

~~SECRET~~

Briefing Paper

The Goleniewski Case

Born in Poland in 1922, Goleniewski began his intelligence career as a counterspy for that notorious Soviet service SMERSH, recruited by his father, also a member of SMERSH, at the age of eighteen to work for the Soviets against the Germans in Poland. Demobilized by the Soviets in 1945, he received the Order of the Red Banner for his services. Six months later, his Soviet connections well-concealed, he entered the Polish security service. Although never acknowledged openly, Soviet support undoubtedly accounts for his relatively rapid rise. After seven years in responsible provincial posts, Goleniewski was called to Warsaw in 1952, where he was made chief of an important section in the Ministry of State Security. Simultaneously, he took up the post of senior counterintelligence liaison officer with the Soviets who at the time directed both the Polish military and internal security services. By 1954

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

Goleniewski had become deputy director of the Ministry's counter-espionage department, and in 1955, as Lieutenant Colonel at thirty-three, he became deputy chief of military counterespionage. Because of the peculiar administrative and political organization of the Ministries of Defense and State Security, and the trust placed in him by his superiors, this promotion made Goleniewski, in effect, responsible for all civil and military countersubversion in Poland.

After the Polish "October Revolution" of 1956, Goleniewski was squeezed out of his position in the Defense Ministry, but, owing largely to Soviet intervention, returned to the Ministry of State Security in February, 1957, once more as chief of an important section, that of foreign scientific and technical intelligence, the post he held when he left Poland in January, 1961. From 1957 until mid-1960, Goleniewski was a clandestine Soviet penetration of the Polish security services. As he himself has said, he went through the side door of the Soviet Embassy after dark to keep his Soviet colleagues up to date. The clandestine relationship was not required after the middle of 1960, however, when overt liaison with the Soviets was resumed, with Goleniewski once more acting as liaison officer.

It was during the period of his clandestine service with the Soviets that Goleniewski, in April, 1958, made contact with

SECRET

SECRET

the Americans. He claims to have been motivated by disillusionment with the Soviets growing out of a deeper knowledge of their activities and intentions gained while they sponsored him in the Ministry of Defense; and by the incurable mental illness of his first wife, whom he was forced to divorce, driven insane, he asserts, by Soviet persecution. In the one case, he wanted to warn the West of Soviet plans and intentions; in the other he wanted revenge. While we cannot be certain that Goleniewski defected out of any great love for the West, our association for the last four years has forced us to conclude that revenge for imagined or real slights is one of his very noticeable character traits.

Goleniewski's is a complex personality, and it is extremely difficult to isolate factors underlying his actions. We do not have time here to explore, scarcely even to sketch, his character; consequently, without any attempt at analysis, I am going to ask you to accept a few statements about the man. Restless, proud, energetic, and tenacious, Goleniewski has always "fought the problem", another way of saying he has never made peace with his environment and devotes himself to the single end of controlling it and the people who inhabit it. He sets his own goals and applies himself unflaggingly toward

SECRET

SECRET

attaining them, using his not inconsiderable intelligence and practical sense to suppress, distort, and embroider facts to his own use, all the while giving the appearance of reasonableness and a wish to cooperate. His mind is quick, allusive, penetrating, and extraordinarily retentive. He can be eloquent, emphatic, and convincing, yet, while conveying an impression of going by the book with exactness, he does things in accord with his own aims. (b)(1)
(b)(3)

Nonetheless, he did send [redacted] detailed reports from behind the Iron Curtain over a period of more than eighteen months while he held a senior position in the Polish security service and was in daily contact with senior Soviet intelligence officers. Supplemented by his personal testimony during two and a half years of cooperation after his arrival in the United States, Goleniewski's contribution to national security has, indeed, been worthwhile, and deserving of the rewards which we have given him -- support and resettlement for his wife's family, forced to leave East Berlin after his defection; protection and support for his wife (then his mistress) and himself in the United States for as long as he would allow us to give it; [redacted] restitution for personal property he and his current wife were forced to leave behind; a (b)(1)
(b)(3)

SECRET

SECRET(b)(1)
(b)(3)contract as a consultant to the United States Government (b)(1)
(b)(3) and, finally, a pension until (b)(1)
(b)(3)

he reaches age sixty-two. In addition to all this, the Congress of the United States, on Agency recommendation, passed a special bill, unique as far as we know, waiving all residence and other requirements, enabling Goleniewski to apply immediately for American citizenship.

