

INFORMATION AGENCY “FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

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CHRONICLE OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN PRESENT DAY RUSSIA

News, statements, appeals, analysis, commentaries

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Experts' Commentaries: FSB contra NGOs

Experts commentaries: FSB has claimed that the Russian NGOs are financed by the British intelligence services

The telechannel “*Russia*” showed the shots of operative shooting and also the FSB employees’ commentaries that allegedly prove the fact of the British diplomats spy activity against Russia, on Sunday evening, January 22, in the programme “Special correspondent”.

The Russian special services got interested altogether in four British diplomats: the assistant of the official representative of the British Intelligence Service in Russia Paul Cronton [sic], the Second Secretary of the Embassy Marc Doe, coordinating the activity of the Global Opportunities Fund of the Great Britain Ministry of Foreign Affairs and being current of some Russian non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the Secretary - Archivist of the Embassy Christopher Pierce, who has been working in Russia since 2002 and the Secretary – Archivist Andrew Flemming, who has been working in Russia since 2004.

In the programme it was alleged that the money for some NGOs, in particular Moscow Helsinki Group and Fund Eurasia went through Doe. On the air there were shown the copies of pay-roll records with Doe’s signature, according to which the large sums of money (as payments in cash so cashless settlement) were transferred to the given NGOs.

Ernst Chyorny, “Ecology and Human Rights”: “All the trials at the scientists accused of espionage, which were prior to this event, were touchstones. They were trained at. If there is no public reaction then it is allowed.

As neither the Supreme Court nor regional Courts took into consideration the evidence of innocence of the scientists which we produced. It was a rehearsal, prelude, everything forethought is in advance”.

Gennady Kuzovkin, “Memorial”: “The attempt to tie the otherwise-minded with foreign hostile forces has always been one of the most traditional devices of discredit; it is even not the invention of the Soviet system. And it seems to me that it is a bad symptom, as the human rights organisation, particularly such a respectful human rights organisation as Moscow Helsinki Group, has in its history the Scharansky’s case as well”.

And Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin himself, being the Director of the FSB RF, handed Natan Scharansky in the materials of his case, thereby confirmed that the accusation had no real ground at all (and Scharansky was just accused of parricide and contacts with the Western Intelligence Services)”.

Vladimir Voronov, author of the book “Service” (collected articles about Soviet and Russian Intelligence Services), magazine “Novoye Vremya”: “It is completely clear that the undertaking is aimed against non-governmental public organisations in 99.9 percent and it is a logical continuation of the recently adopted law on NGOs. Now it is simply important to demonstrate that it is not just a bit of paper, that it is not a joke that the authorities have decided to cut the financing of non-governmental structures seriously and on the vine. That is why NGOs have been involved into the scandal.

This is a sheaf worked out long ago and rather ungifted from any point of view, including propagandistic. As in the Soviet time there was being proved the dissidents were vermin because they allegedly worked for the foreign Intelligence Services, so nowadays they are trying to prove that all the human rights activists are paid agents of the foreign IS. This is an old Soviet line.

Probably, it might do in the period of the USSR. But now claiming that the Committee against Tortures exists on the money of the foreign IS means coming to a very sad conclusion,

following the logics of special services: only foreign special services struggle against tortures in Russia and those who are patriots are for them.

And the history with the stone reminds me Soviet films technically. Although, it was done not according to the scenarios of the old Soviet films, in the propagandistic aspect, but to mossy elaborations of the 5th department, indeed. Moreover, there is little evidence, FSB produced, for serious material. And this shows the only thing, there is no matter...

To make a noise because of this or similar to this case is not the FSB decision. And if the noise was made, as in this case, it means that the order was done from the top. They may have wanted this noise with the Britons or with any other western IS, but except Italian, German or French ones. There remain the variants: either with the American or British one. There is no reason to quarrel with the Americans, the Britons would do...

And what is the underlying reason? The special Services are afraid of non-governmental organisations, and they are afraid of them to such extent that they even created a whole powerful law. They “have been sharpening their teeth” for a long time, since 1993. They fear an “Orange Revolution” in Russia. They fear NGOs as the organisations which can serve as its initiators, while there are no prerequisites for such apprehensions. And it means that they are completely misinformed about everything existent. They are not masters of the situation; they have been living in myths”.

Portal “Human Rights in Russia” (Hro.org)

It Would Be Better for the FSB to Confess That Forgery Was Shown on TV

Eugenie Ikhlov

The pay-roll records for Russian NGOs were shown and read aloud more than once in the scandal reportage on the channel “Rossiya” on January 22 (it is the 101st anniversary of the “Blood Sunday”, as if they tried to arrive just in time) and in other subject of this theme. But no seizure was in the accounts departments of the marked NGOs, neither was it in the building of the Embassy of Her Majesty. Consequently, either they are faked or they have been obtained in the process of ORA (operational – research activities). And here comes into forth the Law. Was there the sanction of the Court or the Prosecutor? Were charges of operational register against NGOs cooked up or are they targeted in the investigation of the diplomats’ espionage? And if not, then how could ORA concerning them have been carried out? And who has allowed demonstrating the materials of the investigation or pre-investigational check publicly? So here is such a bunch of procedural and official violations that it would be simpler for the organizers of the show to confess in demonstrating the forgery.

