

19 FEB 1975

CD-2480

"If It's Spies That You're Wondering About"

[Unsigned]

Published in US News and World Report,
New York, 27 June 1960, Pages 70-73

This article gives a glimpse of Soviet spy activities in the United States as gleaned from an official report made to Congress on June 13, 1960 by the US Department of State.

The Soviet Union has built the largest of all intelligence machines and maintains an unparalleled network of agents throughout the world. The Soviet espionage system, with its various interlocking parts and functions at home and abroad, has been clearly set forth in the findings of two Royal Commission reports, first in Canada as a result of the defection in 1945 of Igor GUZENKO, a member of a Soviet espionage ring, and in 1954 in Australia after the defection of Vladimir PETROV, another Soviet agent. These Commissions established that at least three parallel Soviet intelligence networks operate in Soviet missions abroad: state security, the military, and the Party. To these may also be added naval and commercial information-gathering

1552

CD-2480

intelligence networks. Sometimes these elements operate under the control and direction of a Soviet embassy. On the other hand, many of their operatives, bearing nominal diplomatic titles and attached to an embassy, report directly to their respective headquarters in Moscow, and the embassy has no control over them. These Soviet intelligence organizations operating under the cloak of diplomatic immunity throughout the world might be termed the "official" agencies and in turn also recruit local people and set up additional networks of agents.

One former Soviet-Bloc intelligence officer has estimated that the office of the Soviet Military Attache in the United States is able to obtain legally ninety-five percent of the material for its intelligence objectives. The following facts illustrate this point:

Purchasing and subscriptions of open publications and the United States documents:

On 28 December 1944, the Soviet Government Purchasing Commission in Washington, D.C. ordered copies of five thousand eight hundred and ten patents. On the same date the New York office of this Commission purchased two copies of eighteen thousand patents. On 1 January 1945 the Soviet Government Purchasing Commission in Washington again ordered copies of five thousand three hundred and forty-two different patents. On 12 January 1945 copies of forty-one thousand eight hundred and twelve patents were ordered. The next order was for forty-one thousand eight hundred and ten. The acquisition of copies of patents has been continued throughout the years, as illustrated by the fact that in early 1959 Anatoliy G. VASILYEV, an employee of the office of the Soviet Military Attache, requested an American to instruct him in the use of the

CD-2480

so-called search room of the United States Patent Office so that he could locate patents in which he was interested.

On 10 March 1954 an assistant Soviet Air Attache purchased "The Pilot's Handbook" for the East and West Coast of the United States from the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce. On 12 March 1954 a chauffeur of the Soviet Air Attache purchased "The Pilot's Handbook" for Canada and Alaska. Six days later an Assistant Soviet Attache ordered "The Pilot's Handbook" for the Far East and Europe. These handbooks contained diagrams of all of the principal airfields and the approaches used in landing planes.

In April 1954 Soviet officials stationed in Washington obtained from the Map Information Office of the US Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, topographic maps covering North Carolina, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and an area within a fifty-mile radius of Washington, D.C.

During June 1959 the personnel of the Soviet Military, Naval and Air Attaches' offices subscribed to forty-four newspapers and fifty-eight magazines of a technical, scientific, military, and general-news nature. The Soviet Embassy has a program of subscribing to newspapers published at or in the vicinity of vital United States bases.

The Soviet Union is in corespondence with chambers of commerce and industrial facilities throughout the United States, and by this means obtain voluminous information regarding transportation systems, major industries, and so forth.

Attendance of the US organizations conventions by Soviet officials:

Two Soviet officials attended a Western Electric convention held in Los Angeles during August 1959. At this convention, two Soviet officials collected about two hundred and fifty pounds of literature. Thousands of similar documents and publications are obtained in this country every year by Soviet Bloc officials stationed here and through Soviet Government-affiliated agencies such as the Four Continents Book Corporation and the Tass News Agency.

Reconnaissance trips:

In addition to procurement activities, "reconnaissance" trips are widely used for intelligence gathering.

In October and November 1953 Soviet officials travelled to Minnesota where they purchased fifteen aerial photographs of Minneapolis and St. Paul. In Missouri and Texas they obtained aerial maps of Dallas, Tulsa, Fort Worth, and surrounding areas adjacent to naval air stations, army airfields and air force bases.

