

KGB Moscow Center Circulars

Cables Decrypted by the National Security  
Administration's Venona Project

Transcribed by Students of the Mercyhurst College  
Institute for Intelligence Studies

Arranged by John Earl Haynes, Library of Congress,  
2011

Reissue

From: MOSCOW  
 To: CANBERRA  
 No: 233, 232

2 December 1943

[Part I] Circular[a].

Once again we direct your attention to the insufficient secrecy in the work of the leaders and operational workers of the residencies. Some operational workers are being initiated into affairs of the residencies which have no relation to the work which they are carrying out. Of course this is the result of talkativeness and the inevitable responses of brotherly relations which are maintained among our workers. It is necessary to all [6 groups unrecovered] but each individual operational worker should know on the general work of the residency only what is necessary in order to carry out the work on his own assignment. In the premises of the embassy, legation, consulate (in the studies and work rooms of the residents) and in the private apartments, probably fitted with special [1 group unidentified], discussions are being conducted on operational questions. There have even been cases of setting up in the work room a conference of all the workers of the residency for a collective discussion of instructions of the [C% center]. It is categorically forbidden during instruction and generally in discussion, particularly within the premises, to use the real surnames of workers and probationers[STAZhERY], names of cities and countries, officials and other objectives. All this should be encoded.

[Part II][1 group unrecovered] considering the cases cited above it is recommended instead of conversations aloud to exchange notes, which immediately after such a "secret conversation" [1 group unidentified] are destroyed. Our workers must not at work and in private life [4 groups unrecovered] from other [1 group unidentified] apparatus and [1 group unrecovered] that it will inevitably lead to disclosure. [1 group unrecovered] other [1 group unrecovered] discussions in Russian about [5 groups unrecovered].

[5 groups unrecoverable]

violation of rules of secrecy we will take strict measures. [1 group unidentified] providing the necessary secrecy in our work to a considerable extent depends upon the leaders of the residencies themselves. The residents should not share with their subordinates communications which they are not supposed to know for the work.

No.677

PETROV[i]

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Notes: [a] This message is known to have been sent also to HAVANA, MEXICO CITY, OTTAWA, SAN FRANCISCO and NEW YORK.

Comments:

[i] PETROV: Unidentified MOSCOW signature.

16 August 1971

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USSR

Ref. No: 3/NBF/T724

Issued: [REDACTED]/27/10/1955

Copy No: 205

MGB AND GRU REPRESENTATIVES TO  
COLLABORATE IN RECRUITMENT OF AGENTS (1944)

From: MOSCOW

To: BOGOTA

No.: 79[a] 22 June 1944

In practice [B% in our work] there are cases when we and the military neighbours[i] are working on the preparation of [B% the signing on][KONTRAKTATsIYa] of one and [B% the same] person. In view of this, [and] to avoid misunderstanding, when need arises establish business contact with the chief military neighbour[ii] and reciprocally check with one another on the spot persons of interest to you. The neighbours have given similar instructions in their line.

No. 2673

VIKTOR[iii]

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[T.N. and Comments overleaf]

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Distribution

[REDACTED]

3/NBF/T724  
[2 Pages]

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3/NBF/T724

T.N.: [a] This message is known to have been sent also to  
NEW YORK, MEXICO CITY, SAN FRANCISCO, OTTAWA, and  
CAIRO.

Comments: [i] The Soviet military intelligence organisation.

[ii] The local GRU resident.

[iii] Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.

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3/NBF/T724

■■■■■  
 Moscow (Circular)\*  
 1944  
 [separate numeration] (25 April)

M 24  
 Misc. Lane  
 (xerox)  
 D013

To all residents [REZIDENTuI]a.

From 1 May[, ] instead of the method of setting up the indicator Group [POKAZATEL'NAYA GRUPPA] in effect at the present time, for the determination [or: definition; that is: identification] of the reciphering table [PERESHIFROVAL'NAYA TABLITSA]b enter [or: write (down)] in clear [OTKRuITO]at the beginning of the cipher text the first group of the table (the first indicator groupc) with which the leaf of the pod [LIST BLOKNOTA] d on the occasion?d begins. The recipherment itself begins with the second group of the table. At the end of the cipher text enter, likewise in clear, the group following upon the last used group of the gamma [GAMIA]e (the second indicator group). If the recipherment ends with the last group of a table, enter the first group of the following table.

[38 groups on a depth of 1, 51 groups  
 unmatched]

\*Sent to Habana, México, New York, Ottawa, San Francisco (no others found).

a Chiefs of NKGB agent systems abroad.

b Tale of additive key [GAMMA], each such table being on one leaf [LIST] of a pod [BLOENOT], whence table [TABLITSA] and leaf [LIST] (often referred to in AFSA as "page", since each leaf is printed on only one side) are up to a certain point interchangeable. (The table is what is written or printed on the leaf.) It is called "reciphering" because it is used in a second encrypting process (the first here being encodement with the code book).

c That is: now this will be the first indicator group.

d That is: the leaf about to be used on the respective occasion (?).

e Additive key.

