



## Meeting on Evening 7th of January at home of R.

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## Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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Meeting on Evening 7 January 1963 at Home of R

Speakers (identified on separate sheet): R, K, D

R - You can speak freely on any subject.

D - We have another old Christmas, before the New Year, before the

Note that K speaks only Russian, and all his speeches have been translated from Russian to English. D speaks both Russian and English. His speeches were mainly in English and have been transcribed in English; whenever he spoke Russian, this is indicated here before the translation of his speech into English. R speaks only English here, and his speeches have been transcribed in English. There are a very few words spoken in Icelandic, indicated at one place. Except for a few places where the conversation is summarized, transcription is verbatim.

R - Yes.

(Arrival of K and D)

D - On January 1st we have this.

R - Cold?

R - Ya, but the other church has the 6th of January for ...

D - No.

D - Yes, you are right ... because it depends on the previous old...

K - Yes (laugh)

K - We have to find out if she is agreeable to this.

R - (Unclear) We have a very stupid rule about this.

(Unclear)

R - But before the New Year -- before Christmas here in Iceland we

R - Happy New Year to you.

D - Yes, thank you.

K - We found the house very quickly.

R - Common, a common characteristic of all the people.

D - We have found your house very quickly.

R - Christmas cannot go without drinking for the health ... and the

R - Ya, it is easy to find.

(Unclear)

K - Did he celebrate New Years well?

D - What about the New Year?

R - In this New year we have been married ten years.

R - (Unclear) (laugh)

R - We have an open house here.

D - And Christmas too?

R - That is for children ... Christmas.

(Unclear)



K - You can speak freely on any subject.

D - We have another old Christmas, before the New Year, before the first of January ...

R - Ya, ya

D - We have festivities ... Christmas.

R - Ya, ya

R - Yes.

D - On January 1st we have this.

R - Ya, but the other church has the 6th of January for ...

D - Yes, you are right ... because it depends on the previous old... calendar.

R - Yes, yes.

(Unclear)

R - But before the New Year -- before Christmas here in Iceland we have <sup>þol</sup> the old -- a time to drink ...

(laugh)

R - Common; a common characteristic of all the people.

R - Christmas cannot go without drinking for the health ... and the happy ... happiness in the coming year and in the future ... there is a foundation.

(Wife knocks -- comes in)

R - In this new year we have been married ten years.

Wife - I only smile -- *þegar koma með eddum*  
(Several words in Icelandic) *þ. þ. þ.*  
(Drinks served)

R - Polar beer ...

D - (laugh)



D - It is produced in Reykjavik or in ...? *Hofusport* In Reykjavik?

R - Yes, I think so.

R - The brewery is here in Reykjavik ... here I say, because I have been here a short time.

(Phone rings -- wife answers)

R - Just the phone

R - I am always talking about Reykjavik.

(Drinks poured)

D - Thank you.

R - This was made on the 175th Anniversary of Reykjavik.

(Unclear)

R - A young city.

(Unclear)

D - What about your price? (Unclear) Profits.

R - Good

K - This is good, he is resourceful.

D - I know that Reykjavik was founded by Vikings.

R - Yes, that is right but in these years it was just a farm.

D - Just a farm?

D - They have a lot of difficulties here because there is not any mountain here and it was very easier. But even in the beginning of this century there was not many people living here.

R - No, no. I think about two - three thousand in the beginning of this century.

D - (Russian) There were two - three thousand inhabitants here ...

R - And especially after the First World War, and particularly after



R - (con't) the Second World War ...

Summary

(D translates for K)

K served on an oil tanker and drank Czech beer.

Tells dirty jokes that the Captain of the ship used to tell.

The Captain was from Odessa and the jokes were about Jews.

R - I had a lot of funny anecdotes about Jews -- it's interesting -- there are not many Jews here.

(Unclear)

R - No, no -- not many.

R - But usually the Jews who live here -- they are all Catholics -- unusual. They are working in the shops -- but not in \_\_\_\_\_.