From the first, however, Goleniewski has insisted that he has been mishandled, mistreated, and persecuted, or, as the mood has moved him, ignored by the United States Government in general and by CIA in particular. For months, we, or the FBI agents cooperating with us, investigated his every complaint, and made every reasonable effort to comply with his wishes. Our officers - one of whom he accused of an attempt to poison him - on occasion did the most menial household chores for him and his wife in an effort to placate him. We cancelled his original contract and negotiated a new one on more favorable terms to him. The DCI interested himself in the case, and appointed senior officers, especially designated as his personal representatives, to listen to Goleniewski, to investigate what he had to say, and to correct any deficiencies. With such

SECRET

SECRET

persons, Goleniewski either would not, or could not, substantiate any of his wandering and abusive charges, insisting always that he could not accept the competence of any one but the DCI in person. From his delusions during this period, we select one instance from among many: Goleniewski insisted that his appearance before this House's Immigration and Naturalization Subcommittee for a hearing on his special bill for citizenship was a CIA subterfuge to reveal his presence in the United States and was a mortal blow to his personal security; at the same time, he refused to cooperate with Agency officers in the slightest degree with respect to that security. By January, 1964, it became obvious, and I say this in all seriousness, that we could not, short of running CIA under Goleniewski's personal direction, gain his further cooperation. This we were not prepared to do,

[redacted] He continues to receive (b)(1)
his restitution pay [redacted] (b)(3)

[redacted] (b)(1)
(b)(3)

Among the crises in our relationship with Goleniewski, two stand out -- the press campaign which began in March, 1964, and which has continued fitfully since; and the development of his

SECRET

SECRET

claim to be the last of the direct line of the Romanoffs, the Tsarevitch Aleksei Nicholaevich who, history tells us, perished with the rest of the family at Ekaterinburg in July, 1918. These developments have recently become so intertwined that it is scarcely any longer possible to keep them separate. We shall, however, give some background for each, since they did begin as individual items in Goleniewski's campaign against the Agency, and, at the conclusion of this talk, bring them together to show where we stand today.

Reviewing Goleniewski's letters from behind the Iron Curtain in the cold light of hindsight, we can see that he has always resented his association with CIA. His first letter to the Americans in April, 1958, was addressed to J. Edgar Hoover, and, although the Agency, with the cooperation and knowledge of the FBI, has maintained the contact ever since it began, Goleniewski persisted in the fiction that he was cooperating with the FBI and with Mr. Hoover personally, to whom he gave the pseudonym Hercules. He made his approach to the FBI because, he told us later, it was the only American intelligence agency not penetrated by Soviet state security organs. At the time of his surrender, he insisted that he had been forced to leave Poland

SECRET

SECRET

because his superiors had discovered the leak in his department, a discovery he could attribute only to the fact that his correspondence with the Americans had been discovered through a leak in American intelligence, and specifically in CIA. We, on the other hand, in the absence of specific allegations on Goleniewski's part, feel it is at least possible to document a case to the effect that his imminent discovery -- if indeed it was imminent -- could be attributed to his own sloppy security and certain careless habits about which we warned him.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Goleniewski has been asked repeatedly to give more information, to clarify his charges, to give specific leads. This he has been unable to do; his charges have become more general and vaguer as time has passed.

This is not to deny that certain of his specific allegations about intelligence and security personnel, American and Allied, have proven out. All we can say is that none of his allegations concerning CIA have been founded in truth, so far as we, or the FBI, have been able to discover.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)**SECRET**

SECRET

13 Aug 63

GOLENIEWSKI did not keep these charges to himself. In the winter and spring of 1963-1964, they came to the attention of the House Judiciary Committee and to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. This latter body issued three subpoenas, citing GOLENIEWSKI to appear before them on 11 March, 13 April, and 10 August 1964. He never took advantage of these opportunities to testify, and was finally excused altogether on grounds of poor health.

GOLENIEWSKI's charges of neglect and ill treatment came to the ears of Guy RICHARDS, a correspondent for the New York Journal-American doubtless known to some of you here. RICHARDS did not interview GOLENIEWSKI, but from one source and another put together six articles on security in the Executive Branch of the Government which were published in March 1964, as a front-page series. This series maligned the Agency in several ways: it repeated as true GOLENIEWSKI's charges that the Agency was penetrated by Soviet spies; it insisted that CIA was afraid to allow GOLENIEWSKI to testify before a Congressional committee (as a matter of fact, we had assisted in serving the subpoenas and had urged that

SECRET

SECRET

GOLENIEWSKI be forced to testify so that his specters could be laid once and for all); and that CIA, afraid for its life, was putting about rumors that GOLENIEWSKI was insane in an effort to discredit him. GOLENIEWSKI, incidentally, was furious and attributed the series to CIA as another attempt to blacken his name, break down his security, and expose him to enemy executive action.

With the RICHARDS articles, the two crises in GOLENIEWSKI's recent history merged. We must revert to the fall of 1963 to fill in the background of the ROMANOFF claim.

