

Russian Independent Radio Station Sued for 'Smearing the Memory' of KGB General

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Cadets of the KGB Moscow Higher Frontier Guards Command Academy mark the 55th anniversary of the October Revolution. November 7, 1972. **Lev Polikashin / RIA Novosti / CC-BY-SA 3.0**

The granddaughter of a KGB general is suing the independent radio station Ekho Moskvyy and a historian who appeared on air for “smearing the memory of her grandfather,” according to an [announcement](#) posted on Twitter by the station’s chief editor, Alexey Venediktov.

On July 14, during a broadcast of the show “Dilettantes,” host Vitaly Dymarsky and historian Boris Sokolov discussed the release of a secret journal allegedly written and hidden by Ivan Serov, who was a prominent leader of the USSR’s security and intelligence agencies from the late 1930s until the mid-1960s.

During the show, Sokolov questioned the diary’s authenticity, suggesting that it might have been manufactured and “discovered,” as part of a publicity effort to improve the KGB’s image

in Russian society. On air, the historian said, “There’s a bigger idea at play here: rehabilitating Serov, and showing that he wasn’t this executioner, but that he actually did a lot of great work for the state.”

“Notes From a Suitcase: Secret Journal of a KGB Chairman, Found 25 Years After His Death” is a book based on documents unearthed during the remodeling of a garage at Serov’s old dacha. The pages were allegedly discovered inside the walls.

The diary, which features descriptions of classified government work and secret meetings with top-ranking authorities (including Joseph Stalin), would have constituted a capital offense during the Second World War.

“It’s not by chance that none of the heads of the security agencies of this era left behind memoirs,” [writes](#) Rossiyskaya Gazeta, the government’s daily newspaper of record. “In this sense, Serov’s notes are a unique document.”

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