CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT New Soviet 7.62 mm Semi-Automatic Carbine, SKS, Submachine Gun, and 7.62 mm Pistol

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Attached is a copy as received
NEW SOVIET 7.62 mm SEMI-AUTOMATIC CARBINE, MODEL SKS 1

(See page 10 for sketch)

Issue of the Carbine and Its Accessories

1. Sometime in March 1954, a sufficient number of the new Soviet 7.62 mm semi-automatic carbines, model SKS, arrived to replace the 156 carbines, M1944, previously issued to the privates of the 735th Sep Radio Communication Bn. The carbines were issued a few days after their arrival, with the M1944 carbines being turned in and sent out of the unit to an unknown destination.

2. 

3. The cleaning kit consisted of a cleaning rod, a bore brush, a cleaning-rod stop, a cleaning-rod handle pin, a cleaning-rod attachment, a cleaning-rod handle, and an oil can.

4. The carbines were kept in the company arms room of the 2d Co. under the supervision of a "duty soldier" (dnevalnv).

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Security Measures

5. The men were all repeatedly informed in classes and formations that the new carbine was a classified weapon and would not be taken out of the garrison area except under specific instructions. The weapon out of the garrison only on one occasion, to a maneuver in Hungary in the summer of 1954. When on guard duty and assigned to the post attending the main gate of the garrison, drew one of six old PPSh SMG’s retained in the company for use when personnel were expected to be seen by Austrians.

6. Shortly after the new carbines were issued to the men company first sergeant went on business to his (the sergeant’s) old unit, an unidentified Soviet Army unit, about 200 km away and came back with a story that a sentry had been kidnapped and that the new carbine that the soldier had been armed with had been stolen. This act was performed by revengeful Austrians.

7. The rounds used by the carbine were also considered to be secret. The system of accountability for this ammunition was very strict. On the two occasions when carbine firing while on the firing range, each marksman was flanked by a second soldier whose function it was to retrieve all ejected brass with his garrison cap (pilotka). After a day on the range all the brass and unexpended rounds were carefully counted to insure that none was lost. The men were warned that if one round or brass cartridge was lost, the entire battalion might have to be called out to search for it.

Instruction and Training

8. In addition to range firing on the unit firing range, located 15 km from the garrison on the outskirts of Baden, the men had a minimum of one hour per week of classroom instruction by company NCOs. Source described firing and classroom instruction as follows:

a. Range firing was preceded by dry-firing exercises in the company area using the triangulation sighting method.

b. Each man was allowed five rounds on the initial range firing to zero the weapon. Those men that were not firing their weapons accurately received assistance from the platoon CO or one of the platoon NCOs. If these individuals decided that the fault lay with the weapon, the company armorer was called and used a special vise-like tool to move the front sight to compensate for the error. The weapon was never zeroed in properly and
c. Classroom instruction was conducted by the platoon sergeant or one of the squad leaders who generally read from the infantry manual on this weapon. The manual was titled "M3D (nastavleniya po strlekovomy delu or manual on infantry matters) Karabin SKS (skorostrelnyy karabin Simënov or rapid firing carbine of Simënov) GBR 43 (model 1943) goda (year)." It was dark brown in color, contained about 20 pages, and was about 12 x 8 cm in size.

d. The manual was available to all privates and was in a reading file in the company orderly room. It was not classified. Each time an NCO needed the manual for classroom instruction, he went to the orderly room and drew a copy for the instruction period.

e. The text of the instruction, without variation, consisted of reading the manual from cover to cover—this included technical data on the weapon, and each private was required to commit this information to memory. After several such sessions most of the men would sit and sleep in the classroom.

Characteristics of Carbine and Its Ammunition

9. The following are the characteristics of the carbine and its ammunition: (Items marked with an * were as stated in the manual.)

a. Model * SKS - Skorostrelnyy Karabin Simënov, M1943.
b. Caliber * 7.62 mm
d. Diameter of gas port * Approximately 2.4 mm.
e. Magazine capacity * Nine rounds and one in chamber in accordance with the manual. (However,

f. Magazine * Integral box.
g. Weight:

With knife-type bayonet * 3.950 kg

With four-edged prong-type bayonet * 3.800 kg

Without bayonet or cleaning accessories

            bayonet mounted on this weapon listed in the manual.)
h. Length:
   With bayonet in folded position
   With extended bayonet *  
   101 cm (40.4 in)
   130 cm (52 in)

i. Length of bayonet *  
   33 cm (13.2 in)

j. Length of barrel  
   Unknown

k. Muzzle velocity *  
   500 meters per second

l. Maximum range *  
   2000 m (manual stated that at 1500 m the bullet still had sufficient velocity to penetrate a human body.)