In some offices, there are some artists but not in the businesses.

D (Russian) - ----- but not businessmen.

R - In the banks here, two workers I know, two Jews working ...

D (Russian) - He says he only knows two of the working (class).

K - Here is general. There are no nationalities except Icelandic persons working in the ports.

D - All the workers in the ports, all of them are Icelanders, but not from the other nationalities.

R - Yes, I think they are all Icelanders.

R - When I was working on the dock there was one Norwegian; he was in Iceland (was not an Icelander?)

D - But is there such a practice maybe in Iceland that some Norwegians or some Swedish, Danish workers are going to Iceland again then back to their country -- only for seasons. This is the practice, no?



R - Not now. But it was.

R - The first year after the war.

D (Russian) - The first year after the war there was such a ...

R - But many of them stayed here forever you see, married Icelandic women.

D (Russian) - But many stayed here and married Icelandic women.

K - The ship agent who services our ships is the Norwegian ...

D - The ship agent who services Russian ships is a Norwegian.

(Unclear)

R - (?Olsen) is a Norwegian (laugh), but he is an Icelander.

(Unclear)

D - I wonder which nation, Scandinavian nation -- is the most nearest to Iceland? *ers.*

R - Norwegian.

D - Or Danish, maybe?

R - No, Norwegian.

D - (Repeats in Russian.)

R - But the influence is in the field of culture and some industry ... first of all from Danish.

D - (Repeats in Russian.)

K - ~~By the way~~ Has he been in the house that we have asked you?

D - By the way, have you been in that house that we have asked you?

R - Yes, I was there yesterday, I saw a very good friend of mine who lives there on the 1st floor, he is a school teacher, and he was a member of the young socialist (people)



NOTE: (D interprets for K simultaneously)

R - And now he's a --- of the Socialist party ...

D - A member?

R - No, not a member but a ---- and he's still progressive, He's all right; he's quite all right.

D - Where is he living -- on which floor?

R - Third floor.

D - On the third floor ...

R - I came into his flat --- talk to him --- when he had finished the special school for teachers --- he went to the university. He studied something there, psychology and I have every good reason to thank him because of my daughter -- one of my daughters, *not seen* (unintelligible). *she's* She is very little and they have some --- in the schools and she had to be operated at this time -- now they have fixed one eye --- but, she never will use the glasses --- and reading glasses ... (UNCLEAR)

D - You have asked him about an operation.

R - No, not about operation, but about psychological matters ... to use the glasses.

D - How you call this -- word? psyc ---

R - Psychology.

D - A doctor of eyes?

R - No, no no -- it is of the mind, you see --- some ...

R & D - Psychology, psychology.

(Unclear)

R - Psychology in Scandinavian



D - And he had promised to help? *you*

R - I was asking him about the best way you see -- and he phoned to his friends - *where would* and asked them about it --- now I know ...

R - It is quite all right with this third flat? The third floor -- of this house. Quite all right ...

D - He's living alone, all by him ...?

R - No, --- has a family

D - Big?

R - I don't know. I saw two children.

D - You have been on the third floor and talked with him? *himself*

R - Yes.

D - And have you asked *for* or do you know who's living downstairs?

R - Yes, he's a --- I know him a little bit. He's a customs man.

D - Customs?

R - Customs.

D - What's he doing?

R - Uh, he --- Customs man, he is controlling -- customs.

D - Customs! Ah!

D - Uh, he's living on the second floor?

R - On the second floor.

D - With his family?

R - Yes, he had a family --- I don't know ...

D - And on the downstairs? On the first floor?

R - No --- I don't know.

K - *There's* On this third floor *the* the windows are always shut, what is the matter, why are they closed with a grill screen? *to*

D - I see, then that is. that on the third --



D (con't) - windows are closed.

R - Yes, yes.

R - No, they are not closed --- but they seem to be closed --- from the street --- they have (irons). Yes, very special -----  
(? irons).

D - They are not closed?

R - No, no! It seems so from the street, from the outside.

