

Translated by Marta Olynyk, July 2010

[Translator's note: questionable points are marked in red;
there are also bracketed comments/explanations]

Filename: kgb76-18-0204-translated-olynyk-July2010

[Below the seal:]

SSSR
COMMITTEE OF STATE SECURITY AT THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS OF THE USSR

10 September 1976

No. 2066-4

City of Moscow

[To the right of the seal in the top left-hand corner are handwritten surnames of three addressees, "Comrades", the first of which is illegible; second surname=Trapeznikov; third surname=Smirnov; there is another illegible handwritten notation below this]

Secret

Concerning the Western-Inspired Anti-Soviet Campaign against the "Use of
Psychiatry in the USSR for Political Purposes"

[Two illegible words to the left of the first paragraph]

An anti-Soviet campaign is gaining momentum in a number of Western countries, with blatant insinuations about the alleged use of psychiatry in the USSR as an instrument of political struggle against "dissidents."

The ideological centers and secret services of the adversary are involving the mass media in this, using the platforms of scholarly forums and inciting anti-Soviet "demonstrations" and "protests." They are systematically offering the opportunity to make dirty fabrications about the living conditions and the detention of sick individuals in Soviet psychiatric hospitals, the "living eyewitnesses" FAINBERG, PLIUSHCH,

NEKRASOV, GORBANEVSKAIA, and several others, who are known for their anti-Soviet activities in the West.

The latest data attest to the fact that this campaign has the character of a scrupulously planned anti-Soviet action. The organizers of the defamatory statements are clearly seeking to prepare public opinion for the open condemnation of “psychiatric abuses in the USSR” at the forthcoming 6th World Congress of Psychiatry (Honolulu, USA) in August 1977, expecting to stir up a negative political response on the eve of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

At the present time the initiators of the campaign are involving international and national organizations of psychiatrists, individual reputable scholars; they are creating special “committees” to supervise the activities of psychiatrists in various countries, above all in the USSR. In January 1976 the so-called “Initiative Committee against the Abuse of Psychiatry for Political Purposes” was founded in Geneva, which included 56 Western scholars. The “Committee” is intent on organizing a discussion “on the abuses of psychiatry in the USSR” at the 6th World Congress of Psychiatry.

An active role in the growth of anti-Soviet sentiment is played by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Great Britain, which is under the influence of pro-Zionist elements. In May 1976 a resolution was passed at its congress to address a request to the participants of the 6th World Congress of Psychiatry to condemn “the systematic use of psychiatry in the USSR for political purposes.” A working group has been formed to study “evidence of psychiatric abuses.”

In June 1976 the question of the “situation with Soviet psychiatry” was examined at the General Assembly of the Union of French Psychologists, where a resolution was passed “condemning the actions of psychiatrists in the USSR,” and a petition was formulated with demands “to put an end to the use of psychiatry for repressive purposes.”

Attempts are being undertaken to involve the World Health Organization (WHO) in the campaign. At present, work is underway in the WHO to prepare a so-called “Draft of Legislation on Psychiatry.” Its elaboration and selection of participating countries are controlled by the American side.

The inspirers of this action are also putting pressure on the administration of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). The Executive Committee of the WPA is receiving “evidence of psychiatric abuses in the USSR,” fabricated in the West, and demands to issue accusations directed against Soviet psychiatrists. The English psychiatrists, D. Lee [Leigh?] and L. Reese [Rhys?], members of the WPA’s Executive Committee, are being

subjected to public harassment only because they were elected honorary members of the All-Union Society of Neuropathologists and Psychiatrists.

During the WPA symposium on ethics in psychiatry that took place in London in June 1976 several participants sought to introduce into the declaration a clause about "political dissidents," which was supported by several Members of Parliament as well as the participants of an organized anti-Soviet meeting. However, as a result of the active and principled position of the Soviet representative and member of the WPA's Executive Committee, Professor M. E. VARTANIAN, this proposal was rejected.

The Committee of State Security, through its operational resources, is adopting measures to disrupt the hostile, Western-inspired attacks on Soviet psychiatry.

In addition, we would consider it prudent to instruct the Ministry of Health of the USSR, through the Department of Science and Educational Institutions of the CC CPSU and the Propaganda Department of the CC CPSU, to implement appropriate official measures through the channels of international scholarly exchanges during the period of preparing for the 6th World Congress of Psychiatry (1977), after having organized their propaganda support together with information agencies.