The Federal Law “On operational Crime Detection Activity” (in edition of the FL No. 225-FZ from 30.12.1999) http://www.libertarium.ru/libertarium/l_sormlaw_101

Article 5. Observance of rights and freedoms of the person and the citizen at realization of operational crime detection activity

The bodies (officials) who are carrying out operational crime detection activity should provide observance of human rights of the person and the citizen to inviolability of private life, personal and family secret, and inviolability of dwelling and secret of the correspondence at realization of operational crime detection actions. [The Federal Law from January 5, 1999 No. 6-FZ the Article 5 of the present Federal Law was added with a new Part 1. The parts 1-9 are considered as the Parts 2-10 accordingly.]

It is not supposed to realize operational crime detection activity for achievement of the purposes and the solutions of the tasks which have not been stipulated by the present Federal Law.

If one believes that some actions of bodies conducting operational investigation have infringed on an individual's rights or freedoms, the individual has the right to appeal to a court, a prosecutor, or to a higher body that carries out investigative activities.

Article 8. Conditions of realization of operational crime detection actions

Citizenship, nationality, sex, residence, property, official and a social status, belonging to any public associations, the attitude to religion and political convictions of separate persons are not an obstacle for realization of operational crime detection actions concerning them in the territory of the Russian Federation if other is not stipulated by the Federal Law.

The realization of operational crime detection actions which limit constitutional laws of the person and the citizen on secret of correspondence, telephone conversations, post, cable and other messages transmitted on networks of electric and post communication, and also the right on inviolability of dwelling, is supposed on the basis of the Court Decision and at presence of the information: [The Paragraph of the Part 1 of the Article 8 of the present Federal Law was reworded in the new version according to the Federal law No. 6-FZ from January 5, 1999.]

1. About the signs of the being prepared, being committed or committed illegal act the production of preliminary investigation on which is necessary.
2. About the persons preparing, committing or having committed illegal act the production of preliminary investigation on which is necessary.
3. About events or actions creating threat of the state, military economic or ecological safety of the Russian Federation.

The realization of operational crime detection actions stipulated by the Part 2 of the present Article is supposed in exigent cases and in cases that can result in commitment of a grave crime, and also at presence of the data of events and actions creating threat of the state, military, economic or ecological safety of the Russian Federation, on the basis of the motivated decision of one head of the body, carrying out operational crime detection activity, with the obligatory notice of court (judge) within 24 hours. Within 48 hours from the moment of the beginning of realization of operational crime detection actions, the body, carrying them out, is obliged to receive a Court Decision on realization of such an operational crime detection action or to stop its realization.

Article 12. Protection of data about the bodies carrying out operational crime detection activity

The data about used or used at realization of private operational crime detection actions forces, means, sources, methods, plans and results of operational crime detection activity, about the persons introduced into organized criminal groups, about secret permanent employees of the bodies carrying out operational crime detection activity, and about the persons rendering assistance on the confidential basis to them, and also about the organization and tactics of realization of operational crime detection actions compose the state secret and are to be removed from secret list only on the basis of the ruling of the head of the body carrying out operational crime detection activity.

Making public the data about the persons introduced into organized criminal groups, about secret permanent employees of the bodies carrying out operational crime detection activity, and also about the persons rendering or having rendered assistance to them on the confidential basis, is supposed only by their approbation in writing and in the cases stipulated by federal laws.

The Court Decision on the right of realization of operational crime detection actions and the materials which have served as the basis for taking such a decision, are kept only in the bodies carrying out operational crime detection activity.

The operational housekeeping documents reflecting the results of operational crime detection activity, can be submitted to a body of inquiry, an inspector, the judge, other bodies carrying out operational crime detection activity, in the order and the cases established by the present Federal law.

Sobinform

Russia Accuses British Diplomats of Spying

Arkady Ostrovsky

Russia's federal security service, the successor to the KGB, has launched a cold-war style attack on non-governmental organisations and human rights groups, linking them with alleged espionage by British diplomats in Moscow.

The accusations against the British diplomats come within weeks of Russia assuming the presidency of G8 from Britain and just days before a meeting of finance ministers in Moscow which will be attended by Gordon Brown, the UK chancellor.

They follow a law signed earlier this month by Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, restricting the activities of NGOs, which Russian security services suspect of acting as fronts for foreign intelligence.

The FSB on Monday confirmed claims made in a state television programme that it had uncovered a James Bond-style spying operation involving four British diplomats using a transmitter hidden in a fake rock on a Moscow street to gather information.

It said the spies had also financed NGOs, including the Moscow Helsinki Group, one of the most prominent human rights campaigners in Russia.

"The most important thing is that we caught them (the spies) red-handed while they were in contact with their agents and established that they were financing some non-governmental organisations," said Sergey Ignatchenko, a spokesman for the FSB.

The UK Foreign Office rejected "any allegations of improper conduct in our dealing with Russian NGOs". It said it had openly given financial support to projects implemented by Russian NGOs in the field of human rights and civil society.

The UK spends about £500,000 on supporting NGOs programmes in Russia. "It's all totally above board. That's what is so surprising about this," said a UK official yesterday.

Tony Blair, UK prime minister, refused to comment on the events in Moscow at his monthly press conference on Monday.

Gisela Stuart, a member of the UK's foreign affairs select committee, described the action as a "retrograde step" which could damage relations between the UK and Russia.

The last big row between the countries took place in 1996 in a tit for tat round of diplomatic expulsions ahead of the presidential elections in Russia when Boris Yeltsin was standing for his second term.

