

Tradecraft in Intelligence Work from Cover Organizations on Soviet Territory

Analytical Overview

1988

Note

This analytical overview synthesizes the experience accumulated by officers of the IT Department¹ of the First Chief Directorate (FCD) in ensuring konspiratsiya [tradecraft] in using covers for performing intelligence tasks from the territory of the Soviet Union. Some recommendations are provided aimed at increasing the tradecraft of intelligence activity by the officers of the RT department working both in the central office and in the cover organizations.

¹ "IT" are the English initials for "Intelligence from the Territory" [razvedka s territorii] of the First Chief Directorate of the KGB.

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Introduction

In recent years, in most countries under surveillance, the operational setting has become drastically difficult. The intelligence services of the US and other capitalist countries are perfecting forms and methods of work against Soviet intelligence. They have stepped up efforts to penetrate the intelligence agencies of the USSR and their agents. Under these conditions, the FCD's successful completion of its tasks largely depends on increased political vigilance, strict compliance with tradecraft rules and a regimen of secrecy at work.

Tradecraft occupies a special place in foreign intelligence. It is one of the founding principles, an integral element of all Chekist activity, a reliable means of guaranteeing security, and protection from the enemy's penetration into the staffs and agents' apparatus of the KGB. The Decree No. 0100 of the Chairman of the USSR Committee on State Security, dated February 19, 1986, "On Measures of Strengthening Tradecraft in the Activity of State Security Agencies Under Modern Conditions," emphasizes that "every operational worker must understand that it is tradecraft that enables the offensive nature of agent and operative activity".

Experience has shown that guaranteeing the security of intelligence activity requires from intelligence officers not only qualified actions in operational work but conscientious performing of their duties under cover, correct behavior in everyday life. Strict

compliance with the demands of tradecraft is one of the chief conditions for successful intelligence work.

In recent years, the enemy has become more informed about the work methods of Soviet external intelligence, the KGB. The enemy actively uses data known to it in its counter-intelligence activities against Soviet external intelligence. In that connection, the need arises to strengthen intelligence tradecraft measures, including from Soviet territory.

This report has been the first attempt to characterize the features of cloaking intelligence activity from Soviet territory. Previously, Chekist literature had reviewed the issues of tradecraft mainly as applied to the work from the "legal" KGB rezidenturas², and issues of ensuring security of recruitment development.

The purposes of this analytical overview are first to synthesize the practice of ensuring tradecraft accumulated by the IT department³ of the FCD during the creation of covers and their operative use; second, an attempt to analyze several features of creating legends, the use of concealment and camouflage methods during agent and operative activity; and third, the formulation of proposals for increasing the level of tradecraft in the activity of the IT FCD's intelligence departments and intelligence centers, and also the first divisions of the KGB and KGB Directorates. The

² The rezidentura is the KGB's base of operations for its spies, often in a foreign embassy.

³ The initials "IT" come from the translation of the term razvedka s territorii - intelligence from the territory or from inside the Soviet Union.

assignments indicated determine the structure of this work.

In preparing this overview, use was made of directive documents of the USSR KGB, orders, and FCD instructions on questions of maintaining security and tradecraft in the KGB's external intelligence; materials from the IT Department; literature from the classified collection of the operational library, and also surveys of experienced operatives from IT FCD on issues of providing cover for intelligence departments' agent and operative activity from Soviet territory.

This analytical review is intended for use in practical activity by operatives of the FCD ICD Department and officers of the first divisions of the KGB and KGB Directorates.

I. Tradecraft - An Important Principle and Condition for the Organization of Successful Intelligence Activity

V.I. Lenin called *konspiratsiya*⁴ a special form of illegal political warfare, its most important condition and most important organizing principle.⁵ Guided by Leninist principles on the art of *konspiratsiya*, the

⁴ *Konspiratsiya* is generally not translated as "conspiracy" but as "tradecraft," i.e. all the ways in which intelligence officers conceal their espionage from outsiders, especially the enemy's counterintelligence. The term can also be translated as "clandestine," "cover," or "concealment."

⁵ V.I. Lenin, *Polniye sobranniye sochetaniya* [Complete Collected Works], vol. 6, p. 136.

agencies of the KGB have accumulated rich experience in clandestine opposition to the enemy.

Under the current conditions of intense warfare against the subversive activity of hostile intelligence services, strict compliance with tradecraft is an indispensable requirement for every operative worker. As analysis indicates of the enemy's provocations against officers of the KGB's foreign intelligence in recent years, almost two thirds of the enemy's provocations were carried out by obtaining information from mistakes and blunders by the operatives themselves. These are primarily mistakes related to the violation of the principles of tradecraft and political vigilance in intelligence work.⁶

Tradecraft is an indispensable condition for the effective activity of the KGB's foreign intelligence. The dictionary of Chekist terminology provides a detailed definition of konspiratsiya: "Konspiratsiya is one of the fundamental principles of intelligence activity, conditioning its clandestine nature. Konspiratsiya envisions keeping from the enemy, outsiders, and also participants in intelligence activity not related to a specific case, its contents (the subject and object of activity, the purposes, the means used, the methods, forms, and so on) and the results; it covers all sides of intelligence activity; it is secured by a system of organizational and management measures, methods of operational activity, training and indoctrination measures (organization of cover, concealment of participants in intelligence

⁶ DOI 83168. T. I. C. 86. 1.

activity, classified record-keeping, methods of legend creation, disinformation, development of the skills of conspiratorial behavior, indoctrination in vigilance and a creative approach to intelligence work and more).

