

you back in the face.").

Not a single one of the versions presented so far in JRL come anywhere near the truth, although the Komsomol-Likud connection is the closest isomorphic fit.

I have asked my publisher if I may transmit the relevant chapter to JRL, the Russia list of record. I may have to take a raincheck: the book isn't due out until September. But never mind. This story has plenty of mileage left in it.

#8

Date: Sun, 30 May 1999
Subject: Re: 3312-Wheeler/Visas
From: "Arch Getty" <archgetty@earthlink.net>

I was surprised to read Mrs. Wheeler's assertion that the visa situation at our embassy in Moscow had not changed. It is perfectly obvious to recent Russian applicants that it has.

And it is obvious to me as well. Beginning this past fall, individual Russian applicants to the University of California at Riverside's Intensive English program were routinely rejected. This has never happened before. Over the years, dozens of individual Russians had been admitted for short-term English courses at this university.

As always, the applicants had all the necessary paperwork, including I-20 forms and financial guarantees. They had solid jobs in Russia (one works for the Moscow Duma) and ties to stable families there. All were given identical, word-for-word non-explanations of their rejections:

1. Better for you to study English in Russia [!];
2. You do not have solid ties to Russia that would lead us to believe you will return home.

In two cases, I had provided letters of recommendation on University letterhead, and in one case (for a family friend) had provided a personal financial guarantee. I was thus nonplussed to discover that a Moscow consulate official had said that I did not exist and that my financial guarantee was a fake.

J. Arch Getty
Professor, UC Riverside

#9

Date: Sun, 31 May 1998 10:54:33 +0400
From: "Patrick van de Coevering" <patrick@muh.ru>
Organization: Modern University for the Humanities
Subject: coverage of SORM

After the appearance of two articles on the Volgograd Internet provider refusing to give the FSB access to his clients, this seems the right place to ask reporters covering Russia:

If this company/man was the first to stand against the FSB, does this mean that all other internetproviders in Russia, especially Moscow, are already 'infected'? Isn't the only way to have any influence on this, to report it, in Russia and especially in the West? Shouldn't this scare the last foreigners out of Russia, leave alone prevent new ones from entering? Or maybe i am wrong and is it maybe not all bad??

I hope this message reaches everybody intact.

kind regards,