

Secret Writings New York – Buenos Aires Venona
Decrypted by the National Security Agency's Venona Project
Transcribed by Students of the Mercyhurst College
Institute for Intelligence Studies

Arranged by John Earl Haynes, Library of Congress, 2011

USSR

Ref No: S/NBF/T494

Issued: [REDACTED] 29//3/1954

Copy No: 205

OPERATIONAL INSTURCTIONS ON THE MOVEMENTS OF AGENTS.

From: NEW YORK

To: BUENOS AIRES

No. -

17 November 1941

1. SONIA[i] - this is SIGUERIOS.
2. What is the object of GORDON's journey to our country ?
From the point of view of our cause we do not see any purpose in it.
3. It is very important for us that the replacement of
BRIONES be hastened. If this is impossible, try to send out to
him an adviser [SOVETNIK], or a secretary from our friends[ii].
Inform us about measures taken and results.
4. Report in more detail about the friend in VICHY,
his relatives, their possibilities.
5. We are very interested in sending a strong and reliable
man to Portugal. Select such a man and report to us his personal
data [KhARAKTERISTIKA] and possibilities for the purpose of
approval.
6. Send more detailed information on the base in Portugal
about which you wrote.

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

[REDACTED]

S/NBF/T494
[2 Pages]

7. In your letter of 13th September you wrote about the proposed departure in October of the first [person][a] to Spain and the other to Portugal. Report what sort of people they are, whether they have left, what are their tasks and what arrangements have been made for liaison.

8. Concerning the movement of Germans, Italians and other suitable people: select such people, prepare them for movement, work out thoroughly liaison with them and their possibilities, and come to an agreement with them about your measures.

9. Report what sort of steamship communication exists between your [country][a] and the other countries of South America and Europe. What [are the][a] steamships, what flags do they fly, [what are][a] the assignments of these ships, between what ports and how often do they sail? From which port and on which steamships would it be best in your opinion to move [PEREBRAS.] our people? Are they reliable captains?

10. You can write [C% also] to the first address which we fixed in our last letter. Only add after "LONG ISLAND" the word "City".

Greetings.

T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator

Comments: [i] This letter was encoded with the use of the book "Una Excursión a Los Indios Ranqueles". On 10th August 1944 NEW YORK MGB reported to MOSCOW that, for correspondence with "ARTUR", the same book had been used [S/NBF/T399, Item 1]. It is clear from other references to "ARTUR" in the NEW YORK/MOSCOW traffic that he was based in South America. It therefore seems that "ARTUR" and "SONIA" may be identical. Furthermore, on 19th May 1944 the MGB resident in NEW YORK informed MOSCOW that they had in mind sending by "GRISHA" [an agent whom they proposed sending to Chile] a letter for "ARTUR" and "ALEKSANDR" [S/NBF/T131]. "ALEKSANDR" [or "ALEX"] is mentioned in three of the letters passed between NEW YORK and BUENOS AIRES. Neither "ARTUR" nor "ALEKSANDR" is identified.

[ii] Possibly a cover-word for members of the local Communist Party.

W.S. No.: Imperial Censorship ref. BER 72299

S/NBF/T494

USSR

Ref. No: S/NBF/T495

Issued: 29//3/1954

Copy No: 205

1. MOVEMENTS OF AGENTS.
2. MEASURES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.
3. REFERENCE TO "ALEX".

From: BUENOS AIRES

To: NEW YORK

No. -

5 July 1942

Letter no. 4.

1. I have taken into account the instructions [D% of the House [DOM][i]] in accordance with which I am reorganizing my work.

2. Local ships are no longer sailing to N.Y.[a], but to NEW ORLEANS instead. If it is convenient for you, send the address and password [PAROL']. I have reliable sailors for this in NEW ORLEANS.

