

Commanders Club

SAN FRANCISCO

Sirs;

It has come to this department's attention that a smuggling operation controlled by Redland has become successful at importing several thousand gallons of ostensibly Russian vodka each month. This would seem a quaint matter of interest only to H.M. Tax Collector, except that said vodka imports are tainted with a concentration of fusel oil that frequently proves fatal to the person consuming the vodka.

This is made rather more disturbing in light of the fact that the smuggling operation has been adroit at directing their shipments to official British catering channels; The kitchens of Whitehall, H.M. Royal Caterer and as we have seen with last week's death of two clerks from our Signals Division, to this office as well.

Our ability to trace this clever form of assassination here in country is rather limited, I'm afraid. Foreign Office has made a huge blow up that any attempt made to ferret out the source here would irretrievably damage the F.O.'s current investigation into a Bulgarian prostitution effort that is a cover for the import of several thousand pounds of opium into Britain each year.

Therefore, I am sending you to San Francisco to work this job "from the other end of the 'scope'" as it were. You and the rest of the 00-Section are to make inroads upon a series of establishments in San Francisco's Nob Hill neighborhood (largely an analogue for our Mayfair) and attempt to ascertain if there is an establishment there which is also serving this tainted alcohol as a form of covert assassination. We have information that this is true.

If you can uncover the venue in San Francisco that is similarly using vodka as a weapon, our friends at CIA can determine the proprietor's backing, and allow us to connect the dots all the way back to London, thus revealing the NKVD (KGB) controller running the import operation here.

Tanner has prepared your dossier, forwarded under separate cover.

M.

9/24/02