Ottawa KGB – Moscow Center Cables
Cables Decrypted by the National Security Administration’s Venona Project

Transcribed by Students of the Mercyhurst College Institute for Intelligence Studies

RABINOVICH
(1944)

From: MOSCOW
To: OTTAWA
No: 109 19th March 1944

[14 groups unrecovered]

through RABINOVICH[i] [4 groups unrecovered].

No. 1071 VIKTOR[ii]

Footnotes: [i] RABINOVICH: Presumably Hermina RABINOVICH.
[ii] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.
In July in PORTLAND the fireman of the ship "YaKUT", SOKOV Andrej Kuz'mich deserted. He was caught with the help of the American authorities, put aboard the ship with the participation of "VITALIJ"[i], and on 2 August delivered to PETROPAVLOVSK. You did not inform us of the catching of SOKOV. The SOKOV case once again testifies to the weak work on preventing desertions, which is explained primarily by the poor work with the probationer network on the ships. Since November 1943 over five hundred names of ship probationers were from time to time provided

[9 groups unrecovered]

to KhARON[ii] and then you, so that they might be contacted, but information about them was not reported in time to "VITALIJ" and to the other group leaders, as a result of which they have not been contacting the probationers in PORTLAND and other ports. The probationer staff and in particular that of the residents [D% is still a][2 groups unrecovered] one and consequently, having our information about them, [C% one can/could]

[51 groups unrecovered]

[C% request] the extradition of deserters from the American authorities, which however in the majority of cases is not done. It is necessary to get liaison with the cadre workers going, to pass on in time our information about the probationers, and to make use of them to the fullest extent to keep tabs on crews and prevent treasonous acts.

No. 59 SEMEN[iii]
29 August 1944

Notes:
[a] Also sent to SAN FRANCISCO and NEW YORK.

Comments:
[i] VITALIJ: Pavel Kuzmich REVIZOROV.
[ii] KhARON: Grigorij Markovich KhEJFETs.
[iii] SEMEN: Unidentified cover-name.

9 October 1968
From: MOSCOW
To: OTTAWA
No: 561 11 Nov. 44

In reply to No. 51. [a] SMAGIN[i] has been taken off voyages to foreign ports. MOShINSKIJ, formerly Captain of the steamship "VIShERA", has been appointed Captain of the steamship "LUNACHARSKIJ". Please do not delay the despatch of the data concerning SMAGIN.

No. 109 SEMEN[ii]
[C% 10th] November

Note: [a] Not available.

Comments: [i] SMAGIN: Nikolaj SMAGIN was Master of the S.S. LUNACHARKIJ in 1944.
[ii] SEMEN: Unidentified cover-name.
RE-ISSUE

EASTABLISHMENT IN OTTAWA OF A SUB-RESIDENCY FOR THE FIFTH LINE (1944)

From: MOSCOW
To: OTTAWA
No: 568[a] 16 Nov. 44

According to the plan of 26th October 1944, which has been approved by Comrade "PETROV",[i] a special sub-residency [PODREZIDENTURA] for the Fifth Water Transport Line is being established within the framework of your residency to provide a more satisfactory service [4 groups unrecovered] CANADA [2 groups unrecovered] sub-residency,

right to give independent decisions [1 group unrecovered] questions [3 groups unrecovered] and to have direct communication with the Centre.[ii] You [5 groups unrecovered] sub-residency in accordance with instructions of the TU[iii], directing the work of the sub-resident and taking the necessary steps for the successful [1 group unrecovered]

from amongst Soviet workers who have been vetted and who are connected with our vessels and port operations, with a view to employing them as contact men[SVYaZNIK] between the permanent staff workers[b] [KADROVIK] and the ships’ probationer [STAZhERSKIJ] network. The object of this, once the appointment of the candidates has been confirmed, is to make greater use of the ships’ [B% agent network][AGENTURA] and to succeed in meeting every single one of the ships’ residents.

Distribution [continued overleaf]
We require:

1. that each resident should write to “SEmen”[iv] [2 groups unrecovered] account of the work of the sub-residents.

2. [8 groups unrecovered] about this work [40 groups unrecovered] . Report how this has been done.

No. 53 [Signature unrecovered]

Notes: [a] See MOSCOW to SAN FRANCISCO No. 379 of the same date. 3/NBF/T798.

[b] Should presumably be “workers”. See MOSCOW to SAN FRANCISCO No. 379.

Comments: [i] PETROV : Unidentified/cover-name.

[ii] CENTRE : MGB Headquarters in MOSCOW.

[ili] TU : Presumably this is an abbreviation referring to some directorate [UPRAVLENIE], and T possibly stands for Transport[TRANSPORTNOE], Technical[TEKhNICHESKOEO] or Territorial[TERRITORIAL’NOE].