# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: DeGraffenreid, Kenneth E.: Files

Folder Title: Soviet "Active Measures" and the

Freeze 04/30/1982

Box: RAC Box 27

To see more digitized collections visit: <a href="https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library">https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library</a>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit: <a href="https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection">https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection</a>

Contact a reference archivist at: <a href="mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov">reagan.library@nara.gov</a>

Citation Guidelines: <a href="https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing">https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing</a>

National Archives Catalogue: <a href="https://catalog.archives.gov/">https://catalog.archives.gov/</a>

### WITHDRAWAL SHEET

### **Ronald Reagan Library**

Collection Name DEGRAFFENREID, KENNETH: FILES

Withdrawer

CAS

8/26/2016

File Folder

SOVIET ACTIVE MEASURES AND THE FREEZE 4/30/82

**FOIA** 

F02-0083/01

**PRADOS** 

**Box Number** 27

				2705	
ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
179776	REPORT	SOVIET ACTIVE MEASURES	55	ND	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

# Soviet Propaganda Alert

No. 7 April 30, 1982

#### Summary

This special edition of the alert contains some of the more outrageous charges against the U.S. made by Soviet propagandists in the past few months. The term "disinformation" best describes this output, which is distinct from ordinary Soviet propaganda. These accusations cover a variety of topics, but the majority focus on chemical and biological warfare, as has the overall Soviet propaganda effort in this period.

As a reminder to our readers, the Soviet Propaganda Alert is a series of reports on current Soviet external propaganda. These reports are based on cable reporting, primary source material, and secondary sources such as Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) publications. The purpose of the alert is to highlight and analyze major Soviet propaganda themes.

Office of Research
International Communication Agency

Washington, D.C.

#### DISINFORMATION

Soviet media often use propaganda techniques that are rather refined and sophisticated. The Soviet propagandist generally relies more on distortion, one-sided and slanted presentation of information, insinuation and manipulation of facts, than on outright, blatant falsehood. But the latter is by no means overlooked.

A whole range of methods is brought to bear in disinformation campaigns conducted by the Soviets using both their own and non-Soviet media conduits. Described briefly below are several of the more outrageous fabrications which the Soviets have circulated recently. These items obviously fit in with broader Soviet propaganda objectives—for example, the "CIA kidnappings in Honduras" story is part of the campaign to fuel anti-U.S. sentiment in Latin America, to strengthen the myth of the powerful, evil, and omnipresent CIA, and to create an image of Americans as inhumane exploiters. The first item below appears to be part of Moscow's effort to divert public attention from the evidence of Soviet use of toxins in Afghanistan and Soviet complicity in their use in Southeast Asia.

### Moscow Launches Disinformation Offensive against University of Maryland Medical Research Center in Pakistan

The February 3 issue of the popular Soviet weekly <u>Literaturnaia</u> <u>gazeta</u> featured a two-page spread on alleged chemical and biological weapons research and use by the U.S. In addition to a fearsome science-fiction sketch of giant insects hovering over a city skyline, an article appeared entitled "Incubator of Death" which took up three-quarters of one page. This sensationalistic narrative by veteran Soviet correspondent Iona Andronov deals with the University of Maryland's Pakistan Medical Research Center (PMRC) in Lahore. Here, charges Andronov, CIA-sponsored scientists are conducting research on "poisonous mosquitoes" in order to exploit them for "bacteriological warfare."

Andronov's article is fundamentally an account of his mission, undertaken on the spot in Lahore, to investigate the PMRC. Referring to such dubious publications as the Communist Party's Daily World and Philip Agee's Covert Action, Andronov notes by way of introduction that accusations against the Center surfaced over a year ago. According to various sources, such as one Abdul Aziz Danishyar, identified as the editor of the Kabul New Times, the PMRC was actually doing research on "bacteriological warfare" under the guise of studying malaria and similar diseases. One immediate goal of the research was alleged to be the staging of "mosquito military ventures" against Afghanistan—that is, starting epidemics in Afghanistan by infecting nomads and their herds in Pakistan with deadly mosquito—borne viruses which the nomads would transmit to Afghanistan during their seasonal migration there.

In the course of his story, Andronov hits all the requisite targets—the CIA, imperialistic and racist American attitudes, bloodthirsty and fanatical American researchers. His main themes include the following:

o The activities of the Medical Research Center are funded by the Agency for International Development, which, Andronov glibly declares, is "in essence, the CIA." Offering no evidence whatsoever, Andronov depicts the Center as being under CIA control. The CIA is alleged to be applying PMRC's research in "germ warfare" in Cuba, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. For example, noting the high reproduction rates of female experimental mosquitoes shown him during his tour of the PMRC laboratory, Andronov concludes that only a fraction of the mosquitoes produced can be processed. Therefore, "it's evident that the rest are being sent from there to the CIA's Caribbean sabotage bases near Cuba."

o The Center is harmful to the local Pakistani population. Andronov repeats a story that a year ago, "dozens of Lahore residents were attacked by swarms of mosquitoes belonging to a species unusual in that region. People who were bitten by them came down with yellow fever, hepatitis, and jaundice, and some went insane." The Lahore doctors, Andronov claims, could do nothing to help their doomed patients. But they did find the source of the disaster--"the African Aedes aegypti mosquitoes [which] were being incubated by the thousands at the PMRC laboratory." Citing more groundless rumors as further evidence, Andronov asserts that the PMRC researchers have exhibited a scareless disregard for the local population and have exploited them as human guinea pigs.

o The U.S. personnel running the center are immoral, conniving, personally loathsome individuals totally lacking in respect for human life. Andronov resorts to extremely deroyatory and crude descriptions of the two American scientists he dealt with at the center, trying in his physical characterization of them to underscore negative moral traits. They appear in his article as unbelievable caricatures of evil "mad scientists."

