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USSR

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OPERATIONAL REPORT BY "SERGEJ" AND
"MAY's" COMMENTS ON "SERGEJ's" WORK

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

Nos.: 1433 - 1435

10 October 1944

[Three-part message complete]

[Part I]

~~[99 groups unrecovered]~~

[49 groups unrecoverable]

SERGEJ[i] has brought in IDE [YAZ'] [ii] but is not able to direct his work systematically as he sees him too rarely. Among SERGEJ's acquaintances are persons of great interest from [Sergej] point of view. They are well informed and, although they do not say all they know, nevertheless they provide useful comments on the foreign policy of the COUNTRY [STRANA] [iii]. Among them SERGEJ is studying Joseph BARNES and I. STONE [iv] who, however, for the time being is avoiding SERGEJ. [Among his] [a] other serious targets SERGEJ has no opportunity for the [B's development] of CRITIC [KRITIK] for obtaining leads [NAVODKI] (in my opinion too CRITIC is no good for anything else [])[a].

[Part II] 2. Decisive results in the business of signing up valuable people can be obtained in only two ways, first by transferring SERGEJ to CARTHAGE [KARFAGEN] [v] and secondly by making use of the FELLOW COUNTRYMEN [ZEMLYAKI] [vi]

[Continued overleaf]

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At the moment SERGEJ is trying to get the Editorial Office [REDAKTSIYA][vii] transferred to CARTHAGE. [D% Even] if

[35 groups unrecoverable]

the KILTA[viii] for the acquisition of a conspirative apartment and so on. Without the help of the FELLOW COUNTRYMEN "we are completely powerless".

MAY's [MLJ][ix] opinion:

1. In this note SERGEJ has put in a nutshell[b] his whole conception of the reasons why he has made no real advance and [his][a] approach to the next few months. His view that without CARTHAGE and HELMSMAN [RULEVOJ][x] we are doomed to vegetate is mistaken. It is not true that everything of value is in CARTHAGE and it is doubly untrue that without HELMSMAN we are "powerless". I consider that in either case we shall have to have recourse to the help of the FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, but they ought not to be the one and only base especially if you take into account the fact that in the event of KULAK's[xi] being elected this source may dry up.

2. SERGEJ will not want to be in the Office [KONTOR.] itself any more than now, excepting in cases when a great deal of material requiring urgent appraisal piles up.

3. SERGEJ ought to organise the work of the Editorial Office so as to have more time for developing existing connections and starting up new ones. He should not carry the whole Editorial Office on his own shoulders; then he could go to CARTHAGE more, which is undoubtedly important.

[Part III] 4. The signing up of BARNES is obviously not only inadvisable but unrealisable; however, it is desirable to use him without signing him up.

SERGEJ helps me to decide operational questions connected with informational work[c] and to brief workers [RABOTNIKI] and probationers [STAZHERY] on current tasks. Questions on work with probationers

[27 groups unrecoverable][d] [C% cover] the best for our [C% system]. I hope that we will not have to engage in the "theoretical" education of SERGEJ after all these years.

Telegraph your opinion and possible counsels.

No. 815
10th October

MAY

[T.N. and Comments overleaf]

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- T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator.
[b] "In a nutshell" is given in English in the original.
[c] I.e. questions for which a knowledge of the possible sources (both institutions and persons) would be helpful.
[d] The last digit of the last of these groups is the same as the last digit of the group for "his".

- Comments: [i] SERGEJ: Vladimir Sergoevich PRAVDIN, TASS News Agency correspondent.
[ii] YaZ': Simon Samuel KRALFSUR.
[iii] STRAJA: the U.S.A.
[iv] Isidor Feinstein STONE.
[v] KARFAGEN: WASHINGTON.
[vi] ZENLYAKI: members of the Communist Party, in this case of the U.S.A.
[vii] REDAKTsIYa: TASS News Agency.
[viii] KhATI: the F.B.I.
[ix] MLJ: Pavel Ivanovich FEDOSIMOV.
[x] RULEVOJ: Earl BROWDER.
[xi] KULAK: Thomas E. DEWEY.

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