

## Chapter 8

Paris | April 1952

---

It had been four years since Viktor Neiman's return to Paris. Those years rebalanced his life. Having found Inga Jansons, their affection for each other only deepened. They were happy in every sense of their relationship. Their intellectual and sexual bonding allowed them emotionally to weather the political turbulence of these early post-WWII years as East-West tensions escalated into a new world reality.

With the ending of World War Two in 1945, the combatants all reduced their armed forces. The surviving superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union however did not demobilize equally. Both countries had military forces strength of close to 12 million each when the war ended in 1945. By 1946, the United States reduced its active military to 550,000 whereas the Soviets only demobilized down to 2.4 million.

The United States began shaping their principal defensive posture centered on nuclear weapons rather than a large standing armed force. Work accelerated on delivery systems of inter-continental ballistic missiles and long-range bomber aircraft. The U.S. initiated *Operation Paperclip* to relocate Nazi German scientists and engineers to America to advance rocketry work already started by the Nazis during WWII.

## MOSCOW WINTER

The Soviet Union did not as yet possess a nuclear arsenal equivalent to the United States. They required a larger standing army to fulfill occupation needs by their enlarged geographic sphere of control which they had no intention of relinquishing. A burden that further restrained economic recovery and improved living conditions for Soviet citizens. Stalin's imperialistic ambitions overshadowed domestic considerations.

Under Soviet occupation, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia all became one-party states ruled by puppet communist party governments installed by Stalin. With the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania under direct Soviet rule, all of Eastern Europe fell under Soviet control. Yet not everything ran smoothly for international communism.

In 1948, the Soviet Union expelled Yugoslavia from the Communist International because of President Tito's conflicting position with Moscow concerning the Greek civil war. The same day, the Italian Communist Party suffered defeat in the 1948 Italian general election with significant covert help by the United States CIA.

After implementing the Berlin Airlift to supply Soviet blockaded land access to West Berlin starting in 1948, Stalin capitulated by reopening land access a year later. Nuclear diplomacy obviously playing a central role as the unavoidable factor lurking in the shadows causing Stalin to back down a second time.

With the success of the Berlin Airlift, the Western allies merged their occupation zones to form the Federal Republic of Germany, commonly called West Germany in 1949. West Berlin became part of West Germany. Situated inside the Soviet puppet state of the German Democratic Republic, commonly called East Germany, it remained a thriving example of Western democracy in contrast to the visible communist blight of East Berlin.

In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations Security Council immediately voted to intervene militarily to defend South Korea. Although the Soviet Union was a permanent member of the UN Security Council with veto power, at the time they were boycotting participation in the Security

## DOUGLAS CLARK

Council over the dispute of Chinese representation at the UN. Communist forces led by Mao Zedong established the People's Republic of China in 1949 after forcing Chinese national forces from the mainland to the island of Taiwan. The Soviet miscalculated absence from the UN would eventually involve Soviet pilots and communist Chinese ground troops in direct combat on the Korean Peninsula against military forces of a United Nations coalition of western democracies.

Just months before the onset of the Korean War, President Truman announced beginning development of a thermonuclear atomic bomb of unprecedented power. A move designed to keep the United States continually ahead of Soviet capabilities to achieve parity with American nuclear weapons.

Replacing George Marshall resigning for health reasons, incoming Secretary of State Dean Acheson continued implementation of the Marshall Plan. As Marshall envisioned, financing the rebuilding of European shattered economies bore visible immediate results. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization formed in 1949 demonstrated the resolve of Western democracies to contain European expansion of the Soviet Union. It also held the promise of curtailing nationalistic threats such as those arising from fascist regimes like those of Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler.

While the Marshall Plan provided the economic means of forging a new Europe, security was equally essential. The original founding twelve member states of NATO included not only the Allied European countries of Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, but also the United States, Iceland, and Canada making it a transatlantic military organization. A collective dagger pointed at the Soviet Union for the protection of Western Europe.

Events following the unsuccessful Soviet blockade of Berlin escalated Cold War tensions. The Soviet Union successfully detonation their first atomic bomb in 1949. The same year Mao Zedong proclaimed the communist People's Republic of China. A year later, North Korea invaded South Korea with the encour-

## MOSCOW WINTER

agement Stalin and Mao Zedong. These events shocked NATO into taking action to establish a central military command center.

