

# LITUANUS

LITHUANIAN QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Volume 18, No.3 - Fall 1972

Editors of this issue: Antanas Klimas, Ignas K. Skrupskelis, Thomas Remeikis

Copyright © 1972 LITUANUS Foundation, Inc.



## DOCUMENTS

Statement and transcriptions of conversations by Coast Guard officers relating to the attempted defection from the Soviet Union by Lithuanian seaman Simas Kudirka 23 November 1970

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

Address reply to: USCGC *Vigilant*, New Bedford, Mass.  
5800: 30 November 1970

STATEMENT OF BM3 RICHARD P. MABESCA 374 210, USCG REGARDING ATTEMPTED DEFECTION OF SOVIET SEAMAN ABOARD USCGC VIGILANT 23 NOVEMBER 1970 OFF GAY HEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

On the night of Nov. 23, 1970, while the *Vigilant* was involved with the defecting seaman, I was told by Ens. Hale to take the small boat with three other men and the Russian crew to the Russian Ship. I asked Mr. Hale if an officer was coming. He said he wasn't sure. Being very nervous and excited from what had happened already, I told Mr. Hale that there wasn't anyway in the world for me to take the boat without an officer. From seeing what had happened to the defector already aboard the *Vigilant*, gave me great fear for my own safety. The way the Russian crew members were allowed to beat and stomp the defector gave me doubts of any security in the boat. Once the word was given that an officer was going, We, the *Vigilant* crew entered the boat. At that time I saw the defector completely tied up and thrown into the boat by the Russian crew members, being handled like nothing more than a log. The Russian crew entered the boat; the boat lowered and underway, I acted as coxswain. Mr. Hughes the boat officer was seated up forward with seaman Medeiros and two Russians. Seaman Gonsalves, the defector, and the rest of the Russians were aft. While riding to the Russian ship, one Russian crew member sat on the defector's head and kept punching him for the entire ride. Once we arrived along side the Russian vessel they lowered the net and the first mate went up first. The other Russian members then threw the defector from aft to amid-ships then again threw him into the net when lowered. They then gave us the *Vigilant* mooring lines and we left for the *Vigilant*.

This statement is complete and accurate to the best of my recollection at this point.

RICHARD P. MARESCA.

TRANSCRIPTION OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN RADM ELLIS AND CDR EUSTIS,  
COMMANDING OFFICER OF USCGC "VIGILANT"

Cutter *Vigilant*, Radio Boston Radio Boston, Cutter *Vigilant*, Go.

This is Radio Boston, Roger. I have the district commander on the line. Are you ready for phone patch, over?

Radio Boston, Cutter *Vigilant*. My commanding officer is at this moment in a position where he can't readily get to the radio. However, I expect his position to be cleared shortly so that he will have access. How on that, over?

This is Radio Boston, Roger.

Radio Boston, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Go ahead, over.

Cutter *Vigilant*, this is Boston Rescue. I have Admiral Ellis, over.

Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*, I have Cdr. Eustis, over.

(RAdm Ellis) Go ahead Eustis.

(Cdr Eustis) Admiral, we are still waiting alongside the Soviet vessel. We have a man aboard who has defected from Soviet Union. Believe that they know that he has defected. They have no men on deck. We are all ready to get away. The man has expressed opinions to my flight operations officer and my executive officer, previously this afternoon what his desires are. I believe the political situation is such that today has been very successful other than the events that have occurred in the last hour, over.

(RAdm Ellis) Does the ship know that he has come aboard your ship? If not, I think they should know that, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Roger, understand they suspect that man has defected from the ship and is aboard *Vigilant*. However, they expressed no concrete desire to recover man from ship, over.

(RAdm Ellis) In view of the nature of present arrangements with them and in the interest of not fouling up any of our arrangements as far as the fishing situation is concerned, I think they should know this and if they choose to do nothing, keep him on board, otherwise put him back, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston this is *Vigilant*. Roger on that. Will search out further with them whether or not they know the man is aboard and desire to return him to Soviet mother ship. If they have no indication that he is aboard or no desire to recover him, will intend to get underway at this time with man on board. If they desire to recover him will have them return man to mother ship. If he desires to jump from mother ship to *Vigilant* as we depart will make attempt to pick him up as he leaves mother ship and recover man and stand by for further instructions, over.

