

11 August 1965

SUBJECT: Report of Interrogation of 10 August 1965

1. Today's session was from 1100 to 1200 and from 1300 to 1500. It was largely devoted to a review of Subject's military ranks and awards, but inevitably a number of related topics were touched upon. Subject was also questioned about his father's funeral, and about members of the praesidium and the Soviet Government generally.

2. Subject was first asked when and where he first entered on active military service. He said that normally people were called up at the age of 18, and I told him that the age was 19, but 18 if the person has the equivalent of a full secondary education. He said he was never called into the army, but received a deferment because he was a student at the Institute of International Relations. In June or July 1947, at the end of his second year at the Institute he received the rank of Jr. Lt. of the Reserve, as did all his classmates. He received his first voyennyy billet (VB) at the end of 1945 or early 1946, at the rayvoyenkomat for his place of residence at Ul Granovskogo, he said he thought it might have been Krasnopresnenskiy rayon (this is correct, and is the first time he has correctly mentioned a rayon in which he lived). This was an ordinary enlisted man's VB. In 1947 this VB was replaced with an officer's VB. In neither case was Subject able to give an adequate description of how the documents were issued, nor did he have any idea of what was in them. He does not know in what branch of service he was (except that it was not the navy), what his gostav /category/ was, or his MOS. He said that the military registration desk was located in the voyenkomat, whereas prior to 1958 they were actually located in the Militia Sections.

3. Subject said that he first went on active military service when he entered Naval GRU. This was in October

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1950, although the processing had started in the spring. He deregistered from the rayvoenkamat in September. He left for the Far East immediately. Questioned about the procedures involved in processing for his departure, Subject was totally unable to describe the correct documents and procedures, and even said that he travelled in civilian clothes. If Subject had ever been a naval officer anywhere (or for that matter an officer in any branch of service) he could easily have invented satisfactory answers to my elementary questions; instead he appeared to be improvising answers on the basis of very inadequate knowledge.

4. Subject gave the following chronology of his military ranks:

July 1947 - Jr. Lt. of the Reserve
October 1950 - Jr. Lt.
April 1951 (while in Far East) - Lt.
April 1953 (in MVD) - Sr. Lt.
October 1959 (KGB) - Capt.
October-November 1963 (KGB) - Lt. Colonel

In no instance does he remember who signed the order of his promotion to a new military rank (normally, one would remember at least a few). I told Subject that it was impossible for him to have been promoted in the MVD in April 1953, or at any time in March-June and even later in 1953--because not one single person in the MVD was promoted at this time. He looked astounded and at first seemed undecided what line to take, but finally said that he couldn't say about anyone else, but he was sure that he received his promotion at that time. (In fact, this is excluded. All promotions were held up from Beria until late 1953.)

5. Subject said that he was put up for captain in 1956, but that the promotion was blocked by LYALIH--who was deputy chairman at that time and a member of the promotion board--on the grounds that Subject should be made to wait because of shortcomings in his work. Subject said that he was proposed for major in 1959, but only received captain. At that time, he was promised by GRIBANOV that he would be promoted directly to Lt. Colonel the next time around, and this happened. I told Subject that

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this was impossible, and pointed out to him that not even the astronaut GACARIN had been able to skip a rank. Subject simply insisted that this is what had happened. He said that he didn't know why he should have gotten such special treatment, and could only suppose that allowance was made for his long stretch as a Sr. Lt. and the fact that he was a deputy chief of department. (Subject's story does not hold water no matter how you turn it; even if his career had proceeded normally he would not have been eligible for Lt. Col. before 1964.) Asked why he had previously told us that he had been a major (in the autobiography prepared in Frankfurt), Subject said he did not think we would believe the true story.

6. Subject was then questioned briefly on the famous VD incident. His story about the investigation of this incident does not conform to normal practice in such cases, and is not believable. Still worse is his account of the consequences this incident had on his Komsomol standing. He maintains that the vzyskaniya (punishment) was removed from his record in October 1954, just a few months after the incident. This is never done in less than a year, especially for such a serious offense. His explanation that this was done to enable him to leave the Komsomol because of age without a black mark on his record is simply absurd: for a KGB officer to leave the Komsomol because of age and without entering the Party is a black mark in itself, and would inevitably mean expulsion from the KGB. Subject was completely unable to describe the procedure involved in turning in his Komsomol card. He admitted that he was the only member of the SCD who was not either in the Komsomol or the Party, but maintained that no one had ever even talked to him about it.

7. Subject said he received the following medals and awards:

Medal for Victory over Germany - 1945-46
Medal for Defense of Moscow - 1945-46
Medal 40 Years Soviet Army - 1957
Medal 3rd Class, for Honorable Service,
10 years - 1962 or 1963
Order of Red Star - end 1961

In regard to the Medal for Honorable Service, 10 years, Subject first said he received it in March 1963, then corrected himself and said 1962. Asked why not in 1960 (it takes into account both military and KGB service), Subject said he didn't know why it was so late, that it

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was personnel's fault, possibly because of the reorganization of the SCD. These are nonsensical answers, and it is obvious that Subject is unsure about when he should have received this medal, remembers the previous interrogation, and is being careful.

Asked what he received the Order of the Red Star for, Subject was extremely evasive. He claimed not to remember the exact formulation of the order, and perhaps slipped when he said "For exceptional performance of mission." When I asked him what mission, he said that it was just for good work in general.

Subject also said that in 1959 he was put in for the Order of the Red Banner because of his tourist recruitments, but did not get it, probably because he was transferred to the First Department at the time. Reminded about his previous boasts about the Order of Lenin, he said that it was promised to him in 1963 but he did not receive it. Subject did not say what it would have been for.

8. I asked Subject if he had attended the opening of the Dzerzhinskiy Memorial in front of the KGB building. Subject quickly said that he wasn't there and that he didn't remember when it was opened or where he was at the time. He refused to estimate whether this took place under BERIYA, KRUGLOV, SEROV, SHELEPIN, or SEMICHASTNYI, and looked uncomfortable when reminded that it was a very big event, attended by DZERZHINSKIY's wife and son, among others. (It was opened on 20 December 1958--the 41st birthday of Soviet State Security--and was attended by KHRUSHCHEV and all other praesidium members.)

9. Subject was asked to describe his father's funeral. This he did in a satisfactory manner. Asked where he had come from to attend this funeral, Subject replied that he was in Moscow all the time of his father's illness from May 1956 until his death in August 1956 with the exception of a few days TDY in Kiev (this would be for the BURGI case, about which Subject will be questioned next time). Of possible interest is Subject's remark, apropos of nothing in particular, that the portrait of his father that hung in the House of Columns and was published in the papers at the time of his death was not a good likeness.

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10. Some time was spent questioning Subject on the residences and private lives of the Soviet hierarchy, especially those who lived either at Granovskiy or Serafimovich Streets. The results were inconclusive: Subject did not make any mistakes, nor did he have any sensational revelations. Asked what residences he personally visited, he said only BULGANIN, KOSYGIN, MALYSHEV, TIMOSHENKO, MIKOYAN (dacha), SECHERBAKOV. Subject said he did not know where KOBULOV lived in Moscow.

11. At the end of the session Subject was reminded that previously he had said that he received his first VB in Leningrad. He admitted that this was wrong, but said he got some sort of documents connected with his schooling through the yoyenkomat in Leningrad; however, he could not remember what documents they were.

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