A consolidated command headquarters opened in the Paris suburb of Rocquencourt, near Versailles. This now put structure behind the Treaty's fundamentally significant Article 5 obligating the signatories to recognize, *an armed attack against one or more of them shall be considered an attack against them all, and that following such an attack, each member country would take such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force in response.*

Occupied **West** Germany and Austria became the front lines of the Cold War. With western aid rebuilding their shattered social and physical infrastructure, they sided firmly with western anti-Soviet nations of NATO.

Secretary of State Acheson recognized the benefit of Neiman's analytical work independent from the CIA as the State Department's foremost analyst regarding the Soviet Union. Acheson was undersecretary of state in 1947 when the National Security Act created the CIA. Acheson voiced his grave concerns to President Truman. Neither the President nor the newly created National Security Council would be in a position to know what the CIA was doing, or be able to control it if allowed to engage in covert operations. Acheson also considered CIA reliance on outsourced espionage activities against the Soviet Union by Reinhard Gehlen's former Nazis lacked oversight. Acheson wanted his own man close to the European front as his means of a reality check.

Acheson elevated Neiman in civil service rank and permanently assigned him to Europe. He agreed with Neiman about the benefits of readily meeting with foreign intelligence services and directly interacting with European-based U.S. diplomatic staff as providing another dimension to analytical work. Material went through too many filters before reaching Washington.

Neiman's critical views of CIA espionage efforts against the Soviets became more antagonistic with newly appointed CIA Director General Walter Bedell Smith. Smith moved immediately to rescind Neiman's unprecedented access by the State Department into CIA affairs granted by his predecessor Admiral

## DOUGLAS CLARK

Hillenkoetter. It mattered little to Neiman. He had no ability to influence the CIA regarding the inadequacy of the Gehlen Organization producing important strategic intelligence on the Soviet Union.

The CIA had little choice since they did not possess any assets within the Soviet Union. Yet their failure was in mismanaging Gehlen. Gehlen did not possess any sensitively positioned sources in the Soviet Union evidenced by the intelligence his organization produced. Neiman suspected Gehlen's network consisted of lower level sources on the fringes. Predominately from Soviet dominated Eastern Bloc countries. Nothing suggesting sources in Moscow. Neiman long ago degraded the reliability of the Gehlen produced material unless corroborated by information from other sources. To a large degree, the Gehlen Org was a welfare refuge for former Nazi military intelligence officers. Perhaps not above manufacturing unverifiable information to maintain their funding.

For that matter, the British could not boast of well-placed penetrations inside the Soviet Union. Since the British Secret Service had been in the espionage business from before WWI, that attested to the difficulties of penetrating such a closed environment. In many ways, the Soviet NKVD was a much a more pervasive secret police state than the Nazi SS Gestapo. With the capricious mass purging of Stalin's Great Terror of the late 1930's, fear became widespread, affecting everyone no matter his or her position in Soviet society. Anticipating Joseph Stalin's intentions therefore came largely from piecing together information from diplomatic, public, and signals intelligence. Defectors, spies, and double agents might deliver windfall information, but that was exceedingly rare in the repressive, paranoid, secret police-controlled Soviet environment where everyone might be an informant.

—

Inga Jansons was the perfect partner for Viktor Neiman. They shared a common background of fleeing their country of

## MOSCOW WINTER

birth during war. Both loved Paris. They discovered each other doing dangerous undercover work during WWII. Both had experience as spies and the tradecraft of intelligence work. They both appreciated art from a professional perspective. They spoke multiple languages that invited an appreciation of the culture subtleties.

Jansons became a successful photographer with the eye of an artist. Her work capturing interesting shots of Paris using effects of lighting earned her recognition. With his professional training in art, Neiman could appreciate the emotional impact generated by her black and white atmospheric compositions. She also possessed the varied skills required of a master forger. From his experience, an artistic talent comparable to the talents of an art restorer.

They were good to each other and good for each other in every important way. They married in a civil ceremony in 1949. With Inga's growing reputation as a photographer, Neiman insisted she keep her name as Jansons. He explained that adopting the name of your husband was an anachronism from a time when women did not enjoy the same rights as men. Her professional reputation identified by her name.

Jansons artistic career prompted Neiman to revisit his own interests in art. Intelligence analysis was challenging. Dealing with the most closely guarded secrets was addicting. Yet where would this eventually lead? He would never return to Washington. Paris was his true home. What more perfect place to return to his former career in the art world. The thought spurred him to use his spare time to pursue something useful toward that end. Having earned a graduate degree in art restoration, why not explore more deeply the underlying chemistry of materials and the techniques used by the great painters? Acquiring a growing collection of books allowed him to indulge his interest in art even when traveling for his work.