(RAdm Ellis) Go ahead that way. If the man jumps into the water give the Russian ship the first opportunity to pick him up. Don't let him drown. Go get him if they are not going to retrieve him, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Roger on that. Inasmuch as Russian ship will be at anchor and we will be underway, anticipate that it will probably be reasonable for us to recover man from water, over.

(RAdm Ellis) Well, make sure that you don't preempt them in taking that action, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Radio Boston, this is *Vigilant*, roger on that. Will be underway shortly and will keep you advised of the situation as it progresses, over.

(RAdm Ellis) OK, this is Boston, roger. Good luck, out.

(Cdr Eustis) Radio Boston, this is *Vigilant* standing by this frequency.

## TRANSCRIPTION OF FIRST CONVERSATION BETWEEN CAPTAIN BROWN AND COMMANDER EUSTIS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF USCGC "VIGILANT"

(Boston Rescue) *Vigilant*, this is Coast Guard Boston. We were notified a short time ago by Woods Hale that you had a request for a 40 footer. Does this mean that the man is on board, over?

(*Vigilant*) Radio Boston, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Presently I have defector on board plus two Soviet officers, over.

(Boston Rescue) *Vigilant*, this RCC. Roger. Then you are still at anchor and nothing has been resolved yet, is that correct, over?

(*Vigilant*) Radio Boston, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger that Soviet vessel is presently anchored in Menemsha Bight. We are moored alongside at this time. We have two Russian officers aboard plus Russian defector. Defector is Soviet communications officer, over.

(Boston Rescue) This is ROC Boston. Roger. I'll let you get back to your interview, Captain. Request you keep us advised.

(*Vigilant*) Radio Boston this is cutter *Vigilant*. Roger that. We are standing by for instructions. Defector is definitely in fear of life. At this time present indications are that regardless of what we do he will go over the side as soon as we depart this area and hope for the best, over.

(Boston Rescue) This is Boston. Roger. Do you wish to talk to Captain Brown, over?

(*Vigilant*) Boston Rescue this is *Vigilant*. Roger. Would appreciate any assistance or information that the Chief of Staff might provide to us at this time, over.

(Boston Rescue) This is Boston Rescue. Roger. Wait one and I will get him on a conference call. I'll get right back to you, over.

(*Vigilant*) Boston Rescue this is *Vigilant*, roger.

(Boston Radio) *Vigilant* this is Boston radio, over.

(*Vigilant*) Boston Radio, this is *Vigilant*, over.

(Capt Brown) Ralph, this is Captain Brown, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Captain Brown, go ahead, over.

(Capt Brown) *Vigilant*, this is Captain Brown. I read you very clear.

(Cdr Eustis) Captain, the present situation is that I have presently on board one Russian defector, the communications officer on board, plus three of his superiors that are down in the cabin. Defector indicates that his intentions are, regardless of what we do, tonight he's going over the side if he has the chance, if we depart here. I have 'talked considerably with the individual within the last half hour. I believe he is sincere in his intentions to defect to this country. The political situation is tense at this time. Today's affair went pretty well until this situation arose. I would recommend or rather I am looking for ... (aircraft cut into tape at this point. Boston Radio this is 1472 ...) vessel with defector on board and escort Soviet vessel from the territorial seas if that is what desired, over.

(Boston Radio) 1472 this is Boston Radio. Please stand by we are on a phone patch.

(Capt Brown) Ralph, I didn't get but very little of that. You broke up plus the beeper is interfering, now exactly how many people do you have aboard?

(Cdr Eustis) At this time I have defector plus four or five Soviet officers on board the *Vigilant*, I say again I have four to five Soviet officers on board the *Vigilant*, plus defector. I am presently in Menemsha Bight, laying alongside Soviet vessel which is at anchor. Defector indicates that his intentions are to go over the side, if at all possible, and regardless of what our situation is. I have talked with Gay Head Station, they have 40 footer standing by in the bay ready to render assistance at any time at our direction, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that. Now, are the four to five officers that are aboard, are they aboard by your invitation ?