Tradecraft must not be understood as the intelligence officer following certain rules of behavior only during the performance of intelligence assignments. The ability to act in a clandestine manner in various situations, including those not directly connected to his official activity, is a professional quality of the intelligence officer.

Constant improvement of the methods of tradecraft is one of the most important tasks facing the operative staff. The means and methods of tradecraft applied must in any operative setting be able to ensure the cover of intelligence involvement in any given operative activities and actions, and the invulnerability and integrity of intelligence officers, agents, and confidential contacts.

In determining the place and role of tradecraft in the system of basic principles of the state security agencies' external intelligence activity, it is necessary also to examine such concepts as vigilance and security. The interconnection of these concepts is obvious, since security in the conduct of intelligence operations and activities is based on the constant vigilance of intelligence officers and the strictest observation of tradecraft in everyday life and work by all intelligence officers both in the central office and in the ministries.

Vigilance in intelligence work is based on the high political vigilance of the Chekist intelligence officers; their constant readiness and ability to detect in a timely manner threats to the interests of the Soviet state by the enemy; the security of intelligence activity and warning of possible harm to it. Vigilance in intelligence work is guaranteed by a deep and comprehensive study of the enemy; the activity of his intelligence services, the operational setting, the persons around the intelligence officer; attentive analysis of their actions and behavior; perfection of political and professional preparation; maintenance of the operative staff's high mobilization readiness for actions in any setting; strict conspiracy, discipline, and organization.⁷

In the same way as vigilance, the security of intelligence activity is ensured by political and professional preparation and indoctrination of the intelligence cadres, through the system of its organization and management; a strict observation of the principles of intelligence activity and also the implementation of relevant operational, technical and other measures' and a creative approach by intelligence officers to their tasks. The security of intelligence activity means protection of intelligence from the enemy, the neutralization of his subversive efforts, which enable intelligence to function reliably and resolve the tasks before it.⁸

⁷ Yediny slovar chekistskoy terminologii. Chast' I. Razvedka/ KI KGB [Unified Dictionary of Chekist Terminology. Part I. Intelligence/Red Banner Institute of the KGB [Academy of Foreign Intelligence], Moscow, 197, p. 49.

⁸ Ibid., p. 16.

II. Maintaining Tradecraft During Creation of Covers and Their Operational Use

2.1. Organization of Covers

Among the factors influencing the level of intelligence work from Soviet territory, the cover of operative workers occupies an important place. "Cover" is understood to mean an official, documented, place of work, backing the relevant legend and activity of the intelligence office, necessary for performing intelligence assignments and camouflaging them.⁹ The problems of cover concern the sphere of inter-agency relations, since they are related to offering official posts in Soviet agencies and institutions to intelligence. Decisions on offering intelligence posts at a certain agency are issued by the Authority.

The cover institution is a state agency or a civic organization of the USSR, in which KGB external intelligence uses the official positions offered it as a cloak for intelligence officers and the organization of intelligence work. These include the USSR Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the State Committee for Science and Technology, TASS [Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union], APN [Novosti Press Agency], the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies and others.¹⁰

⁹ Vneshnyaya razvedka organov gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti. Obshchiy kurs/ KI KGB [Foreign Intelligence of the State Security Agencies. General Course. KGB Red Banner Institute], Moscow, 1986, p. 62.

¹⁰ Yediny slovar chekistskoy terminologii. Chast' I. Razvedka/KI KGB [Unified Dictionary of Chekist Terminology. Part I Intelligence/KGB Red Banner Institute]. Moscow, 1986, p. 19.

Intelligence officers working from the positions of cover agencies on Soviet territory are considered officers of the active reserve of the FCD (at the agencies).

In orders, instructions and other regulatory documents of the USSR KGB and FCD in recent years, the entire intelligence staff has placed a great deal of attention on solving the problems of cover. Underestimation of the role of cover can lead to exposure of intelligence officers and their operational contacts.

In resolving issues related to the selection and use of positions in the cover agency, the KGB's foreign intelligence proceeds from the following principles.

First, the position, along with the relevant tradecraft, must provide the opportunity to camouflage intelligence activity or certain of its aspects through the intelligence officer's official work in the cover agency. Practice indicates that some intelligence activities by their external manifestation (and sometimes even their true nature) have features similar to the actions of the intelligence officer in fulfilling his official duties under cover.

Second, the official post must enable the procurement of information from legal positions, the conduct of recruitment work and active measures.

At times it turns out to be far from an easy manner to select the cover which would be the most convenient for

performing intelligence tasks and would suit the specific intelligence officer from the perspective of his professional training and calling. An unsuccessful choice of a cover often results in the intelligence officer's work becoming ineffective, or his cover being broken.

Therefore, it is especially important to make a comprehensive evaluation of the suitability of covers for performing intelligence tasks, and for the heads of departments and lines to monitor the level of preparedness of the operative officers. Sometimes good opportunities can be missed by mistakenly considering a given position in an agency as unsuitable. In order to prevent such mistakes, the potentials of the cover must be carefully examined.

As is known, all intelligence officers working in agencies have a strictly delineated list of long-term tasks and duties. Overall, these tasks correspond to one of the main lines of work of the KGB's foreign intelligence (political and scientific-technical intelligence, foreign counterintelligence). Accordingly, the possibilities of a given cover may be effectively used only in the event of their coordination with the specific line and territory of the operational work, while observing the demands of tradecraft.

