

ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC PAPER

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UDK 355.535 : 343.321 :: 343.542.1

Original scientific papers

Received: 02.03.2014.

‘Sex-espionage’ as a method of intelligence and security agencies

Abstract: *Although the organisation, operations and methods of security and intelligence services have been standardised by laws and are subject to both internal and external (parliamentary, administrative and judicial) control, these agencies frequently use methods conflicting the principles of legality and ethics. In fact, influenced by ‘panic’ demands to protect national values and interests ‘at all costs’, especially in an era of expanding global terrorism and transnational organised crime, security and intelligence agencies are increasingly guided by the maxime that ‘the end justifies the means’. Thus, on the one hand, the intelligence and security agencies conduct certain non-intelligence activities among which subversive (specific secret) operations and actions have a special role and importance. On the other hand, within the scope of their legal intelligence and security activities, the agencies frequently use illegal and unethical methods, some of which are based on emotional abuse of the persons subject to these activities. In this regard, the paper focuses on the abuse occurring when an operative or an agent of a security or intelligence service engages in an emotional or sexual relationship with a person who is a source of significant intelligence information, establishing a pseudo-emotional (fake love) relationship or blackmailing a person by compromising pornographic materials.*

Key words: *intelligence and security agencies, espionage, ‘sex-espionage’, abuse of emotional relations, recruitment based on compromising pornographic material, ‘honey trap’.*

Introduction

The story of the intelligence and security agencies is certainly among the oldest and ‘most romantic’ topics in the field of security. Numerous spectacular newspaper articles, novels and filmed stories of intelligence agents who save nations, states and the world, have been drawing sighs of numerous fans of ‘conspiracy theories’ and stories about ‘rulers in the shadow’ for many

decades. This escalated, in particular, during ‘the cold war’ in which the ‘great powers’, in addition to political conflicts, waged an actual ‘media war’ by putting on screen stories about their ‘super-agents’. Hence the characters of James Bond ¹, Max Otto von Stierlitz ² and many other TV heroes.

Some of them were real ‘sex-symbols’ and alleged ‘sex-spies’ because of their great powers of seduction. The most famous movie ‘sex-spy’ is certainly James Bond, allegedly an operative with the British Secret Intelligence Service – Military Intelligence Section 6 (MI 6). The best known female ‘sex-spy’ was the beauty called Mata Hari, a Dutch exotic dancer, executed by a firing squad in 1917 on charges of spying for Germans upon orders by French authorities.

It is a very old method, used for centuries by both the intelligence and security agencies (Бајарић 2010: 2-3). Traditionally, (in the narrow sense) intelligence agencies are specialised bodies of state authorities in charge of gathering confidential information that the state authorities need for creating and pursuing state policies and for the implementation and protection of national values and interests (Мијалковић, Милошевић, 2011: 16, 48-49).

On the other hand, a security service is a specialised internal intelligence agency (broadly speaking) which acts on the detection, prevention and suppression of activities threatening the existing state and social system, both against internal opponents who act unconstitutionally from unconstitutional positions, and against the gravest manifestations of national and transnational crime, but also against intelligence and subversive activities of foreign states, i.e. their specialised institutions, agencies and agents (Мијалковић, 2011:74-92).

Finally, in addition to the aforementioned intelligence and security-related activities, intelligence services resort to subversive activities which undermine (destabilise) the targeted states and lead to changes in their systems, their socio-political or constitutional order or government. This practice of subversive activities of the intelligence services is highly developed and diversified, ranging from destructive activities of psychological propaganda, through kidnapping, assassinations, sabotage, terrorist acts, and subversive espionage, to inducing crises and management thereof, support for political opposition in hostile countries, overthrowing of recalcitrant regimes by violent coups, provoking military interventions and economic subjugation of entire nations (Мијалковић, 2011b: 238-244).

Regardless of whether it refers to intelligence, security or the so-called

¹ A series of movies has been filmed about James Bond. This character was inspired by a famous bohemian and playboy Dusan Dusko Popov (The Tricycle), a Serbian national born in Titel in 1912. He was a double agent of the Nazi Abwehr and British MI 6, working for the Allies. His experiences were turned into a ‘series of novels’ by Ian Flemming, a retired intelligence agent who was engaged in operative work with Popov.

² A character in the famous Soviet TV series ‘Seventeen Signs of Spring’ (See: Stierlitz)

non-intelligence activities, all activities of intelligence and security agencies are based on the information obtained through intelligence work. One way of obtaining the desired intelligence is the technique of abusing trust and establishing (pseudo)emotional relationships between operatives and targeted persons who possess intelligence information, the technique which is known as ‘sex-espionage’.