Again, with the clarity afforded only by hindsight, a review of the GOLENIEWSKI papers can detect, here and there, for several years, traces of his confusion of personality. A straw in the wind is his constant use of the name "Roman" (the stem of ROMANOFF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. His most common cover name was Roman TARNOWSKI. (b)(1)
(b)(3)

Another straw is the fact that in 1961 he chose the name Franz Roman OLDENBURG as his cover name in the United States. Here we have not only the ROMANOFF association, but a surname taken from high-born relatives of the ROMANOFF family.

SECRET

SECRET

Although he had from time to time hinted darkly as to what he called his "true identity", GOLENIEWSKI made no serious claim to be a ROMANOFF until December 1963,

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

This was after an article had appeared in LIFE Magazine, reviewing a book published by Robert SPELLER and Son, New York, entitled "Anastasia, the Biography of the Grand Duchess of Russia", written by Eugenia SMITH, a Chicago housewife who claims to be that personage. GOLENIEWSKI was disturbed by her claim, denied it, and asked [REDACTED] to obtain for him proofs of his own royal birth which, he alleged, had been left behind in Poland to be captured by the British at the end of World War II.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

Since that time, GOLENIEWSKI in association with members of the SPELLER firm and a pair of former CIA employees, Cleve BACKSTER and Herman KIMSEY, has built up a circumstantial fabric in support of his claim. Once more, CIA has become one of the principal targets.

It is routine for defectors to be given physical, mental, and psychiatric tests. GOLENIEWSKI's case is

SECRET

SECRET

no exception.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

He made no claim to hemophilia or other disabling disease, nor was any found.

From the outset, except in the case of the dentistry, GOLENIEWSKI resisted medical and psychiatric treatment. He claimed that they were part of a vast CIA plot to persecute him, even to murder him, attributable to fears of exposure by Soviet agents inside CIA. Psychiatrists were in Agency pay to declare him insane; innocuous pills became poison against which, through elaborate and secret tests known only to himself, was he able to protect himself; he could

SECRET

SECRET

not go out into society of any sort for fear of physical attack which CIA would instigate; his wife, cooped up in their apartment without friends, was slowly going mad; he was isolated, hounded because of his secret knowledge.

Reason was to no avail. By March 1964, in addition to all its other sins, CIA began to conspire with the British to deny his true identity, to prevent him from achieving his due place in the world, and to keep him from claiming his share of the ROMANOFF fortune, now amounting to more than \$400,000,000 deposited in London and New York. These claims, aired by radio and television, printed in the sensational press, picked up and repeated from coast to coast and around the world, have attracted adventurers, publicists, and opportunistic operators, all too ready to support GOLENIEWSKI so long as his real money lasts or so long as he makes good copy. Here the press crisis and the personality crisis merge.

We have no time to go into detail here, but a few high spots seem worth hitting. In July 1964, GOLENIEWSKI bought advertisements in leading newspapers to make it

SECRET

SECRET

perfectly clear that he had never claimed his American citizenship and that his "relatives" should not make trouble for him by claiming that he had; in September, under the name Aleksei Nicholaevich ROMANOFF, he married his mistress of several years standing in the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile (a civil ceremony was performed in Arlington in 1961) in a wedding presided over by Count GRABBE, the Arch-presbyter; in October, a daughter, registered in New York as Tatiana Alekseiievna ROMANOFF, was born; he has appeared in numerous news stories as the Tsarevich Aleksei, the last direct descendant of the ROMANOFFS. Cleve BACKSTER, who claims to have founded CIA's personnel security program, asserts he has polygraphed GOLENIEWSKI and that he is indeed the Tsarevich; Robert SPELLER, Senior, claims he is convinced, on the basis of his personal investigation and the recognition of the Grand Duchess ANASTASIA, that GOLENIEWSKI is the Tsarevich; Herman KIMSEY, former Agency employee and a fellow of BACKSTER's Academy of Scientific Investigation, claims to have personal knowledge of the fact that CIA actually does have in its possession documents which would prove GOLENIEWSKI's "true identity". And so it goes.

SECRET

SECRET

which we hope our friends in Congress and the press may find themselves able to use before the book appears. We have no intention at the moment to attempt to see the manuscript in advance, to suggest clearance for it, or to attempt to edit it in any way. We do hope, however, to draw its claws before it appears.

In concluding this portion of our discussion, I should like to repeat the assurances which have been given at various levels in the Agency to various levels in the Legislative Branch: the GOLENIEWSKI case is an open book to members of the Congress. To the best of our ability and to the limit of our resources, we will make every effort to cooperate in keeping you informed, and hopefully we can work together to an ultimate satisfactory solution.

SECRET