Maximum effective range *  
   365 m (The " cramped " (permanent) setting on rear sight equaled this range.)

m. Rifling *  
   Four lands and grooves, uniform right hand twist, twist unknown.

n. Cooling *  
   Air, assisted through three air vents on either side of the wooden upper hand guard.

o. Sights:  
   Front *  
   Rear *  
   Open post with circular guard.

Tangent curve - graduated from cyrillic " cramped " (permanent) and then numbers 1 through 10. Each graduation represented 100 m. The combat range setting of " cramped " is the same as if the sight was set for approximately 365 m on the sights scale. No windage adjustment.

p. Stock assembly  
   Two pieces, wooden, un laminated stock proper and upper hand guard. Yellow or black wood. (His unit had both colors of stocks.)

q. Method of charging  
   Ten-round straight-line clip (non-expendable).

r. Rate of fire *  
   35 to 40 rounds per minute was given as the optimum practical rate. (cyclic rate of fire unknown)

s. Bayonet  
   Two types: Permanent, folding, knife; and permanent, folding, four-edged prong-type.

t. Sling  
   Web, fastened under rear stock and front, left of upper hand guard.

u. Weapon replaced  
   (in source's unit).  
   7.62 mm Mossin Nagant Carbine M1944

v. Place of manufacture  
   Unknown

w. Year of manufacture  
   1953 was the date stamped on weapon. Other SKS carbines in unit were stamped as being made in 1951.
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x. First issue:

(1) Austria

(2) USSR

unidentified infantry battalion (PPSH-61595 or 51695) in Barnaul (N 53-20, E 83-48), Altayskiy Krai, Siberia, USSR, in the summer of 1953. Weapon was in the hands of the cadre, while trainees used the M1944 carbine.

y. Ammunition:

(1) Model

M1943 as described in class. Interchangeable with new SMG AK and new U/4 pistol.

Unit officers stated that the ammunition would fit the new pistol.

(2) Basic combat load

100 rounds. Three pouches, each pouch with three ten-round clips. An additional nine rounds in magazine and one round in chamber.

(3) Type

Ball ammunition used on firing range, incendiary, tracer, and armor-piercing types of this 7,62 ammunition.

a color scheme was used. The ball ammunition had no paint markings, but a stripe around the point of the bullet would indicate the type.

(4) Packaging

20 rounds to a package in layers of five rounds.

z. Markings on weapon

this date and serial number were stamped in at least three places: (1) On rear top of barrel (2) On trigger mechanism (3) Receiver cover. It was also etched onto the side of the bolt.

Packaging

Carbines arrived in his unit in wooden boxes, each containing ten carbines. The weapons were covered with heavy cosmolene.

Cleaning

After firing, the weapons were cleaned until the bore and all parts were clean. Then a light film of oil was placed on all portions of the weapon. Bore cleaner was not used because this allegedly rusted the weapons. Hot soap and water was unheard of and used "spit and clean clothes." Daily cleaning of the weapon after firing was compulsory for one week; after this, it was cleaned once a week.

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12. The men were told to use the cleaning rod attachment to prevent ball mouting of the bore. They were told that the bores of and bayonets on the weapons were chrome-plated and would not rust. However, this was not altogether true as some of the bayonets were not smooth and shiny but had a rough finish that was definitely not chromed.

13. Cleaning accessories for the weapon fitted into the cleaning-rod handle and were kept in a well in the butt of the stock, with the exception of the cleaning rod which slipped into a space under the barrel between the barrel and the bayonet.

**Disassembly and Assembly**

14. Disassembly and assembly, loading and operation of the weapon coincided closely with other data received on this weapon. The following differences were noted, however:

a. The trigger assembly was released by pushing a release catch under the stock and just to the rear of the trigger assembly.

b. The forward portion of the trigger assembly hooked onto two lugs connected to the receiver, and in no way did the trigger assembly touch the magazines.

c. The magazine release catch was attached to some other unknown part of the weapon and not the trigger assembly.

d. The barrel and the receiver were in some way connected by a pin and two hooks that released when the trigger mechanism assembly was released.

e. The pin described in sub-paragraph d above was visible on the exterior of the lower hand guard on either side.

f. The bayonet-catch lug was straight on its bearing surface.

g. The bayonet was more pointed.

**NEW SOVIET SUBMACHINE GUN**

15. (See page 11 for sketch).

**Issue**

16. Issue of the new Soviet SMG occurred in the 735th Separate Radio Communication Bn, at the same time as that of the new SKS carbines. Approximately 2% of these weapons were issued to the unit and were used to replace the old SMG PPSH used by squad leaders and platoon sergeants of his unit. Six of the old SMG PPSH were retained by each of the companies to be used as weapons at main gate of the garrison and on those occasions when personnel had to leave the area under arms.