But tensions have been rising again between Russia and Britain in recent months. The Russian service of the BBC was taken off air a month ago in a dispute over the use of frequency in Russia. The British Council has been under pressure from Russian tax authorities.

The claims of a spy-ring operating under the cover of the British embassy in Moscow were first broadcast on Sunday.

Russian analysts said the programme was inspired by the FSB and aimed to discredit all foreign sponsored NGOs as outfits of foreign intelligence services.

"This was a classic special operation [by the FSB] aimed at limiting any form of foreign influence in Russia, including NGOs and foreign media," one Russian commentator said.

Olga Kryshchanovskaya, a sociologist and political analyst, said: "It is a typical conspiracy-driven mentality. They think that to prove that a non-governmental organisation receives foreign

funding is the same as to prove that it has an ill intent. The FSB has always had these thoughts; it is just now it started to make them public.”

*Source: "Financial Times",
Great Britain
The Center of Extreme Journalism*

Parliamentarians Will Answer for the British Spies*Russian-British spy scandal moved from the walls of the FSB into the State Duma, the deputies of the State Duma privately saw the operational shooting about the “romance with the stone” of some British diplomats. On Wednesday, at the plenary meeting, the deputies are going to take an interpellation – address to their colleagues from the Parliament Assembly of the European Council (PACE) with the request to help gain an understanding of the situation.*

The hall where the deputies were shown the shots of the operational shooting of the FSB and of the very “stone-spy” were encircled by the FSB in half an hour before the beginning of the seance. All the mobile phone had suddenly lost the net at once before the beginning of the show. As “*Izvestiya*” got to know, such measures were necessary because of the film, the deputies saw the face of the agent taken after the séance of connection, in contrast to that was shown on the TV channel “*Rossiya*”. Besides the representatives of the Intelligence Service answered the Parliaments’ questions. They were also asked about the version of some human rights activists, that all the scandal is a dramatization of the “chekists” (employees of the FSB).

“If it were the step of the Russian Intelligence Service to influence the public opinion, on the consideration of the law On Non-governmental Organizations, it should have been done earlier”, scored for sound his opinion the Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Security Vladimir Vasilyev to “*Izvestiya*”, “The fact that non-governmental organisations get money from other states is not a violation of the law. And, maybe, Alekseyeva is right when she says that it does not matter for her who gives money. To filter the sources is the task of the state. This is the purpose of the law. Something else is important: the Intelligence Service should not hide its activity in the sphere of NGOs. This discredits the very idea of NGOs.”

The Duma does not worry the very fact of the British spies’ activities in Russia but that the same employees of the Embassy combined the intelligence activity with the support of some human rights organisations. The current situation worries human rights activists as well? They think that the interaction, gained with the organs of power so hard in certain questions, may be roughly crushed by this scandal.

“We have no serious contacts with Marc Doe and they could not have been by definition,” “*Izvestiya*” was told by Valerie Borschov, member of the Board of the Fund “Social Partnership” (the Fund was mentioned in the documents seized by the FSB as a receiver of the grants), “the basis of our being made dirty was his signature to the tranche. The programme “the school of public inspector”, the tranche was given for, interacts with the Minister of Justice Yuri Chaika and the head of FSIN (the Federal Service for Execution of Punishments) Yuri Kalinin. We prepare public inspectors to realize the Law “On public Control”, already adopted in the first reading by the Duma. This money is for the visit of leaders and employees of the Russian prisons to England, for the acquaintance with the prison system of England. The programme is going in complete accordance with the FSIN and the Commissioner for Human Rights. There is no connection to the politics. I never got any interest in Doe, he did not ask for us, hold any conversation. Even the account of expenditures we passed in the electronic way. His relation to the Fund’s programme was absolutely formal.”

*Mikhail Vinogradov,
Izvestiya*

Russia Reopens Probe of British Council

Arkady Ostrovsky

Russian prosecutors yesterday said they had re-opened criminal investigations against the British Council in St Petersburg a day after the country's security services accused British diplomats of spying and financing non-governmental organisations in Russia.

The British embassy in Moscow branded the move "unwarranted", and UK government officials said it was evidence of the Russian government's hostile stance towards NGOs. "They have difficulty with the funding of people who promote democracy," one senior official said. "They are trying to up the ante with more pressure on NGOs."

Earlier however, Jack Straw, UK foreign secretary, had a more upbeat assessment of Anglo-Russian relations: "We've got good relations with the government of Russia," he said. "Relations will continue."

The investigation is a sign of increasing tension between Russia and the UK.

Although Tony Blair was the first foreign leader to endorse Vladimir Putin as Russian president in the hope of forging a special relationship with a former cold war adversary, relations turned sour when Britain refused to extradite Boris Berezovsky, a former oligarch, and Akhmed Zakaev, one of the leaders of the ousted Chechen government. Britain has also given shelter to employees of Yukos, the oil company once owned by Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Investigations into the British Council's commercial activity in Russia, in particular its English language teaching programme, first began two years ago, when Russian police raided the council's offices, claiming it was involved in illegal commercial activity on which no tax was paid.

Last year the British Council settled all back tax claims, totalling £1.4m (\$2.5m), and registered as a regular tax payer. The case was formally closed last December, but the investigation was reopened about a week ago coinciding with a public attack by the Federal Securities Services (FSB) on British diplomats allegedly involved in espionage and financing of non-governmental organisations in Russia.

