

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

1/16/2006

HR 70-14

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6 NOV 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Intelligence and Research  
Department of State

SUBJECT : Ministry of Defense Order Transmitting a CC/CPSU  
Decree Entitled "On Measures for Improving the  
Selection and Training of Propaganda Cadres"

1. Enclosed is a verbatim translation of a TOP SECRET decree  
of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the CPSU entitled  
"On Measures for Improving the Selection and Training of Propa-  
ganda Cadres", with a five-page cover memorandum from the Minister  
of Defense forwarding it to major elements of the Ministry.

2. This information was provided by [redacted]  
[redacted] we request that it  
be handled on a need-to-know basis within your office.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANS:

*Richard Helms*

RICHARD HELMS

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cc: Military Representative of the President

Special Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

Director for Intelligence  
The Joint Staff

Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence  
Headquarters, U. S. Air Force

Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence  
Department of the Army

Director of Naval Intelligence  
Department of the Navy

Director, National Security Agency

Deputy Director for Intelligence

Assistant Director for National Estimates

Assistant Director for Current Intelligence

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COUNTRY : USSR

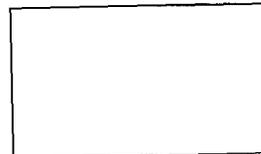
SUBJECT : Ministry of Defense Order Transmitting a CC/CPSU  
Decree Entitled "On Measures for Improving the  
Selection and Training of Propaganda Cadres"

DATE OF INFO: May 1961

APPRAISAL OF  
CONTENT : Documentary

SOURCE : A reliable Soviet official (B).

Following is a verbatim translation of TOP SECRET Ministry of Defense Order No. 0031, dated 28 May 1961, transmitting a TOP SECRET decree of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the CPSU entitled "On Measures for Improving the Selection and Training of Propaganda Cadres" to major elements of the Ministry. The decree is dated 5 May 1961.



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TO THE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF OF THE BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES

TO COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, COMMANDERS, AND MEMBERS OF MILITARY COUNCILS - CHIEFS OF POLITICAL DIRECTORATES (POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS) OF GROUPS OF FORCES, MILITARY DISTRICTS, PVO DISTRICTS, FLEETS, INDIVIDUAL ARMIES AND FLOTILLAS

TO THE CHIEF OF RAILWAY TROOPS AND THE CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE RAILWAY TROOPS

TO THE CHIEFS AND SECRETARIES OF PARTY COMMITTEES OF THE CHIEF AND CENTRAL DIRECTORATES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, OF HIGHER MILITARY-EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OF SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENTS

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We are sending, for guidance and implementation, the Decree of the Secretariat of the CC CPSU of 5 May 1961 "On Measures for Improving the Selection and Training of Propaganda Cadres".

We propose that:

1. The Decree of the Central Committee be studied by commanders, political workers, staff (shtatnyy), and non-staff (vneshtatnyy) propagandists. It is to be thoroughly explained that, in connection with the forthcoming 22nd Congress of the Party and with the adoption of the new programs of the CPSU and of the primary tasks which now stand before the Armed Forces in the raising of military preparedness and in the strengthening of military discipline, the significance of ideological work in the forces and the role of the propaganda cadres is growing still further. Military councils and political directorates (political departments) are to work out plans for practical measures to make a radical improvement in the matters of selection, instruction, and education of staff and non-staff propagandists. In the plans, the raising of the qualifications of propagandists who are working at present is to be provided for, and also the training of a reserve of new propagandists, taking into account the need for them for all forms of political instruction of personnel.

The role of Party organizations and of Party committees in the selection and education of propaganda cadres is to be increased in all possible ways.

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Bearing in mind that the complement of propagandists has changed considerably recently, and that many of them need serious training in theory and method, systematic work is to be organized in large units (soyedineniye), garrisons, districts, and fleets to raise their qualifications, and to establish all the necessary conditions for their fruitful work.

Measures are to be taken to raise the level of military and military-technical training of propagandists and to equip them with advanced experience of military and political training, so that they can be active organizers and instructors of the personnel of the Armed Forces.

2. With the aim of improving the training of propaganda cadres:

Continuous three-month courses of refresher training of propagandists of large units are to be organized under the Military-Political Academy i/n V.I. Lenin.

