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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Handwritten scribbles and signature
James Hall

People are speaking more definitely in Canberra's political crises, which heroic Vietnam taught the aggressors ensues the whole lack of prospects for Washington's colonialist plans in Asia, and Australia's whole foreign policy in recent years has been founded on complicity with the United States in implementing such plans. It seems that the present leaders of the country lack the spirit to admit the bankruptcy of this course.

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Such stubbornness, in defiance of the attitude of the Australian public, which welcomed the improvement of the prospects for a peaceful settlement in Vietnam, scarcely speaks of the perspicacity of the ruling circles and promises them nothing but new failures.

"The present moment," the Australian communist newspaper TRIBUNE writes in this connection, "reveals opportunities which must be used by all Australian progressive forces to wage a struggle for an Australian foreign policy based on commonsense and good will regarding Asia. The country's public must demand the withdrawal of Australian troops from South Vietnam in the shortest possible time and fight for a positive contribution by the country to the progress of the Paris talks to secure their swift and successful completion."



U.S. PLANS TO HIJACK DPRK FISHING VESSEL

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1648 GMT 28 Nov 68 L

[Text] Moscow, 28 Nov--The USA is making plans to seize a KDPR fishing vessel, "Diamond Hill," now under construction at the Verolme shipyards, Holland, IZVESTIYA's Rotterdam correspondent Yuri Kornikov writes in the newspaper today.

Under these plans the ship is to be high jacked on its way from Holland to the North Korean shores. A similar threat is hanging over another fishing vessel built for the Korean Democratic People's Republic at the Verolme shipyards.

Dutch press reports indicate, Kornikov goes on, that American agents in Rotterdam take special interest in the ships built there for North Korea. It is reported, for instance, that Washington is going to "confiscate" these ships so as to "exchange" them later for the American spy ship "Pueblo."

"But those planning in Washington the Diamond-Hill operation ought to remember that the times when the black piratic flag dominated the oceans and seas have long passed. World public opinion will not allow any piracy on the sea."

CONSPIRACY SEEN IN MARTIN LUTHER KING MURDER

Moscow TRUD 22 Nov 68 p 5 L

[G. Gevorgyan report: "The Secret of King's Murder"]

[Text] New York, 21 November--Until now American authorities have persistently maintained that the bloody reprisal against the Negro civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, on 4 April in Memphis was carried out by a lone assassin.

This July James Earl Ray, the man suspected of King's murder, was handcuffed and taken in a bulletproof suit from England to the United States. He was lodged in the comfortable prison cell reserved for him in Memphis, where he resides to this day. Apart from lawyers, the prison authorities do not allow anyone near Ray.

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When Ray appears at preliminary court hearings, all those present in the hall are thoroughly searched. It is well known that several years ago Ray was convicted of a criminal offense. On 23 April 1967 he escaped from the Missouri State Prison. After his escape from prison Ray hardly worked, but he lived in grand style. If Ray acted alone, if he had no money, how could the fugitive have gotten from Memphis to Canada after King's murder, obtained a foreign passport there, crossed safely to Europe, and traveled through various countries?

All these questions place in serious doubt U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark's statement that King's murder was unconnected with any conspiracy. Material has now appeared in the American press that exposes the authorities attempts to distract public attention from the real perpetrators of King's death.

In two recent issues, the large-circulation U S. magazine LOOK has published important article by the noted American journalist and writer William Hugh, who convincingly shows that King's assassination appeared to be the result of a carefully prepared plan. In these articles Hugh cites notes that Ray gave to Hugh while in Prison in Memphis. They relate how Ray was dragged into the conspiracy and how the preparations for a reprisal against King came about.

Hugh made many trips throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico to thoroughly check the details given in Ray's notes. Hugh writes that all the facts reported by Ray have been corroborated. On the basis of information given by Ray, Hugh draws the conclusion that already on 15 August 1967 a conspiracy existed to murder King.

After escaping from the Missouri State Prison, Ray wanted to leave the United States and go to a country not bound by an extradition treaty with the United States. For that Ray had to have money, documents, and a foreign passport. In August 1967 Ray managed to make his way to Canada, from whence he intended going on to another country.

Ray hung around the port employment office in Montreal, but continually got the reply: "There is no work." He trailed sailors who were a bit tight in the hope of stealing documents from them. In the dockside "Neptune" tavern he told his boozing companions that "it is slightly unpleasant for me in the United States; I have to earn money and get documents, and for that I could do any work where no great risk is involved."

Several days later a man of about 35, who called himself Raoul, became interested in Ray. Raoul proposed that, in return for money and documents, Ray "help carry out certain plans."

Raoul made the following conditions: Several days later Ray would go to Windsor, Canada, to meet Raoul and take several packages to Detroit; from Detroit Ray would set off for Birmingham, Alabama and there await further instructions from Raoul.

Raoul promised Ray that after several weeks or months of "joint activity" he would pay him 12,000 dollars, get Ray a passport and other documents, and help him to "get to any point on earth." Raoul demanded that Ray ask him no questions.

"I had sworn never to return to the United States," Ray writes. "But I had no money. I could not risk committing a new crime. I could not get on any ship, I could not get any documents, and so that is why I said to Raoul: 'O.K., I'll meet you in Windsor.'"