Analysts said the attack on the British Council and Russian non-governmental organisations financed by foreign governments is part of an attempt to stamp out foreign influence in Russia and justify a draconian law restricting activities of Russian NGOs signed by Mr. Putin this month.

The footage of what the FSB claimed were British diplomats downloading secret information from a fake rock was shown on Sunday night on a state television programme.

The main message of the programme, however, was that some Russian charities and human rights organisations, including a highly respected Moscow Helsinki Group and Eurasia Foundation, are financed by British intelligence services.

*The Financial Times
Inopressa.ru*

Marc Doe and the Philosopher's Stone

Leonid Ruzov

The fact that the New Year holidays came to an end became clear from the subject, shown on the Russian channel yesterday: we were shown fresh, just "from under a hen" spies and their

accomplices. The programme “Special Correspondent” began with the words about Russian non-governmental organisations (NGOs), it is allegedly not everything clear with them: about hundred of them have been registered in the Ministry of Justice and it should be understood with others – what they are doing.

Such a beginning perplexed. The programme was advertised not once during the day and in the ad it was said about an intricate stone, the British spies had put their equipment into. But one may ask, what is the connection with NGOs here? Then the stone was really shown, but it was being done not by “special correspondents” but by special services: the spectator got a “discharge” from the FSB under the cover of journalist’s investigation.

As it follows from the video materials and *chekists*’ (officers of the FSB), employees of the FSB thoroughly investigated the hiding-place (that is the stone). They x-rayed it en face and half face, there were electronic circuits and accumulators. They spied who of the employees of the English Embassy used to go by the stone. From FSB employees shown to us as turning their backs upon us, this electronics had to provide communication with usual pocket personal computers whether through Bluetooth or Wi-Fi.

But the enemy has miscalculated: the wireless communication started to pink. Probably, the circuits (as we were told) had dampened. We were also shown the employees of the Embassy working, as have explained voices off screen, simultaneously “for confidential service of Her Majesty”. Marc Doe was especially pointed to among them. Somebody on the video who was named “Doe”, went there and back along the stone, and then he took away the small cobble with himself. Precisely, he is the spy.

As we were kindly informed, Marc Doe, the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the United Kingdom, for covering - that is ex basic professo - works with those non governmental organizations of which we were warned right at the beginning and concerning which Vladimir Putin signed the law January, 10.

The embassy of England, as well as many other diplomatic representatives, helps Russian NGOs, allotting grants to them. We were shown documents according to which the funds are transferred to the Moscow Helsinki group and Fund “Eurasia”. One more letter testifies to the donation on regional human rights defense school. And, so, “competent bodies” “have got lots of questions” not only to the British diplomats, but also to the Russian non governmental organizations...

But I had a couple of counter questions after viewing the Sunday FSB “self-report”.

Marc Doe has not been declared a person *non grata* at all and he has not been expelled from Russia. So the first question is: how much well-grounded the so-called claims presented to him are. Has the FSB got anything real against Marc Doe (if, certainly, it was he who was shot on the video)?

The activity of the civil organizations is directly opposite to work of special services by implication and spirit. The civil activity by definition is open and deprived of “a double bottom”. This is the reason of irritation the independent non governmental organizations cause in a different sort of “manipulators”. There appears a temptation to accuse: if you do not work for “us”, that means you serve “them”! That is why “the double bottom” is inadmissible in those who work with non governmental organizations.

We were presented Marc Doe to us as the experienced spy and almost a key figure in the Intelligence net plaited by the British Crown. Meanwhile, the very story with transference of the information through a stone with electronics inside lying on the Moscow lawn looks strange.

Imagine such a stone. It is kicked by schoolboys. Dogs are wetted on it. And at last it can be taken out to a rubbish heap by a yard keeper, Uzbek, “under recruited” by Englishmen the yard keeper - Uzbek, at last, can take out. It is not any espionage literature, but fantasy with such Doe, a Harry Potter...

The second question goes without dependence on the answer to the first. Even if (I emphasize, “even”!) the accusations of Marc Doe have any grounds, then his work with the NGOs was “a covering”, under the version of counterspies from the FSB. It was that “covering”

which was absolutely lawful and that should not induce on any suspicions. And, so, all: and we, guilty, and security officers can be quiet: this part of his work should not be connected to espionage basically. In the Russian embassies there are the employees of special services working under “covering”, too. And everyone who intersected with our diplomat somewhere should not be dragged to the FBI and other departments of the same type. And then any McCarthyism turns out...Am I right?

But, nevertheless, at the end of victorious “video plum”, we are returned to the same idea: and the devil only knows whom and what for Marc Doe finances.

Forty – thirty – twenty years ago the Committee of State Security of the USSR, a subject of nostalgia of present special services, carried out the same line: the independent public activity inside the country is not independent in reality, and exists “by order” and on money of the western special services.

The logic was simple: as the socialism has won the USSR “completely and finally”, the country has no serious internal problems, and, so, those who speak about them are enemy’s agents. Certainly, the wish was father to the thought.

The result of this approach to the state security is known: the country called the USSR, collapsed. It collapsed, because it could not estimate real but not far-fetched problems beforehand and solve them in time. The real problems were backwardness and “unreformability” of the economy “hooked” on the petroleum needle.

