTEN ON HIS RELEASE A PRISONER WOULD REMAIN UNDER OPEN SURVEILLANCE, HAVE HIS MOVEMENTS RESTRICTED, AND BE GIVEN A RUSSIAN NAME. THE EXAMPLE OF THE FORMER GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY NIKOS ZAKHARIADIS, WHO LIVED IN SURGUT UNDER THE NAME NIKOLAY NIKOLAYEVICH NIKOLAYEV AND COMMITTED SUICIDE IN 1979, IS NOT ENTIRELY TYPICAL: HIS PARTY COLLEAGUES KNEW OF HIS SITUATION. MORE OFTEN A PRISONER DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN AND, WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY DID ARISE, HE WAS ALREADY AS A RULE TOTALLY ASSIMILATED, HAD A FAMILY, AND COULD NOT EVEN IMAGINE RETURNING. THE AUTHOR KNOWS OF SEVERAL PEOPLE LIKE THAT, INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO ARE CURRENTLY PROSPERING -- ADMITTEDLY NOT AMERICANS.

LAST, A PRISONER MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXECUTED UNDER ARTICLE 58 OF THE RUSSIAN SOVIET FEDERATED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC CRIMINAL CODE (USUALLY CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE OR TERRORISM) OR UNDER THE DECREE OF 19 APRIL 1943 IF THE ACCUSED WERE WEHRMACHT SERVICEMEN OR AN "ACCOMPLICE" OF THE OCCUPIERS. I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN ABOUT THIS HITHERTO SECRET ACT, WHICH HAS PRESUMABLY LOST ITS LEGAL VALIDITY, THAT MADE PROVISION FOR DEATH BY HANGING. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, THE BELGIAN NATIONAL YERMAK LUKYANOV NAME AS TRANSLITERATED WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE DRACONIAN DECREE IN MAY 1964.

THE IDEA THAT U.S. PILOTS COULD HAVE FOUGHT IN KOREA AND VIETNAM UNDER ASSUMED NAMES, AS WAS THE PRACTICE IN OUR COUNTRY, MUST BE CONSIDERED GROUNDLESS. U.S. ARMY FIELD REGULATION FM 21-76 ("SURVIVAL, AVOIDANCE OF CAPTURE, AND ESCAPE FROM JAIL") IN THE CHAPTER "CONDUCT UNDER INTERROGATION" RECOMMENDS THAT A PRISONER GIVE HIS TRUE NAME, RANK, NUMBER, AND DATE OF BIRTH. THAT WAS HOW THE SURVIVING CREW MEMBERS FROM THE RB-47 AIRCRAFT DOWNED OVER THE BARENTS SEA 1 JULY 1960 BEHAVED. THEIR STORY COULD SERVE AS A MODEL OF WHAT DID HAPPEN OR MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO U.S. PILOTS BROUGHT DOWN NEAR SOVIET BORDERS.

SECOND PILOT BRUCE OLSTED AND NAVIGATOR JOHN MAKKOUN SURNAMAS AS TRANSLITERATED SPENT ALMOST SEVEN MONTHS IN THE LUBYANKA. THE INTERROGATION INDICATES THAT INVESTIGATOR COLONEL PANKRATOV PREPARED THE TRIAL ON THE BASIS OF THE POWERS TRIAL. THE PILOTS WERE FREED RIGHT AFTER JOHN KENNEDY'S INAUGURATION AS A "GOOD WILL GESTURE," BUT ONLY BECAUSE NO CONFESSIONS WERE EXTRACTED FROM THEM. SO AMERICANS MOST LIKELY GAVE THEIR REAL NAMES, ALTHOUGH PRISONERS WERE NEARLY ALWAYS GIVEN DIFFERENT NAMES IN JAILS AND CAMPS.

THERE IS ANOTHER SPECIFIC DIFFICULTY. PEOPLE OF GERMAN, JAPANESE, AND ITALIAN DESCENT SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THESE PEOPLE COULD HAVE GONE TO A CAMP ON THE BASIS OF "NATIONAL ALLEGIANCE," ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SOVIET UNION NEVER COMMITTED ITSELF TO COMPLYING WITH THE HAGUE AND GENEVA CONVENTIONS WHEREBY MILITARY UNIFORM IS THE CRUCIAL INDICATION OF CITIZENSHIP.

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IN SHORT, THE PRACTICE OF SOVIET PUNITIVE ORGANS ILLUSTRATES THAT ANYTHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO PRISONERS. YET THERE IS NOTHING FANTASTIC ABOUT THE HOPE OF FINDING AMERICANS ALIVE OR AT LEAST TRACES OF THEM.

