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Note: For the convenience of users of OSR publications, this issue includes lists by area and subject of OSR issuances for the last six months of 1969 and of articles in the *Strategic Research Monthly Review* for those months. Similar lists for the full fiscal year will be published in July 1970.

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China - Communist Asia

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Central Asian Military District,
New Soviet Command

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A new Soviet military district facing China's Sinkiang Province probably is intended to improve command and control over forces brought into the area since early 1966.



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CHINA - COMMUNIST ASIA

Central Asian Military District, New Soviet Command

A new Soviet military district facing China's Sinkiang Province probably is intended to improve command and control over forces brought into the area since early 1966. This development reflects heightened interest in the western part of the Sino-Soviet border, but for at least the next year or so, the Soviets are more likely to fill out existing forces than to increase the number of divisions.

Since early November, Soviet radiobroadcasts and newspapers have made references to a Central Asian Military District commanded by General of the Army Lyashchenko and evidently headquartered at Alma-Ata.

[REDACTED] The new district was carved out of the Turkestan Military District, including much or all of the Kazak, Tadzhik, and Kirgiz Republics--areas which front on China's Sinkiang Province (see the map on page 18).

The creation of the new district is only one of several indicators of a long-range Soviet concern about the western part of the China border. In the mid-Fifties no Soviet divisions were based near the Sinkiang border, but in 1960 an airborne division was moved from the Moscow Military District to the Fergana valley, just west of the new Central Asian district. In late 1963 a motorized rifle regiment was transferred from western Turkestan to Druzhba, at the mouth of an ancient invasion route from Sinkiang.

As Sino-Soviet differences intensified in 1965, a further Soviet buildup began all along the Chinese border. In the Sinkiang border area, elements of two divisions appeared at Alma-Ata and Frunze during 1966. Since mid-1969 additional divisions have been observed forming at Sary Ozek, Ayaguz, and probably Semipalatinsk. The reason for this hiatus in the buildup in the Sinkiang area is not clear but it probably resulted from higher priorities for the buildup in the Far Eastern border area.

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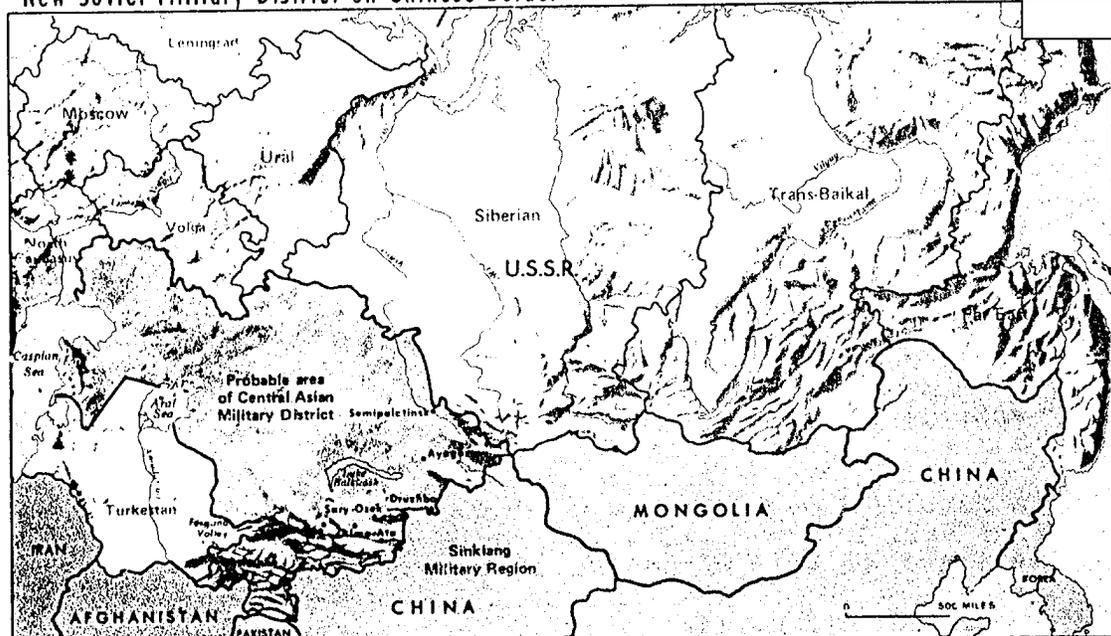
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The Soviets evidently are also establishing a Tactical Air Army in the new Central Asian district. Two of the six regiments of the Turkestan district's air army were based on territory now in the new district, and one or possibly two additional regiments were transferred. Airfield construction suggests that the central Asian force will be built up further. This could be accomplished by additional transfers or by the creation of new regiments.

New Soviet Military District on Chinese Border



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[redacted] most of the Soviet buildup effort opposite Sinkiang in the next year or so is likely to be directed to the filling out of existing formations. Chinese weakness in Sinkiang provides little incentive for a hurried, massive Soviet buildup, and the presently constituted Soviet force provides at least one division near each of the main geographic choke points on routes connecting China and the USSR. Finally, none of the five or six Soviet divisions in the new district are at combat strength, whereas about half of the divisions located elsewhere along the border are at combat strength. [redacted]

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