

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# AIRGRAM

Approved for Release 2007/03/06 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000200130033-6

PPB 9 USSR  
XR TRV US  
FILE DESIGNATION

RS/R	REF	AF	ARA
1			
EUR	FE	NEA	CU
			3
INR	E	P	IO
6			
L	FBO	AID	S/RS
3			1
SCA	PPT	54	SCS
1	2	3	2
AGR	COM	FRB	INT
LAB	TAR	TR	XMB
AIR	ARMY	NAVY	OSD
5	3	7	34
USIA	NSA	CIA	
10	3	16	
FBI	NIC	MSC	
1	1	6	

Original to be Filed in \_\_\_\_\_ Decentralized Files.

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TO : Department of State RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE VS B

INFO : MUNICH AC W

APR 4 8 46 AM 1972 PED 3/16

RS/AN ANALYSIS BRANCH B

FROM : AmEmbassy MOSCOW DATE: March 24, 1972

SUBJECT : "Contraband" Material Confiscated from American Tourists

REF : Moscow A-178, March 1 PPB 9 USSR  
(179) XR TRV memo

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

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An account of the activities of Leningrad customs officials which appeared in Leningradskaya Pravda on March 19 provides information about three separate incidents in which customs officials in Leningrad confiscated "contraband" material from visiting American citizens. The article does not indicate when the incidents occurred.

The first incident involved two unidentified members of an American student group who arrived in Leningrad by air from Paris. The article relates that during the customs inspection, an examining officer found anti-Soviet material published by Posev hidden under toilet paper in the suitcase of a "loudly dressed graduate student." A few minutes later, another customs inspector located similar material in the suitcase of the leader of the group.

In another case mentioned in the article, customs officials confiscated more than 2,700 copies of the Bible and the New Testament from Brook Rodger Mill (phonetic) who arrived in Leningrad on the Soviet passenger ship "Mikhail Kalinin". Using the vessel as a hotel during the stop-over in Leningrad, Mill was observed leaving the vessel looking "rather fat" and returning looking somewhat thinner. According to the newspaper account, the Soviets expelled Mill from the country.

In the third incident, a customs officer confiscated 35 Bibles from Valentina Ivanovna Popova who arrived in Leningrad on board the passenger vessel "Aleksandr Pushkin". Additionally, he found and presumably confiscated \$1,000 hidden in hair curlers and some watches concealed in hair netting which Mrs. Popova had not listed on her customs declaration.

Action Taken:

Date:

Initials:

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Drafted by: POL/INT:MAWenlock:bpw Drafting Date: 3/24/72 Phone No.: 272 Contents and Classification Approved by: POI:TRRuchman

Clearances: POL/INT:EHurwitz CONS:MIN:BHKlosson MIN:BHKlosson

The press account provides the first information that the Embassy has received about two of the three incidents. Mr. Mill did not or was not able to contact the Embassy to report the difficulties he encountered with Soviet customs authorities. The Embassy has previously reported the Popova case. (Moscow 4437, August 10, 1970.)

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