(Cdr Eustis) The four to five officers that are on board are on board at our invitation. I say again, they are aboard at our invitation. At conclusion of discussions with Soviet fleet commander, another of my officers and personnel went aboard Soviet fleet, a number of his personnel came aboard *Vigilant*. Proposed defector had indicated his intentions to come aboard *Vigilant* prior to his arrival aboard *Vigilant*.

(Capt Brown) I got most of that, Ralph. How are you reading me?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston rescue this is *Vigilant*. I am reading you four by five, over.

(Capt Brown) The carrier involved herein . . . I'm missing a lot of your conversation. Do I understand that there is only one defector, one defector that is involved in this, is that correct?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue that is Charlie, there is only one defector involved. I have one defector aboard plus four Soviet officers. We are presently anchored in Menemsha Bight, north of Gay Head Station, over.

(Capt Brown) I understand that, Ralph. Are these officers attempting to convince the defector that he should go back aboard the Russian ship, are they trying to convince him to go back aboard the Russian ship?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. The Russian officers have had no communications with the defector since he has arrived aboard the *Vigilant*. Defector is presently in watchstanders head at this time. Only person that has had direct communications with potential defector is myself, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger that, I understand and I also understand that you are still alongside of the *Sovetskaya Litva*, is that correct, you are still alongside the *Sovetskaya Litva*?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger your last. Roger your last, over.

(Capt Brown) OK, this . . . are, the four Russian officers, were they invited aboard the *Vigilant*, were they invited aboard the *Vigilant*, over?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger on that. Soviet officers were invited on board *Vigilant* as part of a general party invited aboard *Vigilant* at conclusion of formal talks. Soviet officers were a part of a Soviet group invited aboard *Vigilant* at conclusion of party force.

(Capt Brown) Roger that. Roger that. Are the Soviet officers aware of the defector aboard *Vigilant* over?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, *Vigilant*. Roger on that. Soviet officers have indicated informally via State Department interpreter aboard that they believe that a member of their vessel is seeking asylum, I say again, Soviet officers have indicated informally via interpreter that they are aware of a possibility of a Soviet crew member being aboard *Vigilant* seeking political asylum, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that. Request you advise how did defector get aboard *Vigilant*. How did he get aboard *Vigilant* t

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue this is *Vigilant*. Believe defector came aboard *Vigilant* with a group of Soviet personnel that came aboard as part of general invitation to visit *Vigilant* while we were laying alongside Soviet vessel, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that. Do you have an estimate of the time, do you have an estimate of the time, over?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue this is *Vigilant*. Roger on that. Believe he came aboard about two hours ago, about two hours ago, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that. Stand by please. OK, *Vigilant*, this is Boston. Have the Russian officers requested the return of the individual? Have they made any formal request of the return of the individual, over?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Oil your last, Soviet officers have informed I and my executive officer that individual be returned to Soviet vessel. They have not requested his return by name or position, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that. How long do you believe that the Russian officers may or expect to remain on board? How long do you expect them to remain on board, over?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. At this time we are in position that they are waiting for our decision on this matter. It appears to me that the political situation is such that we should return all Soviet officers to their vessel and apprise them that we will stand by with possible political refugee aboard until further advised, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that. Do you think that they would leave the *Vigilant*, do you think that they would all leave the *Vigilant* at your request and with the defector still aboard? Do you think that they would leave the *Vigilant* and still leave the defector aboard, over?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is cutter *Vigilant*. I believe that they would probably depart *Vigilant* at this time if directed to do so, but would be very unhappy about it. They are presently within U.S. territorial sea and we have full jurisdiction of the situation, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that. This is a situation which is going to have to be resolved by State Department. I would suggest that you ask the officers to return to their own ship, ask the officers to return to their own ship and stay in present position, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger, understand I should request officers to return to their own ship and stand by awaiting further instructions from U.S. State Department, over.