Both he and Inga maintained a good physical exercise regimen. They enjoyed walking together even in less than ideal weather. Inga retained her war-era habit of bicycling to and from her studio. After a ten-year absence, he returned to competitive

## DOUGLAS CLARK

fencing as his means of maintaining physical fitness. Rejoining the 19th century fencing school of Salle d'Armes Coudurier at 6 Rue Gît-le-Cœur, he was delighted to find that Master Maurice Coudurier remembered him. During his years at the Sorbonne and before the war, Viktor Neiman placed well in many sabre competitions. After a few weeks resuming repetition of the basics under Maurice's guidance, he was confident about eventually recapturing much of his former competitive abilities. Coudurier was seventeen years older and few at the school could match his skills. The discipline returned quickly. The yoga-style attention to technique and grace provided a range of mental benefits along with physical conditioning.

Paris was now as it was before the German invasion of 1940. It was always Inga's home and for Viktor, his home for twenty years. Although Neiman's position in intelligence placed him outside the diplomatic corps, they occasionally attended embassy functions. Neiman delighted when asked if his attractive wife Inga Jansons would join him. Apart from her beauty, Inga was intelligent and opinionated. A favorite among women as much as men. Along with Viktor, she could knowledgeably discuss art. With their multi-language fluency, Neiman and Jansons became a favorite couple among the international diplomatic community in Paris.

Their social lives included their close friends Yuri and Yalena Rozovsky. The Rozovsky's provided a social environment detached from Neiman and Jansons professional lives. Yet the international implications of the Cold War deeply concerned them.

Stalin was more than a malevolent political figure. He was leading the Soviet Union into repeated confrontations with the West. Everything in this polarized geopolitical world now functioned in the context of the United States and the Soviet Union as superpowers. With the Soviets now in possession of a nuclear weapon capability, apprehension about the immediate future escalated. To Neiman, Jansons, and the Rozovskys, the Soviet threat carried deeper meaning. The sheer depth of Stalin's pathological indifference to human life since coming to power rivalled that of Adolf Hitler's Nazi-era.

## MOSCOW WINTER

As Neiman and Jansons enjoyed an evening together at the Rozovskys following dinner, Yuri said, "Tell me something, Viktor if you can without violating official confidentiality since you are part of the American intelligence community. Do we have any sense of Stalin's objectives? I mean, he is 73 years old. Speculation suggests he spends little time in the Kremlin preferring the seclusion of his various dachas. Now he has atomic weapons. Is he mentally stable?"

"I do not believe any western intelligence agency knows the answer to that, Yuri. You do not have to be a psychiatrist to see that Stalin is a sociopath. History already confirms that. Yet when considering the question might he do something apocalyptic becomes anyone's guess. Penetrating inside the tight circle of power surrounding Stalin has not been possible. I have the same concerns as all of you."

"I have a reason for bringing up the subject. Since before the war I have maintained a close relationship with others of the Russian expatriate community here in Paris. My parents were very much activists with a burning hatred for the Bolsheviks. Like other White Russians including your aunt and uncle, all driven from their places of birth. Yalena and Inga's families suffered the same fate. Many of us have extended family and friends still in Russia. What information seeps out paints the reality of facing constant fear of arrest and destruction of one's family."

Neiman looked at Yuri wondering where he was going with this.

Yuri continued, "My Russian associates not only hear the terrible tales of life in Russia but occasionally receive information of a useful nature to the right people."

"The right people?" Neiman said. "Are you saying sensitive information?"

Yuri nodded. As an old hand running the Druids French resistance network in Paris, Yuri Rozovsky understood the world of intelligence gathering. "It could be. Perhaps you can be a better judge of that. You say your role in intelligence for the Ameri-



DOUGLAS CLARK

can foreign service involves analysis. How do you come by the intelligence used to make your evaluations?"

"The State Department does not directly gather intelligence, either from espionage or signals intercepts. I access foreign intelligence from many sources. Espionage in the form of human intelligence comes under the function of the Central Intelligence Agency. Signals intelligence comes from the American military. Of course, our foreign service diplomats and military attachés also gather information. Then there is a sharing of sensitive information between our allies."

"Would you be willing to look at some of the material my associates have discovered over the last several months?"

Neiman paused for a moment before responding, "Certainly. If it is important, what do you expect me to do with it, Yuri?"

"Pass it on to the right people."

Neiman shook his head. "That might have unintended consequences. I would have to reveal you and your friends as the source. Regardless of its security classification, the CIA would then know of your group. Since they are the designated American agency to run foreign espionage assets, they would demand taking control. You do not want that, Yuri."