Thus, in order to conduct intelligence from USSR territory of a political line, the most preferred covers are those of diplomats, journalists, scientists, and state and civic organization employees. From the positions of these covers, intelligence officers have

access to foreigners who have a relationship with or are working in such institutions and organizations which are regarded by KGB foreign intelligence as fundamental or interim targets for intelligence penetration.

The correctly chosen agency helps to cover the interest of the operative in the subject matter of intelligence information. The cover of journalist, for example, provides the opportunity to attend receptions, press conferences and other events. Western journalists regard information as a target for purchase, sale or exchange; therefore, the intelligence officer has legal opportunities for collecting information on a wide range of issues and conducting recruitment work and staging active measures.

Cover through foreign trade organizations enables the intelligence officer to establish contacts with representatives of business circle who have access to important information on economic or scientific-technical issues, and often have major contacts in the political and government spheres of the targeted countries as well.

Cover through education, civic and youth organizations offers good opportunities for access to a contingent for recruitment among foreign youth studying in the Soviet Union; to youth organizations and social circles of Western countries.

No matter what line the operative works in, he is always obliged to think how to more fully and more

effectively use the agency's possibilities in the interests of intelligence, masking his intelligence activity with the interests of the agency.

Every intelligence officer must have excellent knowledge of the work of the agency, in order to create a plausible legend for operative and intelligence activities by performing official functions under cover.

In order to support certain operative activities, aside from long-term covers, the IT Department makes widespread use of one-time and short-term covers.

A one-time cover is used if it is known precisely that after performing a specific task, the operative, using the given cover, will not encounter the target for cultivation in the future. An example might be a talk for operative purposes by a KGB officer under cover of a policeman, with a target who supposedly committed an offense. One-time covers are sometimes used in staging some special activities: the operative appears disguised as a journalist, a hotel employee, an employee of a civic organization and so on.

It is characteristic of one-time covers that the operative does not work officially in the cover organization in whose name he speaks; he may not have a regular connection to it, and not always possess the cover documents. In certain cases, in order to ensure the one-time cover of the intelligence department, the intelligence centers of the IT Department bring in agents and confidential contacts of the KGB's agencies

from among the official employees of the institution, from whose position the operative is to act.

In practice, in the work of the IT Department, short-term covers are used as well. They differ from one-time covers in that they are used within a relatively short and limited time frame. These covers are used particularly for establishing and maintaining contact with foreigners of interest to intelligence who have come to the Soviet Union for a short time. The legend of the cover to be used is prepared with an account of the operative tasks which must be performed during this time. Often the legend used for short-term cover is backed up by corresponding behavior from a KGB agent from environment of the targeted foreigner.

For operational purposes, one-time and short-term covers are used not only by operatives but agents of the USSR KGB as well.

Thus, official covers in an agency ensure a fairly reliable and convincing legend for operatives and enable them to establish natural contact with foreigners, and to converse with them both in and out of an official setting. Even so, consideration should be made of the well-known prejudice of foreigners regarding Soviet citizens contacting them through their work, in which they frequently suspect them to be officers or agents of the KGB. Therefore, it is very important to employ the cover in order not to give the target of our interest any reasons for doubts.

The work position in the cover agency taken by the intelligence officer must meet the following requirements: to offer interest to a foreigner, and to enable the operative to contact him regularly. Careful observation of tradecraft measures is a necessary condition for using the cover, since in the case of the operative's exposure, the compromising of the cover agency is possible.

2.2 The Legend Biography of the Intelligence officer

Experience has shown that the level of tradecraft in the activity of the operatives of IT Department's intelligence sections depends on how successfully, in conjunction with intelligence tasks, the cover is selected and used, but also on how well conceived and operationally competent the legend biography of the operative is developed, to what degree the features of the official position and nature of the work of the intelligence officer's cover are taken into account; and also his personal and professional qualities.

The legend biography is the basic legend of the intelligence officer. It contains specially selected information containing the biographical data, motives, reasons, and circumstances, which the intelligence officer uses to hide his affiliation with Soviet intelligence from the enemy and those around him, masking intelligence work as a whole and individual intelligence operations in part. In addition, the legend, despite containing elements of fiction in it, must be credible, and instill trust and stand up to verification.

In developing a legend biography, the personal qualities of the intelligence officer are considered, his education, profession, the specifics of the cover agency, the conditions of the upcoming intelligence work and tasks which he must resolve.

The stage of introducing an intelligence officer into a cover agency and his adaptation to working in it is considered the beginning of the complex operative use of cover and a legend biography. A necessary condition for introducing the intelligence officer into the cover agency is the establishment of the legend biography and preparation of the necessary personal documents. For successful resolution of this task, the intelligence officer must be familiar in detail with the general hiring requirements and the procedure for registering work at the cover agency.

According to current requirements, the intelligence officer getting a job at a cover agency must have a passport created in accordance with the legend biography; a work booklet; Party (Komsomol), military or trade union ID cards; a trade union member's registration card, and if necessary, also a payment card for membership dues to the trade union; a salary statement; a recommendation from the previous place of work or study; a copy of his educational diploma (and in some instances, a reference from his place of residence).

The basic documents, such as the passport, marriage certificate, and education diploma may be authentic, and the Party (Komsomol) ID, as a rule, is authentic. The work booklet, the military and trade union ID, the

work recommendations from the previous, legendary workplace are manufactured in precise accordance with the legend biography.

