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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Miscellaneous PVO Data

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1. Although I can give no specific data regarding the organization of AA searchlights and barrage balloon units, I believe that they are for the most part obsolete. During World War II, most large cities had barrage-balloon defenses but I have not seen any indications of such sine the war. During World War II, the AAA regiment had a searchlight battery.

2. During World War II, there was set up a system of interaction between fighters and searchlights wherein searchlights vectored fighters to targets, acting in concert to blind targets for fighters.

3. I do not know what the present setup is regarding employment of women in the PVO AA. There were no women in tactical AA units. In World War II 40 of the gun crews in AA gun (not AW) units in the PVO setup were women (gun pointers, elevation setters). Roughly 60% of the range sections were women. Greater than 80% of VNOC personnel in the PVO were women.

4. In AA 20-mm guns and units are rarely encountered. They are German and are used as a temporary expedient. 25-mm units are organized and tactically disposed in the same way as 37-mm units. 76-mm units are also rarely met these days; they are organized like 85-mm units.

5. I know little of the PVO organization at Sevastopol except that the AA fire of naval vessels in port is integrated into the over-all AA plan. 25X1

6. Regarding the possibility of special MGB AA units among its Troops of Special Designation (OCZNAZ), I heard rumors of especially picked and trained and equipped AA units. I believe it logical to assume that there might be such units for the purpose of protecting, for instance, the government dachas (palatial summer places occupied by Soviet heads of government) on the Black Sea coast, etc.

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