They were national contradictions. They were poverty and lawlessness of the population. All this simply could not have been, however, now many trust that it was not... Those who spoke and wrote about it were declared enemy’s helpers. Someone was even imprisoned, and not under the Article 70 – “Anti-Soviet Propaganda” but under the Art. 64 – “Parricide”, as Anatoly Shcharansky, for example. But even he was rehabilitated, well?

There was another life, latent one, in Moscow of 70-s simultaneously with the legal life. There were investigations which counterspies struggled with, someone sending, and someone putting into prison. But they were two parallel, not crossed worlds. And the appropriate department of the CPSU CC “would hardly have swallowed” the report of security officers on “antisovetchiks” (people opposing the Soviet power) instead of “spies”.

But the lie for the vast masses influences not only on masses, but also on brains of the liars. Two decades of talks about “agents of influence” have not passed for nothing, maybe, security officers are convinced of what they speak about and what they do, aren’t they? It is high time to exclaim: “Oh, holy simplicity!”

However, there are doubts both in sanctity so in simplicity. In contrast to the KGB of the USSR the Russian special services have a real internal enemy that is terrorism. Nobody could envy their job. Approximately it is like agriculture in the Soviet time. The year before last and last year, security officers managed to shift routine of antiterrorism on the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and to take up the struggle against sedition in succession.

The struggle with alleged spies in the capitals is a cushy job. Only it is necessary to render accounts all the time not to be sent to the front line. That is the lieutenant of forces of special purpose Lermontov was on the Caucasus went his way, and “the uniforms blue” are far from the troubled places. Everything is like it was before, at father - Tsar. Or at the father - Secretary General

Oleg Gordievsky: “Speaking Stone” Is Simply Ridiculous”

Natalie Golitsyna

Retelling the contents of the programme of the telechannel "Rossiya" about the British espionage in detail, the English mass media coordinate its demonstration to the law accepted recently in the Russian Federation on the non governmental organizations which toughens the state control above them and practically blocks an opportunity of reception of foreign grants by

them. Many commentators believe that the programme was planned by the FSB, considering these organizations as hotbeds of espionage.

Traditionally the British government does not make comments on work of the Intelligence Service; nevertheless the Foreign Office has made the application where any illegal communications with Russian NGOs are denied. "It is well-known," – the document says, "That the British government has financially supported projects implemented by Russian NGOs in the field of human rights and civil society. All our assistance is given openly and aims to support the development of a healthy civil society in Russia. We reject any accusations of illegal communication with the Russian non governmental organizations ».

The former resident of the KGB in the Great Britain, living in England at the present moment and the historian of Intelligence Services Oleg Gordievsky has commented the demonstration of the program about the British espionage on the Russian TV in such a way: "The purpose of the programme was double or triple. The first is simply to cock a snook at Englishmen because Englishmen have been speaking all the time about 30 and more than 30 Russian spies in London. It is too many. In Moscow there are two or three English secret service men, they are declared to the FSB; visit the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, FSB, Service of External Investigation and so on.

The second purpose is to support the thesis about the connection of the non governmental organizations with the Intelligence Services of the foreign states that they receive money from the espionage organizations. As the bill of the non governmental organizations is being criticized as inside the country so abroad, it was necessary to support it as the governmental position. It was for this purpose that the performance was arranged", considers the former secret service officer.

"And the third is simply to support the level, so to say, of position and admiration of the brilliant Russian security officers. Therefore, this production on TV was made," believes the expert.

As he said, as the Russian services so American and European ones have got modern equipment. And Englishmen do not use such a hiding place as a stone. "They do not use hiding places t all now in Moscow, because they know from many sources, that external supervision, the shadowing of FSB is so numerous and so skilled. Therefore, to use a stone is simply unthinkable from the point of view of normal operational logic and sense", asserts the former resident of KGB in the Great Britain Oleg Gordievsky.

Portal "Human rights in Russia" (Hro.org)

"Espionage passions"

On January 23, official spokesman for the Federal Security Service Sergey Ignatchenko told the press about disclosure of four officers of the UK intelligence who worked undercover in the British Embassy. One of them is allegedly the embassy's second secretary Mark Doe and, according to the Federal Security Service spokesman was in charge for work with NGOs and financed them on behalf of the British Global Opportunity Fund.

The money from Doe were given as grants to a number of non-governmental organizations, including the Committee against Tortures, the Center for Democracy and Human Rights, Eurasia Foundation, Moscow Helsinki Group, International Criminal Reform. On the request of a *IA (Informational Agency) REGNUM* correspondent the information was commented by Yuri Jibladze, President of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights.

"I am extremely disappointed with the fact that in the comments of the spokesman for the Federal Security Service the legitimate activities of Russian NGOs is connected with the intelligence and it is said a person allegedly belonging to the British intelligence service 'financed' our activities and activities by other civil organizations. This does not represent the facts," said Jibladze. "The Global Opportunity Fund is a governmental foundation established by

the UK Foreign Office. It has really financed one of many our projects carried out from spring 2003 to spring 2005. The project was supposed to promote the right for alternative service in Russia provided to the citizens by the Constitution and the Law on Alternative Service.”

According to Yuri Jibladze, he was personally acquainted with Mark Doe. “He is second secretary in the embassy and has represented the interests of the Fund, but our communication was quite formal. Implementation of our project was started before he occupied the position. We received money to our organization’s account officially and gave reports on how we used it.”