The beginning of work at the agency is a difficult period in the life of the intelligence officer. In any office, there is always heightened interest in a new employee. For some time, he will be in the center of the collective's attention. His co-workers will have a natural desire to learn as much as possible about the new guy, his personal professional qualities, character, lifestyle, family status, hobbies, and so on. During the acquaintance, the intelligence office sometimes discovers common interests and pastimes with his new colleagues, and acquaintances in common. A sense of mutual attraction emerges, and friendly relations are established.

Then a period comes of more in-depth study of the professional and personal qualities of the new employee. Gradually, people grow accustomed to the newcomer, a certain opinion about him is formed, and he ceases to be at the center of attention. During this period, the intelligence officer's legend biography undergoes serious testing, and his ability to apply it in practice. The slightest falsity, an unsure or restless act could lead to his cover being broken.

The conditions of tradecraft require that the intelligence officer strictly adheres to the legend biography and behaves in accordance with his official position throughout the entire period of work in the cover agency. As experience has shown, it is precisely the deviation from the usual norms of behavior of the

agency's employees that often becomes the reason for the exposure of the intelligence officer and leads to serious operational and sometimes political consequences.

The question arises: how can the intelligence agent guarantee the secrecy of his intelligence activity?

Above all, his behavior must be able to convince other people of the plausibility of his legend. The intelligence officer must not outwardly be distinguishable from other employees of the agency. In the eyes of foreign colleagues in his profession, he must seem to be a competent person. However, not all intelligence officers have yet managed to do this. Some of them, for example, draw attention to themselves with insufficient preparation on the subject matter of their cover, a careless attitude toward performing their official duties, an unusual manner of behavior at work, and failure to observe the established work regimen of the agency.

The intelligence officer's behavior must correspond to the individual features of his personality, habits, age, and so on known to those around him, that is, it must be natural. Naturalness as an important condition of the conspiratorial behavior of the intelligence agent is always specific. It presupposes the intelligence officer's actions appropriate to the setting both in the collective of Soviet people as well as among foreigners in performing either official or intelligence assignments (establishment of initial contacts with foreigners, development of relationships with operative contacts, obtaining of intelligence

information and so on). It is quite natural, for example, if the relevant political information of a clandestine nature is obtained from a little-known foreigner by a "journalist" or "diplomat," since this fit into the round of his official interests. Such actions by an intelligence officer who is a senior engineer at a foreign trade amalgamation will be suspicious, however.

The behavior of the intelligence officer merits special attention in situations especially created by the enemy to expose his intelligence activity during his business trips abroad for his agency. Before departure on a short-term business trip abroad, the operative must possess the necessary knowledge according to the profile of work in the cover agency and go through special training. In the individualized assignment plan, which is worked out by the intelligence officer with the head of the intelligence department and line and approved by the head of the relevant section of the IT Department, activities under the legend must be envisioned and additional cloaking provided (for example, a legend for leaving the agency workplace on operative business).

The intelligence officer's line of behavior must be determined by the nature of his cover and the intelligence task to be performed; by the general specific features of the operational setting; the operational methods used; the national psychological features of the people among whom the intelligence officer must act; and the individual features of the intelligence officer himself. All of this is necessary to evaluate correctly in choosing the most optimal

methods from the perspective of tradecraft for performing the intelligence assignments.

Officers of the FCD active reserve in the cover agency are in the staff of the intelligence sector. It is very important that in daily work in resolving intelligence tasks, contacts between operative employees look natural, and are easily explained to those around and reliably legended by the performing of official functions under cover.

III. The Features of Legend Creation, Use of Methods of Concealment and Masking in Agent During Operative Activity

Tradecraft in recruitment work is shown in taking security measures during its planning and execution, ensuring the security of each recruitment effort, and in keeping secret from the enemy and outside persons any information concerning the targets of the recruitment development, and the efforts and means of foreign intelligence used in recruitment activities.¹¹ The efforts of the enemy's intelligence agencies are aimed at creating difficulties above all in recruitment work, in particular through planting a dangle in the agents' network of the KGB's foreign intelligence. Therefore, failure to observe the requirements of tradecraft, mistakes made at the stage of recruitment development lead to failures in agent work.

¹¹ Vneshnyaya razvedka organov gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti: Obshchiy kurs, KI KGB, [Foreign Intelligence of the State Security Agencies, KGB Red Banner Institute], Moscow, 1988, p. 96.

The enemy's intelligence agencies constantly perfect the forms and methods of counterintelligence work in compilation, comparison, analysis and synthesis of information characterizing the activity and behavior of Soviet citizens who come into contact with foreigners both on USSR territory as well as abroad by virtue of their profession. The counterintelligence of many capitalist governments, after collecting the relevant data, may determine several signs in the behavior of a Soviet citizens which prove, in their opinion, his affiliation to intelligence. The reasons for the manifestation of such signs could be a not entirely successful choice of cover; incorrect use of the cover by the intelligence officer (professional incompetence); mistakes in work and a careless attitude by the intelligence officer toward his obligations under cover; his behavior at work distinguishing him from persons without a relationship to intelligence; actions which are characteristic of intelligence and go beyond the bounds of cover, even despite their skillful camouflage; wrongful personal behavior, carelessness, and a dulling of the intelligence officer's vigilance.

The exposure of recruitment efforts may occur as a result not only of counterintelligence activities by the enemy's intelligence services, but the non-clandestine behavior of the persons handled, and mistakes made by them sometimes out of unqualified management on the part of intelligence officers, as well as lapses by the intelligence officers themselves. In order to create conditions for the clandestine behavior of the target of recruitment, first, one must ensure the concealment of his contacts with the target of development from his surroundings; and second, conceal from the target himself, especially at the

initial stage, his affiliation to intelligence, and the true intentions and goals regarding him.

