

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

PROCESSING ACTION

TO

C, Sov Bloc Division

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INFO

C, European Division

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FROM

Chief of Station, Paris *ins*

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SUBJECT

REDBLOCK - Activities of Soviet Consulate Among Russian Emigres

MICROFILM

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

1. SUMMARY: This dispatch describes the tactics used by the Soviet Consulate in gaining the cooperation of a local Russian emigre to lend his name to a "cultural" event, overtly sponsored by the Soviet Consulate. We consider this report of some interest because it shows that the Consulate appears to be still active in local emigre circles and using the time-honored tactics of pressure and blackmail although, in this instance, not for the apparent purpose of recruiting an intelligence agent but rather for support of Soviet propaganda aims. The information was obtained by Lowell R. FAINBERG in his role as AEEGHEAD/B "journalist."

2. In April 1966 FAINBERG was told by his acquaintance *Blumb Paris, France* ~~contacted by USSR consulate to participate in cultural event composed of emigres~~

* Lev (Adol'fovich) ARONSON
DPOB ca. 1894 Russia, possibly St. Petersburg USSR
French citizen CIT: FRANCE

Residing 19 rue Erea, Paris 6, FRANCE

Occ. Owner of "Dominique" Restaurant at same address BUSINESS

that he had been approached by *FAINBERG*

* Irina (Zinoyevna) GRJEBINA
DPOB approximately 1910-1915 Russia USSR Sex: F
French citizen CIT: FRANCE

Residing 11 Rue Jules Chaplain, Paris 6, FRANCE

Occ. Singer and ballet teacher ARTS
Emigre involved in event sponsored by Soviet Consulate in Paris, France

and the Soviet Consul, whom GRJEBINA brought to the restaurant and introduced to ARONSON. The Soviet Consul sought to obtain ARONSON's cooperation in a Soviet Embassy-sponsored celebration commemorating the 21st anniversary of the end of World War II and the defeat of Hitlerite Germany by serving on the Committee of honor. ARONSON, as he told FAINBERG at the time, refused to participate.

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Distribution:
3-Sov Bloc w/att
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Attachment:
h/w as stated
1 att h/w

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2. We then had FAINBERG make contact with GRJEBINA for the ostensible purpose of interviewing her about this celebration. GRJEBINA gave him an appointment on 14 May. However, she telephoned FAINBERG in the morning of the 14th and, claiming to be too busy, asked him to get the desired information directly from the man who was responsible for arranging the event, the Soviet Consul Boris Feodorovich KAZAKOV (201-255600), telephone WAGram 14:03 (the number of the Soviet Consulate). FAINBERG telephoned KAZAKOV two days later, identified himself as being from AEEGGHEAD/B and told him that GRJEBINA had suggested that he contact him directly to get some information about the planned commemorative event for publication in AEEGGHEAD/B. KAZAKOV was very polite to FAINBERG and invited him to come to his office at 1430 on 18 May. When FAINBERG gained admittance to the Consulate at the appointed hour (which is not open for normal business in the afternoons), he was told by an unidentified Soviet about 25-30 years old who opened the door that KAZAKOV had been called to the Embassy and had not left any word about an appointment with FAINBERG. FAINBERG gave his card to the young Soviet and asked that KAZAKOV call him. Later in the afternoon, FAINBERG tried to reach KAZAKOV on the telephone, but there was no answer. KAZAKOV never called back.

3. The event took place on 22 May 1966. It is best described in the official invitation, a translation of which follows:

Dear citizen,

The Consular Section of the Embassy of the USSR in France and the Honorary Committee of Russian artists in France invites you to a Commemorative Evening of Soviet Citizens which is dedicated to the 21st anniversary of the end of the Great Fatherland War and Victory over Hitlerite Germany.

The event will take place on Sunday, 22 May 1966, at 20 hours, in the "Mutualite" hall (24, Rue Saint-Victor, Paris 5).

The evening's program:

1. Commemorative part
2. Concert by Soviet artists and by Russian artists residing in France.

THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR IN FRANCE

4. A handsomely printed program brochure prominently listed the members of the Committee of Honor which consisted of 14 French personalities of Russian origin, most of whom ~~were~~ active in the arts. Among others, there was ERASLAVSKY President of the "Federal Union of Voluntary Units of Foreign Origin in the Resistance Army" (whom we noted in 1965 to have been a contact of AEDIGIT-1), GRJEBINA, and - much to FAINBERG's surprise - Lev ARONSON.