The British party did not interfere into elaboration and implementation of the project. Its representatives to our regret failed to find any time to visit any event within framework of the project.”

“Those who read the statement made by Ignatchenko, have an impression that a spy financed activities of the Russian civil organizations. It is a serious challenge to our reputation,” stressed the head of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights. “We are absolutely transparent and have always given account for our activity; there are no grounds to accuse us of any connection to unlawful activity. But appearance of this statement several days after the law on NGOs is, evidently, not accidental, as the law is aimed to limit and control, and to develop civil organizations, and this is done under the slogan of protection of national security and national interests. As the necessity of strengthening control over NGOs is difficult to substantiate, TV-programs appear like one on the RTR TV-channel where reports on someone’s spying activities and lawful and useful for Russia activity of NGOs are piled up.”

As Yuri Jibladze said, yet nobody from the Federal Security Service or other services turned to his organization concerning the Doe case. “We have nothing to be afraid of, although all these inspections and necessity to justify ourselves for what we haven’t done do really distract from work,” he said.

Portal “Human Rights in Russia” (Hro.org)

The Leaders of the Moscow Helsinki group and Fund “Eurasia” about Espionage Scandal

Victor Nekhezin: Espionage scandal. The FSB of Russia asserts that at the end of the last year it revealed the group of the British spies working under covering of the Embassy of the Great Britain. The details of the operation of special services were shown on the telechannel “Rossiya” in Arcady Mamontov’s programme “The Special correspondent” yesterday. Four British diplomats appear in this programme, the second secretary of embassy Marc Doe is mentioned too. The authors of the program allege that Marc Doe was the curator of some Russian non governmental organizations; the question is about the certain sums transferred to the Moscow Helsinki group and Fund “Eurasia”.

The correspondent of *Radio Svoboda* Maxim Jaroshevsky contacted both of these organizations. And I present a fragment of his conversation with Irina Akishina, the director of the Moscow regional corporation of the Fund “Eurasia”.

Irina Akishina: It would be banal to speak that I am surprised. Because, there have probably been many similar applications. Nevertheless, my application takes place, as Fund “Eurasia”, its Moscow representation which acted on the territory of Russia took the decision that the Fund “Eurasia” stops grants giving activity beginning from October 1, 2004, and the Saratov branch of the Fund “Eurasia” was closed accordingly and no agreement was made either on distribution of grants or on their receiving. Having been the director of the Moscow representation since January 1, 2005, I can confirm, that we have not concluded any agreement since then.

Probably, the matter concerns some other fund, and it is, probably, just a mistake. Because, as far as I have understood, there was named the concrete date - January, 18, 2006, and some sum was pointed, and there was a person who had signed it. I have no idea at all what such a declaration can be connected to. It is completely identical that it has no connection to the Moscow representation.

I saw the information on a site now that there is a Marc Doe. As far as I remember, I do not know such a person. I think that it is connected to the general campaign which has been carried out, since the last year and that is connected to how the preparation of the bill is understood. And some declarations in press and declarations that all non governmental organizations are the espionage organizations were made simultaneously with preparation of the bill. It is either the misunderstanding of journalists or the misunderstanding of those who are carrying out some check.

Victor Nekhezin: And here is what the Head of Moscow Helsinki Group Lyudmila Alekseeva has declared in interview of Radio Svoboda.

Lyudmila Alekseyeva: This feature, to put it politely, is produced for poorly educated and gullible people. Does Mamontov himself really think that spies still hide some microphones in some stones somewhere in the boulevard in this satellite, electronic age? Or what did they hide there, I really don't know. This is some kind of nonsense lacking respect for spectators.

Concerning the fact that the feature author has drawn the Moscow Helsinki Group into this spy story and he has done that quite slyly. The material does not say directly that the MHG provided spy services to Doe. The author did not say that directly because he understands that I would sue him for that and I would succeed in this suit even in Russia where the court is not usually called independent, but "Basmany".

For that public which watches all this nonsense, the very fact that the Moscow Helsinki Group brand is mentioned in this programme is an insolent thing.

This is a loathsome slanderous campaign against human rights defenders, designed to be sweeping, not by Mamontov though. Mamontov is just doing what he is told to. And this is done on all state-run channels: there have been two features about Blagoveshchensk with slander against human rights defenders and now this one.

This will continue, because as far as I understand the goal of such programmes is this: prepare the public opinion for a defeat of the human rights community, the most active and the most independent part of the third sector and civil society in Russia.

The idea is to stifle human rights activists and then tread down the civil society, so that everyone is silent by 2007-08 and on. And introduce astonished mankind to the Public Chamber as a dummy civil society instead of the trodden real one.

This is how I see this general plan conceived by somebody very important.

As to the very document shown on the Second channel yesterday, it is any forgery. I did not know yesterday, I thought there might have been any document signed by Doe as it was quite possible on his post. The Moscow Helsinki group had two grants, now having none, from the Embassy of the Great Britain. But I have checked up: both grants were signed not by Doe. So that they have shown is a forgery. We have been tied with this person artificially. And I shall occupy myself with it, I shall demand, that I will be presented this document shown on TV to the trustful spectator, and I shall demand apologies and refutations.

*Portal "Human Rights in Russia" (Hro.org)
Source: Radio Svoboda*

Andropovschina: reboot? (*Andropovshchina ~ Andropov's methods of work*)

The state Russian TV showed the video reporting in which people named employees of the British Embassy, are carrying out, allegedly, an espionage operation - informs BBC <<http://news8.thdo.bbc.co.uk>>.