Successful concealment of recruitment cultivation is possible only if the intelligence officer observes the requirements of tradecraft at all stages, and the target manages to keep secret his contact with the Soviet representative.

3.1 Measures of Tradecraft at the Stages of Study and Recruitment Development

Initial Stage of Study and Development. At this stage, it is important to correctly choose the method of making personal contact with the foreigner. The initial contacts of the operative with the foreigner from the very beginning must be legended and established either by the intelligence officer's workplace on behalf of the Soviet organizations and institutions, or "accidentally" at some events (forums, exhibits, conferences, and so on) or on a "neutral" basis. To establish personal contact with the target for cultivation, a third person - an agent or confidential contact - may be used under the appropriate legend. In any event, a well-considered legend is required and careful preparation of the entire measure.

As practice indicates, the approach to the target of interest from positions of a cover agency is the most clandestine. The art of maintaining cover at this stage largely depends on the ability of the intelligence officer to conceal his intentions from the target of study.

If the contact is made in the cover agency, the operatives, as a rule, do not hide from those around the fact of acquaintance with a foreigner. It is another matter if the contact is established outside the agency (at a reception, conference, etc.) In such cases, the conditions change. At a reception, for example, members of the enemy's intelligence service and their agents may be present; therefore, it is necessary from the very outset to take appropriate measures to conceal the fact of acquaintance, particularly not giving the target more attention than others, and not indicating one's interest in him.

As for establishment of the initial contact on a tip received from the "legal" KGB rezidentura, from agents and operatives, here the legend for approaching the target of study acquires significant meaning if he is in the USSR. If on a tip, we invite the target for cultivation to the USSR, it is important to correctly choose the agency which will correspond to the target's activity profile and will have the opportunities for studying him.

Thus, correctly choosing the form of initial contact from the position of an agency and its operationally competent legending will enable security to be ensured at the initial stage of recruitment. The legend for establishing initial contact with the foreigner must meet at least two requirements: it must be natural, that is, correspond to environmental conditions; and it must be "flexible," that is, enable if necessary the continuation of the cultivation of relations with

foreigner or to end them without provoking possible suspicions by the enemy's intelligence services.

The naturalness of the legend for the first contact means not only the logical appearance of the intelligence officer at a given place, but the correspondence of his cover to the functions he has assumed.

As practice has shown, the intelligence officer's initial contacts with a foreigner, depending on specific conditions, may be legended by professional necessity, common professional and personal interests, the interest of the foreigner in gaining support from the intelligence officer and so on.

A well-conceived legend for establishing an acquaintance helps the intelligence officer to conceal further contacts with the foreigner. But judging from operational materials, some intelligence officers begin to think of concealing their connection with a foreigner only when he feels that the recruitment effort can lead to a positive result.

The underestimation of the demands of tradecraft on the initial stage of recruitment occurs because not enough importance is attached to the process itself of making the first contact. Reports of operatives on initial contacts with foreigners show this, in which sometimes not only are the circumstances of the acquaintance itself with the foreigner not indicated; information about those present at the meeting, and even the date of establishment of the first contact are not given.

One of the conditions for ensuring the security of an initial contact is the intelligence officer's careful preparation, which includes gathering the minimum data about the target of the initial contact, the choice of place and creation of conditions for the initial contact, preparation of the legend for its establishment and continuation; consideration of the national-psychological and individual features of the foreigner during the initial contact; a selection of topics for conversation; and planning of measures to conceal further meetings with the foreigner after becoming acquainted with him. In addition, a necessary condition is also the development of measures enabling the detection of signs of a possible dangle by the enemy.

Intelligence is extremely keen that from the very outset of the recruitment, the target is shielded from detection by the enemy's counterintelligence. Therefore, to ensure the security of the recruitment efforts, an entire arsenal is used of intelligence ways, means, and methods: agents from among foreigners and Soviet citizens; confidential and operational contacts; the capabilities of the 2nd Chief Directorate; the 5th Department, the "legal" KGB rezidenturas; operational and technical means, external surveillance, and so on. Naturally, the application of any of them depends on the specific conditions that have formed during the recruitment cultivation.

An important factor for maintaining cover for the recruitment effort is carrying it out through agents from among foreign and Soviet citizens and sufficiently

vetted and bolstered confidential contacts, possessing opportunities for studying and cultivating a person. For example, in cultivating students studying in the USSR, the use of foreign agents provides the greatest effect from the perspective of tradecraft. A convincing legend is prepared for them and other measures are taken, excluding the mutual exposure of the targeted person and the agent. Acting in a natural and customary environment, without provoking suspicion from the environment and staying outside the field of vision of the enemy's counterintelligence, the agent recruiter (the foreigner or the Soviet agent) enables the obtaining of the necessary information, helps to determine the basis for the recruitment, monitors its development, provides the necessary correctives in a timely manner, avoids the danger of detection, and precisely calculates the moment when the effort is concluded.

In the event confidential contacts are used, the volume of assignments given to them inevitably shrinks, the tasks are simplified, and the importance of the legending is increased. The main line of use of this category of persons is to determine "in the dark" various issues of interest to us. Even so, it is necessary to constantly make sure that the assignments to the confidential contacts do not go beyond the bounds of the legend of interest and do not lead to exposure of the intelligence officer's intents. Overall, it is necessary to constantly monitor the course of recruitment development of foreigners in order not to allow the emergence of situations which place it at risk of exposure.

