

**SECRET**

**URGENT**

21 June 1949

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. [ ]

From: Mr. [ ]

Subject: Soviet Desertions

1. Please consult with Professor Bergetrom to find out all that he is able to tell you about Soviet desertions from the areas of the USSR with which he is most familiar, i.e. Central Asia and the Far East. You might ask him to write this up in brief form unless it turns out he has no information on the subject at all.

2. You might explain to him that this information is sought in connection with the Soviet mass desertions in the summer of 1941 and the welcome by peasants and townspeople of the Germans as liberators. Particulars of the following sort are especially wanted:

A. Identification of any Red Army regiments, divisions or other units which deserted en masse;

B. Names of any generals or any other high officers who deserted or gave up after nominal resistance and any unfavorable remarks they made about Stalin or the regime;

C. Names of any high officials who were among the first volunteers to help the Germans;

D. Names of villages and districts where the population welcomed the Germans;

E. Name or location of any collective farms where the peasants welcomed the Germans in the belief that they would abolish collectivization;

F. Names of any men or women who led the welcomers;

G. Any quotes from these people on dislike of collective farms or desire of restoration of private property.

H. Beginning of partisan activities by Russians against the USSR.

3. I hope you can get this information within the next day or so.

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