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# Defector Describes Activities of the Soviets' GRU

By BILL GERTZ

The story sounds more like a spy novel than a true-life account: An FBI counterintelligence agent meets a Soviet spy over drinks at a quiet restaurant in a southern California shopping center. It's Sept. 26, 1984.

The two are planning a trip together overseas to Vienna. They've done some shopping and found a coat. October in Austria is not like L.A.

The Soviet agent, a petite blonde posing as an emigre who calls herself Svetlana Ogorodnikov, tells her partner and sometime lover, Special Agent Richard Miller, not to forget the impor-

By coincidence, Viktor Suvorov's *Inside Soviet Military Intelligence* was published the day after Miller's arrest. It contains an appendix listing the GRU's High Command and top officers. Mikhail is among them.

According to Suvorov, the blonde Russian was right — Mikhail is a very important person in the Soviet government. Mikhail is the codename listed for Lt. Gen. Moshe Milstein, GRU Deputy Chief for Disinformation and a veteran "illegal" spy. The venerable Mikhail is well known to GRU operatives as the author of a spy manual with the sardonic title *Honorable Service*.

FBI officials would not comment on the timing of Miller's arrest, but anyone with cursory knowledge of Soviet intelligence capabilities knows how easy it would have been for Soviet agents to kidnap Miller in Vienna, load him with chemicals and pull a trove of FBI secrets out of him.

Suvorov, a pseudonym, was a major in the GRU before defecting sometime in the 1970s. His real name and the exact date of his defection remain a secret; he fears revealing those details would endanger relatives still living in the Soviet Union.

For defecting, he was sentenced to death-in-absentia under article 64a of the Soviet Constitution ("betrayal of the homeland"). But the book's final chapter, "For GRU Officers Only," contains a plea of not guilty: "The real betrayers of the homeland are those in the Kremlin." He urges would-be GRU defectors to consider carefully "the agonizing way," but says, "If you are prepared to risk your life for one minute of freedom, then go."

*Inside Soviet Military Intelligence* provides the first post-Stalin account of the massive Soviet military intelligence complex that is virtually unknown inside the Soviet Union. It presents both a history and the complete structure,

secret methods and operational techniques of the Soviet military spy agency.

"GRU" is the acronym for a Russian name virtually unpronounceable by the untrained tongue: *Glavnoe Razvedyvatel'noe Upravlenie*. It translates more easily into the Chief Intelligence Directorate, General Staff of the Ministry of Defense, USSR.

Similar to its sister, the notorious KGB, the GRU is a lesser-known but equally powerful intelligence service. But its priorities range far beyond the boundaries of traditional martial intelligence targets — assessing an enemy's military strength.

Besides military intelligence collection, the GRU's peacetime role involves the wholesale theft of military industrial secrets as well as conducting political and strategic operations against the West — all under the close supervision of the Soviet Communist party.

During military conflicts, crack paramilitary units known as "Spetnaz" can be mobilized from deep cover within Western societies. These "illegal" units, operating without diplomatic back-up, are trained to paralyze political and military infrastructures through assassinations of political leaders, sabotage of utilities and attacks on command and communications centers.

Suvorov's details of the GRU are sometimes too intricate and seem written for the benefit of intelligence professionals. It seems as though he committed to paper most of what he provided Western intelligence analysts — a wealth of information and additional pieces of the puzzle of the Soviet secret service.

Suvorov paints some fascinating vignettes which show the GRU in action. For instance, the GRU sends teams of operatives to hundreds of Western trade fairs each year. Before

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**"Inside Soviet Military Intelligence"**

By Viktor Suvorov

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tant papers. Miller, a 20-year veteran, has in his possession secret FBI counterintelligence files on Soviet activities in California. He has been promised \$65,000 in cash and gold for the deal.

The blonde Russian outlines the itinerary for their little holiday in Vienna (she had preferred Warsaw, but Miller said no for obvious security reasons): October 9—leave for Vienna; October 10 — arrive in Vienna; October 11 — meeting with Mikhail, a GRU general. Mikhail, she tells him, is a very important person in the Soviet government; GRU stands for Soviet military intelligence.

The events above were described by Miller during an interview with FBI agents shortly before his arrest on espionage charges last October 2. Mrs. Ogorodnikov, along with her husband, recently pleaded guilty to the charges, and Miller is scheduled for trial shortly.

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an exhibition featuring military electronics, armaments and military technology or similar wares, a GRU delegation shows up at the local Soviet Embassy with a wish list of samples to be begged, borrowed or stolen. (West Germany's Interior Ministry recently netted one of the "red books" the size of a Manhattan telephone directory).

The GRU team goes from exhibit to exhibit carrying suitcases full of cash in an effort to buy samples whose sale to the Soviet bloc is strictly prohibited. Target samples can be small parts or jet engines that are quickly shipped off to Soviet research institutes where copies are made and then put into production. Exhibitions by struggling high-tech firms also provide a wonderful environment for recruiting GRU agents who, once ensnared, can be used in operations against larger defense contractors.

- The GRU effort has provided the Soviets with a technology windfall.
- Suvorov notes that GRU headquarters in Moscow uses the most modern American computers to keep its analysts busy.

**Another spy story in Suvorov's book involves an unnamed American Army major stationed in West Germany who snookered a hapless GRU residency out of thousands of dollars.**

The major approached the GRU with an offer to sell a U.S. nuclear-tipped artillery shell. To sweeten the deal, and to his discredit, the officer turned over details on NATO nuclear weapons depots to the GRU.

A week later, the transfer of the shell took place on a rainy night. The major met three GRU men and turned over the shell. Its serial numbers, markings and radiation level all checked out. A suitcase full of cash was turned over to the major and the GRU agreed to return in two months to give the shell back.

The artillery warhead was whisked off to Moscow, without considering if it was booby-trapped to explode. When GRU Command found out the shell was in Moscow, "a long and largely unprintable tirade ensued," Suvorov writes. It seemed the GRU leaders were concerned the shell could have turned Moscow into another Hiroshima.

After it was dismantled at a GRU facility outside Moscow, the shell turned out to be a beautifully replicated copy

of the real thing with the inside coated with radioactive waste.

The GRU was not happy about the deal and asked permission to assassinate the major. The request was denied, but in any case the major had timed the sale to coincide with the end of his tour of duty in Germany.

Suvorov concludes his book with an appeal to Western security services:

"Be human — do expel Soviet spies occasionally. By expelling one, you enable others to reduce their frantic activities." The first to go? Suvorov urges getting rid of the top GRU officer in each country. Once he goes, the GRU network will be an army without a commander. ■

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*Mr. Gertz is a reporter for the Washington Times..*