

Dan Starer, Esq.

31 October 1986

Dear Dan,

I need a little more help with this Russian curse
What happens is this:

Jean-Pierre, the traitor, is meeting with his Russian contact Anatoly. Anatoly is disguised as an Afghan. By chance Jane bursts in on them. Anatoly is so surprised that he uses a Russian curse word. (I wrote this scene before I got your material so I invented a word, skrad.) At the time Jane does not notice the use of this word, but later she remembers it. She also remembers another scene, from some years ago, when she was walking along a street in Paris with a Russian friend: a car backfired, the friend was startled and he said skrad! Then he explained to her what the word meant. The explanation was amusing, which is why she remembers. Knowing the meaning of the word skrad ~~gave her the~~ she guesses the true identity of Anatoly.

Of the words in the material you sent me, the most promising is xue-moe which is said to be an exclamation like the English fuck-a-duck! However I don't have an exact translation (for the Student friend to explain) and I'm not sure that xue-moe is perfectly appropriate here.

Would you consult an expert for me, please? If the above briefing is not clear call me.

Meanwhile I enclose a cheque, with thanks.

Yours,