

## **Sergey Fedorenko (Nits) - CIA covername: Pyrrhic**

**From KGB Colonel Igor Peretrukhin's *AGENT COVERNAME – TRIANON*, Chapter 2**

По-русски - <https://military.wikireading.ru/hLtqvOkIAG>

While reading Pete Earley's book *Confessions of a Spy*, I came across the familiar name of a man who many years ago came to the attention of state security organs while he was an unremarkable officer of one of the foreign policy institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, as they called it then. It was Sergey Fedorenko. However, not exactly Fedorenko, but more on this later. In the meantime, let's see what the author we mentioned above wrote about him on repeated occasions:

"Fedorenko was a handsome thirty-year-old man, smoked Camel cigarettes, spoke directly, and was remarkable for his extraordinary ingenuity and rebellious spirit. He had a reputation as an absolutely fearless human being, many would say foolhardy ... Sergey was born in the Great Patriotic War ... As a youth he showed great abilities in chess and mathematics... His teacher helped him enter the prestigious Moscow Aviation Institute, thanks to which the success of the Soviet space program was ensured. Sergey became a specialist in guided missiles, which were regarded as weapons of the future, and his work soon attracted the attention of one of prominent Soviet diplomats, N. [Nikolay Trofimovich] Fedorenko. N. Fedorenko was head of the Soviet Mission to the UN ... He had a daughter Yelena. Sergey and Yelena fell in love with each other. After they were married, the husband took the name of his famous father-in-law, since Fedorenko the elder had no sons and did not want his name to disappear. Yelena's father arranged things so that Fedorenko became a member of the Soviet delegation at the SALT-1 negotiations - the youngest in it - and then pulled the necessary strings so that he was recruited by Arkady Shevchenko, who in 1972 became Deputy General Secretary of the United Nations, the second most powerful person in the system. Fedorenko could have led an easy life, but his hatred

of the KGB and rebellious spirit always caused him trouble. He said that KGB officers visited Yelena and him in Moscow shortly after it became known that Sergey was assigned to work in the UN. 'They expected me to help them spy, but I refused to play their dirty games and kicked them out of the apartment.' Fedorenko called his father-in-law, who invited him to his office and advised, 'Tell the KGB in New York that you would be happy to help them and then do whatever they ask, no matter how bad and stupid, so they leave you in peace.' This was good advice, but Fedorenko was too stubborn to follow it. The KGB Rezident in New York, Boris Aleksandrovich Solomatin, quickly reacted when Fedorenko faced down his officers. He summoned Yelena to his office and began to chastise her for poor performance as an operator in the Soviet office where she was working. Yelena was in tears, and her husband realized what the matter was. He showed how the KGB could complicate the life of his family. Soon the KGB officer asked Fedorenko to go to New England and look at a radar station under construction ... Fedorenko worked in the UN Secretariat, whose employees could move freely through the territory of the United States without any permits. Fedorenko thought this trip was a waste of time ... This time, however, Sergey suggested an alternative option - to try and find out something about the Hudson Institute, the New York think tank that had close ties to the Pentagon, the National Security Council and the State Department. The KGB officer was very pleased.

"There, after a meeting with the Director of Scientific Research, whom he already knew from SALT-1 negotiations, his treacherous activities began, which he explained by his desire to 'damage the KGB by revealing the names of its officers and exposing secret operations.'

"Fedorenko... gave information not only about the KGB. Sergey told us all about the SS-4 medium-range missiles that the Soviets were trying to deploy in Cuba, as well as about other missiles... However, his most valuable contribution at that time was to explain the mechanism of the Soviet defense industry. We had no idea how the Soviets decide what weapons systems are created and who will receive what contract... Fedorenko's experience and knowledge were of pivotal importance for the Pentagon, which, based on his information in the late seventies, completely revised its assessments of the military power of the Soviets... 'I do not need your money,' Fedorenko said,

when he voluntarily offered his services. 'I do this on my own and will act as I consider necessary... I do not want to be obligated to you.' Nevertheless, the CIA began to put away cash for him... Soon, Sergey Fedorenko was recalled to Moscow. "

According to Peter Earley, the Americans had a hard time dissuading him from his intention to stay in the US.

"Fedorenko was assigned to work in the same directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Ogorodnik worked after returning to Russia." However, he was then transferred to work at a different place. Upon learning of the arrest of Ogorodnik, S. Fedorenko was worried, if not more. "He was proud of being able to avoid exposure." But then the idea hit him in the head: if there is a KGB agent in the CIA, he is doomed.