3. Tomas Olloa MA*R*D[b] CHII?S SUDA HUEM*E was going to your place, but en route [the ship][c] changed course for NEW ORLEANS. RICO[d] is a friend, compatriot and comrade of his. It is possible to look for him through the friends[ii] of his teacher.

4. I have regular communication with South Africa through L. AM**IDIS, who is on his way there now. Can this not be used to send accounts [OTChETY] home ?

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

S/NBF/T495
[3 Pages]

5. The radio point [RADIO TOChKA] [D% has two receivers and parts for a transmitter, which can be assembled in two months. Expenses for installing - about 400 dollars in [each][c] month.

Transmission times of the radio point:

- 1. 7896 kilocycles.
- 2. Characteristic [KhARAKTERIST.] RAVO[iii].
- 3. Code: Lawrence [sic] GRISWOLD "The Other America" PUTNAM Sons N.Y. [19]41.
- 4. Work on even days from 0 p.m. Argentine time.

6. Money until September. (Take into account that the dollar has fallen by a third to a half.) There is needed per month:

- 1. Apparatus 500 dollars [D.]
- 2. [D% Radio] 200 dollars [D.]
- 3. Uruguay 150 dollars [D.]
- 4. Reserve 150 dollars [D.]

Total 1000 [dollars][c]

For the half year 6000 [dollars][c]

For ALEX [ALEJ][e] there is required separately 250 or 300 [dollars][c] a month.

5.[sic] I have regular communication with ALEX[iv]. You may write to him in the same secret writing as this; codes [sic]: "Defense Will Not Win the War", W.F. KERNAN, pocket Book edition, [D% first] printing. May[1]942 N.Y. Do not forget the punctuation. He speaks English perfectly. If you are agreeable I shall let him know. You can use this address [in writing][c] to him: Elena MENESES, Calle Ecuador 3456, SANTIAGO DE CHILE. I have asked him about the [D% role} of his wife. I shall report later.

8. Data on Pedro UGALDE[v] (TITO)[vi]:

Age 30, studied to be a barrister, speaks French and German, [D% intelligent], prepared to collaborate; from a wealthy, reactionary family. Father with wide connections. Wife - Flora GUERRA [B% VIAL][vii], profession pianist [2 words unrecovered], child aged two [1 or 2 words unrecovered] to us people. He already has an appointment as counsellor [SOVETNIK]. However, the place has not yet been ascertained.

I await your speedy decision on this question. Take into account the foregoing information.

Greetings.

[T.N. and comments overleaf]

- T.N.: [a] As given.
- [b] Probably MADRID, though this cannot be confirmed.
- [c] Inserted by the translator.
- [d] Last letter uncertain.
- [e] The Spanish "J" has approximately the same phonetic value as the Russian "Kh", which is written as "X"

- Comments: [i] Also occurs in NEW YORK/MOSCOW MGB traffic. Probably refers to some central organization in MOSCOW.
- [ii] Possibly a cover-word for members of the local Communist Party.
- [iii] KHARAKTERIST[IKA]: This may possibly refer to some means of identification sent in a signaled message, denoting the originator.
- [iv] ALEX: Note that the book "Defense Will Not Win the War" was used for encoding by the agent known in NEW YORK/MOSCOW MGB traffic as "ALEKSANDR" [NEW YORK's external serial no. 1142 of 10th August 1944 - S/NBF.T399, Item 1]. Other references to "ALEKSANDR" suggest that he was operation in South America. It would therefore appear that "ALEX" and "ALEKSANDR" are identical. "ALEKSANDR" is unidentified.
- [v] UGALDO is not uncommon name in Chile.
- [vi] Presumably the covername proposed for or allotted to this man.
- [vii] VIAL is a not uncommon name in Chile.

W.S. No.: Imperial Censorship ref.
TRI. 12415/42

USSR

Ref. No: S/NBF/T496

Issued: [REDACTED] 29//3/1954

Copy No: 205

1. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SENDING MONEY.
2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.
3. CONTACT WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE.

