

Fraud under the cloak of secrecy: Rare-Earth elements, “Red Mercury,” and new forms of criminal involvement of citizens in destructive groups.

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Purpose of the Document

The purpose of this document is to conduct a detailed examination of contemporary forms of fraud built on enticing and semi-criminal legends of “red mercury,” rare-earth substances, fictitious currency pallets, “blocked” foreign accounts, and other pseudo-assets. Particular attention is paid to the psychological and organisational mechanisms used to involve citizens in destructive criminal groups; the characteristic signs of deception, victim typology, internal manipulation techniques, and methods of retaining victims are analysed. The document is intended to clarify the risks, to shape individual and societal strategies for countering fraudulent schemes, and to provide recommendations for safeguarding both the financial and psychological security of citizens.

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Summary

The document provides a comprehensive assessment of the contemporary fraud phenomenon that relies on myths of super-valuable substances (“red mercury,” rare-earth and chemical elements), fictitious currency shipments, and imaginary secret accounts. Special attention is given to the psychological mechanisms of involvement: an illusion of access to a secret super-profit is created for the victim, accompanied by demonstrations of “secrecy,” participation in “closed” operations, and a progressive emotional and financial drain. Victims are retained in the scheme through fear of liability, isolation from external advice, and the phenomenon of gradually increasing sunk investments.

The document highlights the main indicators of such fraud and points out the danger of prolonged imaginary transactions in which the role of “intelligence services,” the demonstration of nonexistent goods, and constant manipulation of the payment process are aggressively exploited. Using an analysis of the schemes, practical recommendations are offered for victims and their families: halting payments, preserving evidence, obtaining professional legal and psychological support, and restoring personal connections.

In conclusion, the emphasis is placed on the need for broad public prevention: exposing the schemes, rejecting any romanticisation of “unique opportunities,” and the importance of seeking help at the slightest suspicion. Countering these forms of criminal involvement is possible only through awareness, critical thinking, and the maintenance of open communications within society.

The article examines contemporary varieties of fraud built on the exploitation of human greed, credulity, the drive for quick enrichment, fear of missing out, and psychological dependence on a promised outcome. Special attention is paid to schemes involving the so-called “red mercury,” rare-earth, radioactive, chemically hazardous, and other allegedly super-valuable substances, along with their modern iterations: “pallet dollars,” “pallet euros,” “United Nations dollars,” “dyed dollars,” “blocked accounts in foreign banks,” “digital beneficiary accounts,” fictitious construction of plants for manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles, ammunition cartridges, microchips, robots, and other dual-use products.

What distinguishes these schemes is that the victim is not simply deceived like an ordinary buyer or investor. He is gradually drawn into the illusion of participation in a closed, semi-legal, or criminal operation, which makes seeking protection substantially more difficult. The person begins to fear not only the loss of money but also his own possible liability. It is precisely this fear that becomes the main lock with which fraudsters confine him in a destructive group.

The article analyses the signs of such criminal constructs, the psychological mechanisms of entrapment, the role of bogus representatives of special services, methods of demonstrating the “merchandise,” imitation of transactions with foreign buyers, repeated postponements of payment, long-term extraction of funds, and the ways to exit such groups while preserving the legal and psychological safety of the victim.

Keywords: fraud, red mercury, rare-earth substances, criminal entrapment, psychological dependence, manipulation, destructive group, illicit trafficking of substances, financial seduction, victim protection.

Introduction

Modern fraud long ago ceased to be simple deceit in which one person tells another false information and obtains money. Today it increasingly resembles a meticulously constructed system of psychological capture, where the victim not only believes the promises but begins to participate in a reality invented by the fraudsters. This reality has its own rules, its “initiates,” its secrets, its fears, its verification rituals, and its endless expectations of a grand financial outcome.

One of the most persistent criminal legends, known since the 1990s, is the legend of super-expensive substances: osmium, radium, uranium, californium, beryllium, various mercury compounds, and other allegedly rarest chemical or radioactive elements. In mass criminal circulation, many such stories have been lumped together under the label “red mercury.” This term has become not so

much the name of a specific substance as a symbol of an entire era of fraud in which fantasy, fear, greed, and pseudoscientific arguments merged into a single deceptive myth.