We request that this be considered.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF STATE SECURITY

(signature) ANDROPOV

MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE USSR
(Minzdrav SSSR)

Secret

No. of copies: 1

101432, [acronym illegible], Moscow, -51, Rakhmanovskii per[eulok]
Telegraphic address: Moscow, K-9, Soiuzminzdrav [All-Union Ministry of
Health]

For No. _____

CC CPSU

On Measures to Counteract the Anti-Soviet Campaign Being Conducted in
the West in Connection with the "Use of Psychiatry in the USSR for
Political Purposes"

In keeping with the order to develop a plan to counteract the anti-Soviet campaign being conducted in the West in connection with the "use of psychiatry in the USSR for political purposes," the Ministry of Health of the USSR is carrying out the following measures:

With the goal of developing measures to counteract the above-mentioned campaign and comprehensively preparing for participation in the World Congress of Psychiatrists (Honolulu, August 1977), where the most active anti-Soviet protest actions are being planned, the Ministry of Health of the USSR has formed an organizing group headed by Deputy Minister of Health of the USSR, D. D. Venediktov, with the participation of the well known Soviet psychiatrists, Professors A. V. Snezhnevsky, G. V. Morozov, E. A. Babaian, M. E. Vartanian, and others.

Measures have been adopted to collect information about the activities of all "committees" and "associations" founded in the West, particularly in Great Britain, France, the USA, and other countries, which are protesting against psychiatric "abuses" (statements in the press, radio, and television, various letters, reports, press conferences, etc.), as well as about the fate of all the mentally ill "dissidents" who have left the USSR, about existing and draft legislation in foreign countries in relation to health and the legal rights of mentally ill individuals. Relevant inquiries are sent through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR to embassies and Soviet missions at

international organizations, as well as to the State Committee for Radio and Television, TASS, and the Novosti Press Agency.

151 [other numerals illegible]

Enhanced analysis of this information, as well as data that already exists at the Ministry of Health of the USSR on the organization of psychiatric assistance in many foreign countries and legislation in this sphere, is entrusted to the Institute of Psychiatry at the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, where a special group has been formed under the leadership of Comrade M. E. Vartanian, as well as to the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry.

A group of Soviet academics (A. V. Snezhnevsky, R. A. Nadzharov, G. V. Morozov, M. E. Vartanian et al) have begun to formulate well reasoned documents exposing the mendacity and bankruptcy of the bourgeois propagandists, who seek to exploit the misfortune of sick people in the interests of political speculation, as well as to discredit the scientific foundations of psychiatry as such.

This work will be continued, factoring in supplementary information that will be obtained from abroad.

The forms of utilizing these documents (scholarly articles, press conferences, statements in the press, radio, television, etc.) and the time-frame for implementing the measures will be determined, factoring in the emerging situation together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, the KGB at the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and the mass media.

In addition, the Ministry of Health of the USSR is developing concrete action plans within inter-governmental and non-governmental international medical organizations:

- within the World Psychiatric Association: participation in regular meetings of the Executive Committee, the inclusion of a Soviet specialist into the Executive Committee in place of Comrade M. E. Vartanian in connection with the end of his term in office, maintaining a correspondence with progressive members of the association's Executive Committee, the early inclusion of reports by Soviet specialists into the agenda of the congress, the harmonization of positions with the delegations of socialist countries;

- within the World Health Organization: boosting Soviet specialists' participation in all forthcoming academic conferences on questions relating to mental health and holding negotiations with the general director of the WHO, H[alfdan] Mahler, and his deputy, T. Lambo (a psychiatrist), concerning the inadmissibility [number at bottom of original page: No. 2750s] of involving the WHO in the anti-Soviet campaign in any way, shape, or form, as well as the dissemination through the WHO of truthful information about the organization of psychiatric assistance in the USSR; the preparation of crucial materials on the USSR's position on the protection of human rights during the course of medical-biological examinations, as well as according to the principles of medical ethics, the elaboration of which is entrusted to the WHO at the 19th General Assembly of the UN.

Work will be stepped up in order to reveal the progressive moods of important psychiatrists in the USA, England, France, and other capitalist countries, with invitations extended to them from the USSR to give lectures, participate in various types of scholarly conferences and symposia relating to questions of psychiatry and psychotropic agents; the sojourn of these specialists in the USSR will be used in continuing explanatory work to organize their appearances in the mass media abroad; in agreement with Soviet embassies, proposals may be submitted in connection with the election of a number of foreign psychiatrists as honorary members of the All-Union Association of Neuropathologists and Psychiatrists.

At the same time, the dispatching of prominent Soviet psychiatrists abroad to take part in a variety of scholarly conferences in 1976–1977 will be stepped up; at issue here [is the question] of using their stay abroad for the purposes of disseminating truthful information about Soviet psychiatry and carrying out explanatory work.