From: BUENOS AIRES

To: NEW YORK

No. -

1 August 1942

Letter no. 5.

On no account send money by messenger. Paper dollars are now not quoted anywhere at this end. The best way of all is by banker's draft to the addresses given in letter no. 3[i]. You can send by instalments. If you are going to send cash [LICHNO], then post it to the already mentioned Teodoro BRONSTEIN, Zamudio 880, for BORBA[ii] from [C MIOTON][ii] Use this same address for drafts. If in cash, [it should be][a] either in pounds sterling, or in Argentine or Uruguayan pesos. Money can also be brought by courier in the form of travellers' cheques, which are normally changed here.

In letters [p] nos. 3[i] and 4[iii], I gave you my half-yearly expenditure as 6000 dollars. That is without SAShA. His [amounts to][a] 1500 to 2000. I await your precise instructions on this question.

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

[REDACTED]

S/NBF/T4965
[3 Pages]

2. I have already assembled the radio point. The frequency given in letter [P.] no. 4[iii] is inoperative. The correct one is 7012, while the call-signs are BR, yours [C% V]O. Trial transmission 30th August, 22 23 G*[iv]. Local time an hour later. Check the latter. Code as indicated in letter no. 4. I await your opinion.

In Chile, GORDON[v] has a radio apparatus, suitable also for communication with the House [DOM][vi]. He is making me a present of it as it is useless to him. Indicate whether I may use it, and if so in what way.

3. ALEX [ALEX] is here with me - he has been initiated [POSVYaShchEN] into the details. Write to him at the address given for the catalogues, on the basis of letter [P.] no. 4[vii].

4. Contact has been established with Swedish sailors on the GOTTENBURG. Are you in need of this ?

5. The following have arrived here:

a) CIARASCO from PARIS. In spite of all efforts it was quite impossible to warn him from here that he should not move. However, since he had an invitation to study at the Instituto Hispano-Germanico, he is now working out for himself the possibilities of returning. The said institute is in BERLIN.

b) ROMAN[ii] failed for obscure reasons to ascertain anything at all. I suspect that he has been recruited by Britain.

c) Also Doa ECUDIECA[b] from LIZBON. It was impossible to warn her to remain [there][a].

d) Our ships have begun to call home [D% frequently]. I am looking after their security. Could this not be used for [b% mail] with [C% Vaso AL*ROM][c], also S.*. SPAR*, trade agent [several words unrecovered] save money, and use it for purchases [1 word unrecovered].

e) Maritime [MORSKOJ][d] source in MONTEVIDEO - Luis Alberto GARCIA, Calle Nelson 3501 [4 words unrecovered].

f) I await your instructions in respect of letter [P.] no. 3[i].

Greetings.

T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator.

[b] 2nd letter [C] uncertain.

[c] It is uncertain which of these names is the christian name.

[Continued overleaf]

- [d] Might mean "naval", but this is normally "VOENNOMORSKOJ".

Comments: [i] Not available,

[ii] Presumably a covername.

[iii] Letter no. 4 was sent on 6th July 1942 [S/NBF/T495].

[iv] Presumably means: "Trial transmissions on 30th August 2200 - 2300 hours GMT". The interpretation of the time as 2223 hours is possible but highly improbable as transmitting schedules are normally fixed at an hour, quarter-hour or half-hour.

[v] GORDON: also referred to in para. 2 of the letter from NEW YORK dated 17th November 1941 [S/NBF/T494].

[vi] DOM: Also occurs in NEW YORK/MOSCOW MGB traffic. Probably refers to some central organization in MOSCOW.

[vii] In letter no. 4 of 6th July 1942 [S/NBF/T495] it was stated that two letters for ALEX were to be sent to Elena MENESES, Calle Ecuador 3456, SANTIAGO DE CHILE.