Over time, criminal groups have not abandoned such schemes; they have only transformed them. Crude tales of a “secret substance for nuclear technologies” have been supplanted by more flexible legends: “pallet dollars,” “pallet euros,” “United Nations dollars,” “dyed banknotes,” “special money requiring chemical cleaning,” “blocked accounts in foreign banks,” “digital accounts in the beneficiary’s name,” “funds frozen due to political circumstances,” “closed state programs,” “production of unmanned vehicles,” “construction of an ammunition plant,” “manufacture of microchips,” “robotic lines.”

The names change, the objects of deception change, the appearance of the participants changes, but the inner essence remains the same: a person is offered entry into a world of secret super-profit, where the ordinary laws of economics, law, and common sense supposedly do not apply. He is persuaded that he has stumbled upon a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of the rarest kind. His money, will, critical thinking, and ability to stop are then gradually drained.

The General Nature of “Red Mercury” Fraud and Other Illicit Substance Schemes

Fraud involving the so-called “red mercury” is built not on the substance itself but on the legend surrounding it. In most cases, no substance possessing the claimed properties and value exists. The victim may be shown ordinary mercury, colored mixtures, chemical compounds, metallic powders, low-level radioactive sources, industrial waste, laboratory samples, or even completely harmless substances that outwardly resemble what the fraudsters call the “merchandise.” Sometimes items that give a weak reading on measurement instruments are used, which makes a strong impression on an unprepared person.

The main value in such a scheme is not the substance but the performance. The victim is shown not a product but a staged production: a closed meeting, anxious faces, half-whispered conversations, the display of credentials, references to secret departments, connections to former law-enforcement personnel, stories about military depots, the collapse of state programs, clandestine laboratories, “removed consignments,” “old stockpiles,” “special designation,” and “Western buyers.”

The scheme is dangerous because from the very beginning it creates a sense of prohibition. The person realizes, or ought to realize, that the circulation of radioactive, toxic, explosive, chemically hazardous, and strategically significant substances cannot take place in a domestic setting—without permits, without state accounting, without laboratory confirmation, without lawful

documentation. Yet it is precisely this prohibition that becomes part of the bait. The fraudsters suggest: "If it were open and legal, there would be no such profit."

Thus a criminal logic is formed: the shadier the proposal, the higher the supposed profit; the more impossible the verification, the greater the "secrecy"; the more dangerous the participation, the stronger the feeling of being chosen. The victim begins to perceive the absence of evidence not as an indicator of deception but as confirmation of the deal's exceptional confidentiality. This is one of the central psychological traps.

Selection of the Victim: Why the Victim Is Often Not a Naïve Person but a Wealthy and Active Individual

A common misconception is that only poorly educated or helpless people become victims of such crimes. Practice shows the opposite. Frequently the targets of criminal influence are citizens with high incomes, entrepreneurial experience, connections, managerial skills, a habit of making decisions, and a desire to multiply their wealth.

Such people are dangerous for an ordinary con artist but extremely attractive to an organized group. They have money, the ability to quickly find additional funds, a circle of acquaintances, negotiation skills, an appetite for risk, and sometimes confidence in their own ability to "handle things on the spot." This confidence often becomes a vulnerability. The person thinks he cannot be deceived because he has seen life, conducted negotiations, dealt with all sorts of people, and can tell truth from falsehood.

But a sophisticated fraudulent scheme does not work on a single level. It does not simply convey falsehood. It gradually creates an environment around the person where the falsehood is confirmed by a multitude of coordinated details: documents, people, instruments, meetings, phone calls, others' emotions, pseudoscientific explanations, urgency, and apparent danger.

The higher a person's self-regard in business matters, the harder it is for him to admit that he has been fooled. That is why the victim continues to participate even when the first signs of deception are already obvious. He is defending not only the future profit but also his own self-image: the image of an intelligent, strong, circumspect individual. Admitting the deception becomes an internal defeat for him. Fraudsters understand this perfectly and constantly prod him toward new actions, saying: "You're almost there," "only one last step remains," "you can't quit now," "we'll lose everything because of indecision," "the buyer is waiting," "people are risking their necks."

