

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

TELETYPED INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION <div style="text-align: center;">S-E-C-R-E-T SECRET</div>	DISSEMINATION CONTROLS <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
DATE DISTR. 26 FEBRUARY 1958	PRECEDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROUTINE
COUNTRY USSR	PLACE ACQUIRED USSR
SUBJECT THE AFTERMATH OF ZHUKOV'S REMOVAL AND SOVIET OFFICER ATTITUDES TOWARD KHRUSHCHEV AND FURTSEVA	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> APPROVED FOR RELEASE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION HR-70-14 4-18-2012 </div>
DATE OF INFORMATION LATE 1957	REFERENCES
APPRAISAL OF CONTENT (TENTATIVE) 3	
SOURCE (EVALUATION DEFINITIVE) RELIABLE SOVIET SOURCE	
<p>1. OFFICER INFORMANTS IN THE USSR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT KHRUSHCHEV UNDERTOOK TO REMOVE ZHUKOV DURING THE LATTER'S ABSENCE FROM THE USSR BECAUSE OF A FEAR THAT ZHUKOV WOULD HAVE USED FORCE AGAINST THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THESE OFFICERS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT KHRUSHCHEV AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE AFRAID THAT ZHUKOV WOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS GENERALS AND OTHER GROUPS AND COULD HAVE SEIZED POWER. INFORMANTS HEARD THAT KHRUSHCHEV HAD BEEN ASKED AT A MOSCOW PARTY CONFERENCE WHY THE QUESTION OF ZHUKOV'S REMOVAL WAS FIRST TAKEN UP BEFORE A CC/CPSU MEETING DURING ZHUKOV'S ABSENCE. KHRUSHCHEV WAS SAID TO HAVE GIVEN SOME SORT OF AN EVASIVE ANSWER SUCH AS "IT WAS A MATTER OF NO SIGNIFICANCE." THE DELEGATES AT THE PARTY CONFERENCE WERE EXTREMELY DISSATISFIED WITH KHRUSHCHEV'S ANSWER AND CONSIDERED IT CRUDE.</p> <p>2. ACCORDING TO INFORMANTS, KHRUSHCHEV IS DOING ALL HE CAN TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION AND TO EARN THE LOVE OF THE ARMY. OFFICERS AND GENERALS WHO WERE PUNISHED BY ZHUKOV HAVE BEEN PARDONED AND RESTORED TO SERVICE BY KHRUSHCHEV. INFORMANTS MENTIONED</p>	
DISSEMINATION	CLASSIFICATION <div style="text-align: center;">S-E-C-R-E-T SECRET</div>

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ONE INCIDENT WHEREIN A COLONEL ON THE GENERAL STAFF WHO WAS VERY STOUT WAS NOT ONLY NEGLIGENT IN HIS PHYSICAL CULTURE BUT ALSO FAILED TO ATTEND PHYSICAL CULTURE CLASSES, FOR WHICH REASON ZHUKOV DEMOBILIZED HIM. AFTER ZHUKOV WAS REMOVED, KHRUSHCHEV RESTORED THIS COLONEL TO DUTY AND THE COLONEL WAS PLACED IN A HIGHER DUTY STATUS.

3. THE MORE TRUSTED GENERALS, SUCH AS GRECHKO, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED COMMANDER OF THE GROUND FORCES, KHRUSHCHEV PLACES IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE ARMED FORCES. INFORMANTS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PREDICT THAT GRECHKO WILL BECOME MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN THE FUTURE. IT IS ACCEPTED AS COMMON KNOWLEDGE BY THE INFORMANTS THAT GRECHKO AND KHRUSHCHEV ARE RELATED TO ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THEIR WIVES.

4. THE ARMY DISLIKES FURTSEVA VERY MUCH. JOKES ARE PREVALENT IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CIRCLES TO THE EFFECT THAT FURTSEVA WILL BECOME MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND THAT THE OFFICERS WILL LOSE THEIR LAST PAIR OF TROUSERS. THE INFERENCE FROM THIS JOKE IS THAT THIS WILL BE THE NEXT MOVE BY KHRUSHCHEV, WHO IS ALSO DISLIKED BY THE ARMY.

INFORMANTS TOLD OF A RECEPTION AT THE TIME OF GRADUATION EXERCISES AT THE FRUNZE [LENIN?] MILITARY-POLITICAL ACADEMY WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY FURTSEVA. A DRUNKEN COLONEL ASKED FURTSEVA WHY IT WAS THAT THE ARMY DIDN'T LIKE HER, AND THE NEXT DAY THE COLONEL WAS DRAGGED BEFORE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO EXPLAIN HIS BEHAVIOR AND HE HAD TO APOLOGIZE TO FURTSEVA.

COMMENT: EVALUATION REQUESTED OF ARMY AND OCI.

END OF MESSAGE

DISSEMINATION

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