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USSR

Ref. No: 3/NBF/T839

Issued: 30/8/1956

Copy No: 205

EMIGRES, CLERGY AND OTHER GROUPS MENTIONED AS MGB"TARGETS" (1945)

From: MOSCOW

To: NEW YORK

No: 217

10 March 45

Circular.[a]

In view of the assignment of work on the old and new Russian and nationalist emigres, the Russian, Armenian and Mohammedan clergy, Trotskyites and Zionists, with regard to these targets[OB"EKTY] we require you in future:

1. To communicate all urgent materials by telegraph.
2. To send by post, with each letter beginning a fresh

[23 groups unrecovered]

translate or write a brief review and send us by post only documents of operational interest. By the first post send brief notes on the above targets in your country with specific proposals for dealing with them. Advise by telegraph about persons ear-marked for recruitment, in order to obtain permission. Confirm receipt of this telegram.

No. 1467  
10th March.

VIKTOR[i]


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T.N.: [a] Also sent to MEXICO CITY, PARIS , and to another station the location of which has not been established.

Comments: [i] Lt.-Gen. P.M. FITIN.

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Distribution

FROM: MOSCOW, M.F.A.

CIRCULAR MESSAGE [a]

To all embassies, consulates-general, consulate agencies of the U.S.S.R., political advisers, People's Commissariates of Foreign Affairs of Union Republics and diplomatic agencies of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

With offers from the receipt of this [message] [b] diplomatic post and cipher telegrams for the tenth department [c] of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs [C% is to be addressed] to the person in charge of the tenth department, xxKRISTsOV, MIKOLAJ Sergeevich [2 groups unrecovered]. In the xxxxxxxx List of the code write ZhERIETsOV" union group 7846[d].

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T.N.[a] Also sent in [redacted] and [redacted] (the latter version

is very incompletely read).

[b] Inserted by translator.

[c] The cipher department.

[d] This group previously dxxxxxx the name of ZhERESTsOV's predecessor.

Moscow [Circular]\*  
1945

24 b

[Separate numeration] (10 April)

Circular to all residents [REZIDÈNTuI]a

Notwithstanding repeated instructions to address in copy to the 8[th] Section [8 OTDÈL] informational material sent by telegraph, many residents continue to violate this arrangement and <sup>by that taken</sup> to complicate the work of the Center [TSENTR]b ~~all the worse~~. We categorically demand that one execute this instruction and not force us into endless reminders. With the exclusion of materials of an operative character (questions of recruitments [KONTRAKTÀTSII], individual developments [RAZRABÒTKI]c, correspondence on organizational questions) and materials on Soviet ~~.....~~, <sup>nationals?</sup> all other materials are considered informational, into which category go likewise documentary data, material of a reference character, and materials characterizing the agentural [AGENTÛRNòY]d background, structure, methods, and content of the work of foreign intelligence services [RAZVÈDKI].

Upon replying to our inquiries one must likewise give indication concerning the handing on of a copy to the 8[th] Section, if the material bears an informational character. It is forbidden to touch on operative questions in telegrams of an informational character. Cipher clerks are forbidden to embrace in one dispatch [DEPÈSHA] informational and operative telegrams.e

Cipher clerks are under obligation to see to it that there is a notation concerning the copy to the 8[th] Section of informational telegrams, if the resident has forgotten to do so.

2188

Victor [VikTOR]

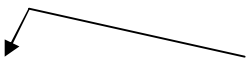
7 April

JJH 79-81=JAT-27-29

5 February 1951



Moscow [Circular] 1945 [Separate numeration] (10 April) 2



\*Sent to *Bogota* (no. 371) *Alger* (no.42), *Canberra* (no.68), *Habana* (no.62), *Mexico* (no.237), *Montevideo* (no.114), *New York* (no.339), *Ottawa* (no.166), *Pretoria* (no.39), *San Francisco* (no.153), and *Washington* (no.975)

a Heads of NKGB agent systems abroad.

b The branch of the NKGB to which the residents report.

c that is, feeling out potential informers, maneuvering towards their recruitment, and so on.

d Belonging to an AGENTÛRA or intelligence network.

e A unitary encrypted transmission, giving no external indication that it is not one coherent whole, often turns out to contain several quite separate messages. These latter are, as it here appears, known as telegrams [TELEGRAMMuI], while the larger unit is known as a dispatch [DEPËSHA]

USSR  
M.F.A.



