

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION REPORT

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~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Reductions in Officer Strength in the Soviet Army
 DATE OF INFO. Fall 1954
 PLACE ACQUIRED USSR

REPORT NO. [redacted]
 DATE DISTR. 8 November 1954
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 REFERENCES [redacted]

HR70-14

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Source, believed to be reliable [redacted]. The source of this report is the same as the one in referenced report. The informant in par. 1 of this report is identical with the one in referenced report. Appraisal of Content: 6.

1. According to one informant, a twenty percent reduction in the officer strength of the Soviet Army was under way in early September 1954. The three reasons mentioned for this demobilization were economy, the removal of inefficient officers commissioned during World War II, and the desire to streamline the Soviet Army.¹
2. A second informant had heard that reductions in personnel were being effected outside the USSR and that Austria was specifically mentioned as one country where this was being done. Informant also learned that Soviet military units in Austria were being issued new weapons and armor at the same time that reductions in personnel strength were being carried out to conform with revised T/Os for military units.² T/Os for tanks, artillery, automatic weapons, and motor transport were being raised to increase the fire-power of military units. Informant was not able to determine accurately from his hearsay information the full nature and extent of these changes in the Soviet Army. He did learn, however, that the mechanized division of the rifle corps was having its tank strength increased by fifty per cent.
3. In commenting on the increase in tank strength mentioned by the second informant, source stated that he thought the tanks would probably be new T-54s but gave no reason for this conjecture.
 1. [redacted] Comment: It is not possible to determine from the text whether or not any of the vacancies created by this demobilization would be filled by replacements from among young officers trained after the war.
 2. [redacted] Comment: It is not clear from the text whether the reductions in personnel strength referred only to officers or to both officers and EM.

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

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