Training and refresher courses are to be instituted for propagandists of units (chast) under the Military-Political School of the Soviet Army.

Political directorates of military districts and fleets are to organize courses and lectures for staff and non-staff propagandists in the departments (kafedra) and programs (tsikl) of the social-economic branches of the military-educational establishments, without taking them away from their service duties.

The work of the evening universities of Marxism-Leninism and of their faculties is to be reorganized, together with that of the two-year sections of the Party schools, entrusting them with the training of a reserve of propaganda cadres.

Gatherings of staff propagandists of units and large units are to be held systematically, twice a year, in military districts and fleets.

Study by correspondence of the propagandists in higher military and civilian educational institutions and also in republic, kray, and oblast correspondence courses for propagandists is to be increased by all means.

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3. Commanders and political organs (politorgan) are to improve the content and organization of the continuous seminars for leaders of Marxist-Leninist training groups, of political study groups, and of circles and political schools, considering as their main task the training of propagandists for regular duties.

4. The active personal participation of leading military cadres in propaganda work is to be ensured. In accordance with the Decree of the CC CPSU, the speeches of officers, generals, and admirals to the troops, together with their lectures, reports, and discussions, are to be regarded as the best way of raising the level of ideological-political work and the best school for the education of the leaders themselves.

A decided improvement and widening in scope is to be achieved in the work of ~~non-staff lecture groups~~, agitprop collectives, and groups of speakers. The ~~most experienced~~ commanders and experts in instruction and education and engineering and technical personnel are to be drawn more boldly into agitation and propaganda work. District, group, and fleet instructional-methodological conferences of leaders of agitprop collectives of large units, and seminars for the members of agitprop collectives and of groups of speakers of garrisons are to be held to equip the latter with knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory and with advanced experience of military and political training.

5. Political directorates (political departments) are to involve lecture groups more actively in work with propagandists. Regular appearances before propagandists with lectures and consultations on pressing problems of Marxist-Leninist theory and of CPSU policy, on questions of military theory and of military education, on the practice and methods of Party propaganda and also the preparation of instructional-methodological materials to help propagandists, are to be considered important tasks for staff lecturers.

6. The work of Officers' Houses, Officers' Clubs, and libraries in helping propagandists is to be improved. Qualified lectures and consultations and conferences on method and theory are to be held regularly, and methodological councils, advisory points, and schools of propaganda skill are to be set up.

Steps are to be taken to expand the networks of study rooms for political instruction, which are to work on social principles.

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7. The role of the Army and Navy press in the education and instruction of propaganda cadres is to be increased. Materials which will help propagandists and spread the experience of their work are to be published systematically in newspapers and journals.

The journal "Communist of the Armed Forces" (Kommunist Vooruzhennykh Sil) is to publish regularly in its pages articles on theory and method to help the leaders of Marxist-Leninist studies and of political courses and is also to give a thorough elucidation of the experience of propaganda work in the Army and Navy.

The Military Publishing House (Voyenizdat) is to publish methodological textbooks on the political training of personnel.

All work with propaganda cadres is to be directed to the further raising of their ideological-theoretical level and mastery of method, to educating them in the ability to link theoretical principles creatively with the practical tasks of strengthening military discipline and of maintaining a high degree of combat readiness of the troops.

Attachment: Decree of the Secretariat of the CC CPSU

No. ST-182/3-s Copy No. \_\_\_

Only for the addressee, to be returned to the Chief Political Directorate (GlavPU) by 15 August.

P.P. The Minister of Defense of the USSR  
Marshal of the Soviet Union-R. MALINOVSKIY

P.P. The Chief of the Chief Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy  
Marshal of the Soviet Union-F. GOLIKOV

28 May 1961

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150 copies reproduced on the rotary press

NORIKOV

Dispatched by FOKIN 29.5.61 No. 2720

Certified ---(illegible)

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.....  
Proletariat of All Countries, Unite!