Clandestine surveillance of the behavior of the targeted person can yield useful information. Many conclusions can be drawn for the recruitment by the outward appearance, behavior and actions of the target.

Available materials confirm that the intelligence service not only of the capitalist, but several of the developing countries conduct counterintelligence work among their citizens in the USSR. Moreover, the intelligence services use the channel of travel to the USSR to send in agents with various intelligence assignments. In order to prevent the penetration of the enemy into the agents' apparatus of Soviet intelligence, it is necessary already at the initial stage of recruitment to undertake a set of vetting activities.

All sorts of tricks and methods to vet targets of recruitment have been developed over many years of practice in operational activity from Soviet territory. Their choice and application depend on the goals of the vetting, the features of the foreigner's personality and the line of its use. During the vetting, the foreigner's degree of comprehension about the methods of intelligence services should be revealed; his possible connection with the intelligence services, his interest in secrets, and his contacts with the embassy of his country. It should also be established whether he is an opportunist, or whether he is pursuing some sort of hostile aims and so on. In order to become convinced of the sincerity of the target and that he is not divulging the fact and nature of his relations with a member of Soviet intelligence, a plant is made to the target from among foreigners and Soviet citizens vetted by the agents' network. Such operational tricks usually

yield good results and are a very effective method of vetting on USSR territory.

The recruitment talk is a quite vulnerable moment from the perspective of tradecraft in work with an agents' network. It is conducted according to an especially drafted plan. During its preparation, it is necessary to foresee effective measures to guarantee the security of the intelligence officer of the recruiter agent. A disruption of the recruitment may lead to an exposure of the intelligence officer and in some cases cause political damage to our country.

In choosing a place and time for recruitment talks, it must be considered that the meeting place should meet the requirements of tradecraft and ensure the recruiter's security. The meeting may be held in a restaurant, hotel, at a safe apartment, and so on. These places must exclude the possible meeting of foreigners with fellow citizens. For the purposes of minimizing the consequences of a disruption of the recruitment, recruitment measures are sometimes held not in Moscow but other cities of the Soviet Union.

The recruitment talk has a strong psychological effect on the recruited. Having given his consent to intelligence collaboration, he is taking a known risk, trusting his security to intelligence. Therefore, the recruiter must convince him that intelligence itself is interested in guaranteeing his security.

The recruitment chat may be held both in the name of the KGB as well as under the flag of the [cover]

agency. As a rule, sensitive recruitment measures are made in the name of the KGB agencies by the officers of the Center. Part of the agents' network recruited on USSR territory remains in communication with operatives from the FCD IT Department. This is for various reasons: the distance of the agent from the location of the KGB rezidentura; the lack of conditions for meetings in the country under surveillance; the high social status of the agent, which does not enable him to maintain legendary contacts with the officers of the rezidentura; the desire of the agent to collaborate only with a specific Soviet representative, and also that the agent was insufficiently vetted and reinforced.¹²

If the foreigner is in the USSR after recruitment for some time, it is necessary to bolster the collaboration by receiving from him secret information, written reports about specific persons in his environment, cash receipts and so on. In order to be convinced finally in the sincerity and honesty of an agent, he should be assigned the performance of special operational tasks. It is advisable to put him in touch with the rezidentura only after he is brought into practical collaboration, established and vetted for performing intelligence assignments.

It is hard to give an unambiguous answer to the question of whether the length of recruitment

¹² See: Nekotorye voprosy organizatsii razvedyvatel'noy raboy s territorii SSSR po linii "PR": Materialy nauchno-prakticheskoy konferentsii [Some issues of organization of intelligence work from USSR territory on the PR [Political Intelligence] Line: Materials from a scholarly and practical conference., July 7, 1982, FSD KGB USSR, FSC Department IT. Moscow, 1982, pp. 86-101.

development can be determined, or to be more precise, within what time frame must the recruitment be completed in the interests of security. Nevertheless, approximate periods for completing individual stages of the recruitment must be established, in order to use the favorable conditions on Soviet territory and the means of achieving the final goal, without allowing unjustified delays and observing tradecraft measures.

3.2. Tradecraft in the work with the agents' network and confidential contacts

The most important requirement in work with the agents' network is compliance with the principles of secrecy. That means that an agent's affiliation to Soviet intelligence can only be known to those officers or agents who ought to know about this to fulfill their duties; information about the means and methods of the work of intelligence and other secret information is revealed to an agent only within the limits necessary to perform assignments; each personal meeting must be carefully prepared. All measures that ensure an agent's security must be taken; contactless forms of communication must be actively used in work with him; information obtained from the agent must be processed in such a way that it does not involve exposure of its source.¹³

In addition, contact with the agent must be made on a strictly clandestine basis. To the extent possibility, operatives not directly connected to the work with the agents' network and the targets of recruitment should

¹³ Vneshnyaya razvedka organov gosudarstvennoy bezopasnotsti: Obshchiy kurs/ KI KGB, Moscow, 1986, pp. 125-126

not be involved in operations with these persons. Barring operative necessity, do not allow memos to be made about the agents' network and the recruitment and ensure that they contain a minimum of data about the targets of our interest.

Such compliance with the requirements of tradecraft enable not only security of the work with the agent but to more fully use his capabilities, and successfully perform the intelligence assignments. Therefore, the operative must take all necessary measures to conceal his relations with an agent, especially in front of his fellow countrymen, and to security legend contacts with him.