W.S. No.: Imperial Censorship ref.
TRI.13783/42

S/NBF/T496

USSR

Ref. No: S/NBF/T497

Issued: [REDACTED] 29//3/1954

Copy No: 205

1. COMPLAINT OF CONIDTION OF LETTERS RECEIVED BY MAIL.
2. TECHNICAL DATA FOR THE RADIO STATION.

From: BUENOS AIRES

To: NEW YORK

No. -

1 November 1942

Letter [P.] no. 9.

1. I received your letters [P.] nos. 6 and 7. The latter one proved on development to be so soiled and smudged that it was impossible to make it out. This is the second time it has happened. I could only conclude that the mail had been damaged. I was greatly distressed by this.

Please inform me:

1. Whether LUIS has arrived and whether you received my letters [P.] nos. 6 and 8.

2. Whether you received my letter [P.] no. 4, and if not, what address I might use in future.

Send money as quickly as possible - only by telegraph as otherwise it would take two or more months. This is very important as I have not a kopeck.

II. My radio station [RATsIYa]: power 150 watts, out this can be increased to 300;range [DIAPASON] equal to yours; quartz oscillator.

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

[REDACTED]

S/NBF/T497
[2 Pages]

I shall not report on GORDON's[i] child[ii] later.

Greetings.

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- Comments: [i] See the letter from NEW YORK dated 17th November 1941 [S/NBF/T494] and the letter from BUENOS AIRES dated 1st August 1942 [S/NBF/T496] for other references to GORDON.
- [ii] "GORDON's child" might be a way of referring to GORDON's radio apparatus, which he was giving to the BUENOS AIRES originator of these letters [see letter no. 5 of 1st August 1942 - S/NBF/T496]. Note that this sentence was in clear.

W.S. No.: Imperial Censorship ref.

TRI.18548/42

USSR

Ref No: S/NBF/T498

Issued: [REDACTED] 29/3/1954

Copy No: 205

REFERENCE TO INTERCEPTION OF LETTERS BY THE CENSORSHIP

From: BUENOS AIRES

To: NEW YORK

No.: -

6 December 1942

[Letter][a] no. 11.

My letters 4 to 9[I] and possibly 10 have been intercepted by the censorship. Take measures with LIDIA[ii].

Deposit 4,000 [dollars][a] in the current account in the name of Salomon F. SUMAR in the National City Bank of NEW YORK and obtain three receipts. Send one in the same name to this address: Federico LACROZE, No. 2001[b], BUENOS AIRES. He is a millionaire and businessman. In the letter to him mention a debt.

Greetings.

[T.N. and Comments overleaf]

Distribution

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S/NBF/7498
[2 Pages]

T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator.

[b] This number was given twice - "NOMER 2001 2001"
It is possible that the street name was omitted
in error.

Comments: [i] Letters 4, 5 and 9 are dated 6th July 1942,
1st August 1942 and 1st November 1942 respectively
[S/NBF/T495, T496 and T497]. The other letters
are not available.

[ii] Probably refers to Lydia ALTSCHULER, who was the
person through whom delivery was effected of
letters 4, 5 and 9 and possibly of nos. 6, 7,
8 and 10 as well.

W.S No.: U.S. Censorship ref. M.I.X. 10

USSR

Ref. No: S/NBF/T499

Issued: [REDACTED] 29//3/1954

Copy No: 205

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTITUTING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

From: NEW YORK

To: BUENOS AIRES

No.: -

1 February 1943

[Leter][a] no. 12.

