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SUBJECT : Paramilitary Activity in the USSR and the Satellites

The Soviet and Satellite paramilitary defense organizations continue to accelerate their activities. The first plenary session of the Central Committee of DOSAAF (Society for Cooperation with the Army, Air Force, and Navy) was held in Moscow ending 31 July 1954. 1/ At the same time, delegates of DOSAAF and similar organizations from China, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Rumania were guests of the Bulgarian DOSO.* The announced purpose of this visit was to attend a rowing and sailing competition on the Black Sea. 2/

The Moscow plenary session was marked by the attendance of chairmen of Republic, Krai, and Oblast DOSAAF committees. On the announced agenda of the meeting were reports and audits, discussions of the state of work and its improvement, and the holding of election meetings late this year. It seems that reports will also be required at that time. According to by-laws announced in 1952, the Central Committee is required to hold plenary sessions at least once a year between All-Union Conferences. The first All-Union Conference was held only last December, leaving but a seven month interval. If DOSAAF officials are to be subjected to accounting on a semi-annual basis, there will be little opportunity for slackening the pace of defense training in the organization and among the population.

The concurrent meeting of bloc paramilitary representatives in Bulgaria suggests measures to increase cooperation. The appearance of a representative from Peking is the first indication of a DOSAAF-linked paramilitary body in Communist China. Although the ostensible reason for the gathering was a regatta, one Soviet representative was identified as an inspector of the Central Committee of DOSAAF and delegates were in Bulgaria 18 days to attend a sporting event lasting only 10.

One possible explanation for these concurrent gatherings may be the dissemination of uniform instruction for atomic defense. Formal DOSAAF air defense instructions given the Soviet and Satellite public have been directed toward conventional high-explosive and incendiary bombings. In recent weeks, information on atomic energy and nuclear weapons has been released gradually, notably through the army newspaper "Red Star" and radio broadcasts. The fact that such atomic warfare is even a remote possibility cannot but raise questions in the people's minds regarding what measures and what actions the all powerful government is

* Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation.

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taking to protect the country and its citizenry. Since DOSAAF and its parallel organizations are the organs for mass defense training, the timing of these meetings is particularly appropriate for the release of uniform instructions in atomic defense measures.

A later broadcast indicates that the Komsomol Central Committee decided with the DOSAAF Central Committee to conduct a Spartakiade consisting of competition between individuals and picked teams of DOSAAF primary units. Compulsory events will include marksmanship, grenade throwing, forced marches, and anti-aircraft and chemical defense (PVKhO). (An additional optional event may be held depending on local conditions). 2/ The first rounds will be held in primary units August 1 to October 1, to be followed by team competition for city and rayon championships. The composition of the compulsory events indicates that basic military skills and civil defense training are to receive priority in DOSAAF training during the last portion of 1954. The games should be useful in stirring youthful enthusiasm and public interest in paramilitary activities.

Coordinated with

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- 1/ FBIS, Daily Report, USSR and Eastern Europe, #150, 4 Aug 1954. Official Use Only.
- 2/ FBIS, Daily Report, USSR and Eastern Europe, #140, 21 Jul 1954. Official Use Only.
- 3/ FBIS, Daily Report, USSR and Eastern Europe, #154, 10 Aug 1954. Official Use Only.
- 3/ FBIS, Daily Report, USSR and Eastern Europe, #155, 11 Aug 1954. Official Use Only.

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