To be returned to the CC CPSU  
(II sector of the General  
Department) within 2 months of  
the day of receipt (Decree of  
the CC of 29/XII-1938, para.95/55)

TOP SECRET

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, CENTRAL COMMITTEE

No. ST-182/3-s  
15 May 1961

D E C R E E

OF THE

SECRETARIAT, PROTOCOL No. 182 Para 3 of 5 May 1961

On Methods of Improving the Selection and Training of Propaganda Cadres

Many new cadres have been enrolled for propaganda activity in connection with the expansion of the network and the development of mass forms of political education. Party organizations have done much work on the selection and education of these cadres and on the raising of their skill as propagandists. However, many Party organizations do not take into account that, under modern conditions, when the Party is bringing to the fore the task of raising the efficiency of ideological work, of strengthening its links with reality and with the practice of building Communism, when Communist awareness and the labor activity of the masses grows with every day, higher demands present themselves to propagandists, organizations, and the content of work with them. In a number of rayons and oblasts the role of the propagandist as organizer and educator of the masses is still underestimated, and work with them is carried out separately from the concrete tasks of production.

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The great shortcomings in the theoretical and methodological training of propaganda cadres have still not been overcome. Courses and seminars for propagandists are often conducted at a low level. Propagandists do not receive the necessary advice on the most important question - how to link theory with practical tasks. The existing system of instructing propagandists is intended mainly to raise the qualifications of those propagandists who are already working, and does not solve the problems of training the new cadres of leaders of the growing network of political schools, circles, theoretical seminars, lecture bureaus, universities of Marxist-Leninism, and universities of culture. Propaganda cadres, particularly those who are to direct elementary circles and other mass forms of Party propaganda, are not infrequently chosen without consideration for their ideological and theoretical training, of their ability to carry out political work, or of their knowledge of the actual conditions of enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes.

The houses and study rooms (kabinet) for political instruction of Party committees have still not become real centers for the raising of the theoretical level and the methodological skill of propagandists. Press, radio, and television, and above all, the central and republic Party newspapers and journals, and also the lecture groups of Party committees, do not give the necessary help to propagandists.

As a result of the great shortcomings in the selection and training of propaganda cadres, political studies, theoretical seminars and conferences, reports and lectures, and mass propaganda measures are conducted formally in many cases, do not equip students with the necessary knowledge for practical activity, and therefore help little in the improvement of the economy and the education of people in the spirit of Communism.

The CC of the CPSU decrees that:

1. The CC's of the Communist Parties of union-republics, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the Party, and the primary Party organizations be obliged to improve fundamentally the selection, instruction, and education of propaganda cadres, looking upon this as the most important condition for the further raising of all ideological work. In connection with the forthcoming XXIInd Congress of the Party and the adoption of the new program of the CPSU, the significance of ideological work, of the role of the propaganda cadres, and of their instruction and education is increasing still further.

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In their work with propaganda cadres, Party organizations and Party committees must start from the fact that the only people who can successfully carry out Marxist-Leninist propaganda are those who are well-trained, authoritative, and convinced Bolsheviks, who know how to link theoretical concepts with practical tasks, who are able to put the policy of the Party into practice, to educate the masses in the spirit of Communism, and to organize them for the solution of economic and political tasks. The propagandist must have a good knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory, of the policy of the CPSU, of concrete economics, and of advanced experience of production, and must possess skill in propaganda.

First of all, it is necessary to ensure the active personal participation in propaganda activity of the leading Party, soviet, trade-union, Komsomol and economic workers, looking upon this as the most effective path to the raising of the level of ideological-political work and as the best school for the education of the leaders themselves. Communists from the ranks of specialists in the national economy, of scientific workers, of teachers, of other representatives of the intelligentsia, and of the best trained of the outstanding workers in industry, must be enrolled in propaganda work.

All the necessary conditions for fruitful work must be provided for propagandists, bearing in mind that propaganda work demands great exertion, the systematic raising of their knowledge, regular training for the tasks, and the constant perfection of propaganda skill. The experience of the best propagandists must be more actively popularized, and their various ways of instilling morale must be exchanged more widely.

2. It is to be suggested to Party organizations and committees that they work out future plans and create a system of arrangements for the training of a reserve of new propaganda cadres, taking into account the growth of all forms of Party propaganda. With these aims:

-reform the work of the evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, entrusting them with the training of propaganda cadres for all levels of Party instruction;

-organize courses for the training of propagandists in gorkoms, city raykoms of the Party, and in the Party committees of large enterprises without taking them away from production;

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-organize republic, kray, and oblast propagandist correspondence courses for village propagandists. The training in these courses should include independent work by the students on a suitable program, consultative seminars in rayon centers, the organization of sessions for listening to lectures, consultations, and seminar studies. As a basis for the correspondence training of village propagandists, the evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, the houses of political education, Party schools, and higher educational institutions should be used.

