

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
TELETYPED INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET SECRET		DISSEMINATION CONTROLS	
DATE DISTR.		3 NOVEMBER 1957	
COUNTRY USSR		PLACE ACQUIRED USSR	
SUBJECT CC/CPSU SECRET LETTER CRITICIZING POLITICAL WORK IN THE SOVIET ARMY		PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE	
DATE OF INFORMATION 19 OCTOBER 1957		REFERENCES	
APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE) 3			
SOURCE (EVALUATION DEFINITIVE) A RELIABLE SOVIET SOURCE			
<p>1. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION HAS ISSUED A BRIEF SECRET LETTER, DATED 19 OCTOBER 1957, WHICH IS ENTITLED "IMPROVEMENT OF PARTY-POLITICAL WORK IN THE SOVIET ARMY". THIS LETTER WAS DISCUSSED AT PARTY AKTIV MEETINGS OF MILITARY DISTRICTS, ARMIES, FORMATIONS, AND UNITS.</p> <p>2. THE LETTER OPENED WITH A LIST OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOVIET UNION OVER THE PAST FORTY YEARS, FOLLOWING WHICH THERE WERE STATEMENTS REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF THE USSR AND THE POWER OF THE SOVIET ARMY. THE LETTER REFERRED TO THE EXCELLENT OFFICER CADRES OF THE SOVIET ARMY AND TO THE FACT THAT IT WAS EQUIPPED WITH MODERN ATOMIC, HYDROGEN, AND ROCKET (REAKTIVNYY) WEAPONS. IT WAS THEN POINTED OUT THAT PARTY-POLITICAL WORK, HOWEVER, HAD FALLEN BEHIND CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT YEARS, THAT THE POLITICAL APPARATUS OF THE ARMY HAD BEEN SHOVED ASIDE, AND THAT COMMANDERS OF UNITS AND OTHER COMMANDERS HAD NOT PROPERLY EVALUATED POLITICAL WORK IN THE ARMY. THE BASIC BLAME THEREFOR WAS PLACED ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, BUT NEITHER ZHUKOV NOR ANYONE ELSE WAS NAMED SPECIFICALLY IN THE LETTER.</p>			
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3. THE LETTER CONCLUDED WITH THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIVES;

- A. TO IMPROVE AND MAKE MORE ACTIVE THE PARTY POLITICAL APPARATUS OF THE SOVIET ARMY
- B. TO INCLUDE THE CHIEF OF THE [CHIEF] POLITICAL DIRECTORATE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
- C. TO INCREASE THE ROLE OF MILITARY COUNCILS [SOURCE COMMENT: THESE COUNCILS WERE PREVIOUSLY CALLED MILITARY COUNCILS OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF; THEY WILL NOW BE CALLED MILITARY COUNCILS OF THE GROUND FORCES, ETC, ACCORDING TO THE ARM OF SERVICE.]
- D. TO ENLIVEN CRITICISM WITHIN THE ARMY [SOURCE COMMENT: IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE TO CRITICIZE THE ORDERS OF COMMANDERS, BUT THEIR ACTIONS AND BEHAVIOR MAY BE CRITICIZED.]

[] COMMENT: THE TERM "ARMY" AS USED IN THIS REPORT MAY ACTUALLY REFER TO THE ENTIRE ARMED FORCES, AS THE RUSSIAN WORD "ARMIYA" IS USED IN BOTH OF THESE MEANINGS.

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