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G. Berlin Tunnel

Soviet discovery of a tunnel in the Altglienicke section of East Berlin allegedly on 22 April 1956 put an end to a most imaginative CIA-MI-6 operation against the RIS. CIA and MI-6 personnel had tapped into the main telephone and telegraph lines of the Soviet forces between Moscow and Berlin and trunk lines between Berlin and major East German cities. The tunnel was about 500 yards long and was constructed from a position just inside the US sector in extreme south Berlin. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mr. George Blake, the MI-6 officer and KGB agent, admitted at his investigation that he had informed his KGB principals of Allied planning for the tunnel in which he was a participant prior to his early 1955 departure for Berlin. Because of the worthwhile information developed from the operation on the Allied side, it is presumed that the Soviets were faced with either stopping a potentially harmful operation and losing a valuable penetration [REDACTED]

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agent in Blake or else in protecting Blake and risking unauthorized disclosure of classified information. They chose the latter course and allowed it to run apparently unimpeded from May 1955 to April 1956 when a Soviet maintenance crew "found" the tunnel.

Analysis of the telephone traffic soon revealed that of the telephone lines tapped, 25 carried RIS conversations, mostly of the GRU and of the RU units attached to various units of the Group of Soviet Forces Germany (GSFC). The CI product from the operation consisted primarily of the identifications of over 350 GRU and RU officers in East Germany, another 300 KGB officers in East Germany and the USSR, and GRU officers in the USSR. The operation developed a total of about 2,000 names of CI interest. The tap also had the effect of identifying Soviet intelligence units by number and location in East Germany.

FI/D initially was responsible for processing the voice circuits containing RIS conversations. In January 1958 the [redacted] component was formally attached to SR/CI/ Research and Support (R&S) where

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reports on the RIS were issued and summaries were made of RIS information for the SR/CI/R&S files.

The project was completed in late 1958.

Aside from the large number of RIS officers exposed as a result of the Tunnel operation there was also developed direct information on Soviet intelligence organizations. For example, lengthy collated reports were disseminated as a result of the Tunnel operation on: KGB radio intercept capabilities in the Berlin area; personnel of the GRU headquarters in Moscow; telephone numbers, addresses, and field post numbers of RIS units in East Germany; personnel and organization of the Potsdam headquarters of the KGB's Third (Counterintelligence in the Soviet Armed Forces) Directorate; and organization, cases, liaison, security, tradecraft, and administration of the Operations Department of the KGB's Directorate of Special Departments in Potsdam. There also was produced a collated study of the organization and personnel of the KGB headquarters; the organization and activities of the KGB advisors to the MfS Main Department I; personnel and location of GRU and GSFG RU communications units; and Soviet

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civil installations in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) including a report on the handling of Soviet repatriates at the Berlin consulate. This information was of course all current to April 1956.

