

S E C R E T

-2-

Soviets reply to the Swedes laid the blame for Wallenberg's alleged mistreatment and death at the door of the Soviet security service.

Former Soviet prisoners who have repatriated to the West have made vague references to Wallenberg's having been interned in a Soviet mental hospital and in the following prisons and camps: Krasnogorsk, Lubyanka, Lefortovo, and Vladimir. This latest claim -- the "Kozlov" report that Wallenberg had been interned in a camp on Wrangel Island -- is merely one more in a long series. Thus far, Swedish efforts to confirm these various reports have been in vain.

2. Putative Soviet Labor Camp on Wrangel Island:

A. This Agency has no hard evidence which would confirm the existence, past or present, of a labor camp on Wrangel Island. It should be noted that the Agency office which has made an extensive study of the Soviet labor camp system, based on the most reliable intelligence information available, had no indication whatsoever of such a camp or camps ever having been located on Wrangel Island. Outside of Shifrin's testimony and press reports based on that testimony, the only reference available to a camp on Wrangel Island is the following excerpt from an article in Der Bund, Bern, 28-29 July 1970:

"Penal Camps with Special Conditions: In the vernacular these camps are also called 'death camps' because practically no one is released from them. In other words, practically no one survives the 'special' conditions. They are located in the region of the Oran mines near Noril'sk and in southeastern Yakutsk, as well as in the areas of the missile-launching sites on the islands of Novaya Zemlya, Franz Joseph Land, Wrangel Island, and the Kuril Islands."

B. (FYI ONLY) The author of the above-cited article, Bruderer, is an active member of the NTS (Narodno-trudovoy soyuz -- National Labor Alliance). We do not know the source of his information. However, as Shifrin has had considerable contact with the NTS, it may be that Shifrin was the ultimate source of the information on the camp on Wrangel Island as reported by Bruderer.

3. Avraham Shifrin:

We believe Shifrin's biography is covered adequately in the published text of his testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Additional information on

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

-3-

Shifrin -- of a sensitive nature -- was made available by this Agency to Ambassador Richard Davies on 5 October 1971. When queried on Shifrin, a recent Soviet emigre, who had himself served in Soviet labor camps, replied that "much of Shifrin's information is inaccurate." Based on the documentation at our disposal, it is our considered opinion that Shifrin's information should be considered less than totally reliable and should be weighed carefully. He does not appear to be completely stable and does not conduct research on a scientific basis.

4. "Kozlov":

This Agency has no information on the identity of "Kozlov" and has no means to develop this information at this time. It is recommended that the Swedish Government contact the Israeli Government on this matter.

5. (FYI ONLY) In the summer of 1973, the Swedish Intelligence Service contacted this Agency regarding the "Kozlov" item in the Shifrin testimony and requested our views on "Kozlov's" reliability. Having received a reply from this Agency that we were unable to enlighten them about "Kozlov," the Swedish IS evidently contacted Shifrin via the Israelis. Apparently they were not satisfied with Shifrin's ability to evaluate "Kozlov" or his information. It is not known whether they were able to determine "Kozlov's" identity or meet with him personally.

6. With the exception of paragraphs 2B and 5 above, at your discretion the Department may make available to the Swedish Embassy the information contained in this memorandum.

[SB/SA]

Attachment: #1. Article by Brudever (undtd)
#2. Article re Arrival of Golda Meir in Moscow (dtd 22 Dec 72)

Distribution:

- Orig & 1 - INR/RSE/SOV (hand carry) with att.
- 1 - SB/USSR w. att.
- 1 - SB/SA chrono w. att
- 1 - SB/COPS w. att.
- 1 - CI/SP w. att.
- 1 - E/SC/S w. att. ✓
- 1 - SB/RR w. att.
- 1 - Shifrin 201 w. att.
- 1 - (D) chrono w.o. att.

S E C R E T

201-0005925-

ROYAL
SWEDISH EMBASSY

CONFIDENTIAL

As is well known to the State Department, the Swedish Government has tried for many years to get the facts about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish Diplomat who disappeared in Budapest in early 1945.

An interesting piece of information was given last year to the Subcommittee to investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and other Internal Security Laws, a Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the U.S. Senate. A Russian born Israeli citizen, Avrahan Shifrin, handed over to the Subcommittee a written statement by a former Soviet citizen, now living in Israel and called "Kozlov". According to "Kozlov", Raoul Wallenberg was in the early 1960's detained at a prison camp on Wrangel Island. ("Kozlov's" statement is printed in "U.S.S.R. Labor Camps", Hearings before the Subcommittee to investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and other Internal Security Laws, Ninetythird Congress, Part 2, paper 127 and 128).

