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SECRET

Director, Central Intelligence Agency 15 April 1948

IM-27

Assistant Director, ORE

Evaluation of Alusna, Moscow 131344Z, Re Soviet officers' prediction of war within three months

1. Subject dispatch describes a conversation, on a train from Berlin to Moscow, between [redacted] and two Soviet Lieutenant Colonels, during which the Russian officers "emphatically and repeatedly" predicted that the USSR would initiate war within three months.

2. This incident is not considered of special significance, for the following reasons:

(a) Similar incidents have been reported on numerous occasions in the past, and have been common since VE day. The expectation of imminent war has for many months appeared fairly common among Soviet occupation troops, especially in Berlin.

(b) This expectation recently has been stimulated by intensified Soviet security measures, by increasingly severe discipline, by the growing vehemence of Soviet propaganda attacks on the Western Powers, and by indications of military activity attributable to routine spring maneuvers. None of the foregoing, however, are interpreted as foreshadowing imminent Soviet aggression. They are considered, rather, as logical steps in the general Soviet campaign to improve security, discipline and morale; in addition, they serve the USSR's psychological warfare against the West.

(c) It is extremely unlikely that actual Soviet military intentions would be known to officers of the type described. If plans for early aggression exist, they are probably not known outside the Kremlin. Certainly any officers cognizant of such plans would not be afforded the opportunity of divulging them to a "known American spy" such as Admiral Stevens.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
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THEODORE BABBITT [redacted]

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Reviewer: [redacted] Date: 9/1/78

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