The Propaganda and Agitation Departments of the CC CPSU will be entrusted with the evolution of a program of courses for the training of town and village propagandists.

3. The CC's of the Communist Parties of the union-republics, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the Party, and primary Party organizations are to be obliged to create a system of measures to raise the qualifications of propagandists who are working at the present time. With these aims:

- improve the content and organization of the continuously functioning seminars of propagandists of raykoms and gorkoms of the Party and of large primary Party organizations, considering as their main tasks the training of propagandists for regular courses;
- initiate the regular conduct of oblast, kray, and republic seminars for leaders of lecture groups and continuously functioning seminars of propagandists of raykoms and gorkoms of the Party, and large primary Party organizations;
- organize systematically conferences dealing with theory and method, lectures on pressing theoretical and politico-economic questions, meetings for the exchange of work experiences, excursions to exhibitions, industrial enterprises, kolkhozes, sovkhoses, etc, to help propagandists in cities, rayons, large enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhoses.

4. Courses of short duration are to be organized at the Higher Party School and the Academy of Social Sciences of the CC CPSU for propaganda workers of Party committees and for press workers of republics, krays, oblasts, and large cities, in view of the great

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significance attached to the theoretical training of those working in the propaganda and agitation departments of Party committees and of press workers. Inter-oblast courses for propaganda workers of Party committees and for workers at the rayon press level are to be set up at the higher Party schools in republics, krays, and oblasts.

Regular seminar meetings are to be held under the obkoms, kraykoms, and CC's of Communist Parties of the union-republics for the leaders of departments of propaganda and agitation, leaders of houses and study rooms for political instruction, for instructors, lecturer-advisors, and propagandists of raykoms and gorkoms of the Party.

5. The CC's of the Communist Parties of the union-republics, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the Party, and primary Party organizations are to be obliged to raise the level and improve the content of the work of seminars and of courses of propagandists.

The most important part of their work is to instruct propagandists to link theory organically with the practical tasks of the workers in the struggle for the realization of the program of building Communism, to make fuller use of the might, inspiring, and mobilizing strength of Marxist-Leninist study, to raise the efficiency of ideological-educational work steadily, and to turn it into a still more active factor in the development of the national economy and of the education of the Soviet people in the spirit of Communist morality.

In courses and in seminars it is necessary to arm propagandists with local materials, with concrete economic knowledge, and with advanced experience of production. Speeches must be held systematically before the propagandists on the pressing politico-economic questions of leading Party, soviet, economic, trade-union and Komsomol workers, and also of the foremost workers and innovators in production, of specialists in the national economy, and of scientists.

The most important place in the work of courses and seminars of propagandists must be occupied by deep, creative study of the main points of the theory, policy, and history of the CPSU, of the actual problems of the present, raising the ideological-theoretical level of propagandists so that each understands the most important theoretical and political problems well, can give exhaustive answers to questions which disturb the workers,

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and knows how to maintain his conviction worthily and honorably and how to fight vigorously for the purity of Marxism-Leninism.

The methodological training of propagandists is to be improved, their skill is to be perfected, and their ability to carry out explanatory work clearly, profitably, and sincerely is to be developed. Formalism, dryness, and the bookish elucidation of material, sprinkled with quotations, are to be suppressed stubbornly. The dissemination and propagation of the best experience of propaganda work is to be strengthened with the development of methodological textbooks, seminars on questions of method are to be held widely, and propagandists are to attend one another's political studies and lectures, and the critiques which follow them.

All work with propagandists is to be carried out on an individual basis, studying their specializations and their degree of preparedness and experience; the most active forms of work with propagandists are to be developed in every way - by creative critiques, discussions, conferences on theory and method, seminars, etc.

6. The CC's of the Communist Parties of the union-republics, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the Party are to be obliged to increase the role of the houses and study rooms for political instruction in work with propaganda cadres.