K - Did he try to find out who lives downstairs? On the first floor?

D - Haven't you asked your friend who is living on the first floor?

R - No --- but I can see it.

K - But how can he look it up?

D - How, how can you find it? In the book? In the register book?

R - Yes.

K - But, can't he ask his friend .....?

D - It would be very good if you asked your friend <sup>what</sup> who is the man who lives on the first floor, what he is doing, where is working.

R - Good, I will find out all of that quite easily.

K - Won't his friend be curious why he needs this?

D - Maybe there will be such an occasion that your friend will ask you --- why you are asking him --- do you understand it?

R - No, but he don't!

D - Are you sure?

R - Ya.

(Wife comes in) - 14.

D - You are sure that your friend will not ask you? Why you are ....

R - Why, uh, no I am not sure.



K - (Repeated in Russian)

K - ..... downstairs there is some man that does not look like an Icelander. He looks out the window all the time, sits and watches ..... Try to find out when the person moved in and what the person does for a living that he constantly sits there and watches.

D - Maybe you will ask your friend, that it seems to you that that man who is living on the first floor does not look like an Icelander, and does not act like an Icelander.

(Break in recording)

D - .... to find, the grounds for asking the friend that it seems to you that man is not like an Icelander, he's like a foreigner. Maybe your friend knows about him something.

7 R - He was looking every time there. Sitting behind the window and looking through the window and everything.

K - There is another request for him.

D - There is another little thing.

K - (Unclear) Chauffeur.

D - And we shall ask you another thing. It concerns your previous activities as a taxi driver. You have been working as a taxi driver.

R - Yes

D - And concerned to this fact we should like to ask you one thing.

R - Yes

K - Can he find out about at least one person, his last name and address that works as a driver on a bus, on busses, that carries



K (con't) - Islanders working at Keflavik.

D - Can you find perhaps one man who is a taxi ... a driver on the busses which are delivering the workers who are working in the Keflavik Base. His address, of that driver, and (2-3 words unclear), you see? To know this man.

R - Aha.

D - To find the (2-3 words unclear), his name, you see?

R - Yes.

D - Driver who is delivering the workers which are working at the Keflavik Base, workers.

K - If someone asks him why he is interested in this matter, then he must say that he would like to find out if it is possible to hide some tax free liquor ... some such cover story ... so that he would have an explanation.

D - If somebody will ask you why you are asking about that man, who is the driver of the bus, you may explain that you are very interested in some alcohol drinking without any taxes.

R - Aha.

D - If you could able to find take from the Keflavik Base (sic) You see? (2-3 words unclear)

R - Aha.

D - (Sentence unclear)

R - Aha.

D - It would be very good if you will find the name of that driver, his address, and everything about him maybe.

R - Aha.

(Unclear)



D - Perhaps only one of them.

(Pause)

K - There is another request for him for the future. For us to come here next time would not be too desirable. (several words unclear) Therefore for the next meeting we would like him to come to us.

D - And there is another round of questions about (? hushing). It seems that it is not very good thing for us to go to your place, to your house here.

R - Aha.

D - Because it is not very, conditions are rather difficult because we must leave our car ...

R - Aha.

D - .... at that place, and have to go, and another thing, and we have some plan for other meetings (2-3 words unclear)

(Noise) (Apparently K & D open up map)

K - Unclear

D - Aha.

K - (? Hafravatn), this is a street, and the road leads to the main highway.

D - (Russian) Which one?

K - To the main highway, the (unclear) road.

D - This street is going to the road, to the main road.

R - To the main, yes.

D - (Russian) It passes here, yes?

R - Aha.



D - That is my note.

R - Aha.

D - Reykjavik is here, and here ....

R - Yes, yes.

D - (Russian) He knows this route exactly.

K - You cleaned it up?

(Unclear)

K - There is a crossing here.

D - There is a cross, (giant) cross.

R - Cross roads

? - Eight (? Kuvich)

(All mumble unclear)

D - Stand there at the cross.

