

*Freedom of Information
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Subject: Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko

File Number: 65-68530

Section: 78 EBF for 827X



~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

Copy # 6 of 8
Operational Memo #N-416
24 February 1971

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] (S)

See addendum
Classified by 100-709-103M
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The following is a transcript of an interview with the Subject from approximately 1:40 p. m. , to 3:25 p. m. , on 24 February 1971. Individuals present were Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the FBI [REDACTED] and Subject. The designations for those participating are "W" for [REDACTED] "F" for [REDACTED] and "S" for Subject.

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per FBI

[REDACTED]

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65-68530-827X

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10/7/99 ~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~
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Per CIA letter 10/4/79
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Section 552

Section 552a

Per CIA

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Section 403

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65-68530-EBF 827X pages 2 thru 32

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MR. GAKNER'S TOUR

(From page 4 of IZVESTIYA (Moscow) of September 18, 1960. Dictated translation by [redacted] Division of Foreign Activities, U. S. Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C., September 27, 1960.)

Their appearance at oil sites was noted, of course, but very few of the passersby would give them a second look; foreign guests are common at the Oktyabr'skoye.

The travelers were talking noisily with each other and were turning around to look at the place with curiosity. Of course, they didn't know that our town is quite young. And yet, it looks substantial. The people who live and work there also are nice. It's just an oil town, talkative, exciting.

These were the Americans. The executives of oil companies who came to the Soviet Union in order to get acquainted with our oil industry. There is nothing remarkable about this business. This is neither the first nor the last time that our miners, oil men, metallurgists, engineers, and agricultural people and scientists have welcomed such delegations or seen them off.

The members of this delegation are well qualified people. The head man, William Keeler, Vice-President of Phillips Petroleum Company, looks very young. He is a chemical engineer, a very responsible administrator of refineries, and he is also Vice-President of several other American oil companies. The next one is George Getty. It was his exploration team in 1948 which discovered oil in South Krane, Texas. Getty's young age (36) did not prevent him from becoming President of Tidewater Oil Company. Let us continue our introductions. Here is Whitney Elias, Vice-President of the Pan-American Petroleum Corporation; here is Neil Smith, a geologist and geophysicist for the Houston Texas Company; and here is George Dunham, Senior Vice-President and Director of Socony Mobil Oil Company; here is Noyes Smith, Jr., Physicist, Vice-President for research and development of Shell Development Company. By the way, this company is a subsidiary of the well-known Shell Oil.

We have still to introduce Robert Ebel, specialist in international economics, engaged in studying the oil industry, an associate of the Department of the Interior, U. S. A.; George Piercy, engineer-economist from the headquarters of Standard Oil; Alexander Gakner of the U. S. Department of the Interior, interested in information on mining in Eastern Europe. The tenth member of the delegation, Ira Cram is Senior Vice-President of Continental Oil.

Our guests, inasmuch as they have undertaken such a long journey, are naturally interested to learn as much as they can about the technological features of our oil industry--production of oil and refining processes.

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The Soviet engineers give the simplest and clearest explanations. But as soon as anyone of our petroleum men tries to ask a question of anyone of the guests, Mr. Gakner immediately interferes. He pushes his colleagues back, he will not let them say a word. He keeps on repeating that his colleagues are only administrators and not technical men and for that reason they cannot answer the technical questions of the Soviet specialists.

The delegation had visited the oil fields of Bashkiriya and Azerbaydzhan, the oil refineries of Stalingrad, Novokuybyshev, Syzram' and Ufa. The sincere admiration which many of the delegates were taking no pains to conceal would be immediately neutralized by the same Mr. Gakner. His main occupation was to dampen the good impression and the cheerful mood of the delegates gained after their visits to industrial enterprises and their conversations with Soviet people.

Gakner, fluent in the Russian language, endeavored to slip in anti-Soviet expressions at every possible occasion and in his translations was willfully distorting the friendly words of our guests addressed to the Soviet specialists. In other words, he was trying to engineer provocations of all kinds. From time to time the Americans would express their dissatisfaction with Gakner's behavior and yet at the same time they seemed to be afraid of him.

Indeed, there was every reason to sense that Gakner was trying to increase his knowledge in a very different field for a very different purpose. His purpose was to collect intelligence on the capacity of our oil industry. His alleged official position in the Department of the Interior is to supply information on the mining industries of Eastern Europe but his real job is genuine economic espionage.