THE REPORTS OF AMERICANS IN SOVIET CAMPS AND JAILS ARE SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO START CHECKING THEM OUT. THERE WAS A CAMP SOMEWHERE IN BELARUS IN 1945 FOR BLACK SOLDIERS -- NEARBY INHABITANTS WOULD HARDLY HAVE FORGOTTEN SUCH AN EXOTIC DETAIL. COLONEL GORDON, ARRESTED IN VIENNA IN 1949, WAS SEEN IN LVOV TRANSIT JAIL IN 1953. - AN UNNAMED LIEUTENANT AND NCO, PARTICIPANTS IN THE KOREAN WAR, WERE SEEN AT A PHOSPHORUS MINE NEAR YAKUTSK (CAMP NO. 307) IN 1960. LIEUTENANT WARREN SANDERSON WAS SEEN AT INTE. AND PILOT JOE MILLER WAS SEEN AT KARABAS IN MARCH 1947 -- HE HAD BEEN BROUGHT DOWN OVER BERLIN IN 1945. COLONEL JACKSON, ARRESTED IN BERLIN, WAS SEEN IN DUBROVLAK (THE REPORT IS DATED MID-1953). THE CREW OF A B-29 BROUGHT DOWN OVER THE SEA OF JAPAN 13 JULY 1952 (13 MEN) WERE KEPT IN KHABAROVSK POW CAMP NO. 21 (OCTOBER 1951), WHILE ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF A CREW BROUGHT DOWN THERE 6 NOVEMBER 1951 WAS SEEN IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL NORTH OF MAGADAN (1954). THIS PILOT SERVED 25 YEARS FOR ESPIONAGE. IN BOTH CASES THE REPORTS HAVE COME FROM REPATRIATED JAPANESE.

DZHEZKAZGAN, MAGNITOGORSK. PERM, NORILSK, NOVOSIBIRSK, OMSK, PECHORA, POTMA, TAYSHET, VERKHNEURALSK, VLADIVOSTOK, VOLOGDA, VRANGEL ISLAND, YAVAS, THE RENOWNED VLADIMIR JAIL OD-1/ST-2 EXPANSION UNKNOWN ... FAMILIAR NAMES. SOMETIMES AN AMERICAN IS CITED BY NAME, OFTEN NOT, BUT IN THESE CASES MINIMAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS GIVEN, FOR INSTANCE: DATE AND PLACE OF CAPTURE, RANK, CATEGORY OF TROOPS. THE MOST DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNS THE VORKUTA CAMPS: MINE NO. 40 -- WILLIAM BIZET SURNAME AS TRANSLITERATED FROM KOREA, A LIEUTENANT OR NCO CONVICTED UNDER ARTICLE 58; CAMP NO. 6 -- MAJOR ROBERT (?) SHVARTS SURNAME AS TRANSLITERATED, ABDUCTED IN KASSEL IN 1949; CONVALESCENT CAMP -- CREW OF A U.S. NAVY PRIVATEER AIRCRAFT BROUGHT DOWN OVER THE BALTIC 6 APRIL 1950 (10 MEN); COLONEL DAVISON, ABDUCTED IN VIENNA IN 1946, IS ALSO THERE.

DMITRIY VOLKOGONOV HAS RECENTLY PROVIDED DOCUMENTARY CONFIRMATION ONCE AGAIN THAT U.S. WORLD WAR II PRISONERS WERE KEPT IN TAMBOV'S "RADA" (NO. 188) POW CAMP. THE COLONEL GENERAL WAS CLEARLY HASTY IN DECLARING HIS DISCOVERY A SENSATION: IN THIS CASE IT IS A QUESTION OF AMERICANS WHO SERVED IN THE GERMAN ARMY (THERE WERE AT LEAST 108 SUCH PEOPLE IN THE TAMBOV CAMP, ACCORDING TO "SPECIAL" ARCHIVE FIGURES).

I MUST PARTICULARLY POINT OUT THAT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING POW'S AND MIA'S ARE STILL SECRET IN THE UNITED STATES OR HAVE BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY DECLASSIFIED. THAT IS WHY IN A NUMBER OF CASES WE DO NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF THE AMERICANS CONCERNED OR THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION -- THIS INFORMATION IS CAREFULLY OBLITERATED WHEN THE DOCUMENTS ARE DECLASSIFIED.

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