

~~TOP SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

Posted by [REDACTED] @ 2009-12-17 11:23:58

Tags: soviet union, voxtopics songbook, afghanistan

Mood: amused

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

(U) Christmas, the 30th anniversary of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, and songs from VOXtopics!

(U//~~FOUO~~) It is always the anniversary of something, isn't it? This year I've neglected to blog about several anniversaries (such as the 30th anniversary of the taking of the US Embassy in Iran) but I almost never forget the Christmas Eve Soviet invasion of Afghanistan - yes, this year is the 30th anniversary. Long-time readers of this journal will remember that in our house we tend to break into song and this is the season for the Jalalabad song and other stirring carols from the VOXtopics songbook.

(b) (6)

(~~C~~) The songs were written by Russian language transcribers, many of them working shift work, and are NSA classics. We were singing this one this morning (note - I really can't sing, but [REDACTED] has a good voice, spent time as a Russian transcriber, and composed some work for VOXtopics):

(U//~~FOUO~~) **Team Chief Wenceslas** (to the tune of Good King Wenceslas) (Yes, this was a History Today item last year.)

Team Chief Wenceslas looked out, On the feast of Stephen
When the dubs lay round about, piled so high and even
Voices loud that mid were heard, Though the read was cruel
When a commie's call was heard, shouting like a fool.

"Hither, scribe, and stand by me, if you know it, telling,
Yonder commie, who is he, what is that he's yelling?"

"Chief, he is a commie pig, very far away,
Probably a red big-wig, What he yells I cannot say."

"Bring me aids, and maps as well, bring me new ears hither,
Thou and I his loc shall spell, When we track him thither"
Scribe and team chief, forth they scanned, Forth they scanned
together
Through the dark mid's no man's land, and the winter
weather.

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52

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"Chief, the night is older now, and the static stronger,
Fails my strength, I know not how, I can scan no longer."

"Mark my phonejack, good my scribe, Plug thou in there

boldly,

Thou shalt feel the [REDACTED], Freeze thy blood less
coldly."

Scanned he where the chief had scanned, Where the dub was
garbled,

Words came to his eager hand While the commie warbled.

Mark the moral, scanners all, Golden ears possessing:

Those who most do bless the call, Shall themselves find
blessing.

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3642d [REDACTED] @ 2009-12-17 12:16:24

Christmas eve 1979

Betsy,

(b) (1)
(b) (3) -18 USC 798
(b) (3) -50 USC 3024 (h)
(b) (3) -P.L. 86-36

Christmas Eve 79 was probably the longest swing shift I ever worked. I was

[REDACTED] working Soviet Air Defense. At almost the end of the shift (8:30-9 PM) we started seeing PVO
tracking of transports [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Soviet invasion had begun. I stayed on working the
traffic till 11:30 the next morning.

3646 re 3642 [REDACTED] @ 2009-12-17 13:17:31

Re: Christmas eve 1979

(U) Thanks for sharing your memories of that night!

(U) Anyone else out there remember a long shift that day?

3658 [REDACTED] @ 2009-12-21 18:05:36

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(b) (1)

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(b) (3)-50 USC 3024 (h)

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

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Christmas Eve 1979

~~(TOP SECRET//COMINT)~~ I, too, was working swings that night [redacted] I was called [redacted] to listen to air traffic and was amazed at the number of VTA aircraft heading to [redacted] as a preliminary to the invasion. I don't remember how many but I know that the [redacted] were filled with VTA aircraft that night. It was a fun night and I had many more opportunities to deal with Soviet Forces in Afghanistan before they pulled out ten years later.

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