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**NORMATIVE AND LEGAL REGULATION OF INTERNAL
(AGENTURIAL) SURVEILLANCE IN THE BODIES OF POLITICAL
SEARCH OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH
CENTURY: SOME DISCUSSION ISSUES OF MODERN
HISTORIOGRAPHY**

The main method of activity of the political search of the Russian Empire at the beginning of the 20th century was internal (agentural) surveillance. Having analyzed the historical, historical-legal and special literature, it mentions several gendarmerie-police instructions, which regulated the work with agents in the field of political wanted list. First of all, this: "Instructions on the organization and conduct of internal (agentural) surveillance" (1907), "Instructions on the organization and conduct of internal agency", drawn up at the Moscow Security Department (1911), "Instructions on the organization and conduct of internal surveillance in gendarmerie and search institutions" (1914) and "The order of political search" (1916). The full texts of all the above-mentioned instruments are currently published. And, as Professor Z.I. Perehudova, a well-known expert in political search, rightly points out, the issue of instructions "is not as simple as it may seem".

There is no consensus among researchers as to the number and timing of the publication of some instructions. Judging by the publications, there are only three "Moscow" instructions: 1908, 1911 and 1914, which is not complies with the reality. Scientific publications also often contain facts when the authors, speaking

about the departmental instructions of 1907 and 1914, quote the "Moscow" instructions or conversely. The fate of the 1914 departmental instruction, the full text of which remained unpublished until recently, has not been fully clarified either.

Modern scientific literature is dominated by the opinion that the departmental instruction of 1914 was "printed and sent to the heads of all the units involved in the political investigation". In fact, as the archive documents and materials show, the draft of this instruction was not approved by the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and it was sent for further revision. This was mentioned in his memoirs by the former comrade (deputy) of the Minister of Internal Affairs and commander of the Separate Corps of Gendarmes, General P.H. Kurlov.

Having analyzed these legal acts, the author of the publication concludes that at the beginning of the 20th century the main and only legal act on work with secret agents until the end of the existence of the Russian Empire was the "Instruction on the organization and conduct of internal (agentural) surveillance" (1907), and circulars issued by the Police Department on these issues only developed and consolidated its basic principles.

Keywords: Police Department, instructions for internal surveillance (1907, 1911, 1914, 1916), political search, history of operative-search activity.

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