

NEED-TO-KNOW XIV

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Need to Know XIV:

In a world of mirrors. Intelligence and Disinformation

November 26-28, 2025

Branch of the Institute of National Remembrance in Krakow at 3 Czarnieckiego Street
Golden Tulip Krakow-Kazimierz Hotel, 28 Krakowska Street



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17.00–19.30 **Need to Know - Young Researchers Table**

Chair: T.W. Friis (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark)
Katja Højgaard Petersen (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark)

Paula Esposito Almeida (University of São Paulo, Brasil)
The Western European Union as a conduit for Cold War

Anik Rakshit (Bankura University, India)
Pakistani Spies in West Bengal: The Consequences of Biased Intelligence Operations (1947-1952)

Noor Ul Huda Atif (National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan)
From Insurgency to Information Warfare: The Evolution of Conflict in Balochistan

Tomasz Krok (Institute of National Remembrance, Poland)
"A diplomatic role — a cover for espionage? The intelligence game against Col. Claude Turner, a former attaché of the British Embassy in communist Poland."

Seymur Ingilabli (University of the National Education Commission, Azerbaijan/Poland)
From Paper to Pixels: Forged Evidence and the Evolution of Disinformation

Discussion

November 27, 2025

Golden Tulip Krakow-Kazimierz Hotel, 28 Krakowska Street

8.30–9.00 **Registration**

9.00–9.30 **Official Opening of the Conference**

9.30–11.00 **Panel I: In a world of mirrors. Intelligence and Disinformation**

Chair: Bharti Chhibber (University of Delhi, India)

9.30–9.45 **Elena Grossfeld** (King's College London, Great Britain)
Reflections of Catastrophe: The Long Shadow of Nuclear Winter Disinformation

9.45–10.00 **Douglas Selvage** (independent, Germany/USA)
Cuban Bioweapons Propaganda, U.S. Conspiracy Theories, and the Soviet Bloc's AIDS Disinformation Campaign, 1983–1989

10.00–10.15 **Jacek Tebinka** (University of Gdańsk, Poland)
British intelligence and death of general Sikorski.
From Goebbels disinformation to Hochhuth's play

10.15–11.00 **Discussion**

11.00–11.30 **Coffee break**

11.30–12.45 **Panel II: In the Long Shadow of the WW II**

Chair: Katharina Steinberg (Leistikowstraße Memorial, Germany)

11.30–11.45 **Peter Busch** (King's College London, Great Britain),
Targeted Listening: German Radio Monitoring and Nazi (Counter-) Propaganda Ministry in the Second World War

11.45–12.00 **Vasil Paraskevov** (Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Bulgaria)
Planning Subversion: The British SOE and the Attempt to Engineer Regime Change in Bulgaria, 1940–1941

12.00–12.15 **Matteo Giurco** (Spanish National Research Council, Italy)
Game of shadows in a fragile country: disinformation
in Cold War Italy.

12.15–12.45 **Discussion**

12.45–14.00 **Coffee break / lunch break**

14.00–15.30 **Panel III: Soviet Russian Active Measures/Hybrid Warfare**

Chair: Daniel Běloušek (Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic)

14.00–14.15 **Ivo Juurvee** (International Centre for Defense and Security, Estonia)
The last known KGB handbook on active measures from 1989
and some cases of its possible legacy

14.15–14.30 **Juho Kotakallio** (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Finlandization and Soviet Agents of Influence

14.30–14.45 **Murat Döleker** (Ministry of National Education, Turkey)
War Correspondents as a Conduit Utilized by Russia
in Its Information Activities

14.45–15.30 **Discussion**

15.30–16.00 **Coffee break**

16.00–17.30 **Panel IV: Countering disinformation**

Chair: Kevin Riehle (Brunel University, USA/Great Britain)

16.00–16.15 **Christian Hergolitsch** (Ministry of Defence, Austria)
"Know your adversary!" The challenge of hybrid warfare
considering emerging technologies

16.15–16.30 **Władysław Bułhak** (Institute of National Remembrance,
University of Warsaw, Poland)
The IPN's reaction to Russian historical disinformation. The case
of gen. Lev Sockov book "Secrets of Polish politics. Collection
of documents 1935–1945"

16.30–16.45 **Michal Klíma** (The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Czech Republic)

Countering disinformation - Czech experience

16.45–17.30 **Discussion**

17.30–18.30 **Conference Event**

Katharina Steinberg (Leistikowstraße Memorial, Potsdam Germany)

- Information on Leistikowstraße Memorial in Potsdam and the book presentation: „Spionagenetzwerke oder Widerstandsgruppen? Studien zur Häftlingsgesellschaft im zentralen Untersuchungsgefängnis der sowjetischen Militärspionageabwehr in Potsdam 1945–1955". ("Espionage networks or resistance groups? Studies on the prisoner community in the central investigation prison of Soviet military counterintelligence in Potsdam, 1945–1955.")

20.00 **Diner** (Invitation only)

November 28, 2025

9.30–11.00 **Panel V: Intelligence Studies Methodology. Lessons Learned and to be Learned**

Chair: Mike Goodman (King's College London, Great Britain)

- 9.30–9.45 **Oğuz Şahbaz** (Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Turkey)
From Ideological Subversion to Information Confrontation:
The Doctrinal Evolution of Russian Active Measures, 1969-2025
- 9.45–10.00 **Ofek Riemer and Elie Podeh** (Ben-Gurion University
of the Negev; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)
The Effectiveness of Coercive Intelligence Disclosure:
The Case of Israel Versus the German Scientists in Egypt
- 10.00–10.15 **Arkadiusz Nyzio** (Jagiellonian University, Poland)
Disposable spies: a proposal for the model
- 10.15–11.00 **Discussion**
- 11.00–11.30 **Coffee break**

11.30–13.00 **VI Panel: Cold War and Central-European Perspective**

Chair: Paul Maddrell (Loughborough University,
Great Britain)

- 11.30–11.45 **Tomáš Malínek** (The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian
Regimes, Czech Republic)
"Operation Neptune" (Czechoslovak Desinformation
in Germany)
- 11.45–12.00 **Dieter Bacher** (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute /University of Graz,
Austria)
"Between "outlet" and disinformation. GRCAMERA and the
use of Austrian journalists by Cold War foreign intelligence"
- 12.00–12.15 **Daniel Povolný** (The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian
Regimes, Czech Republic)
Disinformation surrounding the Prague Spring of 1968

12.15–13.00 **Discussion**

13.00–14.00 **Lunch break / Coffee break**

14.00–15.30 **VII Panel: Beyond European Perspective**

Chair: Sylwia Szyc (Institute of National Remembrance, Poland)

14.00–14.15 **János Kemény** (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)

A Hungarian Active Measure Operation in Saigon

14.15–14.30 **Przemysław Gasztold** (Institute of National Remembrance,
War Studies University, Poland)

Educational Defectors: U.S. and West German Covert Programs
Targeting African Students in the 1960s and Soviet Bloc
Counterintelligence Responses

14.30–14.45 **Peter Rende** (The Institute for the Study of Totalitarian
Regimes, Czech Republic)

The Kremlin's „peace efforts" against the backdrop of the
Cuban missile crisis, the successful influence operations of
Czechoslovak intelligence and the Soviet KGB in Latin America,
a view from the archives

14.45–15.30 **Discussion**



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