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YSSR

Ref. No: S/NBF/T606 (of 11/8/1954)

Issued: 6/11/1956

Copy No: 205

RE-ISSUE

ACCOUNT OF AN INDISCREET CONVERSATION IN A HOSPITAL WARD (1945)

From: SAN FRANCISCO

To: MOSCOW

No: 71

1 Mar. 45

To VIKTOR. [1]

In a conversation with me on 28th February 1945 "VOLKOV" [11] reported the following:

On 24th February he found the Consul-General, Comrade VASIL'EV [111], and the head [ZAVEDUYUSHOHIJ] of the Cipher Office [SShO], Comrade FEDOSEEV, discussing the text of a cipher telegram in a hospital ward (Comrade VASIL'EV is ill and is in hospital). On leaving the hospital with the Consul-General's wife "VOLKOV" questioned her as to why they always worked so freely. The latter answered: "Previously they used to read the cipher telegrams, but now they have invented a new method - elucidating everything by correspondence". It has been established that Comrade VASIL'EV receives American citizens of Russian origin in the ward and tells them whom they should select for the Russo-American Institute. He indicated to ARNAUTOV [1v] who should be voted for and gave

[3 groups unrecovered]

"VOLKOV" [8 groups unrecovered] to KHRAMEEV [v] [12 groups unrecovered] the impermissibility of discussing this [5 groups unrecovered] "that is nonsense".

Distribution

[Continued overleaf]

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[10 groups unrecovered]

... in the hospital ward.

No. 24

PHILIP[FILIPP][vii]

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- Comments: [i] Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.  
[ii] Andrej Romanovich ORLOV.  
[iii] Andrej Evtropovich VASIL'EV was Soviet Consul-General in SAN FRANCISCO 1944-1945.  
[iv] Victor Michael ARNAUTOFF was the first President of the Russian-American Society Inc.  
[v] Probably Vasilij Ivanovich KHRAMEEV, an employee of the Soviet Consulate-General in SAN FRANCISCO. He is known to have left there in 1948.

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[vi] *Unidentified. Possibly acting MGB Resident in San Francisco during the period between the departure of "GIPT[DAR]" (Sigitij Alekovich KASPAROV) and the arrival of "MAY[MAJ]" (probably Stepan Zakharenich APRESYAN.*

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