

PENKOVSKIY Oleg  
CONGRESS / REP RYAN

2 December 1965

Honorable William F. Ryan  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Ryan:

As I mentioned on the telephone, Admiral Raborn asked me to respond to your inquiry of 23 November about The Penkovskiy Papers.

We are aware of the various suggestions that this Agency was involved in the publication of this book, and in fact Russian propaganda has been alleging that it is an outright CIA forgery. For your information, material on which this book was based became available to Mr. Deriabin through channels of his own, and after some editorial work by Mr. Gibney was submitted to this Agency for review as to any security considerations. We had no reason to object on any such grounds to its publication in its present form.

You asked how this material could have come into Mr. Deriabin's hands. I do not know, but there are many similar cases. For example, the works of "Abram Tertz," which is the pseudonym of a Soviet author, have been smuggled to the west during the past seven years. These include vehement condemnations of Soviet censorship and control over literature. It has been reported that he was recently arrested by the Soviet police. Also, Boris Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago and books by Valeriy Tarsis, Anne Akhmatova, Alexander Tvardovskiy, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and others have all been smuggled out of the USSR for publication in the west.

I am sending herewith a copy of The Penkovskiy Papers in which the circumstances of its publication are set forth in the Foreword. I would very much appreciate its return when you have had an opportunity to examine it.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

Enclosure

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