The programme “The Special Correspondent” on the telechannel “Russia” showed employees of the Russian special services speaking that they managed to find out a hiding place with the transmitter which represented a usual stone judging from its appearance.

As the Russian counterspies say the data were transmitted to the device and were taken from it by means of pocket computers. According to employees of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia, they managed to detain a citizen of Russia who tried to establish communication with the British special services under such circuit. In the reporting it is affirmed that at least four employees of the British Embassy were seen nearby the hiding place.

The authors of the programme declared that one of the employees of the British Embassy, noticed nearby the hiding place, made payments to the Russian non governmental organizations (*As he worked as the coordinator of the Fund of Global Opportunities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Great Britain - it was marked in the TV plot. Comments of the editors of HRO.org*).

The programme of the Russian channel included, in particular, the shots taken by the secret camera during the operational actions.

The Russian service of BBC contacted the FSB, but there they refused to make comments on the programme which was on the air. However, there were lots of interviews to people named themselves officers of the FSB who confirmed all declared by the authors of the feature.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Great Britain, meanwhile, expressed “concern and surprise” at the announcements made in the feature of the telechannel “Rossiya”.

The UK Foreign Office also said in its statement:

“We reject any allegation of improper conduct in our dealings with Russian NGOs.” “It is well known that the UK government has financially supported projects implemented by Russian NGOs in the field of human rights and civil society. All our assistance is given openly and aims to support the development of a healthy civil society in Russia.”

The head of the Moscow Helsinki Group (MHG) Lyudmila Alekseyeva has already declared that the programme shown on Sunday evening is one more episode in the process which she named “campaign against human rights defenders”.

“We really had the grant from the UK Embassy. I do not remember, who signed it. Probably, it was Marc Doe as he, maybe, should sign it in the performance of his duty. But what matters who signed it?” said Lyudmila Alekseeva, making comments on the feature of the telechannel “Rossiya” where it was spoken about financing through Marc Doe supervising public organizations in the Embassy and, in particular, the project of the Moscow Helsinki Group, informs *Newsru* <<http://newsru.com>>.

“It was the grant for cooperation with the Centre of Human Rights at the University of Essex. They are very good experts in the international documents on human rights”, said Alekseyeva. As she said, the seminars were held on the allocated means, where representatives of the partners of the MHG regional organizations acquainted with the international documents on human rights.

The British *“Guardian”* <<http://www.guardian.co.uk>> writes that Moscow mentions the names of the British “spies” in the justification of the new law about NGOs. The curious moment: the British who the FSB and the governmental telechannel “Rossiya” accuse of espionage are not detained. The representative of the FSB confirmed to the edition “*Guardian*” that his department accuses four people in espionage. “They were not arrested. How can we arrest them? All of them are diplomats”. (*When did it stop KGB? They detained diplomats very much and then expelled them. Something does not stick together at the FSB... Comments of the editors of HRO.org*)

Postmodernism, or About “Harmful Essence” of Human Rights Activists

The Channel “Rossiya” falsely accused human rights activists, including. MHG (Moscow Helsinki Group), of contacts with the British investigation (*see*

<http://www.newsru.com/russia/23jan2006/britains.html#4>). Last time it was Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria who was falsely accused of contacts with the English Intelligence Service.

It is obvious, that there has come even not decadence, but any postmodernism in work of bodies in the past half a century. But we will open a hor-r-ifying secret: the human rights activists are digging the tunnel from Bombay to London to have a constant communication with Zakaev and Berezovsky and to stretch in it a gas pipeline, invulnerable for "the common enemies of Georgia and Russia".

*Eugenie Ikhlov,
Political scientist,
Movement "For Human Rights", Moscow.*

“And Someone Has Put a Stone...”

The State Russian TV has shown the video reporting in which people named employees of the British Embassy, are allegedly carrying out espionage operation with the help of some super-electronic devices set into a stone on a suburb of Moscow. Thus employees of the FSB and state journalists, making comments on the videos, tried to discredit non-governmental human rights organizations which were receivers of the grants of a fund where one of the English worked.

Vladimir Tyomny

*And someone has put a stone
In his stretched hand.*

The history about a stone on the Moscow suburb impresses. However, in Soviet times it was known, up to what the enemy is artful and inventive: “He either goes in somebody's skin, or sleeps in an ashtray or tempts somebody on a lamp shade”. Modern security officers have to deal with an uneasy human material as it is seen.

But only the cobble-stone has been somehow spark, in addition it was lost on suburb of the capital. Other business if it were found out, that Solovetsky Stone on the Lubyanskya Square had been equipped under espionage needs. A picture is more than plausible – as the small stone was established by those NGOs, which as it is already clear to everyone, have been fed from a hand of foreign special services. Everything harmonizes.

And all the human rights brotherhood would be covered with one copper basin. Good people, look, as under conversations on danger of Stalinism there were worked out the money of the CIA and the other ominous organizations.

But the clever Lubyanskiye (FSB) heads have not hit upon this spectacular version. And it is a pity. Today as never before people are to lap up the most fantastic plots from the day-to-day activities of the Office. They would swallow also this one about a cobble-stone, the weapon of spies. Especially as president Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin perspicacious pointed at human rights organisations as branches of foreign intelligence services a year ago.