(Capt Brown) That is Charlie, that is Charlie.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger. I will advise concerned officers of same and standing by this frequency for further instructions, over.

(Capt Brown) OK, Ken, go ahead and terminate and I'm going to have to go ahead and call the admiral and tell him. If you'll stand by until I get back, please.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger. I'll be standing by this frequency. Cutter *Vigilant* standing by, over.

## TRANSCRIPTION OF SECOND CONVERSATION BETWEEN CAPTAIN BROWN AND COMMANDER EUSTIS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF USCGC VIGILANT

(Boston Radio) Cutter *Vigilant*, this is Radio Boston.

(*Vigilant*) Radio Boston, this is cutter *Vigilant*, over.

(Boston Radio) Cutter *Vigilant*. This is Boston Radio. Stand by for a phone patch from RCC, over.

(*Vigilant*) Boston Radio, this is *Vigilant*. Roger.

(Capt Brown) Cutter *Vigilant*, this is Boston. Am I talking to Cdr Pakos?

(LCdr Pakos) Yes, sir, you are, this is Cdr Pakos.

(Capt Brown) This is Capt Brown.

(LCdr Pakos) OK, Captain Brown, I'm reading you.

(Capt Brown) The situation is this, and I understand in talking with the district commander, that his instructions to Cdr Eustis were to ask the Russians if they wanted the defector to return aboard. Was this question ever put to them point blank, to your knowledge, over?

(LCdr Pakos) This is *Vigilant*. I haven't any specific knowledge on that, captain.

(Capt Brown) I'm going to have to talk with Cdr Eustis.

(LCdr Pakos) This is *Vigilant*. Roger. Stand by I'll get him.

(LCdr Pakos) Boston this is *Vigilant*. Captain Brown. Maybe I can shorten some of the traffic here. If the question is posed or was posed and the answer is affirmative, do you want to pass on any action for Cdr Eustis or do you still want to speak to him, over?

(Capt Brown) If their reply is in the affirmative, then the man is to be returned to the Russian vessel, over.

(LCdr Pakos) Roger. I understand that Captain and I'll pass that on to Capt Eustis and I'll get back to you within two or three minutes, Captain.

(Capt Brown) Roger.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Cdr Eustis here.

(Boston Radio) This is Boston Radio. Go ahead, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Radio, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Cdr Eustis here. I have been in discussion with the Russian officers and Captain Brown is standing by for a discussion with me.

(Boston Radio) This is Boston Radio. We had a telephone disconnected and Boston is in the process of calling me back, please stand by.

(Capt Brown) Did you get my last message that I passed to Cdr Pakos?

(Cdr Eustis) Captain, Roger on that. The Soviet officers have still not formally requested that we return subject to the Soviet vessel. The situation appears to be at the state now that we have individual rights at stake possibility. If we direct Soviet officers to return aboard their vessel I believe that they will do so at this time leaving further situation with Soviet

defector aboard. Believe if we direct them to return aboard vessel with subject in company I believe his life is probably in jeopardy.

(Capt Brown) I Roger that. You are directed to get a positive answer from the master of the vessel as to whether he wants individual returned aboard, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue. This is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger that. I will contact master of Soviet vessel, who is presently in cabin, and discuss matter with him and see what his desires are at this time, over.

(Capt Brown) Roger on that, thats a Roger and if his reply is in the affirmative the individual will be returned to the vessel, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger on that. Understand if the Soviet master desires return of individual to Soviet vessel we will do so, over.

(Capt Brown) That is affirmative. Request you advise as soon as possible, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger on that. We have a State Department and Fisheries officer from Washington standing by here at this time. I will let him put on the phone here and give his informed opinion to you at this time, Captain.

(Capt Brown) The Fisheries agent has no responsibility in this matter whatsoever, over.

(Cdr. Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger on that. I will discuss matter with Soviet officers based on discussion at this point I anticipate that they will request return of individual to Soviet vessel and at such time as they return, as he returns to vessel then I will depart their side and escort them out of the territorial seas. At that time we will escort them out of the territorial waters. Anticipate this individual concerned will make an attempt at this time to jump from the Soviet vessel and be picked up by *Vigilant* or 40 footer from Gay Head Station, over.

