

INTEROFFICE ROUTING AND/OR CARRIER SHEET HQ ASA
~~TOP SECRET CONT~~

File

NUMBER EACH MEMO OR COPY IN LEFT BORDER, PLACE NAME, RANK AND TELEPHONE NUMBER BOTTOM OF EACH ACTION. DRAW LINE UNDER EACH ACTION
ENTER FILE CLASSIFICATION ADJUTANT _____

TO	FROM	DATE	SUBJECT
Chief, AS-90	AS-93	17 May 48	Study of ████████ Messages
Incl			<p>The attached study of messages in ████████ involving cover names is forwarded for your information.</p> <p><i>Hugh S. Erskine</i> HUGH S. ERSKINE Lt Col, Signal Corps Chief, CSGAS-93</p> <p><i>Col Hayes: (By hand)</i> <i>Another!</i> <i>BE</i></p>
AS 90	AS 10	24 May	<p>Original copy delivered to Col Forney</p> <p><i>AS</i></p> <p><i>AG</i></p>

~~TOP SECRET CONT~~
LIFT HERE USE OTHER SIDE

~~TOP SECRET CLINT~~

7

Chief,
AS-90 AS-93 17 May48 Study of ██████████ Messages

The attached study of messages in ██████████ involving cover names is forwarded for your information.

Incl

HUGH S. ERSKINE
Lt. Col, Signal Corps
Chief, CSGAS-93

~~TOP SECRET CLINT~~ 47

7

THE KOMAR (KRAVCHENKO) AFFAIR IN ██████████ MESSAGES

1. The messages translated below are submitted for their possible intelligence value. They were transmitted from New York to Moscow in the system ██████████ during 1944.

2. It is evident from the contents that the deserter KOMAR was Viktor Andreyevich Kravchenko. The word KOMAR may be translated Gnat.

3. New York-Moscow message 613 [first part of 327] of 3 May 1944: To (?PETROV?).

Your telegram no. 195.

1. Our --1U--, as a result of (?your?) "interrogation"^a, visited Carthage [Washington], met the well-known Fascist (known to you) ST--?--PENKOV (is working now at --2F-- (?book?) "DOK"), who when he had drunk quite a bit, let on that he had a connection with the desertion of KOMAR, with whom he had gotten together four times, had gotten him drunk and had carried on "cordial conversations." KOMAR acted, as it were, from considerations "based on ideas"^b, "sufficiently --4FU-- 20 years". At the same time, ST--?--PENKOV acknowledged that a no less powerful motive was the desire for an easy, comfort-affording life and did not deny that this was just what produced on KOMAR an irresistible impression. S. helped KOMAR come into contact with urbanites [citizens of the U.S.]. --1G-- [at this time? for security?] he met him in a club for military personnel located in the same building as the "Associated Press," conducted K. to the doors of that agency, which at once got in touch with SHAPLIN. Thereafter SHAPLIN took the affair of K. into his own hands and K. went to Tyre [New York]. By what ST--?--PENKOV said, SHAPLIN knows K.'s whereabouts and continues to maintain contact with the latter. K. at present does not doubt that "they will liquidate" him. Constantly --1F-- (?to inflate the importance of?) --2F-- and in that way obtain (?the possibility of?) --3FU-- (?to lead?) a quiet and comfort-affording life. The letter in the Times^c was written by SHAPLIN. Inquiry was choked off because (?the

League?) (did) not --32F--
SKRIAGIN. The last meeting between them was six months ago,
after which contact was so to speak nipped off. By S.'s account
he met^d SKRIAGIN for about two weeks. The latter was interested
in the newspaper "ROSSIYA" and attempted through S. to influence
RUIBAKOV^e, apparently not realizing that S. was a long-time con-
tributor to the paper.

327

MAY

3/5 May

Continuation follows

^a
Or "pumping," or perhaps (quasi-judicial) "examination";
Russian: OPROS.

^b
Russian: "IDEYNUIM" SOOBRAZHENIYEM.

^c
Presumably Kravchenko's letter in the evening edition of
3/4 April 1944.

^d
Or "according to the story, S. met."

^e
Nikolay P. Ruibakov (Rybakov), editor of Rossiia.

4. New York-Moscow message 614 [conclusion of 137] of 3 May 1944:
To (?PETROV?).

Conclusion of telegram no. 327.

--1U-- SKRIAGIN, ST--?--PENKOV --2F-- (?during their acquaint-
tance?) --2F-- (?wrote an article?) "(?Russia?)" --2F, 1U--
SKRIAGIN and thereafter discontinued the appointments. The meet-
ings took place in SKRIAGIN's apartment. One day ST--?--PENKOV
met there (?12?) Soviet persons, among them KOMAR.

Recently ST--?--PENKOV --1U, 6F, 2U-- a member of ^{ZHAR} ~~SKRIAGIN~~'s
chorus, ALEKSEYEV (--5F-- N.T.S.N.P.: OSIPOV, a cavalry man^a).