Taking into account that the hottest point of the anti-Soviet campaign is to be expected during the proceedings of the World Congress of Psychiatry, the Ministry of Health of the USSR considers it reasonable to dispatch a carefully prepared delegation or a specialized group of tourists, comprised of 10–15 leading Soviet specialists both to take part in the scientific program of the World Congress of Psychiatry and possibly to present papers at the congress, if the need arises, which will unmask the political, anti-scientific nature of the campaign being conducted in the West.

We suggest that the time of the congress be timed with the implementation of a number of supplementary measures (statements in the

press, the dispatching of specialized tourist groups to some Western countries, etc.). [number at bottom of page=No. 2750c]

The Ministry of Health of the USSR will also continue, jointly with the MVD SSSR [Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR], the implementation of regular inspectors' check-ups of special hospitals where the forcible treatment of mentally ill individuals is taking place, meaning, the on-site elimination of uncovered shortcomings and the submission of proposals aimed at improving psychiatric assistance for this category of patient. We also suggest resolving the question of organizing possible tours of individual such hospitals and patients for foreign specialists, as well as the familiarization of a number of authoritative foreign scientists with genuine medical histories of "dissidents," who are most often mentioned in the Western press.

The implementation of the above measures requires specific financial means. The Ministry of Health of the USSR suggests that a request be sent to the Council of Ministers' State Committee on Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finances of the USSR to issue special-purpose currency funds for the dispatching of Soviet psychiatrists abroad; expenses in Soviet rubles can be charged to the general operating budget of the Ministry of Health of the USSR.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH OF THE USSR

(signature) S. Burenkov

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Secret

CC CPSU

On Measures to Counteract the Anti-Soviet Campaign in Connection with the So-Called "Abuses" of Psychiatry in the USSR

The Committee of State Security at the Council of Ministers of the USSR (Comrade Andropov) is reporting on the anti-Soviet campaign being conducted in a number of Western countries, at the heart of which lie malicious fabrications about the alleged use of psychiatry in the USSR for a political struggle against "dissidents," and is submitting a proposal for the Ministry of Health of the USSR and mass information agencies to adopt appropriate measures in order to unmask the fabrications of bourgeois propaganda concerning psychiatric "abuses" in the USSR.

In accordance with the order, the Ministry of Health of the USSR has developed and is implementing measures to counteract the above-mentioned anti-Soviet campaign. A group of well known Soviet scientists is in the process of preparing documents unmasking the mendacity and groundless nature of the declarations of bourgeois propagandists, who are seeking to exploit the misfortune of sick people for political purposes and to discredit the scientific foundations of psychiatry. It is suggested that these materials be used for scholarly articles, press conferences, radio and television appearances, and for distribution abroad through the channels of TASS and the Novosti Press Agency. The time frame and character of the propaganda measures will be specified in agreement with the KGB at the Soviet Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

Measures on the gathering, generalization, and analysis of the hostile fabrications in connection with psychiatric "abuses", as well as the study of foreign legislation on the legal rights of mentally ill persons and their health protection, have been adopted. It has been arranged that the indicated materials will be sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, the State Committee for Radio and Television of the USSR, TASS, and the Novosti Press Agency at the requests of the Ministry of Health of the USSR.

The Ministry of Health of the USSR is carrying out work on detecting progressive, big-name psychiatrists in the USA, England, France, and other capitalist countries and inviting them to the USSR to take part in scholarly conferences and symposia, to familiarize them with the achievements of

psychiatric help in our country, meaning, to use their positive statements in propaganda work abroad.

Within the framework of scientific cooperation and through the SSOD [Data Collection and Processing System] there are plans to dispatch prominent national psychiatrists to Western countries with the goal of disseminating among the public and specialists truthful information on the organization of psychiatric assistance in the USSR and the advantages of the Soviet health system.

The Ministry of Health of the USSR and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR have organized an inspectors' checkup of special hospitals where forcible treatment of individuals with mental illnesses is taking place, with the goal of improving the medical assistance provided to this category of patient. It is suggested that, if necessary, a tour of individual such hospitals be arranged for foreign specialists.

Active preparation has begun on the participation in the World Congress of Psychiatry (Honolulu, August 1977), factoring in possible anti-Soviet protests during its course. With this goal in mind, a preparatory group comprised of well known Soviet psychiatrists headed by Comrade Venediktov, Deputy Minister of Health of the USSR, has been formed.