53-972 O—70—15

(Capt Brown) Roger, Roger and I understand what you are saying and you are ordered to take all necessary precautions to preclude any type of incidents resulting from your vessel, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, This is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger on that. Will take all precautions necessary to preclude incidents from occurring from *Vigilant*. However, anticipate that if man goes in the water we should a make attempts to pick him up from the water and that we may be logical agency to stand by and pick man up from water, over.

(Capt Brown) I think you misinterpret what your last order was. You are to take all precautions to prevent any incident from occurring, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger on that. We will place all Soviet personnel aboard Soviet vessel, stand clear, if man goes in the water we will make no attempt to recover until such time as Soviet vessel has made all reasonable attempts to recover the individual, over.

(Capt Brown) This is Boston. I will clarify a little further, I will clarify. Once the individual is returned to his parent vessel, assuming that the command desires him back aboard, once the individual is aboard the foreign vessel at that point your most directed responsibility has been completed. Any incident occurring after that time must be done within your own discretion and our basic Coast Guard mission of search and rescue, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger on that. Will direct Soviet officers to return to their vessel and subject individual to return to his vessel. Any incident that recurs after he returns to his vessel or attempts to return to his vessel we will comply with normal search and rescue procedures and recover individual as necessary, over.

(Capt. Brown) *Vigilant*, I read you at about strength two, how are you reading me right now, over.

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. I read you weak but readable. I read you weak but readable. I will direct Soviet officers and subject individual to return to their vessel at this time and escort them out of the U.S. territorial seas. Will make no attempt to interfere with recovery of subject Individual until such time as we have departed from Soviet vessel, over.

(Capt Brown) *Vigilant*, this is Boston again. We will do it this way. There *must* be a formal request, there must be a specific request by the master, by the master of the Russian vessel that the individual be returned, that the individual be returned. That is point number one. Point number two. If the master specifically requests that the individual be returned to his ship, if the Russian master specifically requests that the individual be returned to his ship, you will return the individual to the Russian ship, you will return him. The individual will be returned and placed in the custody of the master of the Russian ship. At this point, at this point you may break contact with the Russian vessel and continue your surveillance and routine

patrol, continue your escort surveillance and routine patrol. You will assure that no incident occurs during the transfer of the individual from your vessel to the Russian vessel. Do you understand?

(Cdr Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger your last. We will discuss that with the Soviet master directing and his personnel to return to their unit. We will attempt to have subject individual return to his unit and then depart Soviet vessel and escort them from the territorial waters. At such time as he departs territorial seas we will depart U.S. fisheries embarked and proceed New Bedford with them. over.

(Capt. Brown) *Vigilant*, this is Boston, this is Boston. You have not referred back directly to the fact, to the fact that the master, that the master of the Russian vessel *must* request the return of the individual, the master must request the return of the individual. Only under such condition of a request by the master will the individual be returned to the Russian vessel. Do you read, over? (Cdr. Eustis) Soviet delegation to depart my vessel and depart territorial seas with . . . under my escort and insure that I take necessary precautions to insure no international incident develops, over.

(Capt. Brown) *Vigilant*, This is Boston. I believe I broke up your last transmission. How are you reading me now. OK?

(Cdr. Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger your last, roger your last, over.

(Capt Brown) I don't know what you just rogered for. This is Boston, *Vigilant*. My last instructions to you, my last instructions to you were, the individual the individual is not to be returned to the Russian vessel unless the master has specifically and directly requested his return. He is not to be returned as a matter of course. He is to be returned only if the master of the vessel has specifically directed his return. Do you understand, over?

(*Vigilant*) Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Captain Brown this is Lcdr Pakos here. I'm reading you on my receiver. The captain is getting a lot of garbles, I understand the message and just discussed it with him. Stand by he is right here.

(Cdr. Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger your last. This is Cutter *Vigilant* standing by this frequency, over.

