

SECRET**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : Chief, Contact Branch
 ATTN : Messrs. []
 FROM : Acting Chief, [] Office []

DATE: 4 October 49
 Memo No. 336

SUBJECT: Nicholas N. Poppe

REFERENCE: (a) Your memo 15 Sep 49
 (b) [] teletype 297
 (c) You teletype Wa-2977

1. We have made contact with Dr. Poppe as of 3 October 49 and have established a pleasant relationship with him.

2. We called first. The good Doctor is starting a class in Mongolian at the University of Washington and I telephoned him as a potential student interested in his course. He recognized the name immediately, said he had just received a letter from you about us ([] myself), and that he was on the verge of calling for an appointment. (Thanks for your personal letter. It helped greatly.) We invited him to luncheon, sent Miss [] out to the University campus to get him, and took him to the Arctic Club where [] and I had an enjoyable session with him. After a lengthy luncheon we brought him [] and continued our discussion []

3. Dr. Poppe has two problems on his mind: (a) He is anxious to have his two sons join him in Seattle. (b) He is disturbed at the heavy income tax they are deducting from his pay. He says he is being taxed as a single man whereas he is in reality the sole support of his two sons but that this is not being allowed because the sons are outside of the US (and also, perhaps, because they are over 21 years of age). We made no commitment in either case, but said we would check with a trusted friend in the Immigration & Naturalization Service to see what might be done about the sons. We understand there are major involvements here but want to do something to help ease Poppe's mind. He is pretty nervous and tense.

4. Of his own accord, Dr. Poppe asked if there was anything he could do for us. We were ready for this--and until we get more definite requirements from you, we are having him work on the attached tentative subjects. Dr. Poppe said the subjects interested him and he would do all he could for us.

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5. We will keep in regular touch with Dr. Poppe-- keeping the relationship on a social and personal rather than a professional basis so there can be no complications with George Taylor who might be inclined to discourage the Doctor from engaging in outside activities. Dr. Poppe said he would seek to avoid complications, too, by working on our requirements during his spare time--evenings, week-ends, etc.

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Enc: List of tentative requirements prepared by [] office for Dr. Poppe.

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Tentative requirements prepared by [] CIA office for Dr. Nicholas N. Poppe:

1. Reaction to USSR's social groups (Peasants, workers, intelligentsia) to the report that the Soviets have the atomic bomb.
2. Effect upon USSR policy of fact that world now knows Soviets have the bomb--or at least know how to cause an atomic explosion? Any open changes in Soviet political strategy?
3. Discussion of the Russian diet. Breadstuffs supposedly predominate, accounting in normal years for more than 80 percent of the caloric intake. Is this still true? Is the Russian diet deteriorating? Status of rationing. Status of meat and dairy products in the national diet. Is the diet, especially as regards the non-bread components, still deteriorating?
4. Discussion of Stalin's son, Vassili, including general comments on nepotism in Soviet officialdom and its possible impact on USSR policy and the future of the present Kremlin crowd. (See article "Joe Stalin's boy Vassili," in Life magazine of 19 September 49.)
5. Religion in the USSR--impact on lives of people, etc? Outlook? Why is the Kremlin relaxing its anti-Church attitude?
6. Analysis of USSR's labor potential--especially as it affects industrial production. Discussion of lack of talented middle-echelon personnel who are vital for mass production. (Factory managers, shop foreman, chief mechanics, etc.) Is this lack a vital weakness in the USSR's mass industry?
7. Discussion of anti-Semitism in the USSR.
8. Exploitation of minorities.
9. Are the Russian people ideologically committed to military aggression against the US?
10. Do USSR leaders favor war routinely as a matter of policy? Are they willing to resort to war as soon as they can see their way to victory?
11. Distribution of wealth in the USSR.
12. Discussion of transportation in the USSR--roads, railways, air.

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Tentative requirements prepared by [] CIA office for
Dr. Nicholas N. Koppe:

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13. Oil in the USSR. Abundance? Supply adequate? Shortage? Evidence of stockpiling (gasoline)? Is shortage of oil hampering USSR's air transport development, for instance?
14. Oil in the Soviet Far East. Comments on reported critical shortage of oil (gasoline, etc.) in this area.
15. USSR's coal supply.
16. Standard of living? Thorough discussion.
17. Discussion of possible defections in event of war.
18. Discussion of the Bandera in the Ukraine. Would they come out of their underground and engage in guerilla activity against the Soviets?
19. Pressure groups in the USSR. Their influence upon the government?
20. Kremlin's appeals to innate Russian nationalism in the effort to strengthen communism.
21. Discussion of Spain's Blue Division (which fought with the Germans against the Russians in World War II).
22. Discussion of Soviet Intelligence activities worldwide. (Is the Ministry of State Security--MGB--still the USSR's primary strategic intelligence agency. Comments on organizational structure and procedures of Soviet intelligence system--its strengths and weaknesses, its personalities.

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