The Legend of Special Services and "Secret Units" as a Means of Suppressing Critical Thinking

One of the most effective techniques in such schemes is the use of an individual who is allegedly associated with special services, a closed state agency, a military directorate, or a covert structure. The victim is shown credentials bearing high-sounding titles: “secret unit”, “special directorate”, “closed service”, “interdepartmental group”, “special department”. Sometimes folders, seals, passes, photographs in uniform, service badges, phone numbers, and vehicles with a distinctive appearance are displayed.

This part of the performance is designed to trigger several reactions simultaneously. First, the person experiences fear of state power. Second, they feel respect for what appears to be a force structure. Third, they accept the impossibility of verification as the norm: if the unit is secret, then its existence cannot be confirmed by ordinary means. It is precisely the word “secret” that becomes a screen behind which emptiness is hidden. The impossibility of verifying the credentials, the position, the origin of the goods, the legality of the transaction, and the identity of the participants is presented not as a shortcoming but as a sign of authenticity. Any question from the victim is met with the response: “We can’t talk about that”, “that’s classified information”, “unnecessary questions are dangerous”, “you’re either with us or not”, “such things are not discussed over the phone”, “we’ll show the documents later”, “everything is processed through another channel”.

It should be emphasized: lawful state bodies do not engage private individuals in financing illegal transactions involving radioactive, chemically hazardous, or strategic substances; they do not offer citizens to buy or sell such materials; they do not conduct clandestine commercial deals in hotels, apartments, warehouses, vehicles, or country houses; they do not demand personal funds for receiving buyers, escorting goods, or “resolving a matter” with payment. If a person hears such proposals from someone presenting themselves as an employee of a closed agency, they are dealing not with a state secret but with a high probability of criminal fraud.

Demonstration of the “Merchandise” and Pseudoscientific Checks as a Rite of Initiation

Once trust has been built, the fraudsters move to demonstrating the substance. This is the most critical stage, because visual and physical experience often destroys any remaining doubt. The person sees a jar, an ampoule, a metal vessel, a lead container, a powder, a liquid bead, an unusual color, traces of marking, a device, gloves, a protective case. All this creates an impression of materiality. The legend ceases to be a story and turns into a visible event.

In schemes involving “red mercury”, staged experiments prepared in advance for the uninitiated observer may be used. The victim is shown how a liquid bead supposedly reacts to milk, garlic, a mirror, a magnet, heat, light, glass, or a metal

surface. They are told that the substance absorbs light, does not reflect, repels or attracts, changes its properties, “behaves like something alive”, “does not obey ordinary laws”, “is used in defense technologies”, “is worth billions for a few grams”.

Sometimes a Geiger counter or another instrument is employed. For an unprepared person, the very sound of the device becomes evidence. However, the readings may be caused by an extraneous source, a planted object nearby, a previously contaminated surface, an improper operating mode of the instrument, or outright substitution of the object. In a number of cases, fraudsters use genuinely hazardous substances in small quantities, thereby endangering the life and health of all present.

The pseudoscientific demonstration in such a scheme performs a ritual rather than an evidentiary function. It is intended not to establish the truth but to move the person from the position of an observer to that of a participant. After the victim has been present at the “check”, it is psychologically more difficult for them to withdraw. They have already seen the “proof”, already participated in a secret meeting, already listened to explanations, already indicated that they are interested. From that moment onward, the fraudsters begin speaking to them as someone who “understands everything” and is “already inside the process”.

The Mechanism of the Imaginary Transaction: Foreign Buyers, Waiting for Payment, and the Endless Prolongation of Hope

When the victim is convinced of the existence of the merchandise, the next part of the deceit begins – the appearance of a buyer. The buyers may be pre-arranged individuals, often presented as foreign citizens, representatives of closed scientific circles, intermediaries of major corporations, trusted associates of foreign foundations, military procurement officers, private emissaries, or employees of diplomatic or quasi-governmental structures. Their task is to confirm the value of the merchandise through their appearance, behavior, and willingness to pay vast sums of money.

Such individuals usually speak confidently, use professional expressions, demand secrecy, and may display suitcases, security guards, interpreters, documents, bank letters, and allegedly confirmed accounts. Sometimes they intentionally behave harshly, vet the participants, ask questions, and express dissatisfaction with breaches of order. All of this reinforces the sense of authenticity.

Then a crucial turning point occurs: the merchandise is supposedly transferred, the deal supposedly concluded, and all that remains is to receive payment. It is precisely at this stage that the victim becomes most vulnerable. They are no

longer thinking about whether this is a fraud. They are thinking about when the money will arrive.