And again, Pete Earley:

"He went out to the Moscow environs to his influential father-in-law's dacha. On behalf of his son-in-law, Nikolay Fedorenko asked his old friend Boris Solomatin several questions and received an alarm. 'The general says that a prostitute has got in your dossier,' his father-in-law said. The younger Fedorenko understood this expression: someone in the KGB had become interested in his contacts with Americans and he was suspected of espionage. Yelena was still at work when he entered the quiet apartment... he sat down and thought about it. Suddenly he felt that something was wrong... Everything was as usual in the apartment, but intuition suggested that it had been searched. He hurried to his collection of jazz music records. More than three thousand albums stood vertically... Sergey had put them in this order, which corresponded to his aesthetic tastes. He noticed that some of them were out of place. Someone took them out... and did not put them back in the same order. Fedorenko was sure that KGB officers had visited the apartment. He pulled a record out of its envelope and took out two sheets of white paper which protected it from scratches... The KGB officers did not guess his trick... the CIA had provided him paper for secret correspondence... He pulled out all the albums with secret paper... went to the bedroom where the camera was hidden... put the spy paraphernalia in an empty tin can... and late at night... went to a nearby park... and buried it."

It could be continued, but the betrayal of S. Fedorenko is enough. It should only be added that neither he nor his wife Yelena returned from their next tour abroad and that they currently live in the USA.

But just who was Sergey Fedorenko? His real name is Nits. He became a person of interest to the Seventh Department of the Second Chief Directorate while working as an employee of the Arbatov Institute of USA and Canada Studies. The section which I then headed provided counterintelligence support [*Operativnoye obsluzhivaniye*] to the Institutes of Oriental Studies, the Far East, Latin America, the above-mentioned, and others. For the reader to understand what exactly counterintelligence support is, it must be said that it consisted primarily of work aimed at preventing possible leaks of our secrets abroad and the penetration of foreign special services networks for their targets of interest. Moreover, based on existing procedures at that time, the so-called Exit Visa Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU decided on a person's opportunity to make an official trip abroad or for some matter or other, but one of the relevant operational subunits of the KGB had to make a preliminary opinion on this matter. The Exit Visa Department of the Central Committee of the CPSU wanted information to decide whether to allow someone to go abroad or not. This included, in particular, such things as the level of awareness of state secrets of the person in question, his moral qualities, relationships with members of the collective in which he worked, the situation in his family, the presence or, conversely, the absence of a criminal record.

This was done because, unfortunately, not all those who traveled abroad behaved decently there. Some of them violated, according to the terminology of the time, the rules of behavior for Soviet citizens abroad. Some abused alcohol, others committed more serious offenses, including crimes. Such as happened one day on returning from a business trip in the US when an Aeroflot plane landing for refueling at London Heathrow Airport. An employee of the Institute of the United States and Canada, Orionova, left the plane and did not wish to return to her homeland so asked the local authorities for political asylum. She was contacted by the British special services, who, having received her information of interest, soon transferred her to the United States, where they handed her over to their colleagues from the CIA. And this was not the only time this happened.

As for Sergey Nits, we knew that after marrying changed his name to the surname of his wife - the daughter of a famous Soviet diplomat. Many, not knowing this, believed that he was the son of Nikolay Fedorenko, and this could not but determine their attitude towards him. Moreover, more than a few sons and daughters of high-ranking parents worked at this institute.

The childhood of Sergey Nits was far from serene. The difficult years of the war, the card system, and fatherlessness had to affect the particularities of the formation of his personality. Being a gifted man by nature, he received the necessary education, married profitably and, with the help of his father-in-law achieved the position he desired.

At the Institute, Nits-Fedorenko did not stand out at all, did not maintain a close friendship with anyone, and to all intents and purposes kept those around him at a certain distance. From his biography, all that was known was that his grandfather allegedly spent ten years in a Siberian camp for some transgression or other. Even then it did not arouse any serious suspicions of him. But here the change of the surname, although similar things were allowed by the Family Code, gave grounds to build various assumptions about its true purpose. It somewhat involuntarily brought to mind the well-known parable about how a young horseman, having descended from the Caucasus Mountains and arriving in Moscow, almost immediately married - but not some simple Muscovite, but the daughter of the minister himself, who later became Chairman of the Council of Ministers. It does happen!

But back to the subject. In the opinion of the officer of the [First] Department of the Second *Glavk* [Chief Directorate] who dealt directly with the Institute of the USA and Canada, the man who was persnickety and thorough, Nits-Fedorenko, gave the impression that he was an arrogant and narcissistic person who boasted of his belonging to an elite milieu. Many in the institute did not like him. But all these not very nice qualities could not be a serious reason for any action on our part.

When a person changes his surname, involuntarily, as mentioned above, the question arises as to why. Once this could well be explained by the need for secrecy. For example, a member of the party since 1896, Yakov Davidovich Drabkin suddenly turned into Sergey Ivanovich Gusev and stayed under this name until his death in 1933.

You can also understand Sergey Kostrikov, who changed his name to Kirov<sup>1</sup>. As our radio broadcast told us on the anniversary of Kirov's death, at the beginning of his revolutionary activity he allegedly acted as the organizer and active participant in the murder of an innocent man. That's the way it happened.