The Ministry of Health of the USSR means to send a delegation to the congress, consisting of 10–15 leading Soviet specialists to take part in its proceedings and in public appearances in order to unmask the speculative, anti-scientific nature of the campaign being conducted in several capitalist countries.

Together with the indicated measures, concrete plans have been stipulated for actions in inter-governmental and non-governmental international medical organizations within the framework of scientific cooperation.

In connection with the fact that the dispatching of Soviet psychiatrists on assignment abroad requires supplementary expenses, the Ministry of Health of the USSR has sent a request to the State Committee on Science and Technology at the Council of Ministers of the USSR about the assignation of appropriate funds for this purpose.

This matter has been coordinated with the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting of the USSR (Comrade Lapin), TASS (Comrade Zamiatin), and the Novosti Press Agency (Comrade Tolkunov).

The Department of Science and Educational Institutions of the CC CPSU and the Propaganda Department of the CC CPSU suggest the feasibility of coordinating with the measures developed by the Ministry of

Health of the USSR with respect to this question. Departments of the CC CPSU have established control over their implementation.

Head of the Department of Science and Educational Institutions of the
CC CPSU

(signature) (S. Trapeznikov)

Deputy Head of the Propaganda Department of the CC CPSU

(signature) (M. Nenashev)

9 December 1976

[Four handwritten lines, mostly illegible, including the words “in detail,” “the KGB and the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Comrade ... 13/XII/76]

320-A/7

[Letterhead of the] Department of Science and Educational
Institutions of the CC CPSU

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[A line of partly illegible numbers, probably “53656”]

CC CPSU

On the last day of his stay in the USSR A. Fernandez da Fonseca, a member of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation that I was assigned to accompany, [who is] a prominent specialist in the field of neuropathology and psychiatry, and a deputy from the Socialist Party, told me the following in confidence:

According to data available to him, American anti-Soviet figures are preparing to use the upcoming World Congress of Psychiatry in 1977 in Honolulu to organize a fierce anti-Soviet campaign in connection with the dissemination in the West of libelous statements about the fact that in our country “dissidents” are allegedly incarcerated in psychiatric hospitals.

Such maneuvers,” said A. Fernandez da Fonseca, “were already undertaken at the previous World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico in 1971, but a much broader action is being prepared. In this connection, it would be important for Soviet specialists who will be taking part in the congress to be armed with convincing scientific documentation that would counter the mendacious claims of the enemies of the USSR. In my view, it would also be important for Soviet specialists right now to arm progressive, leading foreign psychiatrists with relevant scientific information, who, together with Soviet psychiatrists, could deter the libelers.”

In this connection, A. Fernandez da Fonseca requested that he be sent the appropriate data in preparation for his speech at the congress. According to him, these data would be used in familiarizing the leading psychiatrists of other countries whose population speaks Portuguese.

He said: “A meeting of the association of psychiatrists of Portugal, Brazil, and five African countries whose people speak Portuguese is planned for May. We will have an opportunity to meet with my distinguished colleagues and convince them of the illegitimacy of the accusations being put forward by American representatives.”

A. Fernandez da Fonseca emphasized that what is needed right now is not general declarations of a political nature that confirm the absurdity of the American accusations, but concrete scientific material—diagnoses and reports on the treatment of such people as Pliushch, Bukovsky, and others, who are being passed off as “innocent victims.” It is believed that A. Fernandez da Fonseca’s request merits attention.

(signature)

Yu. Zhukov
Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

16 November 1976

[Square in the top right-hand corner: "CC CPSU." The rest is illegible]

CC CPSU

We are forwarding a note written by the deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, G. A. Zhukov, who worked with the Portuguese parliamentary delegation that was in the USSR from 3 to 10 November of this year.

The note contains information that was passed confidentially to Comrade G. A. Zhukov from A. Fernandez de Fonseca (member of the delegation, deputy from the Socialist Party).

Chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

(signature)

V. P. RUBEN

23 November 1976

No. 460

Supreme Soviet of the USSR
To Comrade A. P. SHCHITIKOV

On the last day of his stay in the USSR A. Fernandez da Fonseca, a member of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation that I was assigned to accompany, a prominent specialist in the field of neuropathology and psychiatry, and delegate of the Socialist Party, told me the following in confidence:

According to data available to him, American anti-Soviet figures are preparing to use the upcoming World Congress of Psychiatry in 1977 in Honolulu to organize a fierce anti-Soviet campaign in connection with the dissemination in the West of libelous judgments about the fact that in our country “dissidents” are allegedly incarcerated in psychiatric hospitals.