The Concept of ‘Sex-Espionage’

‘Sexual espionage’ (‘sex espionage’) is a slang term for gathering intelligence using a specific type of agency method, in which a member or an associate agent of an intelligence or security agency attempts to obtain intelligence information from a person by establishing a pseudo-emotional relationship or engaging in a sexual relationship with the said person who possesses certain intelligence information (a prospective agent) and building trust which would result in revealing, either consciously or unconsciously, the intelligence information of benefit to the service or by threatening to make public the compromising pornographic material in order to extort the intelligence from the person with whom they have engaged in sexual relations.

This method of obtaining intelligence is better known as ‘pillow talk’. It is also referred to using the slang terms ‘honeypot’ or ‘honey trap’, which generally imply using a man or a woman in sex situations in order to obtain the desired information, intimidation or making traps to another (see: Language of Espionage), which includes ‘sex espionage’ as well.

The ‘honey trap’ in intelligence work should be distinguished from the ‘honey trap’ in crime investigating police work, which implies the so-called passive provocation to commit a criminal offence. Namely, the so-called ‘honey trap’ is a type of criminalistic operation (trap, bait) wherein the offender is tempted (driven) to commit a tort, the perpetration of which is subject to secret surveillance by police officers, so as to secure evidence that corroborates unlawful conduct.³

‘Sex espionage’ is also to be distinguished from the so-called ‘sex-test’, whereby totalitarian intelligence agencies gather intelligence by providing for and exploiting sexual desires of their operatives or agents. This method is used in situations when there “is substantial doubt regarding their sincerity or when they are suspected of being double agents or when an agent is suspected of withholding part or all of important intelligence information, that he plans to

³ For instance, “in the place where cars are frequently stolen or broken into the police places a vehicle previously equipped with special secret cameras (in dark sections of streets, unsecured parking lots, etc.). In the case of theft, the cameras will record the perpetration of the criminal act and the perpetrator, thereby securing evidence about the offence, leading to identification and arrest of the perpetrators” (Маринковий, 2005: 228).

defect to the country of opposing intelligence service, that he is not loyal and that he wants to terminate the agent relationship, etc.” (Ronin, 2009: 36-37).

It can be said that ‘sex espionage’ is an atypical form of agency method in espionage⁴. Namely, the agency method is a classic method of gathering intelligence by using agents, the so-called “gathering intelligence information using human resources (HUMINT – Human Intelligence)” (Бајарић, 2010b: 116-118). An agent is a person who is not a professional member of an intelligence service, but rather one who secretly and in an organised way cooperates with such an agency for various reasons. Sometimes they do it for the love of an operative or agent of the secret service (Савић, 2000: 90), because they harbour some political sympathy or because they are blackmailed into it using some compromising material (Ђорђевић, 1987: 53-54).

The agent is, therefore, a person who, guided by his or her motives, deliberately (consciously), secretly, in an organised way, unprofessionally and relatively permanently gathers intelligence and carries out other tasks under the direction and in favour of the intelligence agency. Structural features of the concept of an agent include the following: confidentiality, organisation, awareness, non-professional engagement, and continuity. In addition, the organisation and awareness are the basis for agent recruitment, because establishing a confidential and permanent relationship between a person and an intelligence agency is impossible without a conscious commitment of the person to engage in a relationship with the intelligence agency (Мијалковић, Милошевић, 2013: 148-152).

For this very reason, ‘sexual espionage’ presents a specific type of agent method: at the moment of recruitment, i.e. at the time of establishing an emotional relationship, persons who possess intelligence information do not know that they are to leak information to the intelligence agency. They may even never find out (if the operatives gather information without their knowledge and if the identity of the operative is not disclosed), but it is more likely that they will find out (when the operatives make them disclose the intelligence, threatening to publish the compromising pornographic material compiled during a sexual relationship with the person in question). In the latter case, when a person begins consciously to provide classified information to the intelligence agency, it is undoubtedly the agency recruitment method. In the former case, it can be questionable because the information is not disclosed consciously (e.g. the operative may overhear a conversation, read correspondence, browse the computer of the persons in possession of intelligence information without their knowledge, etc.). But if the role of a ‘sex-spy’ who establishes an emotional

⁴ Approximately 20 % of intelligence information are obtained by espionage, which is a traditional, classic and the subtlest secret method of intelligence agencies, frequently used to obtain the highest-quality intelligence (Петковић, 2008: 9–10 compare with: Стајић, 2008: 241–242).

relationship with the person in possession of classified information is assigned to the agent himself, there is no doubt that it is an agent recruitment method.

