[Translator's notes are bracketed]

4-87/136

<u>Attention</u>: Comrade Yezhov

I consider it my duty to advise you of the following facts that have been made known to the Partkontrol [Party Oversight Department]:

(1) The [local] judge advocate reports that Comrade Popashchenko, head of the Kuibyshev UNKVD [NKVD Directorate], often entrusts Comrade Akimov, his secretary in charge of operations (he brought him to Kuibyshev [after being assigned the posting]), and Comrade Zarubin, deputy prosecutor for special operations, with making decisions during *troika* ["tribunal of three"] sittings. Comrade Popashchenko often failed to attend troika sittings, so only the two above-mentioned comrades were in attendance, who made the decisions — and this considering that Comrade Zarubin is not a member of the troika. Comrade Popashchenko would sign the sentences. Despite the fact that Comrade Andreyev had forbidden this when he visited Kuibyshev, Comrade Popashchenko had allowed this practice until recently.

Comrade Zarubin has notified the Partkontrol of everything stated above.

(2) Several days ago, members of a collective farm in Kuznetsk raion [adm. district] informed a visiting instructor of the regional party committee that a mass murder had been committed in the woods the previous night. In the course of investigation it was established that 8 enemies of the people had been shot in the woods after being sentenced to death by the special troika. The head of the RONKVD (district NKVD station), previously expelled from the party in retaliation for contacts with the exposed enemies of the people, committed a provocational, hostile act by failing to have the bodies of the shot [enemies of the people] buried. This NKVD officer was arrested and the bodies were buried.

(3) Because of inadequate security arrangements, there have been two cases of enemies of the people escaping from interrogation rooms, jumping through the window. One of them jumped to his death.

… October, 1937.

A. Frenkel

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