Such maneuvers,” said A. Fernandez da Fonseca,” were already employed at the previous World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico in 1971, but a much larger action is being prepared. In this connection it would be important for Soviet specialists who will be taking part in the congress to be armed with convincing scientific documentation that would counter the mendacious claims of the enemies of the USSR. In my view, it would also be important for Soviet specialists right now to arm progressive, leading foreign psychiatrists with appropriate scientific information, who could rebuff the libelers together with the Soviet psychiatrists.”

[At bottom of page: series of five numbers, possibly 53530]

In this connection, A. Fernandez da Fonseca requested that he be sent the appropriate data in preparation for his speech at the congress. According to him, these data would be used to familiarize leading psychiatrists of other countries whose population speaks Portuguese.

He said, “In May a meeting is planned for the association of psychiatrists of Portugal, Brazil, and five African countries whose people speak Portuguese. We will have an opportunity to meet with my distinguished colleagues and convince them of the illegitimacy of the accusations being put forward by American representatives.”

A. Fernandez da Fonseca emphasized that what is needed right now is not general declarations of a political nature that confirm the absurdity of the American accusations, but concrete scientific material—diagnoses and reports on the treatment of such people as Pliushch, Bukovsky, and others,

who are being passed off as “innocent victims.” It is thought that A. Fernandez da Fonseca’s request merits attention.

(signature)

Yu. Zhukov
Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

16 November 1976

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Secret

MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE USSR

Copy no. 1

(MINZDRAV SSSR)

101431, GSP-4

Moscow K-51, Rakhmanovskii per., 3

Telegraph address: Moscow K-9,

Soiuzminzdrav

13/XII-76 No. 3193s

For no. 53530 of 6/XII/1976

[Stamp in upper right-hand corner of document: "CC CPSU," followed by a series of illegible numbers, and "SUBJECT TO RETURN TO THE CC CPSU GENERAL DEPARTMENT"]

In keeping with the plan of measures to counteract the anti-Soviet campaign being conducted in the West in connection with the "use of psychiatry in the USSR for political purposes," through the attached letter no. 2750s of 22 October 1976, at the present time the Ministry of Health of the USSR is in the process of collecting and analyzing information pertaining to this campaign, establishing contact with progressive psychiatrists abroad who are critical of it, and preparing materials that objectively elucidate the questions of psychiatric assistance in the Soviet Union, for their further dissemination among the Western public and psychiatrists-specialists.

In this connection, the Ministry of Health of the USSR is positively disposed toward the suggestion of the Portuguese psychiatrist, A. Fernandez da Fonseca, and is continuing to use his resources for the dissemination of information that is necessary for us.

ATTACHMENTS: 2 letters/ from vkh. No. 150-CC/

MINISTER OF HEALTH OF THE USSR

(signature)

B. V. PETROVSKY

CC CPSU

[Illegible handwritten notations in upper left-hand corner of document; followed by the date “28/XII/76”]

Concerning the Note of Comrade G. A. Zhukov, Deputy of the
Supreme Soviet of the USSR

Comrade G. A. Zhukov, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, reports that in November 1976, A. Fernandez da Fonseca, a member of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation and leading specialist in the field of neuropathology and psychiatry, provided information on the anti-Soviet campaign being conducted in the West, which is based on malicious fabrications about the alleged use of psychiatry in the USSR in the political struggle against “dissidents.” In connection with this, A. Fernandez da Fonseca requested that he be supplied with indispensable information in order to prepare for his speech at the World Congress of Psychiatry (Honolulu, August 1977) with the goal of unmasking the mendacity and unsubstantiated nature of these libelous statements.

According to the Ministry of Health of the USSR (Comrade Petrovsky), in keeping with the plan of measures to counteract the anti-Soviet campaign being conducted in the West in connection with the “use of psychiatry in the USSR for political purposes” the collection and analysis of information pertaining to this campaign is being undertaken at the present time, contacts are being established with progressive foreign psychiatrists, [and] materials that objectively elucidate questions of psychiatric assistance in the Soviet Union are being prepared for their future dissemination abroad.

The Ministry of Health of the USSR is positively disposed toward the suggestion of A. Fernandez da Fonseca and is continuing to use his resources for disseminating truthful information among the public and specialists about the organization of psychiatric assistance in our country.

Deputy Head of the Department of Science and Educational
Institutions of the CC CPSU

(signature)

(S. Shcherbakov)

[Handwritten notation in lower left-hand corner of document: “28 December 1976”; followed by a series of three numbers, the first being: 52655, the other two numbers are illegible]

