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USSR

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RE-ISSUE

"ROK"

Item 2

From: CANBERRA

To: MOSCOW

Nos: 121-122 18 Mar. 46

[2-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR[i]. Your No. 1650[a]

The personal report [KHARAKTERISTIKA] we gave at one time on "ROK" holds good. Owing to difficulties arising from the reserved way of life of "ROK" and his wife in the Soviet colony and to the fact that he, as the Press Attaché of the Legation[MISSIYa], mixes independently of everyone with Australians, mainly journalists working for the Ministry of Information[,] it was difficult to shed light[OVESHchENIE] on him systematically. Nevertheless, workers of the Press were always in [2 groups unrecovered] [of and] the details sent by us on the behaviour here of MIKhEEV[ii] and ZAJTsEV[iii] bear this out. Owing to the fact that "ROK" mixes with journalists [4 groups unrecovered] frequently [1 group unrecovered] one or another set of questions at the instance of the directorate [RUKOVODSTVO][b] of the Legation, he always enjoyed from the latter special attention and respect. This circumstance spoiled him still more, he began to give himself airs and emphasised his superiority to other workers.

Distribution

[Continued overleaf]

Quite recently it became known to us that ROK has formed "friendly" relations with , who allegedly acquaints him with secret telegrams, and ROK not only has time to familiarize himself with them, but also somehow manages to copy them. [1 group unrecovered] the materials at . ROK systematically passes to the directorate[RUKOVODSTVO] of the Legation. According to LIFANOV[iv] these materials do not amount to anything of great value. Nevertheless, we are aiming at replacing ROK on such work. It is difficult to imagine that ROK is encouraging by developing him[OBRABOTKA]. There is no doubt that lately he has got on [2 groups unrecovered] brotherly terms with him, [and][c] is trying to exert an influence on him[PRIRUCHIT' EGO].

[16 groups unrecovered]

in a talk with LIFANOV.

Thus having a task in the line of the directorate of the Legation [PO LINII RUKOVODSTVA MISSII] and moreover in the line of

[50 groups unrecoverable]

[Part II] ZAJTsEV sometimes expresses dissatisfaction with "ROK's" work, says that he works conscientiously for [OF the Legation] but does nothing in his own line except [that][o] [BF he looks after [OBSLUZhIVAET]] the radio communications. In his turn, ROK not long ago stated in an outburst of temper that ZAJTsEV does not give him the chance to work normally [2 groups unrecovered] him, spends his time squabbling and persecuting people. He himself, ROK says, does nothing but takes offence at others.

[10 groups unrecovered]

circumstance, that they do not appreciate his wife, see[d] his work[,] and therefore neither reward him nor [1 group unrecovered]. At one and the same time he remains surprised and offended that ZAJTsEV, [3 groups unrecovered] his own ideas [5 groups unrecovered]. While under the influence of his resentment ROK independently sent by post to his Directorate[UPRAVLENIE][e] a report in which, allegedly, he sets out all his grievances and asks to be discharged from the Service, and so on. It is possible that ROK decided on such a step because he felt that he was being supported by LIFANOV. When ZAJTsEV informed LIFANOV of ROK's recall, the two of them immediately asked the CENTRE[v] to transfer him to staff work in the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs [NKID] and leave him in CANBERRA, although he had not yet received instructions about sending ROK back home. In view of this and ROK's wife's illness (she has just given birth to a son and is still in the maternity home) it is hard to say when he will be able to leave here. We would have thought it a good thing to send "ROK" together with "FED [FED]"[vi] whose replacement has arrived. For keeping ROK under secret surveillance there are two most suitable candidates - a friend [2 groups unrecovered] MASLYaEV, Klimentij [OF Aleksandr]ovich, Assistant Third Secretary (he lives in the same street as ROK and owing to his relations with him, can frequent his home or spend time with him) and ZOLOTUKhINA, Antonina Semenovna, (typist), with whom ROK maintains close relations.

In our No. 16[f] we laid before you the question of signing on ZOLOTUKh[INA]

[20 groups unrecoverable]

T.N.: [a] See Item 1 of this report.

[b] RUKOVODSTVO: this is the word "directorate" in the sense of a body of persons at the head of an organisation, as distinct from "directorate" [UPRAVLENIE] which signifies a division or branch in an administration.

[c] Inserted by translator.

[d] As given. The sense of the text as it stands appears to indicate that a negative particle has been omitted, but without the complete text it is impossible to make any reliable comment.

[e] UPRAVLENIE: compare translator's note [b] above.

[f] Almost certainly an error for "no.11" (no.16 is a report on the subject of "PALM" and his wife). Compare S/NBF/T169, in which CANBERRA's no.11 is referred to, and which contains instructions from MOSCOW about "drawing in" BUROVA and ZOLOTUKhIN.

Comments: [i] Lt.-Gen. P.M. FITIN.

[ii] Vladimir Ivanovich MIKhEEV, TASS correspondent.

[iii] Viktor Sergeevich ZAJTsEV, 2nd Secretary at the Soviet Legation in CANBERRA.

[iv] Nikolej Mikhajlovich LIPANOV was Soviet Minister in CANBERRA at this time.

[v] I.e. MOSCOW, in this case presumably the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs.

[vi] Probably Aleksej Ivanovich OSIPOV, a clerk at the Soviet Legation.

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