Thus the role of ‘implementers of sexual espionage’ can be assigned to both professional members of the intelligence or security services (an operations officer, intelligence officer or security officer), and agents – non-professional associates (helpers) of intelligence or security services. In the former case, the agent relationship is two-sided (the operative – the person who possesses intelligence information), whereas in the latter the relationship is trilateral (the operative – agent – person in possession of intelligence information) because “the agent also has his/her agent.”

A special category of agents consists of sex workers, i.e. persons who engage in prostitution (both male and female, heterosexual and homosexual alike), pornographic acting and persons who are not sex workers, but behave in a promiscuous manner and are trusted agents-associates of the service. The service gives them instructions regarding possibilities and objectives of establishing pseudo-emotional relationships with persons in possession of intelligence information⁵. At the same time, the role of a ‘seducer’ can be played equally by both a man and a woman.⁶

According to some sources, some intelligence agencies have organised specialist courses of instruction for prospective ‘sex-spies’. These courses were attended after having completed the basic training and gaining some working experience. Thus, for instance, “one of the best secret services ever – KGB, in addition to all classic and modern technical methods, used the techniques of ‘sex-espionage’. It even developed specialist courses of instruction for such purposes. According to the Russian newspaper Pravda, a girl named Vera testified that the KGB recruited pretty girls (frequently from rural areas, but also recognized artists – ballerinas, singers, etc.), promising them a life of luxury if they agreed to fulfil their civic duty and become ‘sex-agents’. The training sought to free them of any shyness and restraint, practically teaching them sex techniques, lesbian and heterosexual orgies, showing them perverse pornographic material, etc. ‘Practical instruction’ was filmed and subsequently analysed in detail. The girls were allegedly/-reportedly able and willing to perform any task, because they were told that they were “soldiers and their bodies – their rifles.” This gave rise to a ‘tasteless’ joke according to

⁵ It is therefore clear why prostitution (sex work) and espionage (intelligence) are “often referred to as the world’s oldest two professions”. They were frequently related and, when individuals (men and women) used the beauty, charm and charisma to gain access to the best kept secret” (Angelfire, 2011:1). This is precisely the basis of the so-called sex-espionage.

⁶ Thus, for example, the KGB slang term for a woman was ‘swallow’ and a ‘raven’ was a man trained to seduce persons who were prospective sources of intelligence information. Female sex-spies were also referred to as ‘Mata Hari’ whereas men were called ‘Romeo spies’ (the creator of this slang being Markus Wolf, head of the East German secret service Stasi), as well as ‘playboy’ or ‘loverboy’ (See: Clandestine HUMINT asset recruiting).

which, allegedly, the "KGB did not ask the women to stand up but to get laid for their country." Specialist service was also provided for men. Apart from the Russian secret service, the British, German and Chinese secret services were also alleged to have resorted to sex espionage, whereas the Israeli Mossad is regarded to be a leader in the area of sex-espionage (see: KGB sex espionage).

Some of the secret services even established specialised internal organisational units engaging exclusively in 'sex espionage'. Thus, for example, the East German Stasi founded a special department called 'Romeo spies 2', whereas the British MI5 used sex-espionage through an intelligence checkpoint in Belgium, Eve Club, and the Soviet KGB had numerous checkpoints for sex-spies and so on (Angelfire, 2011: 1–3).

'Sex-spies' have to be good "manipulators of other people's emotions" in order to establish pseudo-emotional relationships, which is why they need to possess multidisciplinary knowledge, especially in psychology (Савић, et al., 1998: 54). Such relationships bear the prefix 'pseudo' because at least one party (the operative, i.e. agent) is not sincere. It will give rise to a fictional love affair and a sexual relationship, which will, in turn, result in establishing a strong bond of trust and the disclosure of intelligence information.

Notably, an emotion (feeling) is "a man's reaction to an event or stimulus from the environment. Emotions are an important motivation factor, so that patriotism can motivate a person to do a heroic deed, whereas love and trust of a stranger can motivate someone to treason." Just because emotions are the result of mutual influences of biological characteristics of individuals (one's excitability, reactivity, temperament) and their social learning, an operative or agent of the service can manipulate the feelings of persons in possession of intelligence information and even encourage 'the birth of love' (see: Emotions).