Thereafter begins an endless succession of reasons why the payment is postponed. It is necessary to cover the buyer's arrival. To host the guests. To cover security expenses. To send someone to a meeting. To leave a representative with the buyer as a guarantor. To make a storage payment. To resolve an inspection issue. To pay for a transfer. To extend a reservation. To settle difficulties at the border. To prepare a new document. To make a deposit. To confirm the seriousness of intentions. To rescue a person who is "stuck" while carrying out an errand.

The scheme lives not on one large transfer of money, but on a multitude of recurrent payments, each presented as the last. The most destructive aspect of this stage is its gradualism. If the person were asked for a huge sum all at once, they might refuse. But once some of their funds have already been taken, they begin paying further so as not to lose what has already been invested. The trap of sunk costs is triggered: the more that has been lost, the stronger the desire to continue in order to salvage the previous losses.

In the practice of such cases, it is not uncommon for citizens to have remained in a state of deception for years. They sold property, borrowed from relatives, took money against promises of future payment, ruined their business reputation, concealed what was happening from their families, lost their health, sleep, social circle, and sometimes the ability to assess reality soberly. Four years of waiting for payment is not merely a period of fraud. It is four years of life given away to someone else's lie.

Why the Victim Does Not Seek Protection: The Criminal Frame as the Main Instrument of Retention

One of the most insidious elements of the scheme is its inherently criminal tint. The victim understands that they participated, or intended to participate, in the turnover of a substance that, according to the fraudsters' stories, is prohibited, dangerous, secret, radioactive, military, or strategic. Even if the substance never existed in reality, the person is convinced that they entered into a prohibited transaction.

This conviction becomes a powerful means of pressure. The fraudsters may directly or indirectly remind them: "You yourself took part", "where are you going to go?", "you'll have to explain why you wanted to sell a prohibited substance", "we have recordings", "you signed papers", "you handed over money", "you met with buyers", "you're now in it too".

As a result, the person finds themselves in a double trap. On the one hand, they lose money. On the other, they are afraid to approach law enforcement authorities because they consider themselves an accessory to a crime. Even if their role was artificially created, even if they were misled, even if there was no real prohibited substance at all, fear of responsibility keeps them silent. The victim's silence is oxygen for the fraudsters. They live off the fact that the person is ashamed, afraid, hopeful, and continues to conceal what is happening. The longer they remain silent, the more money they lose. The more they lose, the more frightening it becomes to admit it. The more frightening it is to admit, the deeper the dependence.

It is fundamentally important to emphasize here: seeking legal assistance and recording the circumstances are not tantamount to confessing to having committed a crime. A person who has been drawn by deceit into an imaginary transaction needs qualified defense and legal assessment. Voluntarily choosing silence, destroying correspondence, continuing payments, and trying to "come to an arrangement" with the fraudsters most often only worsen their position.

The Neuropsychological Basis of Involvement: Alternating Expectation, Disappointment, and Renewed Hope

A particular danger of such schemes lies not only in the financial fraud but also in the psychological dependency. Without necessarily knowing scientific terminology, the fraudsters employ with near accuracy the mechanisms linked to the alternation of anticipated reward, anxiety, and temporary relief.

First, the person is painted a picture of future wealth: an enormous sum of money, a new life, the purchase of property, business expansion, joint projects, freedom from debts, high social status, and the opportunity to prove their foresight. They begin to live mentally in a future that does not yet exist. They discuss how the money will be distributed, where it will be directed, what decisions will be taken. The mere expectation of the reward already becomes a source of intense emotional uplift.

Then comes the disappointment: the payment did not arrive, the buyer was delayed, the bank demanded confirmation, the representative did not get in touch, an additional sum is needed. Anxiety, irritation, and fear of loss arise. The fraudsters allow the victim to vent their anger, share their indignation, and portray themselves as equally affected by the circumstances. They say: "We are also furious", "we were let down", "we will find a solution", "the intermediary is at fault", "we'll wrap everything up tomorrow".

After that, a new date is set. The person once again enters a state of expectation. Anxiety is replaced by hope. Then another letdown. And again hope.