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- Notes: [a] Known to have been sent to ADDIS ABABA, AHWAZ, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, CAIRO, CHUNGKIN G, DAIREN, HARBIN, KAZVIN, LANCHOW, MANCHOULI, PECHLEVI, RESHT, RIZAIYEH, TABRIA and TOKYO; to ARDEBIL, BENDER SHAH, CABUL, GORGAN, ISFAHAN, KERMANSHAH, MAKU; to ALGIERS, BRUSSELS, HALIFAX, HAVANA, ISTANBUL, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK, OTTAWA, REYKJAVIK, ROME, SAN FRANCISCO, STOCKHOLM and WASHINGTON.
- [b] SKK = SOYuzNAYa KONTROL'NAYa KOMISSIYa.
- [c] Address omitted in some versions.
- [d] Or merely "foreign intelligence".
- [e] LITER. A category or class designated by a letter of the alphabet. "O" and "V" here are probably the initial letters of the titles of the two categories.
- [f] Inserted by translator.
- [g] PERESADKI, i.e. changes of train, or from one form of transport to another.

Comments:

- [i] DEKANOZOV, Vladimir Georgievich, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

29 April 1969



M2

From: MOSCOW, N.F.A.

CIRCULAR MESSAGE [a]

27-28 July 45

To the person in charge of theOSShO [b].

On receipt of this [message] [e] erase from all copies  
 of Code [ShIFxxx] "xx. - D" held by you the following values  
 [VELICHIMY]: "0004 - A ME", "217. - xxLI xx", "219. - xShchE xE",  
 "265. I(SCxxx) ME", "3926 - NY ME", "4605 - MO ME", "5040 -  
 OH ME", "5998 - POKA ME", "9912 - Ya ME"[d]. Report [x]  
 fulfilment.

[1 group unrecovered][f]

- 
- T.N. [a] Sent to all holders of this code. A similar message  
 was sent in [redacted]
- [b] OSShO. Full expansion not known. SShO stands for  
 ShIFRORGAN - cipher office.
- [e] Inserted by translator.
- [d] I.e. groups for "but", "if", "yet", "and", "we", "he",  
 "I" coupled with "not" which could with a one-digit  
 garble become substituted in a message for the preceeding  
 groups and so reverse the meaning of a sentence.
- [e] Or "telegraph".
- [f] This group (7846) from the surname table was used by  
 the heads of the 10th Department of the Soviet Ministry  
 of Foreign Affairs. ([redacted])

From: MOSCOW

To: All Diplomatic Stations

28 July 1945

To the Ambassadors, Ministers and Consuls.

About putting cipher correspondence in order. Recently cipher telegrams are being written in an excessively long form, informational communications are being written in 5-6 pages when they could be stated in a maximum of 2 pages. Questions about the transfer of people, correspondence with relatives, consular correspondence for some reason are being transmitted by cipher and not by diplomatic mail. The regulations on priority marks are also being violated. Telegrams of "VNE OChEREDI"[a] priority are containing details of various conversations and information of no particular importance which might well be sent by diplomatic mail. In order to eliminate delay in deciphering the most urgent telegrams we are establishing the following system for cipher correspondence:

Telegrams with the mark "VNE OChEREDI" should contain no more than 2 pages. These should contain communications of the most important and most urgent nature for rapid [2 groups unrecovered] and questions which require decisions which must not be delayed.

"SROChNYE"[b] telegrams should not exceed 3 pages and should contain information of an urgent nature, not requiring a VNEOChEREDNYJ decision and answer.

In telegrams one should not set forth details of conversations, but essential aspects of questions; details should be described in letters and journals. Political surveys, press reviews, consular, organizational, personnel and economic questions are sent by ordinary diplomatic mail. Fulfillment of these instructions will improve the quality of the information and the work of the cipher clerks, will curtail the telegraphic expenses which must be paid in foreign currencies, and will lead to the timely working up of the cipher telegrams.

Confirm receipt of this telegram.

VYShINSKIJ

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Notes: [a] VNE OChEREDI: i.e. extraordinary, special, out of order.  
 [b] SROChNYJ: i.e. pressing, urgent.

25 August 1972

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 3/NBF/T12

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Item 3.

From: MOSCOW, M.F.A.

CIRCULAR MESSAGE [a]

1 - 2 Aug. 45

To all embassies, legations, consulates, [and] political advisors of Allied Control Commissions [SKK] [b].

We advise for information that a physical culture parade is taking place in MOSCOW on the 12th of August, 1945. In connections with this, all foreigners, except diplomats and diplomatic couriers, are being debarred from entering MOSCOW. Thus, in all cases where you have received, or do in the future receive, permits for visas for foreigners (except diplomats and diplomatic couriers and also special foreign delegations travelling at our invitation) travelling to MOSCOW or in transit through MOSCOW the issue of visas should be calculated to ensure that persons receiving them arrive in MOSCOW after the 12th of August; this restriction does not apply to diplomats and diplomatic couriers and visas should be issued to them without delay.