Love is "a strong sense of attachment that occurs between two people, which transcends mere affection of one person for another. Unrequited love refers to those feelings of love that are not reciprocated. Interpersonal love is characterised by: affection – mutual respect; attachment – satisfying basic emotional needs; altruism – mutual selflessness; reciprocation – mutual love; bonding - the desire to preserve love; emotional intimacy - sharing emotions and feelings; friendliness – a friendly spirit; family connections; passion - sexual desire; psychological intimacy – sharing intimate personal space; self-interest - the desire for gratification; kindness – the desire for mutual help. Some studies have shown that gentle love, which develops slowly, based on similarity, prevails among women, whereas men are more likely to see love as a

game and entertainment, but also to take a highly emotional and romantic attitude towards it.⁷

The operative or the service agent will actually focus attention on the said characteristics of love and affection of the person who possesses intelligence information when estimating a situation or profiling a person, as well as upon selecting a strategy for establishing an emotional relationship and recruiting.

Finally, trust is a social relationship that is based on mutual belief in honesty and fairness of the other party. Establishing trust is a complex process, so that “intelligence and security agencies have conducted numerous studies seeking to find ideal formulas for establishing trust. It was concluded that a starting point for establishing trust lies in the fact that man shall find the greatest happiness in positive social interactions and relationships, that is, if he is able to speak and share his views, priorities and goals with others, but also to be unconditionally accepted for what he is.

In this regard, in order to gain trust of the person who possesses intelligence information, the operative or agent of the service has to: find out what life and daily priorities and objectives of the person are; show that he is ready to place the person’s priorities and objectives above his own; let the person speak and restrain their own need to talk; show interest in their thoughts and views and show that they have suppressed their own ego and accepted them for what they are, unconditionally and without judgement⁸.

Being a good connoisseur of personality psychology and being good at techniques of manipulating emotions, an operative or service agent must determine whether there are prerequisites for selecting “a target of sex-spyonage”, which include the following:

- possibility of possession of and access to classified information (the persons are in the facility where the classified data are found; they have an opportunity to enter the facility unhindered and access the classified data unhindered; they know someone in the facility or someone who has access to the facility in which the classified data are stored);
- susceptibility to establishing pseudo-emotional relationships and engaging in sexual intercourse;
- readiness to disclose classified information;
- susceptibility to threats and blackmail of publishing compromising pornographic materials unless they comply with the requirements of the service.

⁷ This applies to interpersonal love, although there are also other kinds of love (e.g. for one’s fatherland, place of origin, a sport club, etc.). (See: Ljubav at <http://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ljubav>).

⁸ From the interview with Robin Dreeke, an agent in charge of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation’s elite Counterintelligence Behavioral Analysis Program published in the Business Insider and focusing on the ways of establishing trust (See: An FBI Agent Reveals 5 Steps To Gaining Anyone’s Trust).

In this regard, in relation to objective properties, a suitable target of 'sex-espionage' can be any person who possesses intelligence information of importance for the intelligence or security services. However, the most appropriate targets include: statesmen, members of the national security systems, primarily the members of intelligence and security systems, and primarily leaders in intelligence and security agencies, police and the military; diplomats; employees of state administration; members of the judicial system; members of parliament; politicians; industrialists; media workers, etc.

In addition to these, suitable 'sex-spies' include all other employees in state bodies and government institutions, such as: secretaries, waitresses, cleaning ladies, porters, couriers, IT personnel, copyists, archivists, registry office staff, librarians, drivers, workers on communication systems, etc.

Finally, in certain circumstances, intelligence agencies could be interested in family members of the aforementioned persons, their doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists, neighbours, colleagues; members of (sporting, cultural, artistic, etc.) clubs which these persons who possess intelligence information and others with whom persons in possession of certain information come into contact are also members of.

As regards personal characteristics, persons regarded to be particularly 'vulnerable' include single men and women, widows and widowers, divorcees, people in unstable marriages or love relationships, persons who know or suspect that their spouses have affairs, persons who have recently experienced family tragedies, persons in emotional anguish due to a recent breakup, persons who have had no love relationship for a long time, victims of violence at workplace and persons dissatisfied with their job (because of absence of possibilities for promotion, unjustifiable punishment, professional neglect and discrimination, workplace inadequate with respect to qualifications, denial of professional development, etc.), adventurous or promiscuous persons, etc.

Finally, an emotional relationship between an operative or an agent with a person who possesses intelligence information does not have to be the result of any activities aimed at establishing such a relationship, but rather a result of force of circumstances and random opportunities. In such situations, an experienced operative or a service agent shall skilfully take advantage of the opportunity for 'sex-espionage'.

