
  
 Sep 17 F-113 (94)

6 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Request Approval to Publish  
The Penkovskiy Memoirs

1. Attached as Tab A is a precis of the second draft of the Penkovskiy Memoirs. The first draft was written in Russian by Peter Deryabin, assisted by the entire SR . As source material the tapes of all 45 meetings with Penkovskiy were reviewed. Other materials and reports submitted by Penkovskiy were also studied. The SR case officers who worked with Penkovskiy were consulted to get an insight into Penkovskiy as a person. The first draft of the Memoirs was then translated into English, preserving Penkovskiy's style (and often his exact words) and Russian flavor. Publication of the first draft of the Memoirs was delayed by objections of the British Intelligence Service, who were concerned about the effect on the case of Greville Wynne, then still in Soviet imprisonment. 1.3(a)(4)

2. After Wynne's release SR undertook to find a competent writer who could revise the Memoirs into a form more suitable for publication. Mr. Frank Gibney agreed to edit and rewrite the Memoirs. The second draft of the Memoirs was undertaken in accordance with the following premises:

a. The Memoirs were ostensibly smuggled out of the USSR after 25 August 1962, which date is the last one mentioned by Penkovskiy in the Memoirs. (At this time Penkovskiy already knew he was under heavy surveillance, and he purportedly smuggled out his Memoirs before his arrest, which we believe took place about 1 September 1962. For further comment on the plausibility of smuggling and other aspects of the ostensible acquisition of the document in the West, see Tab B.)

b. Clandestine operational details included in the story, which refer to the connection between Penkovskiy and the British and American intelligence services, come from overt sources. In December 1963 the Soviet Political Literature Publishing House in Moscow published the transcript of the Penkovskiy-Wynne trial.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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Our translation of this Soviet book not only provides the continuity for the Memoirs, interspersed as it is between the chapters; but it also provides us the basic information on Penkovskiy's espionage activities without the need to include any other specialized editorializing which could be attributed to CIA. The Wynne Memoirs published in the London Sunday Telegraph in September also provide valuable background and authentication material.

c. We should not try to glorify Penkovskiy. The picture of Penkovskiy-the-man which thus emerges is not only an accurate one, but also one which is interesting and believable.

d. Our fourth premise is that the placement of the book for both serialization and publishing should be done through commercial channels, taking into account the interest already expressed to CIA by certain media. (See Tab C for details on suggested publishers, syndicates for serialization, etc.)

3. Financing. We must early recognize that the financial income from the Penkovskiy Memoirs will be great. This includes income from newspaper syndication, the published book, foreign book rights, possible selection for Book-of-the-Month Club, and the very real possibility of an eventual movie or TV program based on the Memoirs. Mr. Gibney believes, and we agree, that a substantial sum should be charged for this material, because of the "If-it-is-given-free, no-one-will-appreciate-it" rule. After the normal deduction of the agent's fees, we believe the proceeds should go to a recognized anti-Communist organization. Problems relative to the allocation of the income from this book will be discussed the Office of the Legal Counsel and CBODS.

4. Timing. Publication of the Penkovskiy Memoirs has been complicated by the recent demise of Khrushchev. On the one hand, the press daily carries new comments and revelations about Khrushchev's downfall. It is clear that every hack Kremlinologist or purveyor of revelations will be in the act soon. As much of this horrendous revelation material begins to appear, it operates like an inexorable Gresham's Law to debase the currency in general. On the other hand, Penkovskiy's espionage activities were directed against the Khrushchev regime. The Chicago Tribune's recent American publication of Wynne's memoirs is good advance billing for our publication. The new Soviet leadership is still disorganized and might not marshal a good effort to discredit the Memoirs. We should take advantage of the news at this propitious moment to syndicate the Memoirs in a newspaper or magazine as quickly as possible. The earliest date we can expect for publication of the book is March/April 1965.

5. Approval Requested. Publication of the Memoirs was cleared by the DCI with Mr. McGeorge Bundy in 1963. We recognize that both the domestic and international political scene has been considerably altered since 1963. Therefore, we cannot assume that Mr. Bundy's early clearance for publication is still valid. However, we do not feel that the content of the Memoirs requires clearances from other U. S. Government agencies, such as State and the Department of Defense. Our early publication would be greatly expedited if we could limit further clearance within the Government to a new clearance from Mr. Bundy. Essentially, approval is requested for us to authorize Mr. Gibney to enter into negotiations for early syndication and publication of the book with the appropriate publishers we have suggested.

David E. Murphy  
Chief, SR Division

APPROVED:

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Deputy Director for Plans

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_