*Portal “Human Rights in Russia” (Hro.org)
Source: “Grani”*

Human Rights First Condemns Allegations against Russian Human Rights Organizations

NEW YORK - The Russian government has publicly defamed four well-respected human rights organizations by accusing them of collecting funds from the British secret service. The

organizations are the Moscow Helsinki Group, the Center for Democracy and Human Rights, the Eurasia Foundation, and the Nizhniy-Novgorod-based Committee against Torture.

All of the organizations have denied the accusations, pointing out that funds they have received from the British government have come through legal, transparent channels. Lyudmila Alekseyeva, chairperson of the Moscow Helsinki Group, a renowned Soviet era dissident and recipient of Human Rights First's 2005 human rights award, characterized the allegations made in a television documentary as "a sad slander campaign against human rights defenders." She has demanded an apology from the government.

"The attack on these human rights organizations are part of an escalating government campaign against independent civil society taking place in Russia today," said Maureen Byrnes, Executive Director of Human Rights First. "If the government forces these organizations to close Russia will recede further into the type of severe repression associated with the Soviet Union."

Accusations such as the ones made this week could provide the government with justification to close down these vital organizations under a law governing non-governmental organizations that was signed into effect by President Vladimir Putin earlier this month. Igor Kolyapin, chairperson of the Committee against Torture, and Yuri Jibladze, director of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights, expressed concerns that the accusations form part of a coordinated government attack on human rights organizations. The accusations are also accompanied by the prosecution under counter-extremism laws of human rights activist Stanislav Dmitrievsky, director of the Nizhniy-Novgorod Russian-Chechen Friendship Society. The verdict in this case is expected on February 3, 2006. If he is convicted, it too will have a chilling effect on the activities of human rights defenders in Russia.

Human Rights First is a leading human rights advocacy organization based in New York City and Washington, DC. Since 1978, HRF has worked in the U.S. and abroad to create a secure and humane world -advancing justice, human dignity, and respect for the rule of law. All of its activities are supported by private contributions. All the information can be found on the web site: www.humanrightsfirst.org

On February 1, the Picket « FSB, Hands off from the Civil Society!» Is Held

Human rights activists will carry out the picket on February 1, 2006 from 17 till 18 at the central entrance in the building of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation to the address: d.2, Lubyanskaya Ploschad (Square).

The purposes of the action:

a) to pay attention of the federal authorities, first of all, of the leaders of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, and also press and society to inadmissibility of provocations against the non-governmental organizations, pressure upon the civil society, the organization of campaigns of slander and insinuations concerning human rights activists;

b) to pay attention of the federal authorities, first of all, of the leaders of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, and also press and society to inadmissibility of provocations against the Moscow Helsinki group, others human rights associations;

c) to pay attention of the federal authorities, first of all, of the leaders of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, and also press and society to public danger of returning to the practice of human rights activists' accusations of connection with foreign special services, kindling of spy scare;

d) to demand the termination of prosecution of scientists, public figures, businessmen and journalists by inspiration of «espionage processes»;

e) to demand releasing of victims of «espionage processes».

L. Ponomarev: "the Plot in «Special Reporting» is a Provocation against Human Rights Movements»

“The first idea that appeared after viewing the programme, this is a provocation”, a member of MHG, the director of non-governmental movement “For Human Rights” Lev Ponomarev noted in the interview to correspondent ASI (Agency of Social Information). “I simply cannot believe, Ponomarev is perplexed, “that the Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Great Britain Marc Doe who is responsible for communications with non-governmental organizations, dressing, actually, as a terrorist, having pulled down a knitted cap on eyes, drags stones with the espionage equipment.” In opinion of the human rights activist, the situation reminds chekists’ (KGB) provocations of 30th years. “As I know, how many pseudo-espionage processes the FSB fabricates now, mainly putting scientists, human rights activists and ecologists into prison”, emphasizes Ponomarev, “I am prepared not to trust these events”.

Moreover, Ponomarev counts the plot gone on Sunday “a dirty television provocation”. Having shown the signature on documents instead of a spy and having told, that this is the grant to the Moscow Helsinki Group, journalists have spoiled reputation of the organization in front of huge audience and have inspired the idea, that the MHG is connected to espionage, L. Ponomarev is indignant. At last, as Ponomarev thinks, it is provocation against human rights activists and the original argumentation in the support of the new law on amplification of the control above public associations and the noncommercial organizations. “It is escalation in support of the accepted law,” declares L. Ponomarev, “and the justification of that in conformity with this law, in the offices of the human rights organizations there came representatives of the FSB and they began to look through each piece of paper”.

In “Special reporting” it was also affirmed, that the large sums were transferred through the agent of the British MI6 on the account of the Fund “Eurasia”. Andrei Kortunov, the president of the Fund “New Eurasia” whom a part of programmes realized by the Fund “Eurasia”, finished its activity in Russia, was passed to, confirmed that the Fund “Eurasia” received grants from the Great Britain. “Between Russia and the Great Britain there is an agreement on technical cooperation. And that circumstance, that the grant was signed by any official, nothing changes in the character of functioning”, noted Kortunov in the interview to “*Interfax*”.

*Yulia Chekalina,
Correspondent of the
Agency of Social Information.
www.asi.org.ru/*

Friends, if you do not wish to receive these newsreels, please, advise us.