A special issue related to the decision to engage in emotional relationship is personal appearance of both the operative or service agent and the person who possesses intelligence information. A situation in which the operative or the service agent are good-looking, while the 'targeted' person cannot boast of good looks would be suspicious and the opposite situation would also be less likely in the real life. The highest probability of establishing a pseudo-emotional relationship would be one in which the operative or service agent is

a bit more attractive and charming than the person who possesses intelligence information. The criteria of beauty and charm are certainly polemical, so it will all depend on the 'standards' of the social and cultural environment and the assessment of the operative or agent in a specific situation.

During an 'emotional relationship', the operative or service agent continuously checks the person with whom they are engaged in the relationship. In this way they make sure that the person is sincere, secretly encourage them to gather information, but also find out their weaknesses, based on which they can be blackmailed by compromising material. Honesty of persons targeted by 'sex-espionage' can also be checked from other sources or by other services.

Pseudo-emotional relationships between the operative or service agent and the persons in possession of intelligence information can be terminated in several ways: by achieving the goal of intelligence services and lack of need for further cooperation; due to a reasonable suspicion that the relationship between the operative or service agent and the person who possesses intelligence information could be detected; by compromising the operative or service agent; discovery that the person who possesses intelligence information works for another intelligence agency; poor health (physical or mental) condition which objectively prevents the person from gathering intelligence (disability, serious illness, medical treatment abroad, a serious mental disorder); by the arrest or death of the person. Certainly, a terminated agency relationship may be reactivated if the national security so requires (Мијалковић, Милошевић, 2013: 173–174).

Phenomenology of 'sex-espionage'

Generally, 'sex-espionage' is manifested as the acquisition of intelligence information by abuse of trust arising from pseudo-emotional relationships as well as obtaining intelligence information by blackmailing persons using compromising pornographic material.

Strictly speaking, 'sex-espionage' involves the creation of a pseudo-emotional relationship or engaging in sexual relationship between an operative or agent of an intelligence or security agency on the one hand and the person who possesses certain intelligence information on the other hand, with a view to establishing trust that would result in conscious or unconscious divulging of intelligence information to the operative or the service agent. It is a specific form of agent recruitment. In this regard, in addition to the usual rules and principles of agent recruitment (Мијалковић, Милошевић, 2011: 167–175), it is necessary to apply additional special skills to elicit emotions of the persons who possess intelligence information, and these emotions are to develop into fondness or even love for the operative or the service agent, accompanied with

a great deal of trust.

In order to establish a pseudo-emotional relationship, the operative or service agent must make an adequate assessment of the operational situation and make an adequate choice of the prospective ‘emotional partner’. It is important to properly assess whether the person has access to classified information, whether it is possible to establish the pseudo-emotional relationship with this person and what would be the easiest way to do so, whether the person will at some point begin (voluntarily or under blackmail) to disclose secret information. It is, therefore, very important to properly understand the personality, character, temperament, preferences and personal appearance of the person to be recruited. Sometimes, assistance can be provided by the analytical unit of the intelligence service or a psychologist who prepares a psychological profile of the person who is to be recruited.

Following the assessment of the situation and the person, the operative or service agent make a contact with the person who possesses intelligence information. As a rule, the meeting is to be spontaneous, a chance meeting in a public place, frequently mediated by a third party during the introductions. Sometimes the operative or service agent first meets a person (a friend, relative, colleague, neighbour, etc.) close to the person who possesses intelligence information, and this person may later act as a mediator during introductions.

After the introduction, the operative or service agent aims to socialize with the person who possesses intelligence information in order to elicit sympathy and establish an emotional and later sexual relationship with the person. Collecting intelligence information should wait until trust is established. Most frequently, the operative or secret agent will collect intelligence skilfully and covertly, so that the person who possesses them will not doubt for a moment (going through personal belongings and documents, searching computers, wiretapping, seemingly casual conversation, etc.). Less frequently, in situations of great trust and strong emotional relationships, the operative or service agent will reveal his/her identity and openly seek intelligence information. It is then possible to provide better quality and quantity of intelligence information for the intelligence service because the operatives or the service agents continuously and competently instruct the persons to obtain the intelligence information more efficiently.

Broadly speaking, ‘sexual espionage’ includes (audio, photo, video) documenting the development of a pseudo-emotional and sexual relations between an operative or an agent of an intelligence or a security agency on the one hand and a person who possesses certain intelligence findings on the other, with an aim to extort the intelligence by blackmailing and threatening to present the compromising pornographic material to the public or certain interested parties.

