

~~Top Secret~~



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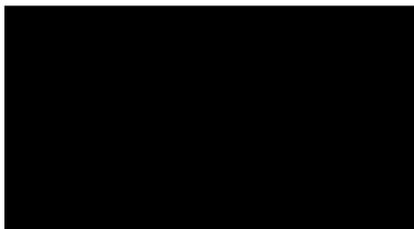


DIRECTORATE OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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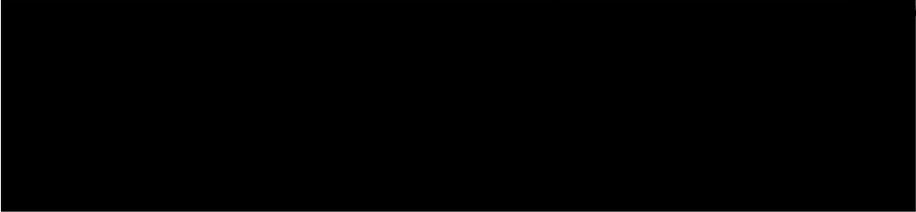
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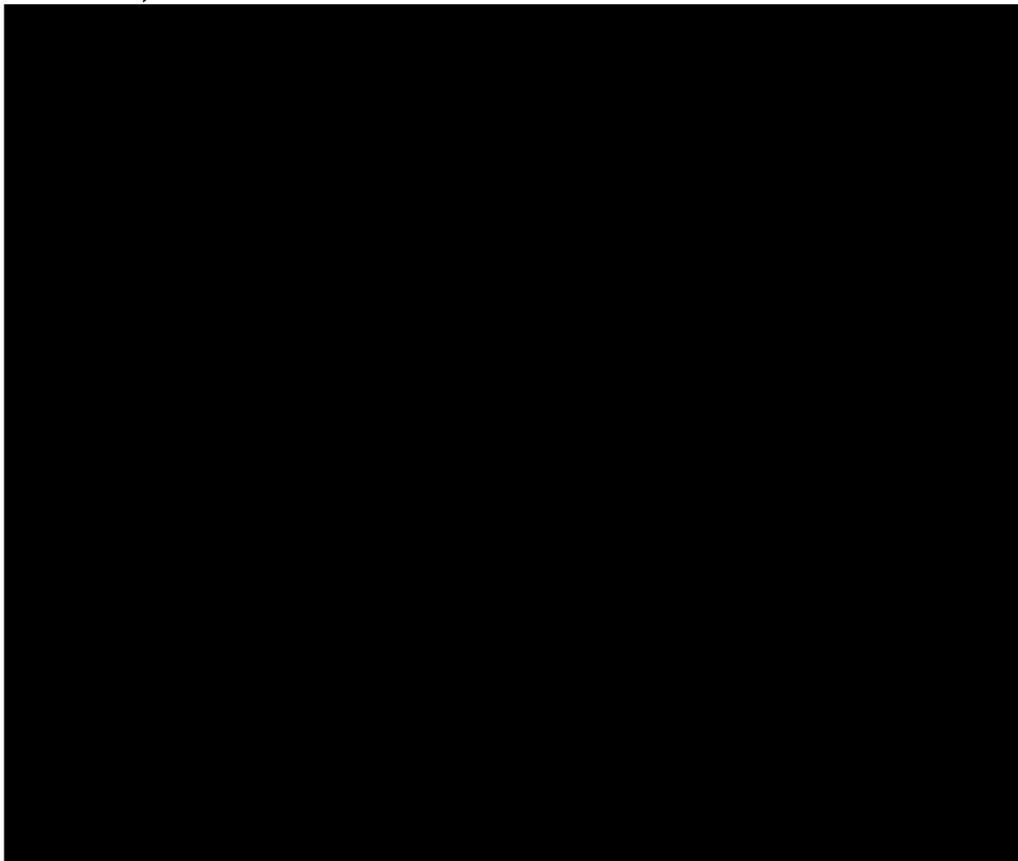
21 January 1969

Directorate of Science and Technology

This publication is intended to furnish the intelligence community with a timely survey of significant current scientific intelligence. The items herein are based on selected incoming reports of all kinds received during the previous week. The comments represent the views of the Office of Scientific Intelligence and the Foreign Missile and Space Analysis Center and are coordinated to the extent possible in the time available within CIA but, being based on the material at hand, are subject to change on receipt of further information or analysis. We caution against action taken solely on the basis of the preliminary evaluations herein. Substantive questions concerning items in this publication may be addressed directly to the Surveyor Staff, OSI, CIA Headquarters, Langley. [REDACTED] Questions concerning distribution should be forwarded through appropriate departmental channels.

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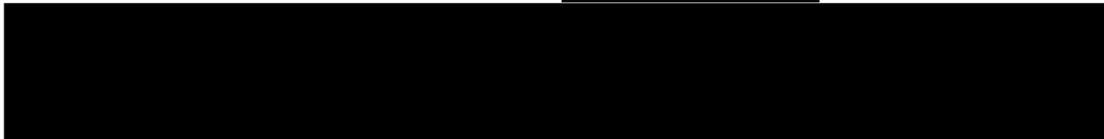
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BIOLOGICAL/CHEMICAL WARFARE

Numerous Deaths from Polish Poison Gas Accident Reported: More than 50 deaths and over 160 cases of individuals being hospitalized from exposure to a poisonous gas were reported as a result of an accident involving a military train traveling from East Germany to the Soviet Union. At least two cars carrying an undetermined type of poisonous gas were derailed about 75 km west of Warsaw near the town of Jackowice. A railway worker said that five villages in the area were evacuated. An unknown number of specialists with masks were reportedly sent into the immediate area some days after the accident, but were fatally affected. Effects of the gas were reported to be acute bloating of the abdomen, bleeding from eyes and nose, and ultimately, death. [REDACTED]

Comment: The symptoms listed above do not fit those produced by known toxic war gases. Neither does it appear logical that Soviet forces would use or ship toxic agents against which their protective masks are of little or no value. In the absence of more reliable and detailed information, it is possible that the cars contained a toxic commercial chemical such as chlorine, and that the alleged specialists were equipped with improper canisters. If the toxic were some other chemical, the casualties may have resulted from percutaneous poisoning caused from handling the wreckage rather than through mask failure. [REDACTED]

Swedish CW Program Emphasizes Research on Glycolate Incapacitating Agents: Dr. L. S. Larsson, Chief of the Applied Organic Chemistry Division of the Swedish CW laboratories (FOA-1), recently stated that his division had synthesized 20 to 25 glycolate esters with 3-quinuclidinol as a common alcohol component. One of the more active compounds, a dithiophene analog, has the same effects on the peripheral and central nervous system as BZ, and at a dose rate of 10 mg/kg, the effects persist for approximately 4 hours. Further research planned in this field includes the preparation of 3- and 4- N-methylpiperidine analogs of glycolate esters. [REDACTED]

Comment: This research effort represents an attempt to investigate a variety of glycolate compounds similar to that

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of the US incapacitating agent, BZ, in order to develop a more effective or more readily produced incapacitating agent of the glycolate series. Scientists from FOA-1 have previously stated that development of compounds more toxic than the nerve agents was highly unlikely; this current emphasis on the incapacitating-type agents indicating some redirection of effort may be a reflection of this philosophy, as well as a recognition of the requirement for greater research effort on incapacitants for their military value. Although the effective dose of the cited compound - 10 mg/kg - is not of CW significance, the limitation of effect to 4 hours is a desired characteristic. The study may lead to an improved hallucinogen.

[REDACTED]