"Why is that?"

Neiman must be cautious in revealing too much about his controversies with the CIA.

"I am not allowed to go into detail, but the CIA is not experienced in running espionage sources. They have an operational focus. I am highly critical of the CIA.

"American intelligence also shares with allied intelligence agencies. Too many people will learn of what I will call your network. That also means the possibility of the Soviet GRU or MGB learning of you and your associates. The Soviets have been engaging in foreign espionage since the 1930s. That could place your sources in Russia at greater risk of discovery."

Yuri said, "What do you suggest, Viktor?"

"Let me first determine the value of this information. How do your associates receive the material? Do you have regular means of communicating?"

## MOSCOW WINTER

"The information comes through various methods of secret-ing it out Russia. Random and highly dangerous for the sources in Russia. I know of one consistent means of communicating between Moscow and Paris."

"Why are these people inside Russia risking their lives to do this, Yuri?" Inga asked.

Yuri looked at Yalena to let her try to explain. She said, "Our friends speak of that often. Their friends and extended family in Russia have lived their whole lives under Soviet repression. Most are educated. They know conditions in the West are much different. Soviet propaganda is unrefined unbelievable nonsense. They are trapped in this environment. I believe this rebellion is a way of coping. A way of declaring their independence, their identity."

"Well said, Dear," Yuri said.

Neiman said, "Very well. Let's examine what your network is producing, Yuri. How about tomorrow? Dinner at our apartment? You can show me some examples."

—

The following afternoon, all four were at Neiman and Jansons' apartment. Seated around the dining room table, Yuri Rozovsky laid down a folder containing dozens of typewritten sheets.

"These represent some of the more interesting pieces of information coming out of Moscow. The sources went to elaborate lengths to smuggle out the material. As acts of rebellion, they want to convey information where the subject matter is highly sensitive in nature. The associated risk is otherwise prohibitive. Judge for yourself, Viktor. You too, Inga."

Each sheet contained a message with the date of receipt and the source in Russia identified by a code name. Although fragmented, Rozovsky's information examples all suggested sources with access to sensitive information. People with ordinary jobs administering the bureaucratic machinery. Typists, clerks, trans-

DOUGLAS CLARK

lators, cipher specialists, technical staff required to run any organization.

The majority of high-grade intelligence comes from such lower-level sources having access to sensitive information. Highly placed spies were a rare commodity. The CIA had neither. The Gehlen Organization had few sources placed in sensitive positions of any level within the Soviet Union. They harvested information from the fringes in great volume but with little continuity to shape into a cohesive picture.

Neiman remarked, "I see you are running your network as you did during the war. Everyone using code names. What is your code name, Yuri?"

"Raven."

Neiman smiled recalling Rozovsky's code name used during the war.

"I obviously know everyone involved in our Paris group. That is how we started. We all have code names used in any documentation. However, none of us knows the relationship for each individual's Russian sources. From the beginning, I insisted they create and always use code names. We do not share the relationship or the nature of access of sensitive information of any Russian source within the group.

Neiman and Jansons read the transcripts in absorbed silence without commenting. The information formed a disturbing picture of the intrigues among the highest Soviet leaders. Terrifying considering the implications of Joseph Stalin's state of mind.

The selection of information Yuri Rozovsky assembled for Neiman's review lacked continuity but pointed to sources with surprisingly sensitive access. For an amateur espionage network, what Neiman read was impressive. Decidedly different from the nature of Gehlen's output passed to the CIA. The Gehlen Org produced voluminous quantities of information dominated by military-related information. Troop movements, Command changes. Soviet security services operations in occupied territories. Wartime-type military intelligence. Decidedly lacking in political intelligence from credible sources.

## MOSCOW WINTER

Neiman finally said, "Do you have separately acquired information to corroborate any of this?"

Rozovsky replied, "Not really. Some vaguely related material perhaps."

"Meaning no offense toward your associates, how do they know this is not largely manufactured material intended to express their hatred for the subjects?" Neiman asked.

"A possibility. I repeatedly play devil's advocate. My friends can only answer that they know their sources from trusted past personal associations. Some undoubtedly are relatives. All claim their sources have no reason to risk their very lives by creating false information. Think about it another way. None of them has reason to believe their information is even finding its way to western anti-Soviet intelligence services. It is simply a means of explaining the oppressive circumstances they endure to those they trust outside Russia."

"As Yalena said earlier, they derive satisfaction from the act of rebellion itself?" Inga commented.

