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Defector Tells Of Soviets' Terror Units

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By Robert Barkdoll
Los Angeles Times

Senate investigators were told in hitherto secret testimony released yesterday about a dreaded "department of wet (dirty) affairs" operated by Russia to spread terror and assassination around the world.

It was explained that, in Russia, the agency is "Mokryye, Dela." Mokryye means wet in English, but a freer and more apt translation in this case apparently is "dirty" or "bloody."

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The testimony was given before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee by Petre S. Deriabin, a Soviet defector who identified himself as a onetime Russian espionage agent.

Deriabin is the translator of the recently published "Penkovsky Papers." A series of excerpts appeared in The Washington Post.

During hearings last March 26, it was brought out that Deriabin had testified previously in the past 10 years before the Senate subcommittee and before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Deriabin, an official in the Soviet security apparatus until his defection in 1955, testified that the Russians engaged in kidnaping, murder and terror to hold subordinates in line and to punish defectors and other enemies.

He said the Soviet agency charged with these worldwide activities is known officially as "the 13th department of state security." Then under questioning by subcommittee counsel J. C. Sourwine, he explained how Soviet agents tagged their outfit with its bizarre name.

Deriabin said Russian security officers never use the name or number of the department. They just use the name "Mokryye Dela," which means "the department of wet affairs."

The subcommittee's report on Deriabin's testimony was entitled, "Murder International, Inc.—Murder and Kidnaping as an Instrument of Soviet Policy."