19. [Meredith Knox Gardner], "Covernames in Diplomatic Traffic," 30 August 1947.

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30 August 1947

WDGAS-93

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I. D. SPECIAL ANALYSIS REPORT # 1

COVERNAMES IN DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC [redacted]

Prepared by ASA I. D.
30 August 1947

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COVERNAMES IN DIPLOMATIC TRAFFIC [redacted]

1. Limitations of the report.

Any report made at this time on the contents of traffic encrypted by the system [redacted] must necessarily be fragmentary and subject to correction in detail. In the messages that are in any degree readable, there are large gaps in solution of the cipher key (additive), and in the code book only about 15 per cent of the equivalences are identified, some only tentatively. Both these dificiencies are constantly being ameliorated, with the result that such reports as this will be outdated very rapidly until a much higher degree of recovery has been reached.

2. Collateral information.

The collateral information given about the covernames is both scanty and tentative, for reasons implied in paragraph 1. The most reliable data related to the names are the date and place of origin of the messages containing them. Since most of the readable traffic originated in New York, it will be necessary to indicate the origin only in the case of Washington, Canberra, and Stockholm messages. All the messages used are directed to Moscow.

3. Use of covernames.

It is known from the Report of the Royal Commission /in Canada/ appointed under Order in Council P. C. 411 of February 5, 1946 (report dated June 27, 1946) that agencies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics engaged in conspiratorial activities are accustomed, for reasons of security, to refer to persons that are furthering these activities by covernames, and in particular that this is done in encrypted messages sent between diplomatic installations and Moscow.

4. Covernames in [redacted]

The traffic encrypted by the system [redacted] contains many covernames, which are definitely proved to be such by two circumstances, (1) that many of them are so designated in messages (given as a supplement hereto) that describe themselves as dealing with changes in covernames (KLICHKI) and (2) that many of them are contained in the formula: "A (henceforth B)", in which A is evidently the real name of the old covername and B the (new) covername.

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The classic example for the "henceforth" formula is in a message of 23 August 1944, New York-Moscow, internal address SEMION. There occurs the expression "MAMLUIGA Vitaliy Semionovich (henceforth "EM")." The next sentence starts with "EM's". Now, Vitaliy Semionovich Mamluiga (usual transliteration: Vitalii Semenovich Mamlyga) is the name of a person known to have been with the Soviet Purchasing Commission. After giving his name in full, the originator of the message gave him a covername and immediately proceeded to use it. (EM is not known outside this message, the rest of which is not yet readable; but see section 15.) In this case, where perhaps the need for security was not great, the covername seems to be the name of the initial letter of MAMLUIGA--M. This circumstance must not, however, lead us to employ the term "covername" for initials used for the sake of brevity, the expansion of which is always evident from other passages in the message concerned. (Covernames themselves can be so abbreviated.)

5. Reliability of "readings".

In the following it must be borne in mind that some of the covernames are expressed by single code groups not yet found in other contexts and others contain groups not yet found in other contexts. When any form has been assumed for the equivalent of such a group, it is here generally followed by a question mark. The forms assumed are based (1) on calculations made possible by the fact that [redacted] uses a one-part code and that complete one-part codes of the same length are available (this process of comparison and calculation has yielded many values that were later verified) and (2) on the analogy of verified covernames. As mentioned below, the covernames fall in part into "families".

6. Families of covernames.

It has become evident that many of the covernames can be put into categories on the basis of some similarity between them. In the Report of the Royal Commission we find the alliterating family BACK, BACON, BADEAU, BAGLEY (all members of the Group "Research"; cf. p. 729). We find a Prometheus that seems to belong to a "mythology" family, examples of which in [redacted] traffic are Jupiter and Ceres. In New York message 798 appended below, we find Erie immediately followed by Huron (in fact, Erie gave the clue for the identification of Huron). There is a family of ancient Phoenician cities: Carthage, Tire, and Sidon.

The arrangement of the material from this point will be based on such categories. First, covernames apparently for persons will be listed: Addressees, signatures, specifically Russian Christian names, Christian names not specifically Russian, relationships and conditions of age, station and calling, mythological names, names of animals, names of plants, and miscellaneous. Then covernames apparently for places and institutions will be listed: Ancient

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places, geographical features, and miscellaneous. Names occurring only in the special covername messages are sometimes not listed except in the text of of those messages themselves (see supplement).