In April 1954 they purchased five aerial photographs of Long Island communities, three photographs of Boston and Newport, Rhode Island. In May 1954 three Soviet officials placed an order with a Los Angeles photographic shop for aerial photographs covering the Los Angeles area.

Leonid E. PIVNEV, Soviet Assistant Air Attache, travelled extensively throughout the United States and obtained commercially available aerial photographs of various areas of the country. He also requested a Washington, D.C. photographer to rent an airplane and took photographs of New York City because such

CD-2480

photographs were not commercially available. PIVNEV specified the scale to be used and the altitude from which these photographs were to be taken. He offered \$700 for these photographs which obviously would show vital port areas, industrial facilities and military installations in the area. For this activity PIVNEV was declared persona non grata on 29 May 1954 and he left the country on 6 June 1954.

On 19 January 1955 the US State Department notified the Soviet Embassy that restrictions were being placed on the acquisition of certain types of data by Soviet officials in the United States. One month after the restrictions became effective Nikolay I. TROFIMOV, a Soviet official in Mexico, began negotiations with a resident of the West Coast of the United States to obtain aerial photographs of forty-five major United States cities. Nineteen of these cities are located near Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases. The remaining twenty-six are all strategically located in or near air bases, naval bases, research or training stations, atomic energy installations or important industrial facilities. TROFIMOV was unsuccessful in these efforts.

Abuse of diplomatic privileges:

Soviet officials abroad very often abuse diplomatic privileges. In 1937 Hafis SALICH, a naturalized American employed by the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in California, met Mikhail N. GORIN, Pacific Coast manager of Inturist, through a mutual acquaintance. By advancing SALICH money, GORIN ultimately persuaded him to furnish ONI reports for which GORIN paid \$1,700. GORIN and SALICH were found guilty of espionage in 1939.

In 1941 Anatoliy YAKOVLEV, a Soviet intelligence agent, arrived in the United States and, under cover

CD-2480

as clerk and later as Vice Consul in New York, became the chief organizer of atomic espionage in the eastern United States until his departure in December 1946. YAKOVLEV worked through Harry GOLD, an American, who had long been engaged in industrial espionage for the Soviet Union. GOLD served as courier for information provided by Klaus FUCHS, the British atomic scientist, who was later convicted of espionage by a British court, and subsequently for David GREENGLASS, an American machinist. On 9 December 1950 GOLD was sentenced to thirty years' imprisonment for conspiracy to commit espionage. Anatoliy YAKOVLEV and Semen SEMENOV, professional Soviet agents who left the country, were indicted along with Harry GOLD.

Julius ROSENBERG of New York, a member of the US Communist Party, engaged initially in industrial espionage and later progressed to political and atomic intelligence. With the help of his wife, Ethel, he recruited David GREENGLASS, his brother-in-law who was working at Los Alamos on highly confidential matters. GREENGLASS, shortly before the first atom bomb test explosion, transmitted a highly valuable report to the Soviets. It was not until the confession of FUCHS in England and Harry GOLD in the United States that GREENGLASS's activities were revealed and he in turn pointed to the ROSENBERGs. ROSENBERG and his wife were arrested in the summer of 1950. At the time of their arrest, Abraham BROTHMAN, Miriam MOSKOWITZ and Morton SOBELL were also uncovered, arrested, and tried. The ROSENBERGs were sentenced to death in March 1951. SOBELL was sentenced to thirty years' imprisonment, David GREENGLASS to fifteen, Abraham BROTHMAN to seven, and Miriam MOSKOWITZ to two years' imprisonment.

Kurt PONGER and Otto VERBER, both naturalized Americans, were recruited by the Soviets to report

on US military installations in Europe. They were uncovered by a US counterintelligence agent whom they had put in touch with Yuriy NOVIKOV, Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. PONGER and VERBER pleaded guilty to espionage charges and in June 1953 were sentenced to from five to fifteen years' imprisonment and three and a half to ten years, respectively. NOVIKOV was declared persona non grata and departed for the Soviet Union in January 1953.

Recruiting US citizens abroad:

Jack SOBLE and his wife Myra, both naturalized US citizens of Lithuanian origin, supervised activities of Soviet agents in the United States and Europe. SOBLE assigned agents to recruit US Government employees stationed abroad to obtain information on the following: military equipment and supplies, atomic bomb stockpiles in the United States, and the rate of atomic bomb production as well as photographs of atomic bunkers in which the bombs were stored. The SOBLES were arrested in January 1957. Myra SOBLE was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and Jack SOBLE, to seven years. Associated with them in their espionage activity was Jacob ALBAM, who like the SOBLES was a native of Lithuania. In October 1957 he was sentenced to five and half years' imprisonment.

