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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2007

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NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone and Berlin)

DATE:

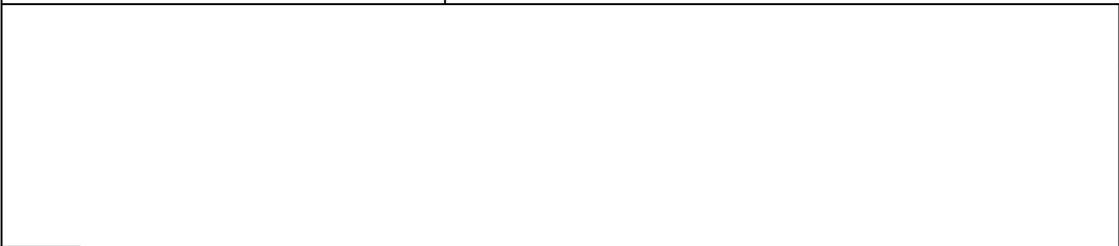
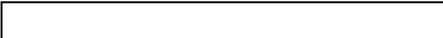
INFO. November 1948

SUBJECT Issuance of New Identity Document

DIST. 16 November 1948

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT



1. The new passport previously referred to as the "Inlandspass" is to be introduced in the Russian zone beginning on 1 December 1948. It has now been decided to introduce it in Berlin as well. On 9 November Major Ochkin, Chief of the Civil Administration Section of the Soviet Military Government for Berlin, notified the Berlin Statistical Office that the new document was to be issued to the entire population of Berlin, and instructed the Police President, Paul Markgraf, to arrange for the replacement of the old Personalausweise by the new documents.
2. The passes are being printed by Giesecke & Devrient in Leipzig. The order calls for 15,500,000 passes, which are sufficient to cover all individuals over the age of 15 in the Soviet zone and Berlin. There are to be three types of pass: (a) general, for German nationals, with serial numbers preceded by the letters A through E for the five states of the zone and by F for Berlin; (b) stateless and (c) foreigner, both without a letter in the serial number. The passes are to be printed on special paper, and to have entries made with special ink only, accompanied by "dry stamps". The official title of the document is "Deutscher Personalausweis". It will contain twelve pages (unnumbered), with the serial number on each right-hand page. The first four pages will contain the usual personality information (picture on the second page); the next five pages are blank, to receive official entries. The last three pages have spaces for a chronological record of changes of address, to be filled in by local police authorities; this will constitute a means of checking the genuineness of the pass.
3. On 11 November classes began in the Advanced Police School in Berlin-Pankow for the purpose of training 720 members of the Administrative Police from the Russian zone for the introduction of the new pass. Six consecutive classes of 120 men each were to receive two days of instruction. In addition to the men from the Zone, 60 Berlin Administrative Policemen have been ordered to take the course. Personnel of the Administration of the Interior (GAI) were informed during their instruction in the use

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of the new pass that one of its purposes is to catch illegal residents and travelers in the Soviet zone, "particularly American agents".

- [ ] 4. Last, the head of the Administrative Police Department of the GAI, is quoted as expressing the belief that it is extremely doubtful that personnel and technical difficulties can be overcome in time to start issuing the new pass by 1 December. Furthermore, responsible officials of the GAI estimate that at least one third of the population of the Soviet zone will not have all the documents required to establish their right to the "Deutscher Personalausweis". In the investigation of persons lacking the required documents, difficulty is anticipated because many personal and public records have been destroyed, either wilfully or through war damage. The facilities of the police in the eastern zone would be seriously overtaxed by a careful investigation of the affidavits which would have to be presented in lieu of the prescribed documentary evidence. It is believed that making such investigations of all applicants for passes would prevent the performance of normal functions of the Criminal Police for months.

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