This story's unsubstantiated charges have been widely replayed by both Soviet and non-Soviet (especially South Asian) media. To cite just a few examples: TASS (Feb. 11) summarized the Literaturnaia gazeta story; Moscow Radio in an English-language broadcast (March 24) repeated and expanded upon it; a follow-up story was published in Literaturnaia gazeta on March 24; the Austrian Communist Party organ Volksstimme carried on April 3 an APN (Novosti) article containing the allegations against PMRC; the Pakistani mass-circulation daily Jang (in Urdu) printed an article based on Andronov's original; and the Times of India and the Patriot (India) carried on March 9 a Press Trust of India item quoting a TASS version of the story. Much use has been made of the radical Lahore weekly Viewpoint which has long been involved in developing and spreading propaganda against the PMRC.

The techniques used in "Incubator of Death" are not new or unusual, but Andronov employs them with considerable skill. Several of the most noteworthy are:

- o Incorporating some facts and elements of truth into a disinformation effort. A prime example of this is the impressivesounding scientific background on malaria and disease-carrying
  mosquitoes. Such material is designed to enhance the writer's
  credibility and impart to the whole story, including the most
  absurd aspects, an air of "scientific truthfulness."
- of playing on the sensitivities, fears, or prejudices of members of one's audience. Many in third-world--and other--audiences are conditioned to believe charges of "CIA involvement" and respond in a predictable fashion to the cry of "CIA." Another attempt in Andronov's story to play to third-world readers is a description of how he pretends to be "a typical American" in order to get past the guards at the Medical Research Center: "After all, the management here was American and the guards were Pakistanis, which meant that they were probably used to subserviently obeying fair-skinned Yankees. And I was right: The guards stepped back when, thrusting out my chin Texas-style, I walked with a swagger up to the forbidden door."

#### Short Takes: Samples of Soviet Disinformation

This section presents, in brief form, particularly offensive and/or outrageous offerings from the Soviet media.

- Repeat play on CIA complicity in Dozier kidnapping. Moscow Radio on February 24 reiterated a charge which originally surfaced immediately after the release of General Dozier by Red Brigade terrorists. The broadcast alleged: ". . . [M] any people in America wonder whether the Dozier case was not from start to finish a provocation by the CIA. . . . Such an operation could have been prepared to direct public attention away from the Pentagon's dangerous plans in Western Europe and to reduce the intensity of the antiwar movement in NATO countries." Incidentally, the Italian daily Corriere della Sera (March 26) noted that another old Soviet line has reappeared in the journal Druzhba narodov ("Friendship of the Peoples")—the absurd charge of CIA complicity in the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro.
- Vashchenko. The case of the Soviet Pentecostals who sought and obtained refuge in the American Embassy Moscow years ago and are still there, unable to receive visas to emigrate, is a complex problem. U.S. authorities have long tried—and continue to try—to resolve the situation satisfactorily. The recent hunger strike, hospitalization, and eventual return home of one of the Pentecostals, Lidia Vashchenko, was widely reported in the West. The situation—and the publicity accorded it—was a great source

of embarrassment to Moscow, particularly as it came at a time when Soviet authorities are going to extremes to demonstrate Soviet religious tolerance and win the support of international religious leaders and groups for Moscow's May propaganda-fest, the "World Peace Conference" nominally sponsored by the Russian Orthodox Patriarch. Thus Soviet propagandists, seeking to counter Western coverage, provided their own sketchy report of the Vashchenko episode, slanting it to portray the U.S. as "staging" various actions as "anti-Soviet publicity stunts." However—they noted reassuringly—this U.S. "anti-Soviet effort" was doomed to failure, since thinking people would immediately see through American behavior.

o "Children Kidnapped in Honduras" Reprinted from the FBIS translation (USSR Daily Report, February 23), here is a particularly absurd piece of Soviet disinformation.

Moscow Radio in Spanish to Latin America:

In Honduras, the CIA is kidnapping children of Salvadoran refugees. These operations are being carried out behind the facade of the religious organization, World Vision, which officially performs charitable activities in refugee camps. The shepherds of souls, who are in fact CIA agents, promised the mothers that their children will receive good nourishment and education in the United States. The poor peasants can only acquiesce since their children are threatened with death by starvation. They give their children to World Vision missionaries and thus hundreds of children of both sexes have been taken to camps in unknown places.

Some information about the whereabouts of those Salvadoran children who were sent to the United States has surfaced through delegates to the international encounter of Christian organizations in Cuernavaca, Mexico. One of those delegates, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, reported that those Salvadoran children have been taken to CIA special camps in the United States where they are submitted to tests before being separated in groups. Thus some groups are sent to special brainwashing schools where they are trained to spy and perform terrorist acts. Others who do not qualify for the special training are sent to research establishments of the CIA where the children are used as guinea pigs to test medicines and chemicals capable of changing human consciousness, to practice lobotomies and other experiments.

In the Cuernavaca encounter it was learned that World Vision had performed the same kind of activities in Vietnam.