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USSR

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ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY "MLJ" WITH THE CONSUL-GENERAL  
IN "BABYLON" REGARDING MEASURES FOR PREVENTING  
DESERTION OF SAILORS.

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No.: 1153

12 August 1944

To SEMEN.

On the 7th of August I came to an agreement with STEPFATHER's [OTCHIM][i] deputy [C] on the matter of Comrade PETROV's telegram No. 20[ii]. He promised to give immediate instructions to the Consul-General in BABYLON [VAVILON][iii] to leave on a long trip to SEATTLE and PORTLAND for the purpose of acquainting himself in detail with the position of Soviet seamen, the provision of cultural and medical facilities for them, ascertaining the causes of desertion and [B] taking steps in the consular line to prevent seamen deserting. The consul is also being commissioned:

1. To carry out meetings in these ports with [1 group unrecovered] if necessary [2 groups unrecovered] representatives of the [B] port authorities in order to establish good-neighbourly relations with a view to their cooperating in the apprehension and return of seamen in case of desertion.

2. On board the ships personally and through party organisers [PARTORG] to give talks to seamen on the theme of guarding vessels in foreign ports, heightening vigilance and military [C] discipline for [3 groups unrecovered] deserters:

[9 groups unrecovered]

[Continued overleaf]

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S/MF/TM-25  
[2 pages]

**~~TOP SECRET~~**  
**BRIDE**



interfere in the business of providing medical attention in American ports as being one of the channels for the preparation of deserters [is] [a] STEPFATHER's [C% business] [3 groups unrecovered] enquiry about cases

[26 groups unrecovered]

workers. Please sanction drawing up an appropriate questionnaire.

No. 641

MAJ [MAJ][iv]

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T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator.

Comments: [i] OTCHIN: Andrej Andreevich GRONYKO, Soviet Ambassador to the U.S.A.

[ii] Not available. Note that this serial number is from the series used by SEMEN, and not from PETROV's own series, which are 3-digit numbers. This strongly suggests that PETROV counter-signed SEMEN's message no. 18, and it can therefore probably be assumed that PETROV was superior to SEMEN in the MGB headquarters organisation in MOSCOW. This message is also referred to in NEW YORK's external no. 1070 of 25 July 1944 [S/NBF/TL26]; in this case the NEW YORK message was addressed to VIKTOR and SEMEN, but the inclusion of VIKTOR can probably be attributed to the confusion which MAJ suffered from regarding whom he should address on certain subjects, especially on the 5th Line.

[iii] VAVILON: SAN FRANCISCO.

[iv] MAJ: Pavel Ivanovich FEDOSIMOV.

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