This technique of ‘sexual espionage’ is more complex than the previous one because the former presents only the initial stage of its implementation. Namely, in addition to engaging in a pseudo-emotional and sexual relationship, the operatives or the service agents have to document scenes of intimate relationships. In order to be able to do so, they have to be skilled in the use of technical devices for covert photo, audio and/or video recording. They are frequently assisted by logistic/technical unit of the intelligence agency. On such an occasion, the operative or the service agent will, as a rule, attempt to make the sexual intercourse as unusual as possible (with as much perversion as possible, sado-masochistic scenes, abuse of intoxication substances, group sex, etc.). The purpose of this is to make the target feel as great a fear as possible from being condemned and stigmatised by the public upon possible publishing of the compromising material, which would make them more compliant and place them under more intensive control of the service.

Finally, the third phase in the use of this technique of ‘sexual spying’ is blackmailing people to deliver intelligence information under threat of making the compromising material public. The persons regarded to be sources of intelligence information can be shown the material and the consequences of its publishing may be indicated to them by the operative or the service agent who has engaged in the pseudo-emotional or sexual relationship with him/her. This can also be done by a third party, who has ‘allegedly recorded’ them.

In the former case, trust disappears and is almost impossible to re-establish, and the operative or the service agent will obviously be ‘busted’. In the latter case, the operative or the service agent do not have to be deconspired, so that the established trust does not come into question. ‘Problems’ are allegedly made by a third party (who may be introduced as a service member or falsely – as a journalist, a member of an extremist organisation, etc.) that blackmails the person who possesses the significant intelligence information. In this situation, the operative or the service agent can ‘act out’ the role of protector (the so-called ‘comforter’) of the compromised individual, which further strengthens trust and even the emotional relationship.

From the perspective of openness or honesty of the operative or the service agent, sexual espionage can be based on:

- open (honest) emotional and sexual relationships and
- pseudo (dishonest) emotional and sexual relationship (secret sex espionage).

In the former case, the operatives or the service agents inform the person who is the source of information of their identity, occupation and the data and information they need to obtain. The level of trust here is very high and the emotional relationship, as a rule, more sincere. In the latter case, the operatives or the agents skilfully conceal their true identity. Even in the situations when

their ‘cover is blown’ they cleverly deny their real status, seeking to strengthen the shaken trust.

In relation to the contents of the relationship between the operative or the service agent and the person who has the intelligence information, sexual espionage can be:

- a (pseudo)emotional relationship and
- a sexual relationship.

In the first case, the operative or the service agent strives to create an illusion of true and unwavering love with the person in possession of intelligence information, which will dazzle such a person and make him/her more compliant, ready to fulfil the desires of the operative or the agent. The aim of creating such a bond of trust is eliciting deepest secrets, including the ones which are of interest for intelligence and security reasons.

In the latter instance, the operative or the service agent will engage (usually repeatedly) in a sexual relationship with the person who possesses the intelligence information, with neither side expressing particular emotions, sincere or false. Their ‘socialising’ boils down to sex and ‘chatting’ which the operative or the service agent will direct towards the goal of his/her intelligence activities.

Regarding sexual orientation of the person who is the source of intelligence information, ‘sex espionage’ can be:

- heterosexual,
- homosexual and
- bisexual.

From the point of strength of emotional relationship between the operative and the person in possession of intelligence information, all aspects of sexual espionage can be equally important. This is because in all of them the power of emotions - and therefore the level of trust - can be equally present, but the power of emotions in a homosexual relationship may be by far greater than that in a heterosexual relationship (compare: Димитријевић, 2014).

When it comes to blackmailing by publication of compromising materials, the level of efficacy of sexual espionage will depend on the socio-cultural environment in which the compromising action is to take place. Namely, if it is a country or an environment with predominantly patriarchal customs, heterosexual espionage will be more effective if the person-source of intelligence information is married. Besides, homosexual espionage is usually almost certain to be efficient in such an ambience, even more so if the person who is the source of intelligence information is married or in a high social, political or institutional position.

Bisexual espionage is most frequently used in situations when an operative or a service agent engages in a pseudo-emotional or a sexual relationship with

a couple (married or romantic) who passes significant intelligence information. They form the so-called 'pseudo-love triangle'. Trust within the 'triangle' is usually very high and possibilities for efficient blackmailing over publishing compromising material are the same as in homosexual or heterosexual espionage.

According to the goal, sexual espionage can be implemented in order to achieve:

- limited – specific intelligence and security objectives;
- limited – specific subversive objectives;
- long-term – intelligence and security objectives; or
- long-term – subversive objectives.