Thus, a destructive cycle emerges: expectation – blow – temporary relief – renewed expectation. This cycle subjugates the person's thinking. They cease to evaluate facts sequentially and begin to live from one assigned date to the next. Outwardly they may maintain business activity, but inwardly their consciousness is already absorbed by the promised payout.

Such a state is akin to addiction. The person does not simply believe the fraudsters' words; they are emotionally attached to the very process of waiting. It seems to them that quitting the scheme means not liberation but the final loss of future wealth. Therefore, even obvious incongruities, lies, postponements, new requests for money, and humiliating explanations are perceived as obstacles on the way to the desired resolution rather than as evidence of deception.

Modern Variations of the Same Criminal Logic

Schemes involving "red mercury" and rare substances today coexist alongside new forms of fraud built on the same principles.

Stories about "pallets of dollars" and "pallets of euros" are usually based on the legend of a large stockpile of cash located in a warehouse, a diplomatic depot, a military zone, with former officials, in a closed bank facility, or with intermediaries who urgently need someone to move the funds. The victim is shown bundles of money, boxes, seals, photographs, videos, and shipping documents. Then money is demanded for delivery, customs clearance, storage, security, authenticity verification, and intermediary fees.

Schemes involving "United Nations dollars" or "dyed dollars" rely on a pseudo-chemical story. The victim is told that the money has been specially treated with a composition for covert transport, protection from detection, or preservation, and now it must be "developed," "cleaned," or "unsealed." An allegedly miraculous liquid is demonstrated that turns black or colored paper into a genuine banknote. This requires expensive reagents, payment to a specialist, and the purchase of equipment. In reality, the victim pays for a performance and does not receive any money.

Schemes with a "blocked account in a foreign bank" are built on the promise of a large sum that allegedly already exists but cannot be transferred without payment of a duty, a certificate, a tax, a commission, confirmation of the origin of funds, account opening, document legalization, or attorney's services. The victim is shown letters, bank forms, stamps, pages of supposedly financial institutions, and messages from "managers." Each new payment is declared to be the final condition for the transfer.

Legends about a "digital account in the recipient's name" exploit the notion of complex foreign financial systems. The victim is told that a special account has

already been opened in his name, that the money is "visible in the system," but that access requires payment for identity verification, insurance, a key, a tax code, and support. The victim may be shown fabricated pages where the amount supposedly appears under his name.

More complex schemes involve fictitious construction of factories for the production of unmanned aerial vehicles, ammunition, microchips, robotic systems, and other goods, especially when the public mood makes such themes emotionally significant. Here, not only the thirst for profit is exploited but also patriotic rhetoric, a sense of involvement in a great cause, and the desire to take part in a state task. The victim is promised access to classified orders, government programs, military contracts, preferential financing, and special permits. Then, under various pretexts, money is collected for design documents, approvals, premises, equipment, intermediaries, advance payments, and "entry into the program." We will examine these schemes in our subsequent articles.

In all these cases, the object of deceit differs, but the structure of the trap is identical: secrecy, urgency, enormous profit, impossibility of open verification, presentation of false evidence, involvement in anticipation, and the gradual extraction of money.

Key Indicators of a Criminal Scheme

Despite their outward diversity, such frauds share persistent indicators. If even several of them are present simultaneously, the risk of deception is extremely high.

The first indicator is the promise of disproportionate profit. If millions or billions are promised for a few grams of a substance, several boxes of documents, access to an account, or participation in a closed transaction, this is not a unique opportunity but a danger signal. A lawful economy is not built on miracles offered to random people in secret apartments and hotels.

The second indicator is an appeal to secrecy. When every reasonable question is met with a prohibition on verification, it means there is indeed nothing to verify. A lawful secret has lawful forms of access, record-keeping, accountability, and document flow. The criminal "secret" requires only one thing: that the person remain silent and pay.

The third indicator is the involvement of persons with dubious credentials. The authenticity of a position is not confirmed by a laminated card, a seal of unclear origin, a uniform, or a confident voice. The more frequently someone brandishes a "secret" identification in a private transaction, the more reason there is to doubt his status.

The fourth indicator is the display of goods without legitimate expert examination. Any experiments with milk, garlic, a mirror, a counter, dyed banknotes, or chemical solutions are not proof of value. Scientific confirmation requires a laboratory, methodology, specialists, protocols, and the lawful origin of the sample.