In a casual manner Gakner takes photographs of oil storage tanks in Dashkiriya, takes notes on the coordinates of the photographed installations, makes exact notes on the position of the Novoufinsk refinery, makes a sketch map of fuel dumps, storage bins, and railway tracks. Gakner's "love of knowledge" extends farther still. He takes careful notes on the positions of our radar installations, airdromes, and other defense objects. Alexander Gakner, who sneaked his way in as a member of the delegation of American specialists, endeavors by every possible means to find out about our oil reserves, the principal oil production areas, processing of oil, and the means of transportation. He pulls out of our specialists data on the production capacity of our factories and enterprises, a subject which was not on the agenda for the trip.

In short, we are facing a highly suspicious character, who at the same time, has no compunction in his dirty transactions involving foreign currency. The masters of Gakner seem to know his value, for how else would they have delegated Gakner to contact Lt. Col. David Windsor, Assistant Air Force Attache at the American Embassy in Moscow!

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The second representative of the U. S. Department of the Interior, Robert Ebel, also was disliked by the American delegation. They looked at him askance. True, in contrast with his colleague in the Department of the Interior, Ebel tried to listen more and talk less, although he also attempted to start anti-Soviet conversations, and would photograph, at the slightest opportunity, not only items in the oil industry but also radio stations, railways, and radar installations. An interesting detail: he would identify the exact position of his snapshot by the means of his compass.

At one of the oil sites in Azerbaydzhan, Ebel went to the topmost floor of an installation and began to sketch from there. On Artem Island he calculated the distance between the stockade (derrick) and a defense object visible on the mainland. Robert Ebel was especially interested in rocket fuels rather than the other products of the petroleum industry. One could imagine that he plans to write a dissertation on this subject. Starting with the Oil and Gas Pavilion at the Exhibition of National Economy in Moscow and ending at the production sites, Ebel continuously was asking questions on rocket fuel. Could be somebody's tongue gets loose! One of the members of the delegation said appropriately: "The Russians have a proverb -- 'Two boots, one pair' or 'Berries from the same field'". He had in mind Alexander Gakner and Robert Ebel.

But we have learned only recently what kind of a berry is this Gakner guy, and Gakner gave himself away -- himself and his masters, too.

We do not care about Gakner's spilling the beans. This headache belongs to those who sent him. The spy flunked out in a simple way either because Gakner's preparation was inadequate or for some other reason. But the fact remains a fact; Gakner lost an important document, which gave him away.

On the stationery of the U. S. Department of the Interior, black on white, it is stated, "Approved, Alexander Gakner, East Europe Specialist, to travel abroad behind the Iron Curtain".

The document states further: "Department of State has requested the Bureau of Mines to select an engineer with knowledge of the Russian language and preferably with knowledge of the geography of the U.S.S.R., to accompany the American delegation of oil specialists who will be visiting Russia during July and August." (u)

"Alexander Gakner is well qualified for this assignment. He is a native of Poland, and he had spent several years in the Soviet Union, including 3 years at the Groznyy Petroleum Institute in the Caucasus."

However, before proceeding with our quotations, let us find out how Gakner make his appearance in Groznyy. It develops that he was born in Vil'no, Poland of the pans (landlords), and then showed up in Riga. When the war began he evacuated to the interior of our country. He enrolled at the

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Petroleum Institute in Kokand, which was temporarily transferred from Groznyy. After 3 years at the Institute, Gakner proceeded to Poland in 1946 and from there climbed over into the United States.

And there he began to make trouble, foul dirt to Soviet people, to the people who gave him shelter in the difficult times, who fed him and clothed him, who gave him the opportunity to receive higher education.

We read further in the documents "In addition to his visit to the oil-producing regions of the U.S.S.R., his trip may include visits to other centers of mining in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and possibly Rumania and Bulgaria. Mr. Gakner was invited to attend the Mining Congress in Hungary, and he will participate in an extended trip after the Congress. Mr. Gakner is freely conversant in Russian, Polish, and German. His extensive knowledge and natural capabilities will enable him to collect much invaluable data.

"We are urging, therefore, the approval of his appointment. His travels will last approximately from July 15 to November 1. We anticipate that the expenses, about \$4,000, will be paid by the Bureau of Mines. The authorization includes admission to secret data. Mr. Gakner's dependability has been certified by the Secret Service authorities on December 16, 1954, under the code E. O. 10450."

