

52/128 gs of 25.10.1957

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Draft

RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE
SOVIET UNION

Request of the Committee for State Security under the Council of Ministers of the USSR

To grant the request of the Committee for State Security under the Council of Ministers of the USSR on the granting of a single subsidy to the correspondent of the organ ***of the American Progressive Party*** the newspaper "National Guardian" Burchett of the sum of 20,000 rubles and of the establishment for him of a monthly subsidy of 3 thousand rubles.

Sent: T [comrade] Serov

25/X... 1957

[signed] *Sidorova*

25 October

p.58

"52/128-gs," "25 October," "7" (???), "52," "128," "25.10," "7."

Top secret

Committee of

State Security

Under the Council of Ministers of the USSR

17 July 1957

I am reporting that at the end of May of this year, a worker of the Committee for State Security established operative contact with the correspondent of the newspaper *National Guardian*, the organ of the Progressive Party of the USA, W. Burchett, who is accredited in Moscow.

Earlier Burchett worked in many bourgeois newspapers such as the English *Daily Express* and *Times*, the American *Christian Science Monitor* and others.

From the materials available to the Committee for State Security about the personality of Burchett and his activity, the following is known:

Burchett, 1911 year of birth, an Australian of English origins, was born in the family of a farmer. In the period 1934-35, Burchett joined the organisation 'Friends of the Soviet Union' and began to maintain contacts with progressive elements and members of the Australian communist party. In 1936 he joined the communist party and, not having succeeding in distinguishing himself in any way, left for London. Since that time, he has not had any organisational links with the party.

Burchett is a prominent journalist and publicist on international questions, the author of many progressive books, two of which were published in the Soviet Union. Being a correspondent for bourgeois newspapers of a rightist direction, he simultaneously covertly collaborated with progressive and communist newspapers and journals.

2.

Burchett has travelled a lot, he was in the USA, in the course of a long period he lived in Europe and in the countries of the Far East, where he established major connections in political and journalistic circles. Before his arrival in the Soviet Union, he lived in Hanoi and Peking.

Working in Berlin as a correspondent of the *Daily Express*, he repeatedly travelled to the people's democracies – Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria. At the same time, he collaborated with the international Telepress agency.

In 1948, when this agency became Czechoslovakian and was headed by the Czech Jakš, the latter accused Burchett of collaboration with the English intelligence service. In connection with this, in Bulgaria his second wife, who lived in Sofia, was expelled from the communist party. It was subsequently revealed that Jakš was a provocateur and was arrested by the Czechoslovak organs. After this, Burchett's wife was rehabilitated and reinstated in the Bulgarian communist party.

[illegible, but seems to read: 'Burchett visited Moscow twice, in 1954 and 1956.]

During the time of these visits, an agent of the Committee for State Security was brought close to Burchett, who was informed in a cautious way that he could gain accreditation from a newspaper for permanent work in Moscow. After Burchett received an appointment in Moscow from the newspaper *National Guardian*, the relevant authorities took a decision on his accreditation and the provision of an apartment for him.

In view of the fact that the editors of this newspaper cannot completely provide for Burchett in the role of its correspondent, he came to Moscow on the condition that he would be awarded a monetary subsidy, and also the opportunity of unpublicised collaboration in the Soviet press.

During the period of contact with Burchett we have succeeded in sufficient measure of studying his personal qualities and possibilities, the character of his

links in the political world abroad, amongst diplomatic corps and foreign journalists in Moscow, and also in receiving an array of interesting materials from him in written form.

Considering that Burchett, by his personal qualities and extensive links in political and journalistic circles represents unquestionable operative interest, we have taken a decision to engage Burchett in collaboration with the organs of the KGB.

On our instructions, Burchett is seeking opportunities to penetrate the American and West European press.

Taking into account our interest in the journalistic activity of Burchett for the bourgeois press, in a direction that is desirable to us, and also in his covert collaboration with the Soviet press, the Committee for State Security requests the payment to Burchett of a one-time subsidy in the sum of 20,000 rubles and the establishment for him of a monthly subsidy in the sum 4 thousand roubles.

A draft resolution of the TsK KPSS is attached.

Chairman of the Committee for State Security under the Council of Ministers

Signed

t. [comrade] Serov