5. We had FAINBERG contact ARONSON to find out why he appeared on the honorary committee and to attempt to elicit any information regarding the nature of this relationship with KAZAKOV. FAINBERG had a suitable pretext since AEEGGHEAD was planning to do - and did - an editorial condemning this event as a Soviet propaganda effort. FAINBERG visited ARONSON on 1 June, and this is what he learned from him:

a) The brother of ARONSON's wife is presently on a visit to Paris from the Soviet Union, and is staying with the ARONSONs. He is a retired physician who had spent five years in a labor camp, is now retired on a special rehabilitative pension. He expects to return to the Soviet Union toward the end of June. The sister of Mrs. ARONSON taught French at the Leningrad University. She is a widow and her husband, who was also a physician, was killed during World War II. She has applied for a visa to visit her sister in Paris and is expected to arrive on 10 July. ARONSON stated that he is certain that she will never return to the Soviet Union once she gets out. ARONSON himself has visited the Soviet Union twice.

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Just says !!

b) GRJEBINA brought KAZAKOV to ARONSON's restaurant for lunch, and they asked ARONSON to serve on the honorary committee. ARONSON refused because he felt that the 22 May event seemed to have political overtones. KAZAKOV accepted his refusal, although he denied any political propaganda purposes. However, ARONSON did promise to collaborate with Andre BARSACQ, a member of the committee, on an article about Russian art in the emigration, and KAZAKOV was grateful for the offer. ARONSON remarked that BARSACQ wrote the article, ARONSON translated it, but it was not printed in the official program as planned.

c) Several days after KAZAKOV's visit to his restaurant, ARONSON accompanied his brother-in-law to the Soviet Consulate where the latter wanted to obtain an extension of his Soviet exit visa. They were not received by KAZAKOV but by (Sergey Alekseyevich) LOKTEYEV (201-348434) who told them in substance the following: "We do not extend the visa for anyone. You want that we meet you halfway, but you do not want do do the same, and there is even talk that your sister is getting ready to visit you." ARONSON understood this to be a not too subtle allusion to his refusal to serve on the committee, and then agreed to do as KAZAKOV had asked him to do. After that his brother-in-law's visa was extended. He told FAINBERG that he was not very proud of himself to have given in to his blackmail, and that it troubled him greatly, but that he feared for the life of his sister.

W.D.?
CIP France
OC Musicians
A Paris, France

d) ARONSON said that the original instigator of all this had been Gregor GRICHINE, who is a singing teacher at the Russian Conservatory in Paris (and a member of the honorary committee) who introduced KAZAKOV to GRJEBINA. *acted as liaison between Soviet emigres & current diplomats from USSR stationed in Paris.*

e) ARONSON described KAZAKOV as a "nice" and well educated person. He was a pilot during World War II and is a "Hero of the Soviet Union." He was on a short visit to Moscow to participate in the VE Day celebrations on 8/9 May 1966.

f) FAINBERG promised ARONSON that he would see to it that his name would be kept out of the AREGGHEAD/B article criticizing the participation of emigres in the 22 May event, which it was. ARONSON was very grateful and offered in turn to be of assistance to FAINBERG. The latter then asked ARONSON to keep him posted of visiting Russian artists who come to his restaurant in order that AREGGHEAD/B could be passed out to them. ARONSON promised that he would do everything that he could, even offering to introduce FAINBERG personally if this would help him in his AREGGHEAD/B propaganda effort.

3. A copy of the program brochure and the Soviet Embassy invitation card is attached herewith.

4. Station Comment:

a) Our interest in ARONSON is predicated on the fact that the "Dominique" restaurant is generally known to be frequented by visiting Soviet artists - ARONSON himself has a theatrical background - and also because local Soviets may frequent it. For example Deputy Chief of the Commercial Mission Aleksey Anatolyevich MALYSHEV (201-254801) indicated to Richard C. BASESCU that he knew the owner of the "Dominique" restaurant personally (OPPA-77690, 16 December 1964).

b) We are therefore planning to have FAINBERG make the attempt to develop ARONSON as an unwitting source, keeping in mind, of course, that someone may be trying to put the shoe on the other foot. This is an example of the type of operational utility of FAINBERG when he uses his AELEDGER cover functions properly.

Irving V. Lipuma
Irving V. LIPUMA

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