2. OLA in Carthage [Washington] has made the acquaintance of
the American (woman) CUNNINGHAM^d of the well-known PEABODY family.
The latter works at a secret receiver of foreign radio trans-
missions, including those from the U.S.S.R. To listen to trans-
missions from the U.S.S.R. with this receiver is the business of

~~TOP SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~

5-6 persons, all urbanites [U.S. citizens]. There are no Russians. CUNNINGHAM is friends with ST-?-PENKOV. In her house lives the Soviet --1U-- LOMONOSOV. ST-?-PENKOV (?has palmed off? ?is palming off?) --4F-- newspaper "ROSSIYA" --3F-- his name with (?the Bank? [U.S. State Department]). *--9F, 2U--.

Recently it chanced that OLA became acquainted with SHAPLIN. The instructions given her are (?to try cautiously?) to enter into closer relations with the latter, --2F-- ST-?-PENKOV and, if the possibility presents itself, to ascertain more detailed intelligence about the KOMAR affair. OLA is well acquainted with ESTRINA, who is in --1U--. She looked after^c her work in the "Union of Russian (?Jews?)" in connection with OLA's entering --1F-- they have not met for a long time, but in case OLA can (?continue their old social acquaintance??), we think (?OLA will be able to?) --3F-- with ESTRINA and SHAPLIN.

MAY, 3 May

^a
Russian: KAVALERIST. However, it must be pointed out that a new reading of message 700 on changes in covernames makes the list start out with KAVALERIST--(?BEY?). Whether or not KAVALERIST in the present message is that covername cannot now be decided.

^b
Russian: KANNINGEM.

^c
Or "kept an eye on."

5. New York-Moscow message 654 [359] of 9 May 1944:

To (?PETROV?).

Your telegram no. 195. --2F-- KOMAR is living outside the city. From time to time he gets into Tyre [New York]. K. --3F-- SHAPLIN and the right-hand man of KERENSKOY, ZENZINOV. The latter related that KOMAR --1F-- SHAPLIN --25F-- that the latter [plural] can make him acquainted with KOMAR.

359

MAY

9 May

6. New York-Moscow message 694 [374] of 16 May 1944 is not yet in very good shape. The readable fragments follow:

~~TOP SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~

50

Your telegram no. 1887. SERGEY met with VISSON^a of the line
(?of cover?)^b. VISSON --25F--. He knows GAL'PERIN^c well.
VISSON --4F-- GREEN^d data on KOMAR. ...

^a So the Russian; possible WISSON.

^b The word identified as LINIYA (line) seems to have some
secret meaning as yet undetermined, possibly referring to grades
within the network of spies and contacts.

^c Persons of this name settling abroad sometimes spell it
HALPERIN, if they hale from sections of Russia where G is pro-
nounced H.

^d Russian: GRIN.

The rest is even more fragmentary, but VISSON and GAL'PERIN
occur again once apiece. The signature is MAY.

7. New York-Moscow message 726 [394] of 20 May 1944:
To (?PETROV?).

According to intelligence from MAR--?--, KOMAR is living
in KERENSKOY's country house in the State of Connecticut.
Details are being ascertained.

394

MAY

20 May

8. New York-Moscow message 740 [402] of 24 May [23 May] 1944:
To VIKTOR.

TIUL'PAN [Tulip] has communicated --10F-- KOMAR --10F--
DALIN and DON-LEVIN --6F-- book. K. is hurrying the book,
fearing that he will not (?get to?) finish it. K. was a member
of the BUHARIN opposition, but the book will not --1F-- this.
--8F-- K. --3F-- KRIVITSKOY affair".

402

MAY

23 May

~~TOP SECRET~~~~CLINT
CLINT~~

9. New York-Moscow message 1144 [second (and final) part of 634] of 10 August 1944 is so incompletely readable that it would serve little purpose at present to attempt a translation. At any rate, the occurrence of the name KOMAR near the end of it seems to have little bearing on the main subject. It is probable that the message deals with political intrigue in Mexico and mentions one or more parties by covername. A member of the staff of the polecats (TOR'KI = Trotskyites?) of the U.S., Cochran(e), would seem to be "using" (the desertion of?) KOMAR (for anti-Stalinist propoganda?).

10. New York-Moscow message 1145 of 10 August 1948:

To VIKTOR.

1. KOMAR told TIUL'PAN [Tulip] that he had --1F-- (?the firm?) of a friend of (?KAPITAN's? [Roosevelt's]) --14F-- (surname --2U--), --8F--. After the first article of KOMAR's in --5F-- K. --1F-- with DON LEVIN --1U-- the latter --5F-- --1F-- staff --5F-- especially DON LEVIN and --2F-- and other --5F-- pecuniary questions and that he --1F-- as --19F--. Then K. decided to conduct --25F-- (?with?) MAX EASTMAN arrived --15F-- OLA (?it has been ascertained?) that K. is living at the address 209 West 97 Street.

ZENZINOV told OLA --2F-- K. will --1U-- in a month. K.'s first task --3F-- threaten (?his family?) with persecution --3F-- --(an) agronomist --4F-- --2F-- K. --4F-- among whom, as it were, also co-operate with us, took part in --3F-- --1U--. In Carthage [Washington], K. --1F-- received from her a letter, that his surviving parent^a [or "abandoned parents"] had died and that (?she?) wanted to stop work^b.

2. ESTRINA told TIUL'PAN --25F-- FISHER^c. Details are being ascertained.

635

MAY

~~TOP SECRET~~

52

- a Or "father."
- b Or "discontinue the work."
- c Or "FISCHER."