

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

TELETYPED INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T	DISSEMINATION CONTROLS
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DATE DISTR.	7 AUGUST 1957	PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE
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COUNTRY USSR	PLACE ACQUIRED USSR
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SUBJECT
1. THE POWER POSITION OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES AND FACTORS BEHIND ZHUKOV'S SUPPORT OF KHRUSHCHEV.
2. MILITARY AND PEASANT ATTITUDES TOWARD KHRUSHCHEV.

DATE OF INFORMATION JULY 1957	REFERENCES
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APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE) 3

SOURCE (EVALUATION DEFINITIVE)
A RELIABLE SOVIET SOURCE

1. THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES ARE NOW IN A VERY STRONG POSITION IN THE USSR; WITH ZHUKOV AT THEIR HEAD, AND HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH KHRUSHCHEV, THE ENTIRE STRENGTH OF THE GOVERNMENT IS IN THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES. ZHUKOV HAS TREMENDOUS SUPPORT WITHIN THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES, WHICH COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SAID OF BULGANIN DURING THE PERIOD THAT HE WAS MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

2. ONE EXPLANATION FOR ZHUKOV'S SUPPORT OF KHRUSHCHEV IN THE RECENT CPSU PRESIDIUM MEETING IS THAT MALOYEV, MALENKOV, AND KACANOVICH WERE CLOSE TO STALIN. ZHUKOV SUFFERED A LOSS OF STANDING AT THE HANDS OF STALIN AFTER WORLD WAR II; STALIN'S TREATMENT OF ZHUKOV WAS NOT NECESSARILY BASED ON HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE OR PERSONAL OBSERVATION, BUT WAS BASED ON REPORTS WHICH HE RECEIVED FROM HIS CLOSEST ADVISORS, E.G., MALENKOV. MOREOVER, ZHUKOV AND BULGANIN HAVE A STRONG DISLIKE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

3. THE ATTITUDE OF SOVIET MILITARY OFFICERS TOWARD THE CPSU DEVELOPMENTS OF LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY 1957 IS DIVIDED. SOME OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ARE ABSOLUTELY SILENT IN THIS REGARD, CHIEFLY BECAUSE THEY ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT

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MAINTAINING THEIR POSITIONS. OCCASIONALLY SOMEONE REMARKS THAT IT IS TOO BAD ABOUT MOLOTOV. JUNIOR OFFICERS AND THE TROOPS ARE NOT VERY FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD KHRUSHCHEV. THEY THINK THAT HE IS A POOR DIPLOMAT AND BELIEVE THAT HE SOMETIMES BEHAVES STUPIDLY.

4. THE COMMON MAN IN THE USSR, WHO SELDOM SEES ANYTHING OF HIS LEADERS EXCEPT THEIR PICTURES, IS CONCERNED ONLY WITH SUCH THINGS AS THE REDUCTION OF TAXES, INCREASES IN WORKMEN'S PENSIONS, REDUCTION OF WORKING HOURS, AND THE REMOVAL OF TAXES ON PRIVATE GARDEN PLOTS. SOVIET PEASANTRY GIVES KHRUSHCHEV THE CREDIT FOR SUPPORT OF THESE MEASURES; THE LEADER WHO CAN ACCOMPLISH THESE MEASURES WILL COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF THE PEASANTS. OTHER SEGMENTS OF THE SOVIET POPULATION ARE ADOPTING A CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RECENT PRESIDUM PURGE.

COMMENT: EVALUATION REQUESTED OF OCL.

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