It is necessary to achieve a situation in which the houses and study rooms for political instruction take a more active part in training and in raising the qualifications of propagandists, disseminate and popularize the best experience of Party propaganda, produce methodological-training textbooks based on local material, compile lists of recommended literature, arrange exhibitions, make up albums, and hold conferences for propagandists on theory and method. Bearing in mind that the work of houses and study rooms for political instructions can be fruitful only in circumstances in which a wide non-staff aktiv is rallied around them, the work of social methodological councils and groups is to be improved.

Particular attention is to be paid to the improvement of the work of existing study rooms for political instructions and the setting up of new ones on social principles, so that they become bases for the primary Party organizations in theoretical and methodological work with propaganda cadres.

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7. The CC's of the Communist Parties of the union-republics, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the Party are to be obliged to increase the significance of the lecture groups of the Party committees in training and increasing the qualifications of propaganda cadres. The lecturers of Party committees must work in close contact with the houses and study rooms for political instruction, speaking regularly before propagandists with highly qualified lectures and advice on pressing problems of Marxist-Leninist theory, on the policy of the CPSU, and also on the main points of Party propaganda methods.

8. The role of the press, radio, television, and above all, of the central Party newspapers and journals, in the education and instruction of propaganda cadres is to be increased. They must consider as their most important duty the regular publication of material on pressing theoretical and political subjects and elucidate widely the experience of propaganda work to help the propagandists.

The main attention of the journal of the CC CPSU, Political Self-Education (Politicheskoye samoobrazovaniye) must be concentrated on giving theoretical and methodological help to the propaganda cadres. The articles, lectures, advice and other materials in the journal should concern themselves with pressing problems of the present day, must disclose the most important principles of Marxist-Leninist theory linked organically to the policy of the Party and to social practice, and must serve as an example of deep, clear, and profitable Party propaganda. The editorial staff of the journal, relying on the wide non-editorial aktiv is called upon to elucidate deeply and from all sides the practice and experience of propaganda work and to strengthen significantly methodological and critical-bibliographical assistance to propagandists.

The editorial staff of the scientific journals and, above all, of the journals: Problems of the History of the CPSU (Voprosy istorii KPSS), Problems of History (Voprosy istorii), Problems of Philosophy (Voprosy filosofii), Problems of Economics (Voprosy ekonomiki), World Economy and International Relations (Mirovaya ekonomika i mezhdunarodnyye otnosheniya) are to publish systematically materials to assist the propaganda cadres. The editorial staffs of the popular production-technical and economic journals must publish regularly materials on the specific economics of the branches of the national economy to help propagandists and the students of the Party instructional system.

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The State Political Publishing House (Gospolitizdat) is to be charged with the publication of methodological textbooks to help leaders of elementary economic schools and circles, political schools, circles and seminars on the history of the CPSU, on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, philosophy, political economy, specific industrial economics, agriculture, construction, transport, and trade, and is to extend the publication of visual aids.

9. The CC's of the Communist Parties of the union-republics, obkoms, kraykoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the Party, and primary Party organizations are to be obliged to involve social science workers more vigorously in assisting propaganda cadres. Personal participation in ideological and educational work, the publication of propaganda articles, brochures, and books on pressing theoretical questions and also the scientific propagation of the methods of propaganda work and the publication of textbooks on these questions is to be viewed as the most important obligation and an honorable duty of social science workers. Wide use should be made of the institutes of the Academy of Sciences (AN) of the USSR and of the union-republics, and of the higher educational institution as a basis for the holding of courses and seminars for propaganda workers.

SEAL  
of  
the Central  
Committee

SECRETARY OF THE CC

M. SUSLOV

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**Regulations Regarding Use of Secret Documents of the CC CPSU**

A comrade who receives classified documents must not transmit them to anyone, nor familiarize anyone with the contents, without special dispensation from the CC.

Copying the said documents, or making extracts from same, is absolutely forbidden.

The note and date of familiarization are indicated on each document personally by the comrade to whom the document is addressed, by his personal signature.

Basis - CC decree of 19 August 1924

Extracts and individual instructions of the CC and Party committees must be kept in special personal files, and under no circumstances must they be used as supplements in soviet or trade-union correspondence.

Basis - CC decree of 30 November 1922, official record No.77, para.58

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