

A N N O U N C E M E N T

By the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR.

On the night of April 26 of this ¹⁹⁵³ year, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR, was informed of the illegal crossing into the territory of the Ukrainian SSR of an unidentified foreign plane. It has been established that the parachutists who jumped from the said aircraft are agents of foreign intelligence.

On 27 April, as a result of the measures taken by the MVD, two parachutists who called themselves VASIL'CHENKO, Vasilii Vasiliyevich and MATKOVSKII, Leonid Nikolaevich were sought and arrested.

The captive parachutists admitted they were diversionists who were despatched into the USSR, from abroad by American intelligence to carry out assignments of diversion, terror and espionage. The diversionists stated that on the night of 26 April this year, they were dropped by parachute on the territory of the Ukrainian SSR from an unmarked American four-motored aircraft.

In the course of interrogation, the diversionists VASIL'CHENKO and MATKOVSKII admitted that they bore false names given them by American Intelligence, and that in reality, they are "VASIL'CHENKO" - LAKHNO, Aleksandr Vasil'evich, spy pseudonym "Alek", and "MATKOVSKII" - MAKOV, Aleksandr Nikolaevich, spy pseudonym "Pete".

LAKHNO and MAKOV stated that together with them there were two other diversionists, agents of American Intelligence, dropped from the same plane and bearing the pseudonyms "John" and "Dick".

Measures taken by the MVD of the USSR led to the discovery and arrest of the diversionists "John" and "Dick" on the very same day. "John" turned out to be GORBUNOV, Sergei Izosimovich and "Dick", REMIGA, Dmitri Nikolaevich.

When arrested, the parachutists were found with: firearms, poisons (cyanide) 4 short wave radio sets of American manufacture, radio beacons for guiding aircraft to targets, invisible inks, materials for making false Soviet documents, large sums

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of Soviet currency, foreign gold coins, printing blocks with texts for Anti-Soviet leaflets.

Opened parachutes were found at the points where the diversionists landed.

The investigation of the arrested diversionists established that even during the Great Patriotic War, LAKHNO, MAKOV and GORBUNOV were active accomplices of the German fascist occupiers, that they betrayed Soviet people engaged in patriotic work against the fascist usurpers, and that they participated in the anti-Partisan operations of German punitive units. Thus, for example, the prisoner LAKHNO betrayed 5 Soviet patriots who were shot by the Gestapo; the diversionist MAKOV, as a member of the punitive batallion "Black Sea", repeatedly took part in atrocities and acts of violence committed against Soviet patriots by the German fascist usurpers.

Upon defeat of Hitler's Germany, LAKHNO, MAKOV, GORBUNOV and REMIGA escaped to Western Germany, where they had no difficulty finding new masters and protectors in the shape of the American Intelligence Service.

MAKOV

The traitors, LAKHNO, GORBUNOV and REMIGA, already experienced in despicable treasonable work, were put on the rolls of American Intelligence and sent to a special espionage-diversion school of the American Intelligence in Bad Wiessee, a hamlet near Munich in Bavaria.

The traitors LAKHNO, MAKOV, GORBUNOV and REMIGA, under the direction of American Intelligence officers who used the pseudonyms "Bill", "Bob", "Captain", "Vladimir", underwent a full course of instruction in the methods of organizing and implementing acts of terror, diversion, espionage, use of fire-arms and explosives on the territory of the Soviet Union. They were also trained in operating American radio sets especially constructed for espionage purposes.

In the course of the investigation, it was determined in particular, that one of the "instructors" of the American diversionist-terrorist school in Bad Wiessee who trained the arrested parachutists in methods of diversion and terrorism, was

Captain Holleday of the American Intelligence Service.

As the diversionists LAKHNO, MAKOV, GORBUNOV and REMIGA stated the American espionage diversionist school in Bad Wiessee is not the only such "educational institution" in Western Germany. Similar "schools" exist also in Munich, Frankfurt-on-Main, Kaufbeuren and Bad Worishofen. In all of these schools, the American intelligence secretly prepares spies-diversionists and assassins for dispatch to the Soviet Union and the countries of the people's democracy.

Under the pseudonym "Jim Pepper", an American intelligence officer, Major Ronald Otto Bollenbach does his very best as the head of one of those "schools" in Kaufbeuren (Bavaria). During 1946 and 1947 he held the post of Assistant Air and Naval Attache of the USA in Moscow.

The diversionists LAKHNO, MAKOV, GORBUNOV and REMIGA testified that after completion of their course of training in Bad Wiessee, the American intelligence officers supplied them with false Soviet passports, faked military service booklets, fire-arms, poisons, radio sets, ciphers, codes and other types of equipment; and that on April 23 this year, accompanied by the above-mentioned employe of the American intelligence service Captain Holleday, they were all taken via American military aircraft to Greece, to the Athens airfield.

At the Athens airfield, the diversionists were met by a major in the American intelligence service, Harold Irving FIEDLER, who in 1951, went three times to the USSR under the guise of a diplomatic courier of the U.S. State Department.

On the evening of 25 April, the diversionists were equipped with parachutes and placed by FIEDLER on the aforementioned four-motored American aircraft without identifying marks, which delivered them to the drop area in the territory of the Soviet Union.

The arrested diversionists testified that they had been ordered by American intelligence to proceed to Kiev and Odessa and immediately to procure legitimate

Soviet documents by any and every means, (including the assassination of Soviet people), to replace the counterfeits cooked up for them by the American Intelligence; to settle down with them in the aforementioned cities, establish enciphered communication by means of the radio sets given them with the American Intelligence radio center in Western Germany for the receipt of further instructions of American Intelligence on the practical implementation of acts of terror and diversion on the territory of the USSR.

The investigation of the case of diversionists LAKHNO, MAKOV, GORBUNOV and REMIGA was concluded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR and transferred to the jurisdiction of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR.

The Military Collegium of the Supreme court of the USSR having examined the cases of LAKHNO, MAKOV, GORBUNOV and REMIGA and considering the gravity of the crimes committed by them against the Soviet Union, sentenced them to the highest measure of punishment -- death by shooting, in accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 12 January 1950, "concerning introduction of the death penalty for traitors to the motherland, spies, wreckers-diversionists".
The sentence has been carried out.