

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

HR70-14

TELETYPE INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET <i>Secret</i>	DISSEMINATION CONTROLS
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DATE DISTR. 3 NOVEMBER 1957	PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE
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COUNTRY USSR	PLACE ACQUIRED USSR	APPROVED FOR RELEASE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION HR-70-14 4-18-2012
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SUBJECT CC/CPSU LETTER CONCERNING REMOVAL OF ZHUKOV AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE	REFERENCES
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DATE OF INFORMATION 1 NOVEMBER 1957	APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE) 3
SOURCE EVALUATION (DEFINITIVE) A SOVIET SOURCE OF PROVEN RELIABILITY	

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION (CPSU) HAS ISSUED A LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1957 WHICH PRESENTS THE BACKGROUND OF ZHUKOV'S REMOVAL AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO THE CPSU MEMBERSHIP. THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER.

1. WHEN ZHUKOV RETURNED TO THE USSR ON 26 OCTOBER 1957, HE CALLED KHRUSHCHEV IMMEDIATELY AND REQUESTED THAT A PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BE HELD. HOWEVER, AFTER KHRUSHCHEV HAD PRESENTED HIM THE FACTS IN THE MATTER, ZHUKOV STATED: "WITH MY CHARACTER I COULD NOT OCCUPY THE LEADING POSITION IN THE ARMED FORCES, AND I CONSIDER THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDUM TO BE CORRECT. I WILL ACCEPT MY POSITION GIVEN ME AND AM READY TO DISCHARGE MY DUTIES WITH FULL VIGOR."
2. NOT ONLY WAS A PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HELD, BUT ALSO OF ALL COMMANDERS OF MILITARY DISTRICTS AND GROUPS OF FORCES. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS VOTED FIRST AND WERE UNANIMOUSLY AGAINST ZHUKOV. THE MILITARY LEADERS VOTED SEPARATELY, AFTER THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE VOTE, AND ALSO VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION AGAINST ZHUKOV.

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- 3. ZHUKOV MADE MISTAKES IN THE BUILDING OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE CONTINUALLY DEMANDED MORE MONEY, BUT WHEN HE GOT IT HE ENGAGED IN SABER-RATTLING SPEECHES.
- 4. ZHUKOV WAS ACCUSED OF CREATING INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE PARTY POLICY OF LESSENING TENSIONS.
- 5. ZHUKOV DESIRED TO TAKE ALL MILITARY POWER INTO HIS OWN HANDS, WHICH COULD COMMIT THE SOVIET UNION TO A WAR AND PLACE THE COUNTRY IN A DANGEROUS POSITION.

COMMENT: EVALUATION REQUESTED OF OCI.

END OF MESSAGE

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