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HR70-14

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	[Redacted]
SUBJECT	Proposed Training for Soviet Army Officer Corps to Include Information on the Employment of Atomic Weapons	DATE DISTR.	15 December 1953
DATE OF INFO.	Prior to 23 November 1953	NO. OF PAGES	2
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: A reliable source. [Redacted]

Appraisal of Content: 3. [Redacted]

1. A recent USSR Ministry of Defense order stated that, during the training year 1954, the entire officer corps of the Soviet Army is to undergo instruction in the tactical-technical details of war material and armament with which the Soviet Army is equipped. Special attention is directed to the study of the latest types of armament.
2. By the same order, all field-grade officers of the Soviet Army will undergo a complete study of "The Employment of Atomic Weapons in Modern Combat".
3. The order further stated that the above courses of study are to be presented for a period of nine months, effective 1 December 1953, and at the completion of these courses the entire officer corps of the Soviet Army must pass examinations for credit on the subjects covered.
4. In explaining the order to the officers of one Soviet unit, the high ranking officer pointed out that, with the introduction of new technology in the armament of the Soviet Army, the basic concepts of tactics and strategy will change radically:
 - a. Previously, in implementing a break-thru of an enemy defensive zone, it was necessary to concentrate from 180 to 215 artillery pieces for each kilometer of front of penetration. Now it will require only one to two battalions of atomic artillery.
 - b. According to the old doctrine, a break-thru of a defensive zone of the enemy required the maximum concentration of personnel and material. Now, however, the decentralization of forces and material is necessary and means must be made available to the forces to permit their employment at a specific time and place. This will require operational proficiency of the troops and exact planning of given operations.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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[REDACTED] Comment: It will be noted that the date of information of this report predates the 26 November 1953 speech by A. Ya. Vyshinskiy before the United Nations, in which he implied that the USSR had pushed ahead of the West in the field of atomic weapons.

1. [REDACTED] Comment: It is not known if these are official Soviet General Staff estimates or interpretations by the "high ranking officer" of the Ministry of Defense order on the basis of his personal knowledge and experience.

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