[Signed] [1 group unrecovered]

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 WS: XY 13.2
 

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T.N. [a] Sent to ADDIS ABABA, ALGIERS, ARDEBIL, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BOGOTA, CAIRO, CANBERRA, CHUNGKING, DAIREN, HAVANA, HALIFAX, HARBIN, KAZVIN, COPENHAGEN, ISTANBUL, LOS ANGELES, MANCHOULI, MESHED, MEXICO CITY, MONTEVIDEO, NEW YORK, OSLO, OTTAWA, PRAGUE, PRETORIA, RESHT, REYKJAVIK, RIZAIYEH, SAN FRANCISCO, STOCKHOLM, TABRIZ, TOKYO, WASHINGTON.

[b] SKK = SOYuzNAYa KONTROL'NAYa KOMISSIYa.

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S/NBF/T12





## COVERNAMES IN [REDACTED]

1. The last known message signed VIKTOR is Moscow-Canberra 27 June (26 June) 1946, serial 134 (4246). From the study of isologs it becomes virtually certain that this was a circular. The text as read so far is:

"We advise that the minister -- ABAKUMOV V. S. is assuming the covername "BORISOV". --3F-- covername "BORISOV" to Comrade SHEVELEV is revoked.

"The person designated in place of VIKTOR -- KUBATKIN P. N. is assuming the covername "YEVGENYEV".

"I wish you a year of successes in the work. Greetings."

4246

VIKTOR

26 June

2. YEVGENYEV has been turned up as a signature, on 1, 10, and 2x August 1946. As reported before, GENRIH (?), IVANOV (?), and YURYEV come into use on 26 September 1946, 24 October 1946, and 5 September 1947, respectively.

MEMO ROUTING SLIP			
1	NAME OR TITLE Colonel Harold G. Hayes	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION Chief, ASA	DATE	CONCURRENCE
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE
REMARKS			
<p>The attached study has been given no distribution outside of AS-90. It is forwarded for such action as is deemed necessary and desirable.</p> <hr/> <p>AS 90</p> <p><i>Study was given to Col Forney who is taking action on information contained. Wants more whenever possible</i> HAS XXX</p>			
FROM NAME OR TITLE FRANK B. ROWLETT		DATE 28 Apr 48	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION Chief, AS-90		TELEPHONE 315	

DA AGO FORM 895 Replaces WD AGO Form 895, 1 Jun 40, 16-48487-2 GPO  
which may be used.

1 OCT 47

S/NBF/T12

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Item 2.

From: MOSCOW, M.F.A.

CIRCULAR MESSAGE [a]

No: 019

22 May 47

To all ambassadors, ministers, consuls-general and consuls of the U.S.S.R., and political advisers (BERLIN, VIENNA, TOKYO). [b]

It has been established that a number of persons employed on the staffs [SOTRUDNIKI] of our establishments abroad are employing the services of foreign subjects in gross violation of an instruction of the M.F.A. [MID] [c] prohibiting persons employed in Secret Cypher Departments [SShO] [d], couriers of the Special Guard [SPETSOKhRANA], and all Soviet members of staffs living on the premises [NA TERRITORI] of embassies, legations and consulates from hiring foreign subjects for their personal service; I demand that the instruction in question be carried out precisely. All members of staffs in the above categories who at present have in their personal service foreign subjects (cooks, nursemaids, washerwomen, maids etc.) must discharge them immediately. Indicate receipt of [1 group unrecovered]. Report execution.

Special No. [C% 19] [1 group unrecovered] [b]  
[C% Ts] [e]

[Signed] [1 group unrecovered]

WS: XY 13.3

T.N. [a] Sent to ALGIERS, BERNE, BUENOS AIRES, CANBERRA, CARACAS, HAGUE, HAVANA, MONTEVIDEO, NEW YORK (both to Consul and to Soviet Delegate to UNO), OSLO, OTTAWA, POZNAN, REYJAVIK, RIO DE JANIERO, SAN FRANCISCO, SANTIAGO, STOCKHOLM, WASHINGTON. Also sent (with text unrecovered) to ADDIS ABABA, AHWAZ, ARDEBIL, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BRATISLAVA, CAIRO, CAPETOWN, GENOA, GURGAN, ISFAHAN, ISTANBUL, KERMANSHAH, MESHED, MILAN, NANKING, PAHLEVI, PRETORIA, RESHT, RIZAIYEH, SHANGHAI, and TIENTSIN.

[b] The address and the unrecovered group following the internal serial number were omitted in some versions of the message.

[c] MID = MINISTERSTVO INOSTRANNYKh DEL.

[d] SShO = SEKRETNO-ShIFROVAL'NYJ OTDEL.

[e] [C% Ts]. If correct, this might be an abbreviation for TsIRKULYaR = Circular.

S/NBF/T12