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The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry
82-10018

7 August 1982

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman: *Bill*

At a recent hearing you inquired about the KGB use of journalists. The attached was prepared by our counterintelligence staff-- thought you might find it useful.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

John N. McMahon

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Enc.

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Summary: Since the establishment of the Soviet civilian intelligence-service (now the KGB) in 1917 and of the Soviet military intelligence service (now the GRU) in 1922, both Soviet services have relied heavily in the pursuit of their operational goals--the recruitment of foreign agents and the influencing of foreign opinion in the Soviet interest--on the use of journalism. Both services, but particularly the KGB, have since the 1920's consistently placed staff operational personnel under journalistic cover; and have sought to recruit foreign journalists as agents of Soviet intelligence. It is estimated that of all Soviet journalists now serving abroad, some 30% are career Soviet intelligence officers. In citing that figure we may have erred on the conservative side.

A. How does the KGB make use of journalists?

In several ways, e.g., recruits them as agents of influence.

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The KGB also recruits foreign journalists as channels of funds and influence in Soviet-supported "peace" movements.

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In general, the KGB (and the GRU) recruits foreign journalists for every purpose in the Soviet intelligence catalogue - as sources of positive information, as agents of influence in the political and industrial spheres, as penetrations of national security and intelligence services, and as placers of Soviet-inspired covert propaganda in both national and international press outlets.

B. How does the KGB use journalists for cover?

We assume that this question is meant to focus on the use of Soviet media as cover for the KGB. It is a proven fact that both the KGB and the GRU use all Soviet media elements for cover, and have done so from the date of establishment of both the KGB and the GRU. The following Soviet media outlets have been used as cover by the KGB and GRU since the 1920's: Pravda (the newspaper of the Central Committee, CPSU), Izvestiya (the USSR "Government" newspaper), Komsomolskaya Pravda (the newspaper of the Central Committee of the Youth Organization of the CPSU), Trud (the newspaper of the Soviet All-Union Chamber of Trade Unions), TASS, the official Soviet press organization, Novosti, the "unofficial" Soviet organization for disseminating news about the USSR to foreign audiences, Moscow Radio and TV, Africa and Asia (widely circulated in both continents), Mezhkniga (the Soviet organization responsible for disseminating Soviet publications to foreign countries), Soveksportfilm, the organization for disseminating Soviet films to foreign audiences, and New Times (a Soviet weekly foreign affairs magazine).

[redacted] of the 14 New Times foreign correspondents abroad as of late 1979, 11 were staff KGB operations officers.

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Among the most successful of all Soviet intelligence officers was Richard Sorge, a GRU colonel who organized and ran a network of spies which succeeded in penetrating the highest levels of the Imperial Japanese Army and Cabinet before and during World War II. Sorge had succeeded in gaining employment with the most prestigious pro-Nazi newspaper in pre-W.W.II Germany, and was sent by that paper to Japan, where he successfully posed as a bona fide German correspondent.

C. Are there any countries that will not permit the presence of Soviet journalists?

Only those countries which do not have formal diplomatic relations with the USSR, e.g., Israel, Chile, Paraguay, South Africa, will not permit the presence of Soviet journalists. All other countries do, although most limit the total number and/or may refuse visas to individual Soviet journalists.

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