

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

19 September 2018

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 48464  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Reference: F-2018-00871

Dear Ms. Best:

This is a final response to your 8 February 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **a copy of Clandestine Services Historical Series 335/CSHP 335: Covert Action Operations: Soviet Russia Division, 1950-1968**. We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 431, as amended.

We completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and located one document, consisting of four pages, which we can release in segregable form with deletions made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). A copy of the document and an explanation of exemptions are enclosed. Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact us at:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
703-613-3007 (Fax)

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may reach CIA's FOIA Public Liaison at:

703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline)

The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
202-741-5770  
877-864-6448  
202-741-5769 (fax)  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Contacting the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,



Allison Fong  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

## Explanation of Exemptions

### Freedom of Information Act:

- (b)(1) exempts from disclosure information currently and properly classified, pursuant to an Executive Order;
- (b)(2) exempts from disclosure information, which pertains solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Agency;
- (b)(3) exempts from disclosure information that another federal statute protects, provided that the other federal statute either requires that the matters be withheld, or establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld. The (b)(3) statutes upon which the CIA relies include, but are not limited to, the CIA Act of 1949;
- (b)(4) exempts from disclosure trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is obtained from a person and that is privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) exempts from disclosure inter-and intra-agency memoranda or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) exempts from disclosure information from personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- (b)(7) exempts from disclosure information compiled for law enforcement purposes to the extent that the production of the information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings; (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication; (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source or, in the case of information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source; (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger any individual's life or physical safety;
- (b)(8) exempts from disclosure information contained in reports or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, or on behalf of, or for use of an agency responsible for regulating or supervising financial institutions; and
- (b)(9) exempts from disclosure geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

April 2012

**Secret**  
CIA Internal Use Only  
Access Controlled by DDP



CIA HISTORICAL STAFF

**The Clandestine Service  
Historical Series**

*Requested*

COVERT ACTION OPERATIONS  
SOVIET RUSSIA DIVISION  
1950 - 1968

**Secret**  
CS HP 335  
Controlled by: SB  
December 1972  
Copy 2 of 2

SECRET

B. Reward and Further Planning

1. Moscow Youth Festival, 1957

The foresight and planning that initiated these activities was handsomely rewarded in the summer of 1957 through the involvement [redacted] in the Moscow Youth Festival. This event, whose significance at the time could be equated to that of Khrushchev's secret speech in its impact on the outlook of the younger generation of Soviet citizens, was probably the most wide open mass encounter between the youth of the West and the youth of the Soviet Bloc in history. The most important [redacted] [redacted] involved was the Yale Russian Chorus, a group of students from Yale University, most of whom had some facility in the Russian language and several of whom had outstanding competence. It would be misleading, however, to attribute the impact of Western youth on its Soviet counterpart primarily to the chorus project [redacted].

What happened was largely spontaneous, and to a considerable degree that spontaneity was responsible for the significance of the Western impact.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)  
(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

*Respected*

(b)(1)  
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The Khrushchev speech and the Polish and Hungarian events of 1956 had made a deep impression on youth all over Europe and the United States. The hope for genuinely peaceful coexistence and for the beginning, at least, of the end to Communist tyranny gave the Festival participants an almost evangelistic spirit. The ignorance and the curiosity of Soviet participants about the outside world and apparently a lack of foresight on the part of Soviet security and party officials resulted in a laxity of controls and a consequent openness and genuineness of communication that, with the possible exception of the events of the summer of 1959, were unique in Soviet history since the 1920's.

Copies of the United Nations (UN) report on Hungary, for example, were brought in by Western participants and read to large crowds at the Festival. One member of the Yale Russian Chorus read parts of the report from the steps of Lenin's mausoleum in Red Square. These portions of the report were translated into Russian by other members of the Yale Chorus who were scattered throughout the crowd. Although that was perhaps the high point in agitational

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activity, numerous contacts were made with the then nascent Soviet dissident group by members of the Yale Chorus. These provided the first links to the movement which in later years was to achieve recognition throughout the world for its criticism of the Soviet system and the willingness of its members to sacrifice themselves for the cause. The debriefings of [redacted] members of the Yale Chorus and other assets upon their return from Moscow stimulated great enthusiasm for this kind of approach and greatly accelerated the development of operations aimed at exploiting similar opportunities in the future and at taking the fullest advantage of the increasing accessibility of Soviet targets on a person-to-person basis.

*re opers 1959*  
 (b)(1)  
 (b)(3)

2. FY 1959 Program

These influences were strongly reflected in the SR operational program for FY 1959, drawn up early in 1958:

SR PP [CA] operations during the past year have the general objective of promoting evolutionary changes within the USSR. With this broad mission SR concentrated increasingly on the development of operations not requiring mass media, designed to hit limited targets

*not requested*

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