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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 9 December 1954

SUBJECT LDP Preparations for the Election

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The following is a description of the method in which the LDP candidates for the October elections for the People's Chamber were selected: The candidates are nominated by the LDP Bezirk (district) committees. The LDP Bezirk committees then discuss the qualifications of the prospective candidates with the local SED offices. Only after this discussion are the names of the candidates forwarded to the political committee of the LDP. The political committee of the LDP, headed by Dr. Loch, chairman of the LDP, discusses the nominations with the SED Central Committee. The names of the LDP candidates are then submitted to the Soviet Control Commission for acceptance. 25X1

2. The individual candidates of the various parties, including those of the LDP, appear in public only within the framework of the National Front. The individual parties do not arrange party meetings, nor do they make propaganda for individual party programs. Only meetings of the National Front are held. At these meetings, the candidates of the various parties are introduced as candidates of the National Front. In their electoral speeches the speakers make propaganda for all candidates of the National Front and not only for their own candidates. During the propaganda campaign, the SED candidates are kept in the background.

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