The fifth indicator is constant small payments. If each time a new unforeseen expense arises and the final payout is constantly postponed, the victim is facing not a transaction but a managed extortion system.

The sixth indicator is emotional pressure. The fraudsters demand urgency, accuse the victim of distrust, frighten him with the loss of opportunity, talk about risk to other participants, and exert pressure through shame, vanity, greed, a sense of duty, and fear of exposure.

The seventh indicator is isolation from family and specialists. The victim is told that he must not tell his family, lawyers, acquaintances, bank employees, or law enforcement authorities. Any isolation is beneficial only to the criminals.

Where seeking advice is forbidden, the manipulation of the person has already begun.

The Destructive Group as a Means of Retaining the Victim

Such schemes often operate not through a single fraudster but through a group of individuals, each playing a specific role. One acts as the "supplier," another as an "intelligence officer," a third as an "expert," a fourth as a "foreign buyer," a fifth as a "translator," a sixth as a "bank representative," and a seventh as a "victimized participant" who supposedly has also invested money and is waiting.

Such a group creates an artificial social reality for the victim. When one person lies, they may not be believed. When five lie, coherently confirming one another's words, the unprepared individual gets the sensation: "They can't all be deceivers." Indeed they can. Moreover, in organized schemes, each participant is needed precisely so that the lie appears as a polyphonic truth.

The destructiveness of the group manifests in the fact that it gradually substitutes the person's ordinary bearings. Family comes to be perceived as a hindrance, a lawyer as a threat to secrecy, the bank as an obstacle, law enforcement as a danger, common sense as weakness, and the fraudsters as the only people who "understand the situation."

When the criminals become the main source of explanations for the victim, he is no longer merely in a financial trap but in a state of controlled dependency.

Paths of Exiting a Destructive Group: Legal, Psychological, and Organizational Measures

Exiting such a scheme must not be an emotional outburst but a consistent restoration of control. A person inside the deception is often incapable of instantly acknowledging the full depth of what is happening. Therefore, the task is not to "simply stop believing" but to stop financing, re-establish contact with the outside world, secure evidence, obtain legal assistance, and leave the psychological circle of anticipation.

First of all, all payments must be stopped immediately. The fraudsters will claim that right now refusal will cause the deal to collapse, the loss of the goods, the arrest of people, the disruption of the transfer, or the disappearance of the buyer. This is an expected reaction. The entire system is built on ensuring that the last payment is never the last. Therefore, stopping payments is the first and most important step.

Next, one must stop attending personal meetings without a companion. Meetings in apartments, warehouses, hotels, cars, country houses, industrial premises, and other places where there are no witnesses and security measures are particularly dangerous. If the fraudsters insist on an urgent meeting, it may be an attempt at pressure, intimidation, seizure of documents, or obtaining new promissory notes.

It is necessary to preserve all evidence: correspondence, recordings of conversations, photographs, videos, telephone numbers, bank details, receipts, contracts, drafts, information about vehicles, addresses of meetings, names, nicknames, copies of documents, and information about intermediaries. Materials must not be destroyed out of fear. What appears compromising may prove to be evidence of deception and involvement.

The next step is to contact a lawyer or another qualified defense attorney experienced in the criminal-law assessment of fraud, extortion, illicit trafficking in substances, and criminal involvement. Unprepared, self-made explanations may be incomplete, emotional, and contradictory. Professional assistance is needed not to conceal the truth but to present it in a legally precise and safe manner.

After legal consultation, one should consider contacting law enforcement authorities. It is important not to yield to the inner conviction that "it is already too late." It becomes too late when the person continues to pay and keep silent. If the victim was misled, if the subject of the transaction was fictitious, if money was extracted under false pretenses, if threats, pressure, forged documents, bogus positions, and staged buyers were used, these circumstances are subject to investigation.

Of particular importance is informing the family or a trusted person. The fraudsters hold the person in isolation. Therefore, the exit begins with the restoration of human connection. One should choose one or two people capable of not judging but helping: a relative, a business partner, a lawyer, a doctor, a psychologist. The victim needs to hear not a shout of "how could you" but a firm phrase: "We are ending this and acting according to the law."