Of course, if the agent by virtue of his activity has contact contacts with the cover agency, the operative, using the natural setting, holds meetings with him virtually openly, in front of all his colleagues, concealing only the nature of the meeting. If the agent is in contact with an operative of the Center, then particular attention is paid to the organization of the meeting place. As a rule, meetings take place at a safe house, in especially chosen places where occasions for the agent to meet his fellow countrymen are ruled out.

Work from Soviet territory presupposes holding meetings with agents abroad, in third countries. There measures of secrecy are taken analogous to those used in work in the "legal" KGB rezidenturas.

The plan for the operative's meeting abroad, as a rule, is coordinated with the geographical department in the

"legal" KGB rezidentura. With their help, safe meeting places are selected, conditions for contact are established, issues of counter-surveillance are specified, the legend for the operative's travel, and the legend for the meeting, both for the operative and the agent.

In work with the agents' network at all stages, particular attention must be paid its vetting and bolstering in specific cases, and in doing so, to use the agents' capabilities, operational and technical means and external surveillance.

An important stage in the work with the foreign agents' network is preparation of agents for work after their departure from the Soviet Union. At this stage, aside from operational preparation, greater attention must be devoted to the issues of the agent's compliance with tradecraft in the country where he is staying.

An agent must impart the skills of tradecraft, discipline, composure, orderliness, and precision, and teach him to memorize conditions for contact and so on. No less important is training the agent in the methods of a legended search and obtaining information independently and through his connections, and the processing and storage of this information.

In the event an agent is put in contact with the KGB rezidentura, the terms of the contact should be stipulated: the meeting place, basic and back-up meetings, the signal for an emergency meeting. It is also prudent to teach the agent several forms of non-

personal contact: dead drop operations, brush contacts. If necessary, the agent should be taught how to use operational technical communication devices. Theoretical knowledge is bolstered with practical lessons.

It is known that Western intelligence services take note of persons in the USSR and relegate them to the category of potential "agents" of the KGB. Given this, it is necessary to take special measures in certain cases in order to conceal the fact an agent has been in the USSR.

The operational training of the foreigner, as a rule, must be done in close cooperation with the relevant geographical department of the FCD, with its direct participation as a party interested in quality preparation of the agent which in the future is supposed to be put in contact with the rezidentura. Therefore, the preparation of the agent must be conducted according to a plan approved jointly by the geographical section of the FCD and the IT Department and consider the specifics of the operational setting in the country where the agent is located.

Tradecraft in work with confidential contacts. Limited use of tradecraft is made in work with the confidential contacts on Soviet territory. The operative is acting legally, from the positions of the cover agencies. It is another matter abroad, where the operative or agent has travelled to meet the confidential contact. In order not to expose to the enemy's intelligence services the special relations with the confidential contact, it is necessary to observe all tradecraft

measures inherent in the work from the positions of the KGB's "legal" rezidentura. Therefore, it is very important before the trip to work out a legend for the meeting, so that it looks like an official contact, for example, for a meeting with a confidential contact in the US, using a scientific trip, a trip as part of a delegation and so on.

In working with confidential contacts on USSR territory, the intelligence officers, as a rule, provide a legend for their meetings by the interests of some issue involving the cover agency. The meetings take place openly. Many meetings with foreigners accredited in the Soviet Union (diplomats, merchants, journalists, and others) occur regularly. For example, a foreign diplomat's contacts will look natural as he often visits the Soviet Foreign Ministry as part of his official duties.

Work with some confidential contacts is sometimes made more complicated by the fact that for political, professional, business or scientific reasons, they may be interested in having their contacts with officials from Soviet agencies or organizations known in certain circles. In such cases, on the one hand, a durable and convincing legend for such contacts becomes particularly important; and on the other, keeping secret the real nature of the relations between the confidential contacts and the operatives. The legend must withstand possible inspection on the part of the enemy's intelligence services and provide the conditions for continuing confidential cooperation even if the enemy knows of the regular meetings. The legending of the relations must strictly comply with the official position and authentic interests of the

confidential contact, and the position and nature of the intelligence officer's official activity. In working with confidential contacts on Soviet territory, the legend for their trips to the USSR is of primary importance, and sources for their possible financing.

For example, the intelligence officer has maintained confidential relations with "F" - a representative of a commercial firm in the Middle East. Since he has wide contacts in the political and scientific circles of his country, "F" possesses important intelligence information. He has legended his contact with a Soviet representative with business interests, with the wish to get orders from Soviet foreign trade organizations. The intelligence officer plays the role of a trade officer, facilitating the closure of "F"'s business deals with Soviet trade organizations. The intelligence officer works successfully with "F," since the legend was convincing and the intelligence agencies couldn't stage provocations against "F".

Confidential contacts in a cautious and, as a rule, cloaked form, primarily provide instruction about the ways to conceal the real nature of the contact with the intelligence officer. As for special methods of performing intelligence assignments, they are not revealed to a confidential contact and the foreigner does not undergo any special preparation on these issues.

For example, a scientist, diplomat or journalist will always try to obtain specific information in his interests. The intelligence officer can only help him with advice or guide his interests in the direction

needed to intelligence. Merchants who provide to intelligence some materials or samples on a confidential basis may also successfully rely on their own experience in commercial activity. No special operational preparation of foreigners with whom confidential contacts are maintained is required, for conducting active measures, for example, publication of articles, public speeches, organization of inquiries in parliament, etc. This in no way, however, removes the need for a comprehensive discussion with them about their actions and methods proposed by them, and ways of doing specific intelligence assignments, thorough planning of activities, careful examination of issues of security, and so on.