The Swedish Government is now trying to check the information supplied by "Kozlov" to the Subcommittee. In this respect, it would be of great value to obtain from the U.S. Government

Memorandum #1 TO WX-6859

RECORD COPY

201-0005925

all the data that it may possess about the prison camp on Wrangel Island, as well as about the reliability of Avraham Shifrin and "Koslov".

The best of the political prisoners of other nationalities understand and respect the struggle of the Jewish prisoners for their national liberation.

MIKHAIL KHROMOVICH.

Taken down by G. Elina.

To: The Senate of the United States of America.
From: Rosa Kogan, 28 Neruni Street, Olvataim, Israel.

REQUEST

My husband, Idel' (Yehuda) Kogan, a citizen of Israel, born in Poland in 1922. Was arrested on 7 June 1943 in Kiev during a tourist trip to the U.S.S.R., for which he received a visa-permit from the Soviet Embassy in Israel.

He was arrested and sentenced to 10 years of prison, accused of deserting from the Soviet army. During the war (World War II) my husband was in the Kovel ghetto, then with the partisans, then served 6 months in the Soviet army until July 1943, and after that left for Israel.

Now my husband has now served 10 years and six months! We are both ill; ten of the best years of our lives have been snatched away from us! I beg your intercession in obtaining his release in advance of the six remaining months of his sentence, and thereby help reduce the additional and undeserved suffering of a family!

(My husband's address is: Moscow, UChR No. 5110/1, Sh. U. Idel' Kogan)
Respectfully and gratefully,

ROSA KOGAN.

December 22, 1952.

Mrs. Golda Meir, [Israeli] Consul, arrived in Moscow on the day of Ezhov's death: I was then working as a translator in one of the offices of the MVD (Ministry of Internal Affairs) in Odessa. On the day of her arrival I was sent to the Metropol Hotel in Moscow to participate in a reception for the guests in the guise of a waiter: I was instructed to eavesdrop on everything Mrs. Meir was to say in Yiddish. Since the guests were amably received, I took the liberty of asking her in Yiddish what the country which she represented was like. She replied in Yiddish that it was the first Jewish state in history for Jews throughout the world. After the reception was over, I was sent directly to a prison in Odessa, for someone had eavesdropped on me during the conversation and denounced me to the KGB, saying: I was a Zionist. I was arrested, served a great deal of time in prison, then released but thrown out of my job, victimized for more than ten years, finally arrested again in 1954, thrown into prison, and without any trial sent to the Amurskaya ASSR, and from there to Wrangel Island, where I remained until 1952.

At the camp I made the acquaintance of Rudolf Trushchovitch, a former physician, Vasily Ivanovich Indykov, a former member (colonel) of the Vlasov army, a large number of SS and Gestapo Germans, and many Italians, who had long been declared dead, but who are actually still living on Wrangel in the Belopolny'ye. Among them:

1. Kromer Ernest
2. Migoler Paul
3. Kristover Otto

The list of names of POWs on Wrangel Island requires further clarification, which the subcommittee is trying to obtain. Spellings are in question, first, because the names were written in by hand and some were not legible; and, second, because inaccuracies in spelling inevitably arise when German and Italian names are trans-literated from Latin script to Cyrillic script for the camp records, and then trans-literated back into Latin script. According to Khifrin, who has discussed the Wrangel Island matter several times with "Koslov," "Koslov" was in a position where he had access to camp records, but only in rare cases was he able to get to know the POWs personally. The listing of Italian names suggests that in the camp records the name was given, together with the rank, the city of residence, and the date of birth. In the case of name number 8, "Milanov Tradati, 1903," the adjective "Milanov" meaning "from Milan," was probably used instead of "Milan." Khifrin reported to the subcommittee staff that a representative of an Italian committee which is still seeking information about missing POWs had come to Israel to interview "Koslov," and they had been able to match some of the names of Italian POWs whom "Koslov" had met, or whose names he had seen listed in the camp records, against the list of missing Italian POWs believed to be in the Soviet Union.

ment at the pro-
of laws used in
acquainted with

ish trials gained
frank of adverse
d the trials with
days. Departure
interrupting the
accused were: A.
1, R. Maltrav (1
short terms only
a free work.
7 years. Initially,
a death penalty,
publicly that the
being an appar-
Code by Article
1. Even in terms
public opinion in
imposed must be
out of the first
1, was due to the
West before the
era were passed
essentially reduce
sentences were

struck of estab-
lish institution
men as well as
and were strict
1 prisoners. The
complex of Isra-
rael prison, where

real labor camps
: as before, con-
v a person from
lous, give up all
map remains un-
objective; for at
no longer possi-
h a slow process

n to which the
method. As the
lex. The physical
ion has been at-
his attitude to-
political convic-
people are coun-
how this method
or 7 years of his
was extremely

do not repudiate
f these prisoners
Jafanov, if no
be authorities in
it only don't re-
actively.

New att #2 To WX-6859

RECORD COPY

801-0005925