Yuri said, "Yes. A psychologist might explain it better, but something like that. If you look at some of detail in the communications, it supports the belief that these sources are people with unusual access into the corridors of power. That does not exactly make the material believable, but it adds a measure of credibility."

"How long has this been going on, Yuri?"

"Since last year. Grown large enough that I feel compelled to see the efforts of these courageous people given larger meaning. What do you think, Viktor? Does this have value to western intelligence?"

"The short answer is most definitely. As you pointed out, there is enough substance in the detail to suggest the authors of this information have unusual access. Probably low or mid-level functionaries. Perhaps going through other hands before reaching the trusted people known to your associates here in Paris. The true sources in Russia are possibly others connected to those assigned code names.

DOUGLAS CLARK

“These are people disgusted by those in power in the Soviet state. Stalin’s megalomania and paranoia reflected in his propensity for violence. The palace intrigues of those closest to Stalin. Beria’s brutal history and his sexually degeneracy. If this were some third-rate country, it would have little meaning. Yet the Soviet Union has already proven itself a totalitarian threat to world democracy. They now possess atomic weapons. They effectively control all of Eastern Europe.

“A couple of these dispatches illustrate the importance of your Moscow network access, Yuri.”

*October 1951*

*Subject: Stalin’s Kuntsevo Dacha*

*Source: Blackbird*

*Report consists of following attachments:*

*Hand drawn floor plan of Stalin’s favored dacha near Kuntsevo 15km from central Moscow.*

*Hand drawn map showing perimeter fence, guard locations, and barracks of 300-strong MGB special forces security deployment unit.*

*Report of typical routine when Stalin is in residence.*

Neiman commented, “The source is likely someone connected with security or facility maintenance staff. That puts them in position to monitor the comings and goings of high-ranking soviet officials. The report includes insights into Stalin’s behavior. Although the dacha outside central Moscow, Stalin apparently orders the attendance of leadership figures frequently to all night affairs of dining, drinking, and watching movies. Is Stalin just lonely or is this a means of controlling his lieutenants?

“Valuable intelligence for piecing together the shifting authority that characterizes Stalin’s paranoia by shuffling those that may become a threat to his power. If transmitting the information could become timely, it might provide insights into Stalin’s immediate state of mind.”

## MOSCOW WINTER

Neiman continued his commentary. "This one is particularly ugly. I have seen classified reports of Beria's sexual deviations from past years. British intelligence reports from during the war. As chief of the secret police, Beria would cruise Moscow by limousine on warm nights pointing out young women. His NKVD bodyguards then abducted the women and brought them to Beria's residence. Following a lavish dinner and wine, Beria then took the women to a soundproof room and raped them. Those denying the sex was consensual faced arrest and imprisonment in a Siberian labor camp. His authority lacked any constraint.

"Although no longer directly in charge of the MGB, the successor to the NKVD, this new material accuses Beria of reverting to his former criminal behavior. Beria may arguably be the most powerful person among Stalin's closest subordinates."

*May 1952*

*Subject: Lavrentiy Beria*

*Source: Hummingbird*

*Sister to wife of Beria's bodyguard/driver reports Beria ordering the arrest of young women he points out during evening drives about Moscow now that spring is bringing warmer weather. The women are brought to a specially prepared room in Beria's office complex then raped by Beria. Source states this practice is common knowledge among his security detail however never discussed out of fear of Beria. Source does not know of the ultimate fate of the female victims.*

"This information points to Beria's current feeling of power as sufficiently secure to engage in such behavior. Stalin must know what is going on. Undoubtedly, others in power know. Could be used to remove Beria should the political winds change in Moscow."

"Any other communications stand out?" Yuri asked.

"A couple. Several point to anti-Jewish undertones. Those in power using Jews in positions of influence as a political football. Again, it suggests well-placed sources in positions to provide

DOUGLAS CLARK

useful intelligence provided the means of continuing communication both back and forth exists."

Rozovsky said, "Well, that confirms my thoughts. We have something here that has real value in combatting Stalin and his gang of criminals. Sounds little different from battling the Nazis."

Neiman replied. "At least your Paris group is doing this by running agents inside the Soviet Union. As with any intelligence service, the problem is how to protect the identity of those covert agents."

"So far, we have done well on that account. No reports from any of my people or sources disappearing," Yuri said.

"That risk elevates once you team up with an established western intelligence agency."

"Any ideas, Viktor?"

"Not at the moment. This represents a significant intelligence penetration. Important enough that American intelligence should not miss the opportunity to make use of your material."