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Station: Berlin Report No. 626/RGB-911
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Source: Gull Information Date: Current
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SUBJECT: SPHINX PROJECT; CONTACT WITH DR. LEONID AXENOFF

1. Reference: Operation's Report ESC/Ops/003 dated 2 December 1946.
2. This is the second of a series of reports dealing with a projected attempt on the part of Gull, our source, to make a comprehensive survey of dissident Slav elements in Berlin. It is hoped that the information derived from such a survey will prove useful to this organization.
3. Pursuant to instructions received from SC in Munich, source contacted a Dr. Leonid AXENOFF, Nassauische Strasse 54-55, Berlin/Wilmersdorf (British Sector). Dr. AXENOFF has been living in Berlin since 1921 and knows the whole Russian colony. He was formerly with the Russian Red Cross. Politically, according to source, he is a monarchist. In 1945-46 he was arrested 2 or 3 times by the NKVD, and was interrogated approximately 12 times. A Russian colonel interrogator particularly interested himself in a V. LARIONOFF. A balalaika player with the same name was mistakenly picked up by the Russians, but was released after 4 days. The Russian quest for V. LARIONOFF seems to have abated.
4. Dr. AXENOFF told source that the Russians had arrested many of the Russian emigres in Berlin, and he knows about 20 of these who are now used as informers for the MVD in the non-Russian sectors. He stated that the following people are definitely Soviet agents:
 - a. Basil (Wassili) ORLOW, formerly a Russian lawyer, who turned to playing the balalaika for a living. He is presently an interpreter for the Russians. Sometime in 1945, he approached Dr. AXENOFF and attempted to make him an informant for the Russians.
 - b. Alexander BOGEMSKI, Neue Ansbacherstrasse 18, Berlin/Schöneberg (U. S. Sector), a musician, and his wife Walja (born TKATCHENKO) BOGEMSKI. Frau BOGEMSKI has had Communist sympathies for a long time.
 - c. Alexander KALIN, Grollmanstrasse 46, Berlin/Charlottenburg (British Sector), a black marketer. Source lived with KALIN in 1938 and at that time suspected him of being a Soviet agent because in his absence KALIN searched source's writing desk. At first, source suspected KALIN of being a Gestapo agent because he was in contact with Von Taboritzky, the leader of Russian Vertrauen-Stelle, but after a time source was able to learn from acquaintances in the Gestapo that KALIN was not a Gestapo agent. During the war KALIN found it convenient to use the Gestapo as a cover.
5. Source stated that Dr. AXENOFF knows much more about the Russian emigres in Berlin but is afraid to relate more because of the MVD. AXENOFF feels insecure even in the British Sector, but source feels that although he had lost his nerve, he is trustworthy and worth exploiting. Source concluded that AXENOFF is in bad economic straits and will 'open up' with small inducements.

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