

8 July 48

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THE COVERNAMES "TÉNOB", "BAS", AND "CHETÁ" (?)
IN ~~TRAFFIC~~

DERÉVNIA

1. General. a. The govername ~~Derévnia~~. Messages from New York to Moscow encrypted by the system ~~occasionally~~ occasionally make reference to a place known as DERÉVNIA. This word (derived from DÉREVO 'tree; wood' and cognate with English TREE) means 'the country' (as opposed to town, Latin RUS), 'a country estate', or 'a village (without a church)'. In translations hereafter, to distinguish Country in the sense of Latin RUS (whence RURAL) from Country in the sense of Latin TERRA, REGIO (Russian STRANÁ, the govername for the United States), the word Countryside will be used for the former; hence, Countryside will refer to Mexico and Country to the U.S.A.

It is known that DERÉVNIA is Mexico because of a series of messages (not reported on) involving HÉNRI (Henry). Thus, on 26 May 1944 we read "HÉNRI during his stay in DERÉVNIA..." Then on 14 June there is a painstaking arrangement for a rendezvous between HÉNRI and "our man" (not New York's man, who is HÉNRI, but presumably some MGB man or other) at the entrance of the movie house TERESA, AVENIDA JUAN DE LETRÁN; this was evidently the movie house of that name (Cine "Teresa") owned by Exhibidores Metropolitanos, S.A., at Avenida San Juan de Letrán 109 in Mexico, Federal District. Finally, on 10 August 1944, we read, "HÉNRI has returned to Tyre [New York] from DERÉVNIA" and "HÉNRI (?in?) DERÉVNIA and --LF-- their organ 'LA VOZ'." ("La Voz" is a Communist newspaper of Mexico, Fed. Dist.)

Keep these two encypts at least.

On HÉNRI see further section 4.

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The adjective DEREVENSADY occurring in the ^{first} message being reported on (literally 'country ..., rural; village ...') must therefore amount to 'Mexican'. It will here be translated Rural.

b. The covername GHETA (?). In order to extricate the text of the translation as much as possible from a tangle of parentheses and question marks, it may be well to dispose of the name GHETA in the preliminaries. GHETA means 'pair' or 'couple'. It is not certain that the name involved is GHETA, but it is certain that it begins with CHE followed by a consonant no earlier in the Russian alphabet than S, and ends in A.

c. The real name. John Keating (Russian: DZHOW KETING) is presumably John F. Keating, a lawyer of Manhattan Borough.

David Niles (Russian: D-EMID NAILS, with the "hard" E) is identified as an adviser of "KAPITAN" (Captain), who is known on other evidence to be Franklin D. Roosevelt.* Accordingly, he is David K. Niles, Administrative Assistant to the President.

The question arises, why Roosevelt is mentioned by covername and Niles not. A survey of the traffic as a whole suggests that a covername like KAPITAN serves a different purpose from covernames assigned to agents. The latter are presumably designed to protect the person of the agent directly; the KAPITAN type and names like DEREVNSIA merely obscure the sense and thereby afford indirect protection to the agents and sources, or baffle foreign intelligence organs concerning just what intelligence is being transmitted.

This protection often wears a little thin. Thus, the State

*See "I. D. Special Analysis Report #2. Additional Covernames and Related Information in Diplomatic Traffic," 18 September 1947. 66

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Department is covered by the name BANK, and quite likely the Secretary of State has a covername, too, but Robert Daniel Murphy has no covername. Hence we read in a message of 19 [18] October 1944: "MURPHY in telegrams to the BANK of 26 and 27 August --2F-- Rumanian king Michael concerning the presence in Rumania of troops of the Island [Great Britain] and the Country [U.S.A.] 'for moral support...' etc.

2. The first message. New York-Moscow message 786 of 1 June 1944: To VIKTOR [Victor].

In reply to your telegram no. 2066.

There^a are three (?possibilities of getting?) (?a transit visa?) for CHETA:

1. The normal way--when "TENDR" will do [or "make"] everything himself. It will take --3F-- will --1U--.

2. Through the lawyer JOHN KEATING--somewhat quicker will cost 300-400 dollars. Both manners are lengthy because they will be connected with checking-up [or "verification"].

3. Through "KAPITAN's" adviser DAVID NILES--will take 3-4 days --1F-- 500 dollars. Around NILES there is a group of his friends that arrange any business for a bribe. Through them TENDR gets --4F-- and has already paid them up to 6000 dollars. Whether NILES himself takes the bribe is not precisely known. T. (has) discussed with them (?payment?) --13F--

in/to the Countryside [DEREVNIA = Mexico]. --9F-- Rural [= Mexican] visa and a ticket to the Countryside. T. declares that success in the last-mentioned way is 100-percent and there is no checking-up. I recommend the third method.

Before we begin to act for CHETA it is indispensable to get a Rural visa and to communicate (?immediately?) for --1U-- T. the amount of the deposit [or "bond"] paid in in the Countryside. Immediately upon receipt of the Rural visa and sanction to --2U-- T. will buy a through ticket from --9F-- (?protection off?) the covername Henry [GENRIH] --1U-- Rural visa. T. --1F-- meet CHETA in --3F-- later in the Countryside --20F--

^a No indentations indicated in original. Paragraphed by translator for clarity.

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translation,
as here

3 pages -->

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3. The second message. New York-Moscow message 1509 (in part) [internal no. 851] of 23 October 1944. (The ostensible message 1509 is really a string of three short ones. The second one reads as follows:)

(?Not received?) by us --7P-- (?arrangements?) of BAS concerning CHETA's arrival --3P-- I am carrying to the point that I have gotten in touch --2U-- plant (henceforth "SI") --1P-- Ephraim [IEFRAM], who personally (?presented?) --1P-- SI.

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MAY

23 October

This message is in a very unsatisfactory shape, but it does show that almost five months after the previous message there was still talk of CHETA's arrival (PRIYED, hence arrival by conveyance, presumably from abroad). Of course, this might be a different arrival, perhaps even back from Mexico.

TENOR is not mentioned, but a certain BAS (meaning 'bass') is. It will be observed that TENOR and BAS are closely related in meaning, and it is not impossible that BAS is a new name for TENOR, though on the other hand, this relation, if significant, may simply mean that TENOR and BAS have similar positions in the ring. The code group identified as "BAS" does also occur in a message of 26 May 1944 that also mentions HENRI (see section 4 below), but it is not certain that it belongs there (error in decryption?) or, if it does, what it means there.

The covername SI may be a spelling for the English name of the Latin letter C. It does not occur elsewhere.

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The word translated "plant," ZAVÓD, is possibly a covername for some organization or agency.

The covername YEFREM does not occur elsewhere.

4. The names GÉNRIH and HÉNRI. In the first message (section 2) occurs the phrase "the covername GÉNRIH". The only other occurrence of GÉNRIH is in the message on changes in covernames (798 of 5 October 1944, previously reported on), where TAM is changed to GÉNRIH. Since the message here being reported on is dated 1 June 1944, it is problematic whether the same naming is involved in each instance.

It should be pointed out, however, that there is a covername HÉNRI. GÉNRIH is the form usually given bestowed on Russians when they are named "Henry"; HÉNRI (and also GÉNRI) are forms representing a foreign name. Now, HÉNRI went to Mexico and later returned to New York (see section 1a). The range of dates for the occurrence of the covername HÉNRI is from 26 May to 10 August 1944.

HÉNRI will be made the subject of a separate report.

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