It seemed to some of the railroad workers who worked with Sergey Kostrikov in Tomsk that they were being followed by their co-worker, a young guy who constantly wrote things down in his notebook and hid it from his colleagues. Suspecting him of contacts with the police, the guy was lured into the forest and killed. However, as it turned out later, he had nothing to do with the police, but was writing down his own poems in a notebook, which, embarrassed, he did not show to anyone. So, obviously, there were grounds for changing the surname, since criminal cases were initiated in those days in connection with the discovery of a murdered person and steps were taken to find the persons who committed the crime.

After the October Revolution, one of the first decrees of the new government allowed people to freely change names that clearly offend human dignity. This is also quite understandable. And a little later there was another case. Many years ago, when I was working in Kamensk-Uralsky, I happened to meet at one of the factories with a participant of the Civil War in the Urals, V. I. Grigoryev, who once showed me confidentially a yellowed newspaper he kept in the safe, where they wrote, in particular, about the heroism of Red Army soldier V. I. Trotsky, which was displayed in battle with the White Guards. That's why he needed to change his surname in 1929!

I will not hide the fact that when Aleksander Ogorodnik's brother, who was under investigation at that time, suddenly changed his name to Kholmogorov, rather primitively explaining this by the need to restore some "historical" roots in the Arkhangelsk province, this act could not but cause a certain bewilderment and related speculation. First of all, one must answer the question: for what purpose did he do it? At that time and until Ogorodnik himself was exposed as an agent of US intelligence, the answer was never

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<sup>1</sup> By the way, very few people know that the basis for the party pseudonym Sergey Kostrikov is assumed to be the name of the Persian commander and King Cyrus the Great, who lived in the BC era.

found. This was something we realized only after a search was carried out at his brother's apartment. Before they began, the brother showed the investigator a fairly large amount of money left for him by Aleksander Ogorodnik.

To change or not to change your surname, as already mentioned above, is the right of each individual. A young and beautiful woman, Milda Draule, who worked in Leningrad, was the wife of a former Komsomol worker-loser from the city of Ust-Luga, Leonid Nikolayev, who, on December 1, 1934 because of jealousy killed her lover, Sergey Kirov. In the Great Soviet Encyclopedia Nikolayev was called "an enemy of the Communist Party," but in other publications also a terrorist, although we now know well who was behind him.\* For reasons known only to herself she did not want to stay Nikolaeva but keep her former name. However, this subsequently had no significance, since they shot not only her, but all her relatives, including distant ones. One of my respected bosses often liked to say: "You have to pay for everything in life!" In this case, Milda Draule paid an overly high price, and, even if she had been under a different surname it would not have saved her.

[\*Translator comment: from Wikipedia – “Many historians place the blame for his (Kirov’s) assassination on Joseph Stalin and believe the NKVD organized his execution, but conclusive evidence for this claim remains lacking. Kirov's death served as one of the pretexts for Stalin's escalation of [repression](#) against dissident elements of the Party, and disarming of the Party (every Party member was issued a revolver up to that time, when Stalin had them all taken away), culminating in the [Great Purge](#) of the late 1930s in which many of the [Old Bolsheviks](#) were arrested, expelled from the party, and executed. Complicity in Kirov's assassination was a common charge to which the accused confessed in the [show trials of the period](#).”]

Returning to the subject we interrupted, let’s recall that from the excerpt above from Pete Earley's book it follows that Sergey Fedorenko (Nits) was such an honest, decent man and a heroic and fearless fighter for freedom and justice. And what was it really?

Much and sometimes all of what that talkative traitor told Pete Earley was a most elementary lie. Nobody ever did any searches at the apartment of S. Fedorenko, and did not intend to, because there were no legal grounds for this, and the fact that he was also a coward by nature was quite clear! If the KGB officers had actually searched his apartment, they would undoubtedly have easily discovered the camera intended for photographing documents and paper for secret writing. His hatred of the KGB officers is beyond doubt. Suffice it to say that all of them, as a rule, are portrayed by Fedorenko as fools and ignorant people. Meanwhile, the "vicious and vindictive KGB", as he described this establishment, did no harm to those who remained in Moscow after his flight with his wife to his relatives.

And who was, if we speak frankly, his patron and "father" N. T. Fedorenko? Yes, he really was a successful diplomat, an experienced courtier and held fairly high positions, implementing the policy of the leadership of the country of that time. However, according to the evidence of eyewitnesses, affairs of state were not always his primary concern, but rather his personal well-being. And shame on him for the fact that in order to please his selfish interests, using his connections, he persistently promoted without sufficient reason, and in every possible way protected the turncoat and traitor S. Nits. It was in his family that the daughter of Yelena was raised. She became the wife of a man who caused harm to and still hurts our country, and she shares his views.