17. The SMGs were issued a few days after their arrival in the unit in March 1954.

18. The weapons arrived in smaller cases than those the carbines came in. The weapons were cosmoline coated; and, upon issue, each NCO was required to clean his weapon with gasoline. Accessory items were issued along with the weapon: a shoulder strap, a pouch with a capacity of five magazines, and six 32 round, curved box magazines.

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19. The new SMG’s were kept in the company arms room along with the carbines and the same instructions as for the carbines governed how they were to be drawn for use.

Security Measures

20. The men were all informed by unit officers that the SMG was a secret weapon and that under no circumstances would it leave the garrison except by the direct order of a responsible officer. The new SMG’s were taken out of the garrison only on one occasion, to travel to Hungary for maneuvers in summer 1954.

21. The ammunition used by the new SMG was identical with that used by the new carbine SKB, and the same security measures were adopted on the firing range for ammunition accountability as in the case of the carbine. On the two occasions on the firing range to fire the carbine, the unit NCOs fired the SMGs. In addition to this he had heard that the NCOs went out on the range an additional time to fire. The ammunition used by the weapons came from the same box.

Instruction and Training

22. Prior to firing, the NCOs received dry-firing instruction and during the period from the time of issue the NCOs received from two to three hours per week of classroom instruction on the weapon. It followed the same general pattern as that given on the carbines for the privates. The instructors for NCO classes were always officers of the company.

Characteristics of SMG

23. The following are the characteristics of the new SMG:

a. Model
   Unknown

b. Caliber
   7.62 mm

c. Operation
   Gas-operated; semi and full automatic fire.

d. Magazine capacity
   32 rounds, according to NCOs.

e. Magazine
   Detachable, curved box.

f. Weight
   This weapon was somewhat heavier than the old PPSh.
g. Length
   Approximately 80 cm.

h. Length of barrel
   Unknown

i. Muzzle velocity
   Unknown

j. Maximum range
   Unknown. Maximum effective range was 200 meters, as told to source by NGOs.

k. Rifling
   the bore in this weapon was also chrome-plated.

l. Cooling
   Air-assisted through two or three air vents in the upper wooden hand guard.

m. Sights:
   Front
   Rear
   Open post with circular guard.

n. Stock assembly
   Unknown - leaf-type with no windage gauge.

o. Method of charging
   Fixed wooden or metal folding
   Hand-loaded, detachable curved box magazine.

p. Rate of fire
   Unknown

q. Bayonet
   None

r. Sling
   Web type, fastening unknown.

s. Weapon replaced in source's unit
   7.62 mm PPSH SMG M1941

t. Place of manufacture
   Unknown

u. Year of manufacture
   there were two years of manufacture for the weapons 1951 and 1953.
   March 1954 in Austria.

v. First issue

w. Ammunition
   (1) Model
   M1943, interchangeable with carbine SKS and unidentified pistol described in this report.

   (2) Basic combat load
   192 rounds. One pouch with five 32 round magazines and one magazine in the weapon. (Assumption based on the number of magazines per pouch and weapon.)

x. Markings on weapon
   Unknown

y. Performance
   the old PPSH SMG was a much better weapon, being simpler in design, lighter in weight, more accurate in firing, and (with the drum) had greater fire power than the new SMG.
Cleaning of SKG

25. the bores of these weapons were chrome plated and would not rust.

26. NEW SOVIET 7.62 mm UNIDENTIFIED PISTOL
(See page 12 for sketch)

27. the pistol could be fired from the shoulder using the wooden holster as a stock. This pistol used the same ammunition as the new 7.62 mm SKS carbine and the new 7.62 mm unidentified SMG. The weapon carried 25 rounds in a magazine, fired semi-automatically, and was similar to the German World War II "Mauser" pistol.

2. Comment: This same tag was described by DS-616 as bearing the carbine serial number and the cyrillic initials "KP" indicating "karabin" (carbine).
Sketch of Soviet 7.62-mm Carbine SKS (Skorostrel'nyy Karabin Simovoy) 1945
Sketch of New Unidentified 7.62-mm Soviet SMG With Three Types of Stocks

- Receiver Cover
- Selector Lever (In safe position)
- Stock (wood)
- Bolt Handle
- Bolt Stop
- Gas Cylinder
- Upper Hand Guard
- Open Post Front Sight With Circular Guard
- Web Type Sling
- Magazine Catch Release
- Magazine
- Pistol Grip (Wood, Removable)
- Pistol Grip Retaining Bolt
- Ejector (Pivot side Use)
- Metal Folding Stock

SMG with only pistol grip

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Memory Sketch of New Soviet 7.62-mm Unidentified Pistol Holster and Grip

Holster cover, with concave top for off shoulder firing

Metal back for grip

Pistol grip, yellow, wood, rough diagonal cut

Leather over shoulder carrying strap

Dark brown wooden holster

6 cm

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