For taking the contraband packages to Detroit, Ray received 750 dollars from Raoul and the telephone number of a secret address in New Orleans. Subsequently, Ray set out for Birmingham.

After meeting Ray in Birmingham several days later, Raoul handed him 3,000 dollars, part of which had been set aside for buying a "Mustang," in which Ray later made his trip around the United States and in which he fled from Memphis on 4 April after King's assassination.

"I suppose," Ray writes, "that I was dragged into the plot to kill King when I took the packages from Canada to the United States (21 August 1967). It seems to me that the question had already been decided before the car was bought in Birmingham, because nobody would have given me 3,000 dollars just to take drugs across the border."

On 5 October Ray received a letter in Birmingham from Raoul with a demand for him to be at the U.S.-Mexican border. For bringing another batch of contraband into Mexico, as Raoul had instructed, Ray got 2,000 dollars from his patron. Raoul promised to hand over documents and 12,000 dollars to Ray at their next meeting.

Ray stayed in Mexican resorts until the end of November. After relaxing on the ocean beaches, he appeared in New Orleans on 15 December for the next meeting with Raoul. As Raoul handed him 2,500 dollars, he told him that in 2 or 3 months' time they "will have to do one thing more." "When I asked him what it was," Ray writes, "he told me that I had promised not to ask any questions."

At the beginning of March this year a plastic facial surgery operation was conducted on Ray in Los Angeles. On 15 March Raoul gave Ray instructions to drive to Selma. On 22 March Ray signed into the "Flamingo" motel there. This motel is on Edmund Pettus [as transliterated] Bridge, which has passed into the history of the struggle for Negro civil rights.

Several years ago on this bridge Sheriff Jim Clark's soldiers and mounted police used gas on the columns of the famous March from Selma to Montgomery in defense of Negro rights. They beat them up, trampled on them, and dispersed them. This March was led by Martin Luther King.

On the evening before Ray arrived in Selma, the local newspaper, the TIMES JOURNAL, wrote: "Martin Luther King has again begun a campaign in Alabama to mobilize people to participate in the Poor People's March on Washington.... King and his supporters, the paper pointed out, arrived yesterday in Alabama after a 2-day tour of Mississippi. Today he plans to visit Lisman, Linden, and Camden, and after that he will fly on to Atlanta...."

On 23 March James Earl Ray left Selma for Atlanta. With this, Hugh finishes his account of Ray's confession. "The contents of the plan to murder King," Hugh writes, "are becoming clear to me. Perhaps my readers have not been able to fully understand it, because I am unable to tell everything that has become clear to me in it and that I have found out by checking the facts, until Ray has been tried." "On the basis of my own research," Hugh continues, "I have come to the conclusion that the plan was as follows: King had to be murdered in the presidential election year; the murder was conceived not by King's personal enemies, but by people of cold reason who wanted to use the murder to ignite a savage war between the whites and the blacks."

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"Toward 15 March," Hugh further writes, "the conspirators began their practical preparations to murder King in one of the towns where he had prepared the Poor People's March on Washington. They preferred to do it in Birmingham, Montgomery, or Selma, inasmuch as these cities were centers where King was waging the struggle for his people's rights.

The progressive American public links the plot against King with the racists' intention to incite hatred in the country between blacks and whites and in an atmosphere of hysteria on the eve of the elections, to inflict a blow on the country's progressive movement.

There is no doubt that the trial of James Ray, which has been postponed until 3 March 1969, may reveal new facts about the ominous conspiracy and show who really guided the hand of King's assassin. However, many doubt that Ray will live to be judged. The American TIME magazine cites the following statement of a representative of the criminal world in Memphis:

"Ray will not live to reach court. Mark my words--he will not reach the stand."

The future will show whether the world will hear from the lips of King's murderer about the people who plotted and carried out the conspiracy of hatred against their own people. The future will show whether the American authorities will manage to hide the truth about this ominous conspiracy.

FURTHER COMMENTS ON BUDAPEST CONFERENCE

Korionov in PRAVDA

Moscow TASS International Service in English 0611 GMT 28 Nov 68 L

[Text] Moscow, 28 Nov--"The November session of the preparatory commission in Budapest brought out the growing maturity of the communist movement. The profound satisfaction experienced by the fraternal delegates, summing up the results of the work done, is, therefore, easily understood."

This was stated by PRAVDA correspondent Vitaliy Korionov in an article summing up the results of the Budapest session. He recalls that never before has a session of the preparatory commission been attended by so many delegations, 67 in all.

Korionov emphasises that the communists are increasingly grasping the perfidious tactics of the imperialists, who bank on disuniting the socialist community, splitting the communist ranks.

"In a situation when the edge of imperialist aggressive policy is in no way being blunted, Marxists-Leninists regard it as their paramount duty to the peoples to forge a world-wide front of anti-imperialist forces, able to paralyse the aggressive designs of the enemies of peace and progress," Korionov writes.

"The bigger forces the communist movement is gathering," he says, "the more refined are the means concocted by reaction to weaken the communist ranks. The imperialists set great hopes, specifically, on exploiting for their ends the 'diseases of growth' which inevitably attend the establishment of a mass revolutionary movement of the international working class, irresistibly developing in scope and depth."

The hopes of the political adversaries were dashed, Korionov says. "Recent years have become a time of practical quest for the best forms of cooperation and unity of action of communists in the new conditions of world social development."