This paper is signed by the Director (illegible signature).

Further: "Dependability certified", signed "Director, Secret Service Division".

Below that, "Approved June 21, 1960". Signed by "Assistant Secretary of the Department".

So, this is Alexander Gakner, who is still on his espionage tour, who is longing, by the way, in the near future, to come to Moscow for work at the American Embassy. However, it is unlikely that the masters will require the services of an intelligence agent who has flunked out!

(Signed) V. KITAIN

Soviet Accuses U.S. Air Attache

MOSCOW, Sept. 17 (AP)—The Government newspaper Izvestia tonight accused another member of the American Embassy of espionage activities.

The charge was leveled at Lt. Col. David Windsor, 40, of Brunswick, Ga. Izvestia said he had a secret meeting with an American oil delegate accused of engaging in spying in the Soviet Union last July. Windsor declined comment. He is an assistant air attache.

The oil delegate was identified as Alexander Gakner, a Polish-born employe of the U. S. Interior Department. Izvestia said he arrived last July with a delegation of some of the most important oilmen in the United States.

Gakner used his position as delegation translator to photograph not only oil installations but also railroads, radar stations and airports, Izvestia said.

[Gakner, who lives at 11208 Woodson ave., Kensington, was identified by the Interior Department as Russian specialist for the Division of Foreign Activities, Bureau of Mines.

[A State Department spokesman said there was no basis for the charge against Gakner. "He was invited by the Soviet Union, and everything was above board," the spokesman said.

[He added that Gakner is traveling in Europe and is expected home shortly.]

Izvestia said Gakner "was a spy sent (to collect) informa-

tion on oil producing regions of the country." It said the delegation visited oil fields in Bashkiria and Azerbaijan and oil refineries in Stalingrad, Novokuibyhevsk, Syzran and Ufa. Izvestia said Gakner tried to obtain information on the capacity of plants and oilfields.

The paper published what it called a photographic copy of a document lost by Gakner. This document, Izvestia went on, was written on a State Department blank and showed, among other things, that Gakner "was granted secret security clearance on Dec. 16, 1954, under EO/0450."

Izvestia accused another member of the delegation identified as Robert Ebel, of "unseemly activity" in photographing oil plants, radio and radar stations and being "particularly interested in missile fuel."

Ebel, 31, a petroleum economist with the Interior Department, said the Izvestia charge is "absolutely without foundation."

Contacted at his home at 1630 N. Patrick Henry dr., Arlington, Va., Ebel said his "entire delegation went out of the way to find out in advance if we had permission for what he wanted to do every step of the way." He added that they were denied permission to take photographs "a great number of times."

He said the Soviets had been very cooperative during the delegation tour and let the group see "almost everything we asked to see."

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Washington Post 9/26/60 Page A-22

Soviet Mineral Trade Shows More Strength

Translator to photograph not only oil installations but also railways, radar stations and airports.

Associated Press

The Interior Department yesterday made public a new report on Soviet trade showing a continued gain in Russian mineral strength.

"Russia's stepped-up trade in minerals reflects growing strength in essential raw materials and indicates a bolstering of her economic ties with free-world nations in Africa and Western Europe," the department said in a news release.

It cited the following evidence of growing Russian mineral strength:

Russia's mineral exports in 1959 increased 14 per cent in value over 1958 and were twice the 1955 value, indicating she is producing more than she needs of many commodities. In contrast, the value of mineral imports last year was not quite 7 per cent above the 1958 figure and was only 40 per cent higher than the total mineral import value five years ago.

The Soviets cut down on shipments of zinc, tin and aluminum to free-world countries in 1959 while delivering substantially more of many bulk products including solid and

liquid fuels, iron ore, pig iron, rolled steel, manganese ore, chromite, asbestos, apatite concentrate and potash salts.

Minerals and fuels accounted for more than a third of the value of all Soviet exports in 1959, with liquid fuels and coal showing the biggest gains over the previous year. Although fuel imports also increased, Russia remained a large net exporter of both coal and petroleum.

The report was prepared by Alexander Gakner, East European specialist in the division of foreign activities in the Bureau of Mines. He completed the work before leaving some weeks ago for a tour of Russia with an American exchange group looking into Russian oil industry operations.

On Sept. 17 the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia accused Gakner of spying. The newspaper said Gakner used his position as delegation

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Section 403

(b)(7)(E)

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