7. Addresses.

The addresses and signatures seem to be covernames. The constant address of Canberra and Stockholm messages and the address of by far the greater part of the New York messages is expressed by a group falling in the book just before the group for VIL and five places after the group for VIZ,a (visa). All probabilities favor the value VIKTOR(as an address, it is to be read in the dative case: VIKTORU, to Victor). The only other occurrence of the group is in the spelling VIKTORII (in which, unfortunately, II can be secured only by assuming a one-digit garble) in the expression of Victoria and New South Wales."

New York messages show at least three other addresses: 8 OTDELU (to the Eighth Division of Department) and SEMIONU (to Simeon or Simon), both confirmed from other ones, and a group falling two places after PETER, hence perhaps PIOTR (Peter) or PETROV or the like.

The frequency of VIKTORU in the latest index is 24 for Canberra, 4 for Stockholm, and for New York 2Ø6. New York four times follows this by 8 OTDELU (with a separating dash or period), Canberra 5 times with a period between and once without--once Canberra has simply VIKTORU 8. New York also has VIKTORU, SEMIONU twice, VIKTORU, BORIS(?)OVU once, and once VIKTORU OT KOMISSARI(?)AT(A?) (to Victor from the Commissari(?)at(??). Canberra has one VIKTORU SEMIONU.

SEMIONU occurs 22 times as an address from New York (twice after VIKTORU), once from Canberra (after VIKTORU). All occurrences are after 19 July 1944.

8 OTDELU occurs 22 times, 11 of these after VIKTORU (with or without separating period or dash). One Canberra message begins "To Victor. In reply to your telegram No. 2383. 8 OTDEL(U)."

"PETROVU", or whatever it is, is an address at least 7 times, all from New York, from May to August 1944. (The group occurs in 4 other passages, twice preceded by TOVARISHCH, "Comrade"; once in a Canberra message. Note that in all indications of frequency, unless otherwise stated, anti-garble repetitions have been eliminated.)

BORIS(?)OV occurs once in the phrase VIKTORU, BORIS(?)OVU" from New York, 17 August 1944.

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8. Signatures.

The constant Canberra signature is a group that has been tentatively tagged MIFIM (Joachim). Only one case of a Washington signature (?) is known, a group presumably in the range of VAV to VAK. It could be something like VAVILOV or even VAKH (Bacchus). No Stockholm signatures are known.

The most frequent New York signature is MAY, with an overall frequency of 16%, only a handful of which occurrences are not signatures. Occasionally, to distinguish his own remarks from a document he is transmitting, MAY will use the expression "PRIMECHANIYE MAYA" (May's note), thus confirming that MAY is a signature and that the value of the signature group is MAY (for MAYA is a different group and certainly means "of May" in dates).

Another signature, in about the range for ANTON (Anthony), occurs 1% times (New York). Once (12 December 1944) the form is "ANTON (?) and MAK" (MAK is possibly a garble for MAY). All occurrences are from October 1944 to January 1945. The name also occurs in the text 8 times (New York, May-December 1944). In a message of 23 August 1944, ANTON (?) is associated with SERGEY (?) and AKIM, apparently in connection with southwestern factories and plants.

A signature in the right range for BORIS occurs at least twice as a New York signature, on 23 October and 31 December 1944.

SERGEY (?) (Sergius): There are 2 candidates for this value. One occurs 2 September 1944 and 11 January 1945; the other occurs 17 times, 16 May 1944 - 15 January 1945. The second one is associated with ANTON (?) and AKIM (see section 8).

ALEKSEY (Alexis): occurs 5 times, 9 May - 14 December 1944.

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celebrated feline, his names kept vanishing. Shortly after my labor editorship began, he suddenly converted himself into "Comrade Peters" and then into "Comrade Steve" and then, after a long time, back to "Comrade Roberts". It kept one busy trying to keep up with these transformations.

Before the publication of Budenz's book, certain groups had tentatively been identified as equivalent to RICHARD, ROBERT, and the like. That such names occur in the code book has been amply verified, e.g. by the message of 2 December 1944, listing nuclear physicists and mathematicians. To serve as surnames in daily colloquy, some of these names would have to take on an S.

The group that seems to stand for ROBERT (it follows next after RO) occurs 35 times. The group for RICHARD (2 places beyond RIT) occurs 6 times (plus once in RICHARD? PALMER). Both are restricted to New York messages. RICHARD is the new covername given in September 1944 to someone whose previous (covert) name seems to have begun with LO (see message 7ØØ appended below). A ROBERT occurs from 7 June 1944 on through 17 January 1945--of course not necessarily one single individual throughout.

It is significant that ROBERT was always "transmitting" written matter to the originator(s) of the messages: the formula "Robert? has transmitted" occurs five times in the index.

