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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

9 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : William W. Wells  
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT : Comments of the Commander-in-Chief  
of the Combined Armed Forces on Two  
Warsaw Pact Command-Staff Exercises

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is a translation from Russian of a SECRET message, dated 25 August 1976, which conveys the comments of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces on command-staff exercises held in Hungary and East Germany in July. The Commander briefly describes the training problems covered in the exercises and the preparatory training of the participating commanders and staffs. While the exercises were instructive and demonstrated a satisfactory level of training, they revealed deficiencies in maintaining cooperation between air and ground forces and in assessing the balance of forces.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies.

William W. Wells

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## Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF  
INFO. 25 August 1976

DATE  
9 December 1976

SUBJECT

Comments of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined  
Armed Forces on Two Warsaw Pact Command-Staff Exercises

SOURCE Documentary

### Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of a SECRET message, dated 25 August 1976, from the Warsaw Pact Commander-in-Chief, Marshal of the Soviet Union I. Yakubovskiy, to Pact defense ministers. This message conveys the Commander's comments on July command-staff exercises held in Hungary and East Germany. He briefly describes the training problems covered in the exercises and the preparatory training of the participating commanders and staffs. While the exercises were instructive and demonstrated a satisfactory level of training, they revealed deficiencies in maintaining cooperation between air and ground forces and in assessing the balance of forces and relative capabilities.

End of Summary

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Commander-in-Chief  
of the Combined Armed Forces  
of the Member States  
of the Warsaw Pact

25 August 1976

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Copy No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Comrade Minister!

In accordance with the Plan of Combined Undertakings of the Combined Armed Forces, in the month of July two combined command-staff exercises were conducted: a front command-staff exercise on the territory of the Hungarian People's Republic, under the direction of the Command of the Southern Group of Forces, with the participation of staffs of the Hungarian People's Army and of the Soviet Army; and an army command-staff exercise on the territory of the German Democratic Republic, under the direction of the Command of the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany, with staffs of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic and of the Soviet Army.

In the exercises, the following matters were worked out: repelling an enemy attack, preparing and conducting a front (army) offensive operation, the combat actions of a corps and divisions; breaking through fortified lines and developing an offensive with the assault crossing of water obstacles under conditions of the employment of conventional means of warfare and of weapons of mass destruction.

The exercises were carried out in a situation typical of the initial period of a war. The control posts of the front, army, and divisions were set up as in combat. During the exercises they were relocated two to four times to a depth of 60 to 250 kilometers.

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The conduct of the exercises was preceded by extensive work in training the commanders and staffs allocated to the exercises. The following were carried out: combined staff training practices, radio training practices, training practices on the rules for the utilization of secure troop control documents, and also briefings and practical training periods with the operations groups that had been reciprocally sent out to the national staffs. Training periods were conducted on formulation of combat documents in the Russian language. All of this made it possible to carry out the exercises in an instructive manner, to provide the commanders and staffs being trained with good practice in preparing combat actions and in directing subordinate staffs as well as in organizing all types of combat support and in organizing troop control.

In the front exercise, the staffs of the formations and divisions showed their teamwork and level of training and worked in an organized manner. Graphic documents were worked out with great knowledgeability. Electronic computers were used to perform operational tasks.

At the same time, certain matters were not worked out fully enough during the exercise. When assessing the enemy, the probable concept of his actions was not always ascertained in a well-founded manner and the qualitative indices of the combat equipment and weapons were not taken into account in determining the balance of forces. The parallel method of planning combat actions has not been fully mastered. The matters of organizing cooperation between aviation and the ground forces require further modification. Means of automation were not used with sufficient effectiveness.

In the army exercise, special attention was devoted to the work of commanders and staff officers on the organization of combat on the terrain and also on the personal contact of senior commanders and chiefs of branch arms and services with subordinate commanders and staff officers of the allied armies.

The exercise disclosed that commanders and staff officers have the theoretical training to perform the tasks of modern combat and have the necessary practical skills in planning combat actions and in controlling troops.

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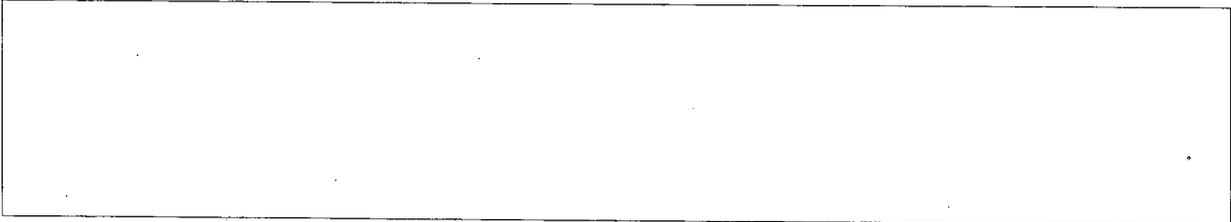
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Along with this, during the exercise certain deficiencies were revealed. In certain phases, the matters of organizing the air defense and of maintaining cooperation were not worked out with sufficient thoroughness. There were cases where the enemy's combat capabilities were underestimated and the capabilities of our own troops were overestimated in the conduct of combat actions under conditions of the employment of nuclear weapons.

In sending you this information, dear Comrade Minister, I believe that it can be used to improve the operational-tactical training of the generals, officers, and staffs of the allied armies.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)  
I. Yakubovskiy  
Marshal of the Soviet Union



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