

himself up to the German police in 1961 and acknowledged that he had perpetrated both killings.

For the first murder, Stashinski reports he was given a fine banquet by his superiors in the KGB; for the second he received from them the Order of the Red Banner.

✓ Since the earliest days of the Soviets, secret assassination has been an official state function assigned to the apparatus of the security service. A special "Executive Action" section within the latter has the responsibility for planning such assassinations, choosing and training the assassin, and seeing to it that the job is carried out in such a way that the Soviet Government cannot be traced as the perpetrator. That this section is still today a most important component of Soviet intelligence is borne out by the fact that its recently appointed chief is General Korovin.¹ While serving as counsel of the Soviet Embassy in London from 1953 until early 1961 he was in charge of two key Soviet spies in Britain, George Blake and William John Vassall. After the apprehension of the latter, the ground got too hot for the General and he was recalled and re-assigned to the "Executive Action" branch of the KGB.

EVOLUTION OF SOVIET SECURITY SERVICES

In 1922 the Cheka became the GPU (State Political Administration), which in 1934 became part of the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs). This consolidation finally brought together under one ministry all civilian security and intelligence bodies—secret, overt, domestic and foreign. As the foreign arm of Soviet security was expanding into a world-wide espionage and political action organization, the domestic arm grew into a monster. It is said that under Stalin one out of every five Soviet citizens was reporting to it. In addition, it exercised control over the border militia, had an internal militia of its own, ran all the prisons and labor and concentration camps, and had become the watchdog over the government and over the Communist party itself. Its most frightening power as an internal secret police lay in its authority

¹ This was the alias used by the General while in London. His real name is Nikolay B. Rodin.