(Capt. Brown) Roger this is Boston. You understand my last transmission. The individual is *not* to be returned until the master has specifically requested his return. Point number two, if the master has requested his return you will assure yourself...

(Cdr. Eustis) Boston Rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. I'm standing by this frequency at this time, going to discuss matters further with the Soviet skipper and directing him to return to his ship at this time, I roger your last, over.

(Capt. Brown) This is Boston, this is Boston. Roger on that. Ken . . .

(Boston Rescue) Radio Boston, disconnect transmitter.

(Boston Radio) Yes, sir. It's disconnected.

## TRANSCRIPT OF PHONE PATCH OF 23 NOVEMBER 1970

1920R

(Commanding Officer, *Vigilant*)

Radio Boston this is Cdr Eustis here over.

(Lt Ryan)

Yes Captain this is the ROC. I tried to get you another means but apparently we've lost comms. Captain Brown is concerned about the interpretation that you made of last instructions. He wanted me to clarify to you that the number one thing to follow the number one thing on the agenda is that the skipper of the Russian boat must request them mans return prior to your returning Mm. That is what this all hinges on. The skipper must request must specifically request the mans return. Over.

(Commanding Officer, *Vigilant*)

Boston rescue this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger on that. I am in very good communications with the skipper of the Soviet vessel and will ensure that he specifically requests return of specific individual over.

(Lt Ryan)

This is RCC Boston. Roger the way the transmission ended there was a little confusion here it sounded as though you were ordering all the officers off and the subject man was going to accompany them. We just wanted to clarify that point over.

(Commanding Officer, *Vigilant*)

Boston rescue this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger on that I am departing the bridge at this time. To discuss matter further with the Soviet officers. Will advise you further of any further developments over.

(Lt Ryan) This is Coast Guard Boston. Roger out.

---

### THIRD CONVERSATION BETWEEN CAPTAIN BROWN AND COMMANDER EUSTIS, COMMANDING OFFICER, USCGC "VIGILANT"

2020R

Commander EUSTIS. Current situation is that we are still moored alongside Soviet vessel. I have official request in writing for return of alleged defector, in writing. Present intentions are to return defector to the Soviet officers that are aboard *Vigilant*, have him depart vessel in custody Soviet officers, *Vigilant* to depart Soviet vessel and escort Soviet vessel out of U.S. territorial seas, will make no attempt to interfere with possible defection of individual unless he departs Soviet vessel and goes into water, over.

Captain BROWN. *Vigilant* this is Boston. I didn't get any of that.

Commander EUSTIS. Boston, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. I say again, my present intentions are, Soviet defector presently aboard *Vigilant*, three Soviet officers also presently aboard *Vigilant*. My intentions are to return defector to custody of Soviet vessel, *Vigilant* to depart side of Soviet vessel and escort Soviet vessel from territorial seas. If defector, potential defector, departs Soviet vessel *Vigilant* will stand clear and make no attempt to pick up defector until life in jeopardy, over.

Captain BROWN. This is Boston. I roger that. You have still not answered the question, has the master of the vessel requested the return of the defector, over.

Commander EUSTIS. Boston rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger, I have formal request in writing at this time from master of Soviet vessel for return of defector, over.

Captain BROWN. Roger, roger on your transmission and proceed in accordance with your total message, over.

Commander EUSTIS. Boston rescue, this is *Vigilant*. Roger that. Am getting the territorial and fisheries waters, over.

Commander EUSTIS. Boston rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger on that, will the territorial and fisheries water, over.

Commander EUSTIS. Boston rescue, this is Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger on that, will advise when Soviet vessel departs U.S. territorial seas and U.S. fisheries contiguous zone, over.

Captain BROWN. Roger, roger from Boston. Out

Commander EUSTIS. Cutter *Vigilant*. Roger. Standing by this frequency.

---

Material in this section taken from:

U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on State Department Organization and Foreign Operations, *Hearings on Attempted Defection by Lithuanian Seaman Simas Kudirka*, 91st Congress, 2d Session, 3-29 December 1970, IV-247 p.