Wireless for the Warrior - Volume 4

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CDR-701

KGB codename 'Tschassy'
Country of origin: USA

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: CIA

Year of Introduction: Probably 1970/80s.

Purpose: Reception of coded messages by agents.

Technical details: Frequency: 162.5MHz. Sensitivity: 0.7µV.

Modulation: FM. Frequency deviation max. ±9kHz.

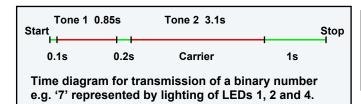
Tone frequencies: 667.5, 862.5, 907.5Hz

Aerial: Quarter wave wire. **Power:** 220V AC mains.

REMARKS

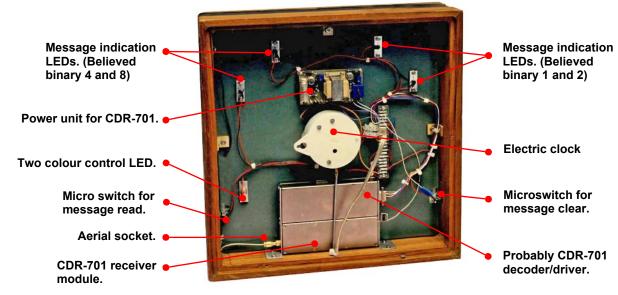
The CDR-701, KGB codename Tschassy (*Yacы, Russian for clock*), was an agent's VHF radio receiver for the reception and storage of up to 15 binary coded messages. In this application the receiver, its associated AC mains power supply and message indication LEDs were concealed in an electro mechanic wall clock powered by AC mains. The four message indication LEDs, representing binary 1, 2, 4 and 8, were fitted inside the clock, mounted behind openings of a diameter of 0.5mm in the clock-face. The LEDs were only activated after pressing a hidden micro switch at the right hand side of the clock; clearing the messages was by another micro switch at the left hand side.

The CDR-701 and associated transmitting system was principally not unlike early binary pagers and probably inspired by these systems.



References:

- With thanks to Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany for the colour photos, BStU sheets and technical data of the CDR 701.
- BStU, Archive der Zentralstelle, MfS-HA-II, No. 44310, n.d.



View of CDR 701 receiver fitted in a mains electro mechanic wall clock, backside with cover detached.

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