Another individual of particular interest is one whose name would seem to begin with HE (or, by the more usual transliteration, KHE). This may be HENRI (Henry), though there is almost certainly another and more usual spelling of "Henry" in the book, GENRI OR GENRIH. HENRI? figures in arrangements for a rendezvous in front of a Mexico City movie house (N. Y. message of 14 June 1944); in other messages also he is located in DERZVENIA (the Country, covername for MEXICO). In a message of 1Ø August 1944 there seems to be talk of calling him back to TIR (Tyre, covername for New York). He occurs 21 times, from 26 May-1Ø August 1944. The other group, GENRI, occurs in message 798 (below) and perhaps in a message of 1 June 1944 involving the securing of a DERZVENSKOY (Mexican) visa.

Other such names are:

AL' or EL' (Al?):	occurs 1 October in phrase "Al' or EL'" (both attempts to render English Al?)
DIK (Dick):	was EHO (Echo) before October 1944; occurs in five messages, 23 October -26 December 1944.
DONAL'D (Donald):	became PILOT? September 1944; this second name appears in section 11 below.
DUN?KAN (Duncan):	occurs in message of 26 May 1944.
KARL (Carl):	was SKAT before October 1944; occurs once 26 December 1944.

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GENRI(H) (Henry): was TAM before October 1944. See the last paragraph above.

DZHON (John): was GUDZON before October 1944; occurs once 14 December 1944, with AMUR?

PETER: was CHERNOY? (Black) before October 1944.

CHARL'Z (Charles): was something else until October 1944.

ERIK?: was something else until October 1944.

HEN?: Canberra, twice 1 September 1945. Seems to have furnished information on the Australian Security Service. Same name twice from New York, 26 July and 16 August 1944.'

KLOD (Claude): Canberra, April-October 1945. KLOD is Canberra's regular purveyor of information; he occurs 13 time 8 times in the formula "'KLOD' has communicated".

NIK (Nick?): 22 July 1944; message contains names DuPont, Ford, Mellon, Weir, Pew.

(CHARL'Z BRUNO (Charles Bruno): in N.Y. message 14 June 1944, this is the name HENRI? is to give as a password at the rendezvous.)

DORA: in two messages, 23 October 1944 and 4 January, 1945.

KORA (Cora): 20 December 1944.

OLA: a Washington female agent; name changed to something else in October 1944. Occurs in 2 messages, 3 May and 10 August 1944, both dealing with KOMAR (that is, probably KRAVCHENKO). It is planned to make these messages the subject of a separate repor In the former OLA is described as seeking more detailed information on the KOMAR affair. In the latter she has something to do with the supposition that (does not think that?) KOMAR is staying at 209 West 97th Street.

RITA: mentioned 10 August 1944 in the phrase "the first two parts (of?) the business of RITA". (The message also mentions KOMAR, issue of LA VOZ/Mexico City Communist organ/ for 7 June, HENRI?).

11. Relationships and Conditions of Age, Station and Calling.

OTCHIM (Stepfather): in 3 messages, 17 May - 27 December 1944.

SVAT (Matchmaker: Son- or Daughter-in-law's Father): 23 Aug. and 6 Dec. 1944.

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DEDUSHKA (Grandpapa or Grandaddy): occurs 5 times in 3 messages, 9 May - 14 August 1944.

NABOB (Nabob): apparently a high American diplomatic official. Occurs 5 times in 3 messages, 9 May, 7 September, 14 December 1947; in message of 7 September, in connection with postwar treatment of Germany.

ATAMAN (Hetman): occurs 4 times in 3 messages, 17 May, 7 June, 6 October, 1944.

PILOT? (Pilot): was DONAL'D before September 1944.

12. Mythological Names:

YUPITER (Jupiter): became ORIOL? (Eagle) in October 1944.

SERES (Ceres): in 4 messages, 4 May - 25 July 1944.

MUZA (Muse): 4 July 1944; communicated concerning Secret Funds Division, Emerson Bigelow, aid of 92,ØØØ,ØØØ Portuguese escudos, Northern European division of Secret Intelligence Branch, etc.

EKO (Echo): became DIK in October 1944; occurs 14 times, 2 May 23 October, 1944.'

GNOM (Gnome): became YAKOV? in September 1944. Occurs 3 times, 18 May, 16 June, 25 July.

13. Names of animals.

TIULEN' (Seal): 1Ø August 1944, (a KOMAR or Kravchenko message).

ORIOL? (Eagle): was YUPITER until October 1944. Occurs 5 Dec. 1944

LUN' (Ken Harrier): in 4 messages, 3 May- 17 August 1944.

