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TO INFO	Chief of Base, Munich COS, Germany		HEADQUARTERS FILE NO. 32W-2-28/1
FROM	Chief, SR		DATE 24 SEP 1958
SUBJECT	UPSWING/REDWOOD/LEIMPROVE/Operations		RE: "433" - (CHECK "X" ONE)
	Soviet Intelligence Series, SIS No. 1, "Support to 'Illegals' Furnished by KGB Residencies Under Official Cover"		MARKED FOR INDEXING
ACTION REQUIRED	See Para 2.		NO INDEXING REQUIRED
REFERENCE(S)	INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY		

EGMA-36097 *835* 150.3 RIS

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Support to "Illegals" Furnished by KGB Residencies Under
Official Cover

1. Sufficient evidence now exists for a fairly positive statement that KGB "illegal" networks of the Russian Intelligence Services (RIS) receive some support from Soviet official missions, at least in some countries. Though financial and communications support are the two types firmly identified, there may be others. The recent Reino HAYHANEN-Rudolf ABEL espionage case** gives evidence that these "illegal" networks receive such support even in a country like the United States with a highly efficient internal security service.

2. In addition to other means of communications, HAYHANEN, a member of ABEL's "illegal" or deep-cover network, had "official" (legal) dead drops, serviced by a Soviet United Nations official, Mikhail Nikolayevich SVIRIN, either directly or through a cut-out. This "official" dead drop seems to have been HAYHANEN's primary means of communication, through which he received instructions and money and passed information. (HAYHANEN has stated that ABEL also had "official" drops; HAYHANEN had driven ABEL to the drop sites, which ABEL said were serviced by officials. HAYHANEN suspected, but did not know for certain, that these drops were also serviced by SVIRIN or his cut-out.) Besides the dead-drop contact, HAYHANEN also had personal meetings with SVIRIN on at least two occasions. When arrangements were being made for HAYHANEN to return to Moscow, he received instructions that, in certain countries en route to Moscow, contact with him would be established by Soviet intelligence officers under official cover there.

3. The HAYHANEN evidence of support to "illegal" networks by Soviet official personnel is further borne out by other cases and by statements of other Soviet Intelligence defectors. One "illegal" Soviet agent was assigned to several foreign posts, in each case (with one possible exception) being put in touch with a Soviet officer under official cover. From statements of recent defectors it would seem that an "illegal" support unit (nelegal'nyy sektor) is a more or less standard component of Soviet State Security official - cover residencies abroad.

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4. Although no general statement can be made as to specific cover positions in Soviet official establishments which may be utilized by "illegal" support units, there are some indications, not as yet definitive, that consular and commercial activities are favored by these units. This may well be because "illegal" agents would tend toward commercial cover and such an arrangement would make contact between the official-cover officer and the agent (whether direct or through a cut-out) easier. At any rate, it appears possible that once the Illegal Section of the KGB had obtained a slot in an official establishment, it would try to retain that slot for continuous use by its officers.

*"Illegal" - An "illegal" agent is one working under non-official cover.

An "illegal" support officer under official cover is a staff officer charged with responsibility for supporting "illegal" operations in the field.

"Legal" Cover - Official cover, such as diplomatic, commercial, or military.

**Reino HAYHANEN, an agent in an "illegal" net in the United States, defected in Paris, where he was en route to the USSR, on 6 May 1957. The information he provided ultimately led to the arrest and conviction of his principal, Colonel Rudolf ABEL. HAYHANEN had operated in Finland from 1949 to 1952, primarily building his cover, and in the US from 1952 until the date of his defection. ABEL operated in the US at least from 1949. ABEL was sentenced to a thirty year prison term for espionage.

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