

# When truth is stranger than fiction: The RYAN Operation (1981-1991) [Cuando la realidad supera la ficción: La operación RYAN (1981-1991)]

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RYAN was the largest intelligence operation carried out by the Soviet Union in its history. Active between 1981 and the fall of the Iron Curtain, this mission was intended to detect, prevent and neutralize a surprise nuclear missile attack. In 1983, coinciding with the NATO manoeuvres Able Archer 83, the worst Soviet fears seemed to come true and Moscow prepared to launch a pre-emptive strike. Based on recently declassified primary sources, this article analyses those incidents that put the world on the brink of a nuclear holocaust. © 2018, Marcial Pons Librero. All rights reserved.

Able archer

Cold War

NATO

RYAN

War scare

Warsaw pact