In the first instance, the goal of sex espionage is to gather specific intelligence and security information, as accurate and precise as possible and usually in the shortest possible time. In the second case, the goal is to compromise a prominent person of the opposing side, i.e. to discredit a politician, state official, influential public person, official of an international institution, manager of a security service, etc. In the third case, the goal is to make a so-called conserved agent, who may be 'activated' for providing intelligence and security information depending on the requirements of the service, most probably based on blackmailing by pornographic material. Finally, in the fourth instance, a 'loan' is secured for discrediting a person who is believed to have a potential to become a prominent political person in future (state official, head of a security service) based on compromising pornographic material.

Before citing some examples of intelligence practices that provide arguments to support the presented theses, we shall make a brief overview of the general differences between the acquisition of intelligence information by abusing the trust that arises from pseudo-emotional relationships and acquiring intelligence information by blackmailing persons using compromising pornographic material. Specifically, in the former instance, the persons who are the source of intelligence information may never find out that they have been abused in espionage (unconscious espionage), while in the latter they have to know because they are coerced into participation (coerced participation); in the first case, the persons need not be deceived, but may voluntarily accept to participate in espionage (conscious and voluntary participation), which does not apply to the latter case; both cases are perfidious, the latter being more so because the persons are blackmailed by being publicly compromised, which may cause additional detriment to them; in the first case, the entire activity of espionage is secret (in both sub-varieties: unconscious and conscious-voluntary), whereas in the second case a threat is used to publish compromising material, which involves the public moment – either realised or announced,

etc.

The aforementioned classification of 'sex espionage' is illustrated by the following examples:

- Clayton J. Lonetree, a US Marine Sergeant, a member of the security service of the US Embassy in Moscow was caught in a 'sex trap' by a female Soviet officer in 1987. He was blackmailed into handing over classified documents when he was assigned to serve in Vienna. He was the first US marine to be convicted of spying against the United States;

- Roy Rhodes, a non-commissioned officer of the US Army serving at the US Embassy in Moscow, had a one-night stand with a female Soviet agent while under the influence of alcohol. He was subsequently told that the agent was pregnant and that the entire case would be revealed to his wife unless he cooperated with the Soviet authorities;

- Irvin C. Scarbeck, an American diplomat, was caught in a 'honey-trap' of a female Polish officer in 1961, when he was photographed during the sexual intercourse. He was blackmailed into disclosing various information so that the compromising photographs would not be published;

- Sheron Scarnage, a CIA employee described as "a shy, naive country girl" was allegedly seduced by a Ghanaian intelligence agent – Michael Soussoudis. She later fed him the information about CIA operations in Ghana, which he forwarded to the countries of the Soviet bloc;

- John Vassall, an official of the British Embassy in Moscow, was photographed in 1954 by the KGB having "staged sex" with several men while drunk. The KGB used the photographs of this incident to blackmail Vassall into providing classified information;

- Bernar Bouriscot, a French diplomat, was caught in a 'sex-trap' by Shi Pei Pu, who worked for the Chinese government. Shi Pei Pu, a male Chinese opera singer, successfully disguised himself as woman and told Bouriscot that he was bearing his child, thereby extracting secret information;

- Sir Geoffrey Harrison, British Ambassador to the Soviet Union, was recalled to London in 1968 after the Foreign Office was informed that he had had a sexual affair with a Russian chambermaid at the Embassy, which was evidenced by compromising photos made by the KGB;

- Katrina Leung, accused of being a double agent working simultaneously for China and the FBI, staged being seduced by her FBI handler, James J. Smith. She used him as the source of classified FBI information of importance for China. In addition to this, Katrina obtained information from another FBI officer, William Cleveland, with whom she also had a sexual affair.

- During 2006, a British Defence Attaché in Islamabad, Pakistan, was recalled and ordered to return home when it was established that he was engaged in a sexual relationship with a Pakistani woman who was an intelligence agent.

Although the British government denied that its secrets had been disclosed, other sources claimed that a number of operatives and operations of western services in Pakistan were jeopardized and compromised;

- In May 2007, a female officer serving within the Swedish mission in Kosovo and Metohija was suspected of leaking confidential information to her Serbian lover, who turned out to be a spy;

- In 2008, Won Jeong-hwa was arrested in South Korea on charges of spying for North Korea; she was accused of using methods of 'sex-espionage' to obtain information from an army officer (see: Using Sex in Espionage).

These are only some of the possible classifications of types of sexual espionage and some of the detected cases. This does not exclude other possible classifications and forms, and we can only guess as to the number of cases of 'sex-espionage' which remain undetected. It is therefore clear why in the countries of real socialism, but also in some developed democracies, any contact between a member of the public and secret security services with a foreigner (even a relative) had to be reported to a superior officer. It was a signal to the services to prevent any type of espionage, including sex-espionage, by exerting control over their members.