GUS' (Goose): changed to something else October 1944.

KOMAR (Gnat etc.): probably covername for Viktor Alaxeyevich Kravchenko. For a complete development of this idea, a separate report would be necessary. Occurs in 8 messages so far partly read, 6 between 3 and 23 May, 1944, 2 on 1Ø August, 1944; KOMAR is the object of intense interest, including attempts to locate him (2Ø May: "is living with? KERENSKOY in the state of Connecticut etc.").

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14. Names of plants.

TIUL'PAN (Tulip): 1ø August 1944; (a KOMAR or Kravchenko message) changed to something beginning with KAN Sept. 1944.

15. Miscellaneous.

LIB?? (Lieb?) or possibly LIBERAL: was ANTENKO until Sept. 1944. Occurs 6 times, 22 October - 2ø December 1944. Message of 27 November speaks of his wife ETHEL, 29 years old married (?) 5 years, ".....husband's work and the role of METR(O) and NIL".

AMUR? (Amour?): was ZHA---?--et (Jeannette??) before October 1944; occurs once 14 December 1944 with DZHON.

METR (like many other equivalences in the code book, this might have an alternative reading, perhaps METRO; as METR it means "meter" and as METRO it is a nickname, applied for example to the Paris subway system): was SKAUT until September 1944. Occurs 27 Nov. 194 (something about LIB?'s wife Ethel? ?knowing about her husband's work and the role of METR(O) and NIL; notice in message 7ø6 below how METR(O) and NIL com together). Seems to occur 5 December 1944 in phras "METR(O) and ?HYU?SON (Hughson?)". Note on page 73 of the Report of the Royal Commission: "Metro..... ...the Embassy of the U.S.S.R."

GRANT: occurs 26 May 1944 in phrase "of GRANT and KARL"; message mentions FFI (Forces Francais de'l Intérieur?) or possibly a name ending in FFI (FFY). In 1945, GRANT was used in Canada as the covername of Colonel Nikolay Zabotin, Soviet Military Attache in Ottawa and head of military intelligence work in Canada (see Report of the Royal Commission).

EM (M): covername of Vitaliy Semionovich Mamluiga in messag of 23 August 1944. He was a member of the Soviet Purchasing Commission, having entered the U.S. in December 1943. He was still here in September 1946 This name may be EMA, and may be the same EMA liste 28 November 1944 (see below).

KANUK? (Canuck?): Occurs 4 times in 2 messages, 24 July and 1 August 1944.

SI (C?): occurs 23 October and 6 December 1944.

PA (Pa?): occurs 14 December 1944.

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List of 28 November 1944; In a message of that date the following names occur, apparently as operating from New York: KRUG (Circle, or the name Krug), KIN--?--(was R--?--OLOV until October 1944), EMA, --?--, St--?-- (this word may not be a name) --MALIAR (Painter), YAN (Jan), ENK.....

16. Covernames apparently for places and institutions:

Ancient places (also rivers, etc.).

TIR (Tyre): covername for New York.

SIDON (Sidon): covername for London.

KARFAGEN (Carthage): covername for Washington.

NIL (Nile?): was something beginning with TU (TUMAN, Mist?) until September 1944; linked with METR, which see.

17. Geographical features.

STRANA (Land, Country): covername for the United States.

OSTROV (Island): covername for Great Britain; changed October 1944. to something beginning with EK (or EX).

OSTROVITIANIN (Islander): Briton.

DEREVNIA (the Country /i.e., rural districts/): covername for Mexico.

DEREVENSKOY (Country, Rural): Mexican.

ZEMLIAK (Fellow Countryman): Coverword for some naticnality, possibly U.S.

18. Miscellaneous.

BANK (the Bank): probably covername for the U.S. State Department; occurs 24 times, (once in the plural from Canberra, probably in the literal sense).

DOM STARUHI (the Old Woman's House): in 2 messages, 26 May and 1ø Aug. 1944.

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19. Conclusion.

In its present state the [redacted] traffic tends to arouse curiosity more than it does to satisfy it. This unsatisfactory state of affairs makes it imperative that this report be supplemented at intervals. It is proposed that such supplements not be complete revisions of this report, but rather be of such a nature that they would be filed with it and used in conjunction with it. When enough material has been accumulated, a new report will be made.

(This report incorporates the previous brief tentative report of 2ø June 1947.)

A final reminder of the extremely provisional nature of all assumptions made in this report is desirable. Future supplements will not fail to specify those that have become untenable.

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