One of the features of work with confidential contacts is that in establishing and maintaining confidential relations, the intelligence officer, as a rule, does not reveal to the foreigners his affiliation with the state security agencies and does not do anything that may be typical only of intelligence. In the eyes of a foreigner, confidential relations must look not like intelligence collaboration, but look political, commercial, scientific, and so on. Although sometimes a foreigner guesses that he has gone beyond the bounds of the interests of his agency and his partner represents a different service, such a situation may suit him. He himself may use confidential relations to solve certain problems that he would not be in a position to deal with in strictly official relations.

Naturally, the requirement not to expose intelligence officers to confidential conflicts is not absolute. In difficult circumstances of intelligence work, one cannot get by without certain exceptions, especially at

the level of the operative cultivation of confidential contacts close to the agents' network.

Confidential contacts are often formed as an interim stage on the way to establishing agent relations in the process of gradually bringing a foreigner into collaboration with Soviet intelligence. Such a form of cooperation is often the only one possible in the work of operatives with major political figures, scientists, businessmen, and journalists visiting the Soviet Union.

CONCLUSION

In analyzing the practice of operative activity of the officers of the FCD's active reserve (in agencies), the conclusion can be drawn that issues of compliance with the requirements and rules of tradecraft in intelligence work are important for the successful resolution of their assigned operational tasks. This analysis provides the opportunity to make several recommendations which may raise the level of tradecraft in intelligence work from Soviet territory.

1. The effectiveness of intelligence activity is largely determined by the personal qualities of the intelligence officers. This places very high requirements on the system of selection, training, instruction and deployment of the operational staff in the cover agencies. Therefore, in placing an intelligence officer in a cover agency and establishing his legend biography, his basic preparation (professional, language) and civilian profession must

be considered as well as the opportunities of the cover for intelligence assignments. Where it is difficult to carry out work on an entire complex of operational tasks from the positions of an agency cover, it is prudent to involve intelligence officers in the work through other institutions (for example civic organizations) where the possibilities for work with foreigners are more favorable.

2. As a rule, exposure is the consequence of the dulling of intelligence officers' professional vigilance. In that connection, it is prudent to establish systematic study by officers, regardless of the length of time they have worked in intelligence, as well as active orders and instructions about tradecraft, after taking the appropriate forms of effective monitoring of compliance with the rules of tradecraft in practices.

The organization of such work would foster more effective compliance with the Order No. 01000 from the Chairman of the USSR KGB of February 19, 1986, mandating "to ensure comprehensive verification of the knowledge of requirements and rules of tradecraft in deciding issues of admission to perform official duties.

3. To raise the level of tradecraft of officers of the FCD's active reserve (in the agencies), it is necessary:

- to increase monitoring by heads of departments and lines of the level of professional preparation of

operatives and compliance by them with the requirements of tradecraft;

- to bring the work regimen of the intelligence officers in the cover agencies closer to the work regime of these institutions to the maximum extent possible;

- to have heads of intelligence sections and lines constantly monitor the course of recruitment cultivation of foreigners in order to prevent situations threatening the exposure of the cultivation;

- to constantly ensure that the assignments to confidential contacts do not go beyond the bounds of their legended interest and do not lead to exposure of the intelligence officer's efforts;

- to streamline the involvement of targets of cultivation in operations of contact with the agents' network, and the processing of reports from operatives received by them, not directly related to work with these persons;

- not to permit the write-up of notes on the agents' network and cultivation without operational necessity. Strictly ensure that the minimum of information about the targets of our interest are contained in them;

- in deciding the issue of bringing an agent into operational cultivation, to carefully weigh his

reliability and personal and professional qualities and consider his operational preparation.

4. In order to ensure the cover of recruitment development, it is necessary to use more widely the flags of agents, agents and operatives and recruiters.

5. In order to bolster the legend and acquiring of experience, to send young officers brought into the cover agencies on short business trips abroad.

6. Before the departure abroad of agents from among Soviet citizens on intelligence assignments, prepare them along the following lines:

- familiarity with the allowed volume of materials on the operational setting in the targeted country, on the activity of the intelligence service and counterintelligence agencies;

- mastery of the non-contact method of studying persons of operational interest;

- gaining the skills of establishing and developing contacts with people who are not in the immediate environment of the agent; the ability to use open publications to study persons for intelligence.

For instruction and preparation of the most valuable agents, it is desirable to bring in operatives from the staff of the FSD RI Department.¹⁴

In studying foreigners, one should not hasten with final conclusions in evaluating initial materials since the hostile actions of a foreigner may be revealed at a later stage of his stay in the USSR.

One of the orders from the head of the First Chief Directorate said: "At the present time, when the enemy has chosen one of the basic methods of planting its agents in Soviet intelligence for the purposes of blocking and discrediting the work of Soviet intelligence, the conducting of vetting activities regarding each foreigner who has expressed consent to collaborate with Soviet intelligence takes on particular significance."¹⁵

The order also notes that "any undervaluation of vetting activities or conducting them in an unqualified manner may not only lead to contamination of the agents' apparatus but cause serious political damage to the Soviet Union."

¹⁴ At the present time, this work is done only by officers of the intelligence sections and centers at agencies.

¹⁵ . "On shortcomings in work to vet the agents' network and strengthen oversight of providing reports on vetting activities conducted and expose of the enemy's plants. Instruction from the FSCE, No. [illegible], August 1, 1986.