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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Col. Gen. A. I. Yeltov, head of the central political direction of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR will be made a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party at its forthcoming meeting.

2. General Yeltov is becoming one of the most powerful persons on the Soviet general staff, thanks to the support of Malenkov, of whom he has long been one of the most ardent and reliable supporters. Yeltov helped organize the actin against Beria and has also eliminated such other opponents of Malenkov as Generals K. N. Sinilov and M. K. Spiridov, who commanded Moscow city and the Kremlin. He also organized the oath of fidelity of the Soviet military heads to Stalin's successors on 16 Jul 53.

3. Yeltov is regarded with suspicion by Bulganin, but the latter dares not attack him openly. Once Yeltov is on the Central Committee he will be protected against attacks from various sources, including those of Party doctrinaires, who reproach him with ignorance of Marxism, something the general does not deny. He does not belong to the Zhukov clique, and is an opponent of the little group of war heroes including Konev, Malinovski, Timoshenko and Meretskov.

4. On the other hand, Yeltov is friendly with General Malinin, under whom he served during World War II and whom he converted to Malenkov. Also belonging to the Yeltov group are the new heads of Soviet aviation and artillery, Marshal Yigarev, and Nedelin, and generals Moskalenko and Aladinski. Marshals Sokolovski, Govorov and Vasilevski are suspicious of Yeltov and avoid him.

5. Following Malenkov's direction Yeltov has acted very prudently in consolidating the Party's control of the army, and has avoided stirring up quarrels in the high command. But he is preparing a purge of those generals who were Beria's partisans, and his position will become stronger after Beria's trial.

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