

Soviet U.N. Envoy Linked to Spying

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

The irascible Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, Yakov Malik, is active behind the scenes in Soviet espionage.

U.S. intelligence files tie him to the Soviet spy network at the United Nations. "The activities of both 'legals' and 'illegals' have passed over his desk," intelligence sources tell us. "Legals" are spies with formal diplomatic status; "illegals" are clandestine operatives.

Only once during his U.N. years, the files reveal, has Malik shown his hand. This was an impulsive, imprudent reaction to a 1971 New York Times story identifying a popular U.N. secretariat official, Vladimir Pavlichenko, as a "veteran officer" of the Soviet secret police (KGB).

Pavlichenko was not only a valuable Soviet agent but a close associate of Malik. The files contain detailed accounts of Pavlichenko's KGB activities while he was at the United Nations.

The New York Times revelation caused Malik to overreact, recalled a source with direct knowledge of the case. Angrily, Malik fired off two protests to the State Department and also got U.N. Secretary-General U Thant to complain. Not long afterward, Pavlichenko, his usefulness impaired, was discreetly called home.

The Soviets were far more successful with a prominent Bolivian envoy to the United Nations, the files show. The diplomat was recruited by the KGB in Bolivia, wangled an assignment to the United Nations and then, as a paid KGB agent, helped to enlist other Latin Americans in the Soviet spy apparatus.

All Soviet citizens who are employed by the United Nations are prepared for the job and regularly debriefed by the KGB. Some are merely informants, but others are actual KGB agents and "co-optees," the intelligence community's term for contract spies.

The Soviet agents and informants at the United Nations are handled on a day-to-day basis, we are told, by the top KGB official in New York City who is called the "residentura." But Malik has a formidable, overall role.

The world's most tangled espionage web has the Kremlin at its center. The Soviet spy system is, in effect, a dizzy geometric design of spy rings within spy rings. The emphasis, of course, is upon deception.

It is difficult, therefore, to trace Malik's spy career. The intelligence files show he began as a stool pigeon for the Soviet secret police, then called the NKVD, in the mid-1930s when he attended the Institute of Diplomatic and Consular Employees.

He reportedly remained an active agent of Soviet intelligence as he moved up in 1937 to become the deputy press chief of the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs. Two years later, he was dispatched to the Soviet embassy in Japan with the diplomatic rank of counselor. But American agents quickly spotted him, according to our sources, as an intelligence specialist.

Promoted to ambassador, he remained in Japan during World War II and immediately after the war. Then he was brought home to Moscow where in 1947 he became an operational espionage official. The files show he was appointed deputy chairman of the Komitet

Informatsii, or the KI as it was called, which was the parent head of both the secret police and military intelligence.

Malik gave up his formal KI post in 1951, the files affirm, which places him in the center of the secret police terror during some of the bloodiest years of the late dictator, Joseph Stalin.

While Malik was still a top man in the KI, he was transferred to the United Nations as the Soviet delegate in 1948 and remained until Stalin's death in 1953. He served thereafter as ambassador to Britain and then deputy foreign minister in Moscow, although the files indicate he actively kept up his intelligence associations.

In 1958, he was named permanent U.N. envoy, which provides sheep's clothes for one of Russia's most sharp-toothed wolves. He is fond, this graduate of Stalin's secret police apparatus, of taking the U.N. podium and branding his international adversaries as "murderers and gangsters."

The files list Malik's closest associates in the intelligence world. Among them are the top woman operative, Y. D. Modrzhinskaya, once assistant chief of Russia's overseas intelligence-gathering directorate, and her husband, who was a

lieutenant colonel in the Assassination Department, variously called "Special Bureau Number One," "Department 13" and "Wet Affairs."

Also close to Malik have been the KI's "James Bond" equipment specialist A. Tishkov; KI bigwigs P. V. Fedotov, S. L. Tihkvinski and S. K. Savchenko; and former spies in the United States who became KI officials, A. I. Raina, A. V. Gorsky and V. Zarubin.

Another Malik associate, according to the files, was the famed I. I. Agayants, who was once in charge of spreading false strategic information to confuse U.S. intelligence and who is credited in Moscow with helping to pry France loose from NATO.

At Soviet U.N. headquarters, we were unable to reach Malik, but his press spokesman, Leonid Romonov, told us: "It would be undoubtedly better and more useful if such an experienced columnist as Mr. Anderson did not address himself to insignificant and unfounded topics but directed his attention and used his talents to cover the problems of lessening international tension and developments of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States."

1975, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.