R - Stand there ...

D - Showing the directions and different ones, (unclear)

K - Hafravatn is written on this arrow.

D - It is shown upon this (? Mastum) Hafravatn (unclear)

R - Yes, yes.

K - We would like to have the next meeting on the 20th and then on  
the 28th.

K & D - (Unclear)

D - The 28th, the 28th

R - Yes the 28th

K - Let him drive up to that spot.

D - We should like to ask you that you go to this place.



R - (With wife and children.)

D - You know this place?

R - Yeah, I know.

(Unclear)

R - I often (2-3 words unclear)

K - We can place his car someplace to the side and we can drive off.

D - We shall put your car into someplace (unclear)

D - ..... of car, you will sit in our car.

R - Aha, ya, ya.

(All talk - unclear)

D - And after conversation you will shall go back to the place and you will (1 word unclear) your car.

R - Absolutely right. But I think it will (? survive) in the dark. You can leave your car <sup>in my garage</sup> and you need a lot of courage.

D - You think so?

R - Yes.

D - (Russian) It is awkward for him to leave the car when it is dark ..... (unclear)

K - You tell him that the car

(Unclear)

R - And our (? passing) here is no one could come after six or seven o'clock.

(All talk - unclear)

R - Somebody will pay attention to us, to our car because this car has .....

(Unclear)



D - ..... the main road to Reykjavik.

R - Aha. And this way from this main road?

D - On the left, if you are going to Reykjavik on the left.

R - And this across?

D - Across, and the pond there, such thing, Hafravatn, and this is the place of our meeting.

R - Aha.

(Unclear - mention of 28 January)

(Long passage - occupants of room examine a stereo viewer and discuss it - mainly in Russian)

(People in room eat, drink, discuss food.)

Re when R's baby is expected.

Drink toasts.

Social conversation!

Re where a certain article that they are examining was made - made in Belgium, American patent - probably a corkscrew.)

K discusses that he has Cuban cigars, offers some to R. K got cigars from a captain (Soviet) who traveled to Cuba.

Discuss that smoking can cause cancer.

K describes cases of Soviets who had cancer (through D). Both cases that were related occurred in athletes. Continue to discuss cancer.

(More drinking.)

Dirty joke by D.

R - I would like to Kiselev about the money.

NOTE: D interprets everything R says for K.



R - It's about the money, I think ..... I have a continuous office (i.e. permanent position), I have 7,000 to 14,000 per month and .... (unclear) ... about 20,000 for the year. I haven't use for more. But if he will spend some sum of money for our case, I feel that it is better to buy a good photographic apparatus, or camera, because I have no camera and if I do these things I must have a camera ... (unclear) to ask some of my friends to lend me a camera for each time ....

(All talk unclear)

R - I you will buy a camera it must be very good. It must have a, it is best to have a 35mm camera with 3 or 4 objectives, lenses. First with a normal lense, next the wide angle and maybe two types of tele objectives (lenses), because if I take some of the pictures I have got to, of this Loran stations and it is necessary to take other pictures maybe in other particular places, maybe.

(All talk unclear.)

R - .... I can't always .... distance, and maybe the lense should be very fast from the logic. And under other circumstances I must take the not too close a picture, and maybe sometimes I must use it very - very close, and then many things, under other circumstances wide angle. And if I do these things it is not for the reason of money or something like that, just for my sympathy for the Soviet Union, and the Socialist ..... (unclear).

K - Well you tell him that if I gave him money he must consider this a gift.



D - You must take into consideration first of all, and the most, that those money ....

(K & D speak - unclear)

D - ..... on the (1 word unclear) that you will have or expect a baby, you see, you give a gift.

R - Aha.

K - If he buys something out of this sum for the baby before it is born, it will be a great pleasure for him.

D - And he will be very pleased if you will buy something for the baby.

R - For the baby! Oh!

K - And concerning the photographic camera, when there will be a need for the special lense then we will definitely give it to him.