Instead of a Conclusion

Well-run intelligence and security operations leave no space for emotions. The operative is a professional who carries out his/her tasks guided by the rule of (national and international) law and the national interests, i.e. by legal and legitimate orders of superior officers. In contrast, emotions can lead to unprofessional conduct, that is, to neglect and sloppiness in the performance of official duties, possible deconspiring the status of the operative, the agent and the position of the service, failure in the realisation of intelligence operations and activities, arrest and even death of the operatives or agents. All of this can bring about 'national disgrace' and even international scandals and conflicts. Therefore the operative or the agent engages in the so-called pseudo-emotional relationships, and not sincere emotional ones, with the persons who are the sources of intelligence information. Pseudo-emotional engagement calls for good psychological training and emotional neutrality of the operative or the service agent, which requires specialist training.

On the other hand, the questions arise regarding ethics and legality of using this method. Namely, from the ethical point of view, it is not disputed that 'sex espionage' deeply interferes with intimate lives of persons who possess intelligence information relevant for the service. It is not just the issue of violating privacy and personal secrets. On the contrary, it is a serious exploitation of persons, even abuse of people for the purposes of pursuing the interests of

the service or national security, based on the gross misuse of emotions and confidence. Additional perfidity of the method is reflected in the fact that the persons involved are informed that compromising pornographic material will be made public. This will lead to moral stigmatisation of the persons in question and even to criminal sanctions if it is proved that they had contacts with foreign agencies. This presents a direct attack against a person's dignity, honour and reputation, which undoubtedly causes the person to experience some emotional distress and frequently suffers material damage (getting fired from a job; inability to be re-employed in government bodies; having difficulty finding employment in other institutions, etc.).

From the aspect of legality, the use of this method is illegal. There is no doubt that espionage is sanctioned by criminal legislation of all modern states. In addition to the operatives and service agents being the perpetrators of such offences, they also instigate the persons who possess intelligence information to commit the criminal act of espionage. If the required intelligence information is submitted to the operative or the service agent, the person who possesses such information commits the criminal offence of espionage. Besides, the demands of the operative or the service agent to provide intelligence information under threat of publishing compromising materials have characteristics of blackmail. Finally, the person who possesses intelligence information can be punishable for an infraction or a crime because of alleged illegal production and distribution of pornographic materials.

Finally, from the aspect of protecting national and international security, although unethical and unlawful, the use of this method is efficient, which has been confirmed by intelligence practice. Although engaging in intelligence activities in the territory of a foreign state is considered to be espionage, which is a criminal offence according to the legislation of the state in whose territory the activities take place, the agencies are not willing to waive this method. In this sense, whatever technique of gathering intelligence information is used by the operative or the service agent, they commit a criminal offence. However, for reasons of efficiency, this technique will probably be used for a long time whenever appropriate conditions are created.

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„Секс-шпијунажа“ као метод обавештајно-безбедносних служби

***Апстракт:** Иако су организација, послови и методи обавештајних и безбедносних служби нормирани законима и подлежу унутрашњој и спољашњој (парламентарној, управној и судској) контроли, ови субјекти безбедности неретко користе и методе које се косе са принципима законитости и етичности. Наиме, пред „паничним“ захтевима заштите националних вредности и интереса „по сваку цену“, нарочито у ери експанзије глобалног тероризма и транснационалног организованог криминала, обавештајне и безбедносне службе се све више воде максимум да „циљ оправдава средство“. Тако, с једне стране, обавештајне и безбедносне службе спроводе извесна необавештајна дејства, у оквиру којих субверзиве (специјалне – тајне) операције и акције имају посебну улогу и значај. С друге стране, у оквиру спровођења легалних обавештајних и безбедносних активности, службе неретко користе противправне и неморалне методе, од којих се неке базирају на злоупотреби емоција лица према којима се делује. С тим у вези, у раду се указује на злоупотребу ступања оперативца или агента обавештајне или безбедносне службе у емотивни или сексуални однос са лицем које је извор значајних обавештајних сазнања, и то заснивањем псеудо-емотивног (лажног љубавног) односа, односно уцењивањем лица компромитујућим порнографским материјалом.*

***Кључне речи:** обавештајне и безбедносне службе, шпијунажа, „секс-шпијунажа“, злоупотреба емотивног односа, врбовање на бази компромитујућег порнографског материјала, „медена замка“.*