Equally important is work on the psychological state. A person who has long been in a scheme of anticipation may experience shame, insomnia, irritability, anxiety, an obsessive desire to check messages, fear of missing the "real payout," anger at relatives who do not believe, and at the same time a secret hope that everything will still end with a payment. This is not a weakness of character but a consequence of prolonged manipulative influence. Help from a specialist in addictive behavior, crisis states, or the consequences of psychological violence may be necessary.

Exiting a destructive group is not only about severing ties with the fraudsters but also about regaining the ability to independently assess reality. The person needs to rebuild simple foundations: legality, verifiability, documentation, openness, consultation with independent specialists, the absence of secret payments, and refusal to participate in dubious transactions.

How the Victim's Loved Ones Should Act

Loved ones often notice the deception before the victim does. They observe strange phone calls, secrecy, disappearing money, irritability, stories of imminent wealth, and the inability to obtain clear explanations. Direct pressure, however, sometimes backfires: telling a person, "You fool, you've been swindled," can make them shut down and become even more attached to the fraudsters, because there they supposedly find understanding and support.

The right approach for loved ones must combine firmness with respect. One should speak not about the person's character but about the hallmarks of the scheme: "The deal cannot be verified," "they demand more money," "payment is constantly postponed," "they forbid contacting a lawyer," "they use secrecy," "this resembles criminal entrapment."

It is important to propose a concrete action: go together to a lawyer, draw up a list of payments, preserve correspondence, stop any new transfers, verify documents, and seek professional advice. Threats, ridicule, and humiliation must be avoided, because shame is the swindlers' chief ally.

If the victim continues to take money out of the family, incur debts, or sell property, it is necessary to protect joint assets through lawful means: consult

lawyers, restrict access to family funds, and warn relatives and acquaintances from whom the victim might borrow money “for a few days until the payout.”

Compassion for the victim must not turn into financing the fraudsters. Help does not consist in giving yet more money “for the final payment” but in stopping the destruction.

Legal and Public Prevention

Countering such schemes requires not only individual caution but also public prevention. Citizens must be systematically informed that the circulation of radioactive, toxic, chemically hazardous, strategic, and military materials is strictly regulated by law and cannot be the subject of private secret deals. Any offer to buy, sell, transport, test, or finance such substances outside official procedures should be regarded as a source of legal and physical danger.

Financial institutions, notary offices, real estate agents, lawyers, doctors, and organizational security staff can play an important preventative role. When a person of means suddenly sells property, withdraws large sums, or takes out loans under a vague explanation that “a big deal is coming soon,” the professionals around them should pay attention to signs of possible fraudulent entrapment.

Liability should also be increased for the use of forged identification, fictitious special ranks, symbols of government authorities, and false references to classified agencies. The image of the state must not serve as a front for a criminal group.

Prevention must also target the entrepreneurial community. People accustomed to risk need to be reminded: risk in a legitimate venture differs from participation in a secret operation with no verifiable documents. A genuine business opportunity withstands scrutiny; a fraudulent opportunity collapses from a single independent question.

Conclusion

Fraud involving “red mercury,” rare earth substances, banned chemical materials, “currency pallets,” “black money,” “blocked foreign accounts,” and fictitious classified production facilities is not a collection of amusing urban legends or a relic of the 1990s. It is a live, constantly adapting, and dangerous form of criminal influence that continues to destroy people’s lives.

Its power lies not in chemistry, not in bank documents, not in foreign buyers, and not in IDs from “secret directorates.” Its power lies in human hope, multiplied by greed, fear, shame, and the desire to believe in an exceptional chance. Swindlers

do not simply take money; they seize a person's time, thoughts, relationships, reputation, and will.

The most effective countermeasure is to call deception by its true name. Not "a secret deal," but fraud. Not "the final payment," but yet another act of extortion. Not "a classified state operation," but a criminal cover story. Not "a unique commodity," but bait. Not "the buyer is delayed," but the show goes on.

A person trapped in such a scheme must know that a way out exists. It begins with stopping all payments, preserving evidence, seeking professional legal help, restoring contact with loved ones, and abandoning the destructive secrecy. The sooner the deception is named, the greater the chances of safeguarding money, health, freedom, and human dignity.

Society, in turn, has a duty to speak about these schemes directly, loudly, and without condescending irony. Because where secrecy is used against reason, where greed is disguised as business courage, where criminals wear the mask of the state – there silence becomes an accomplice to destruction.

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