Power of radio stations [RATsIYa] 300 watts each. In addition to you quartz crystal of 7012 kilocycles, I am sending by courier two quartz crystal plates of 5340 and 6850 kilocycles. Using the second and third harmonics of the crystals, you will have in addition to those mentioned above frequencies of 10680, 13700, 14022 and 16020 [D% kilocycles]. Make signals contact on the 3rd, 7th, 12th, 16th, and 22nd and 27th of each month. on the 3rd and 16th work at 0300 hours, our frequency 7853 kcs., callsign DBM, your frequency 7012 kcs., callsign LM. On the 7th and 27th work at 1530 hours, our frequency 17664 kcs., callsign VDK, your frequency 13700 kcs., callsign FR. On the 12th and 16th work at 2140 [hours][a], our frequency **000 kcs., callsign OSX, your frequency 10680, callsign RA. The times given are Greenwich. Service conversations to be conducted by operators in international Q-code. Work to commence 22nd February and thereafter according to timetable. The use of your radio operator is sanctioned. He must transmit only prepared encoded texts and receive our [messages][a] for passing on to you. Encode in the current code for correspondence but with division into five-digit groups. Indicate the change to a new page by figures 55, 65, 75, 85, or 95, but it is essential to take only pages 100 and beyond. Example: the radio message: "I send greetings [ShLYu PRIVET]" will be as follows: 55184 02020 70188 03160 46516 00401 80434 02270 31101. Where there are insufficient digits in the code [text][a] make up [the final group][a] with noughts.

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution

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S/NBF/T499
[2 Pages]

Stop writing to the address E. KOADELL[b]. For the time being use only Anna COLLOMS' address, i.e. the one which I appointed for ALEJANDRO[c] [i].

Give warning that the friends[ii] from the newspaper "La Hora" have completely failed to arouse anxiety in SETARO[iii] by [their][a] letters. Tell his wife that she should be more careful in correspondence. She is to write nothing about the friends.

Confirm receipt of the preceding [letter][a] and of this [D% letter].

Greetings.

T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator

[b] Possibly "CORDELL" is intended. A Russian might possibly misinterpret a Latin "R" as "A"

[c] Given in the genitive form "ALEJANDRA". The Russian "ALEKSANDR" may be intended.

Comments: [i] Compare the letter of 29th September 1943 from NEW YORK [S/NBF/T500], in which instructions were given that ALEKSANDR was to be warned not to use Anna COLLOMS' address any more. It would appear that the originator of these letters had ceased to refer to this individual as "ALEX" and was now using the full version of his name. [Compare letter no. 4 of 6th July 1942 - S/NBF/T495]. ALEKSANDR is unidentified.

[ii] Ricardo Manlio Leonidas SETARO was known to the MGB organization in NEW YORK in 1944 by the cover-name "EXPRESS MESSENGER [GONETS]'. On 29th August 1944 it was stated that he was deputy head of the PROVINCIAL [i.e. Latin-American] department of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and had been used by the MGB earlier mainly on liaison with "ARTUR", as a meeting-point for couriers. Simultaneously he was used for clearance work. [S/NBF/T104]

[iii] Possibly a coverword for members of the local Communist Party.

W.S. No.: Imperial Censorship ref. X. 31

S/NBF/T499

USSR

Ref No: S/NBF/T500

Issued: [REDACTED] 29/3/1954

Copy No: 205

"ALEKSANDER" TO BE WARNED NOT TO USE ANNA COLLOMS ADDRESS.

From: NEW YORK

To: BUENOS AIRES

No. -

29 September 1943

[Letter][a]no. 14.

Do not write any more to the address of An[n]a COLLOMS [i].
Warn ALEKSANDR[ii] about this. I shall send a new address in
the very near future.

T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator.

Comments: [i] A letter which Anna COLLOMS, courier and "mail-
drop", was carrying from NEW YORK to MEXICO CITY
was intercepted by the U.S. Customs Control at
LAREDO, Texas on 15th August 1943. The box of
stationery in which it was being carried was
returned to her on 16th September 1943, i.e. two
weeks before the date of this letter. The letter
had been extracted from the box.

[ii] ALEKSANDR: probably identical with ALEX [see
letter of 1st February 1943 - S/NBF/T499].
Unidentified.

W.S. No.: Imperial Censorship ref. X.94.

Distribution

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S/NBF/T500

[1 Page]