UNCLASSIFIED



(U) HISTORY TODAY - 15 July 2015

FROM: CCH

Run Date(s): 07/15/2015

(U) The Cold War was filled with stories of Soviet retaliation against prominent defectors; Walter Krivitsky (perhaps) and his friend Ignace Reiss, Georgi Markov, and, most prominently, Leon Trotsky.

(U) Krivitsky was a Soviet agent who defected in Europe in 1938 and was found dead in highly suspicious circumstances in New York in 1940; Krivitsky's friend and colleague Reiss had been killed by Soviet assassins months after defecting in 1937. Bulgarian emigre Markov was killed in London in 1978 with a ricin-laced pellet fired from a trick umbrella. Trotsky, a hero of the Soviet revolution, became Stalin's rival to succeed Lenin, lost out in the power struggle, left the country, and was eventually assassinated in Mexico in 1940.

- (U) But one didn't have to be prominent or involved in intelligence work for the Soviets to spend months, even years, hunting the person down. Even the second mate of a merchant ship who deserted would get that kind of effort, as we know from VENONA.
- (U) VENONA was a project that took advantage of an encryption error that allowed the U.S. to exploit Soviet espionage communications; U.S. cryptanalysts found that a fraction of Soviet communications from 1940 to 1948 could be broken into. Some of the communications from Soviet spy agencies told of efforts to track down merchant seamen who jumped ship. The *History Today* of April 29, 2015 revealed how the KGB had whole networks of agents on ships. What might not be obvious was how much of their time was spent tracking down deserters from merchant ships.
- (U) Even a mere second mate would merit months of pursuit, as shown by these VENONA excerpts about Elizaveta Kuzenetsova, who deserted in February 1944:
- (U) San Francisco to Moscow, VENONA 65, (pictured):

"On the 9th of February of this year [1944] in Portland second mate Elizaveta Mitrofanovna Kuznetsova, born 1910, deserted from the SS Pskov. Kuznetsova without receiving permission from the immigration authorities to remain in the USA went into hiding. On this matter we are sending Mazhor [KGB officer V. A. Misluk] to Portland."

(U) San Francisco to Moscow, VENONA 151 on March 30, 1944:

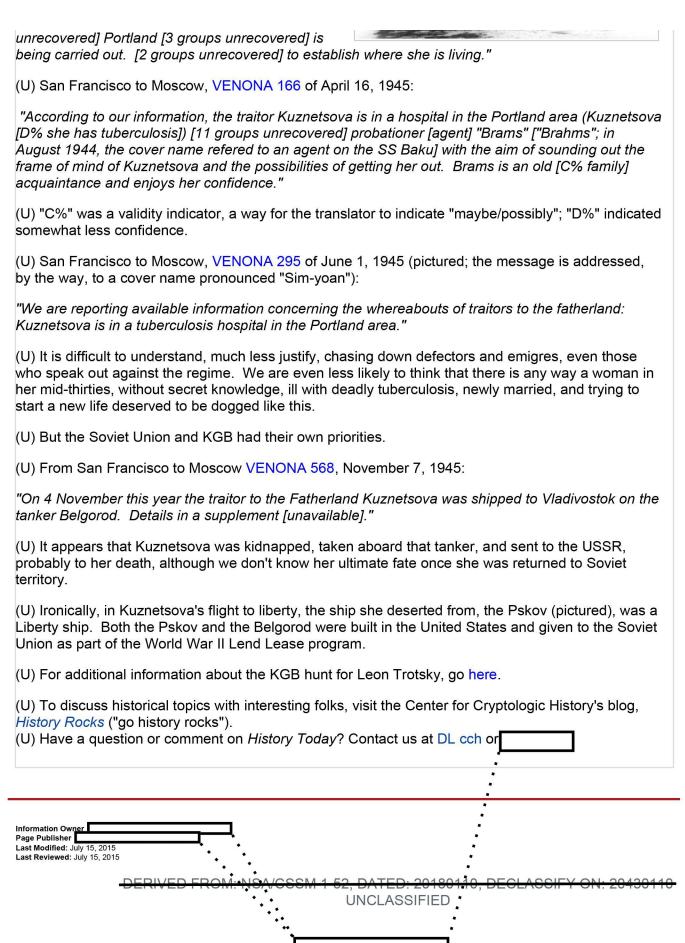
"Mazhor [KGB officer V. A. Misluk] [4 groups unrecovered] March 1944 in a report writes that Kuznetsova is still hiding in Portland.... K-13, E-14, and Igor [all unidentified] have been co-opted for the search."

(U) San Francisco to Moscow, VENONA 293 of July 11, 1944:

"According to rumor Kuznetsova has married a taxi driver and is living in San Francisco [9 groups



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(b) (3) - P.L. 86 - 36

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