D - When you will need a special objective (lens) you will take.

K - Because the fact that he has a special lens is not desirable.

D - Because if you will have complicated and special objective (lens) it is suspicious. But when you will need it you will have it.

R - That is right.

(Conversation re wife possibly D's - unclear)

(Noise - conversation unclear)

K ..... the friend who lives on the 3rd floor. Maybe he will write it for us.

(All talk together - unclear)

R - About this driver, you want just to have a chauffeur, a driver.



D - Just a driver. Do you have such a man?

R - No, I don't know, I must think it over and see.

D - (Russian) He is thinking of preparing a Soviet as a chauffeur.

K - This should not be done in any case at the present time.

(Unclear)

D - We don't need it just now. We don't need to have information on driver.

K - Let him only find out the last name of one or two, on these we need everything, the last name.(unclear) ...

D - One of the drivers of the busses to Keflavik, which bring the workers to Keflavik Base, one of the drivers, his name, his address.

R - Yes .....

D - Nothing else! Nothing else!

R - It is not necessary, I have some connections.

(Unclear)

D - He asks, should he have any connections with the workers?

K - If he will be able to establish connections on a basis that will not arouse any suspicion among those surrounding, and especially of the person himself .... Explain to him, then please!

D - You must have connections with that driver.

R - I must have contact? Yes, yes.

D - You must have contact only in one case. That the driver will not have any suspicions for you, for your questions. If he will think that it's your friendly relations, that you should



D (con't) - like to get acquaintances with him. To be on more friendly terms, but if he will have some suspicions for your questions, why you ask him, .....

(All talk - unclear)

(Something said re alcohol and alcohol content)

K - If any restaurant expenses are incurred, expenses for making friends, expenses for essential talks, refreshments etc.

D - Is this for the chauffeur?

K - No, his expenses. He should not be embarrassed, we will refund them.

D - If you will have any expenses while you are getting acquainted with him, because maybe you should have a drink with him, while you have a conversation. You can't be embarrassed to tell us about the expenses, you see, because we shall pay for it you see.

R - Yes.

K - Let ask the last name of his friend, but not ask him to write it, how does he pronounce it?

D - Say the name of that friend who is living on the 3rd floor.

R - I think it is not good to ask him but I can have ....(unclear).

D - No, no. About the man who is living on the first floor.

R - Yes.

D - (Russian) He says it is better not to ask the man living on the 3rd floor about the man living on the first floor, which .....

(unclear)

R - Maybe it is better to take a little time, but first, then he wants me to look at this 3rd floor. I am looking about these people in this house. I find it out who was living in this



R (con't) - house, who was living on the 3rd floor, but I saw his name.

D - You saw his name?

R - I saw his name in the book. All the people who was living in this house.

D - (Russian) He saw the names of all the residents.

R - And I went to the house yesterday, and I walk up, what do you call it, I look at the doorbell ..... and I push and it buzzed...  
(D translates simultaneously for K)

R - (Unclear) .... I don't remember who is living on the first floor, I don't remember the name now .... but maybe I will find someone who knows.

D - But how will you find another man that knows that man? (1 word unclear) maybe?

R - Maybe

D - We think that there is such a man, (1 word unclear) will help you. We think that you can find.

R - No, I don't like to ask more. Maybe as a last resort I will try.  
(Unclear)

D - You don't like to ask your friend about this man?

R - No.

K - Why?

D - Why? Suspicious?

R - Maybe he starts to speak about it with his wife.

K - What is the last name of the friend upstairs?

D - Your friend who is living on the 3rd floor? What is his name?



R - Now I must write it for you because I forget, I have to look it up to remember ..... Ingolfur (?) ..... Ingolfur (unclear)  
Ingolfur A. Thorkelsson (?)

(Pause)

R - But I am sure of, that there is nothing wrong with that floor, the third.

(D interprets for K)

K - Well shall we depart then?

R - I forgot, you like to ask me .....

(Laugh)

(Social conversation)

K and D Depart

End of Meeting