The Soviets continued their attempt to penetrate US Government agencies. After the prosecution of, Judith COPLON, an employee of the Department of Justice in early 1950, the Soviets in October of that year gave an assignment to Boris MORROS, an American motion picture producer who was cooperating with the FBI, to revive his acquaintance with a member [unnamed] of the US Atomic Energy Commission. MORROS was instructed to obtain compromising information concerning this person and particularly to explore the possibility of placing a secretary in his office who could furnish

CD-2480

information to the Soviets. Earlier, in 1948, MORROS had been given an assignment to attempt to obtain information to be used by the Soviets in an effort to compromise General Lucius CLAY (US Military Governor in Germany).

In 1954 Soviet intelligence officers in Germany approached an [unnamed] American Army officer who was soon to be retired. They propositioned him to work for the Soviet Union after his return to the United States and set up a schedule for meetings in New York City. In accordance with the arrangements, Maksim G. MARTYNOV, Counselor of the Soviet delegation to the UN Military Staff Committee, carried out a series of clandestine meetings in New York "with a person whom he believed to be the Army officer" [no further details given]. MARTYNOV was declared persona non grata on 21 February 1955.

Igor A. AMOSOV, a Soviet Assistant Naval Attache, was declared persona non grata in February 1954 for attempts to recruit American citizens to obtain information concerning radar and US naval vessels.

In June 1956 Ivan A. BUBCHIKOV, a Soviet Assistant Military Attache, was declared persona non grata for attempting to obtain data regarding radar, guided missiles, jet fuels, and atomic submarines from an American businessman who during World War II had had extensive contacts with the Soviets on private and US Government business.

In August 1956 Viktor I. PETROV, a Soviet translator at the UN, was "separated" from his work for having recruited an employee of an American aviation company in order to obtain classified data regarding United States aircraft.

CD-2480

The Soviet espionage activities described above were largely engaged in by Soviet so-called official or legal espionage networks.

Clandestine espionage:

The Soviets also have "unofficial" clandestine espionage networks controlled by agents sent directly from Moscow to the United States. Such a case was that of Colonel Rudolf Ivanovich ABEL, an officer of Soviet intelligence [the GRU]. ABEL was convicted by a Federal jury in New York on 25 October 1957, for conspiring to steal US defense secrets on behalf of the Soviet Union. On November 1957 ABEL was sentenced to thirty years in prison and given a fine of \$3,000. ABEL had been exposed by former Lieutenant Colonel Reino HAYHANEN, thirty-seven, a confessed ex-Soviet espionage agent who identified ABEL as the Soviet "resident officer for espionage" in the US and the person from whom he had received espionage assignments over a five-year period. ABEL, a veteran of the Soviet intelligence service, had entered the United States in 1948 with false documents as Andrew KAYOTIS, a US citizen. He also used the name Emil GOLDFUS, for which he also had false documents, and he also had documents in the name of Martin COLLINS. During his years in the US and before his exposure, ABEL used a photographer's studio on Fulton Street in Brooklyn as a cover for his operations.

The Soviet Union has large espionage networks in other Western countries. The Klaus FUCHS admission in 1950 that he had betrayed the free world while a member of the British atomic energy team is a clear indication of the nature of Soviet designs on the information and classified data of the British Government. The flight behind the Iron Curtain of the British scientist Dr. Bruno PONTECORVO in 1950 and also of British diplomats Guy BURGESS and Donald MACLEAN in 1950 further bear witness to this Soviet intention.

CD-2480

Most of the cases mentioned in the preceding paragraph, although based outside the US, had ramifications in the US. For example, the information furnished to the Soviets by Dr. Allan NUNN MAY, who was uncovered by Igor GUZENKO, had been obtained when MAY visited a laboratory in Chicago in 1944. Klaus FUCHS had worked on atomic energy projects in the US from early 1944 through September 1945 and had supplied information to the Soviets while in the country. British diplomats, BURGESS and MACLEAN, had been stationed in the US prior to their disappearance behind the Iron Curtain.

In recent years some three hundred and sixty individuals in eleven different countries of the free world have been convicted of espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. During the last ten years, at least forty-seven Soviet officials have been exposed and expelled from free world countries.