

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT NO. []

SUBJECT CC/CPSU Plenum Decree on the Need for Increased Security in the Handling of Classified Information (*State and military secrets*)

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1. A plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) which was held on 13 September 1958 issued a decree concerning the safeguarding of military and State secrets. The decree stated that recently many responsible leaders in the ministries, directors of factories, engineers, and even simple workers have adopted a criminal attitude toward the safeguarding of State secrets. Drunk with the successes of the USSR in the field of technical developments, these people underestimate the activities of hostile intelligence services and permit loose talk regarding important government secrets.
2. This particularly concerns personnel of installations, industries, and ministries connected with the reception of foreign delegations from capitalist countries. These personnel show the foreign delegations sections of factories which are not included in the plans for the visits of specific scientists or delegations; in their explanatory talks they reveal technological processes involved in secret production, and so forth.
3. In many ministries there is a disdainful attitude toward the handling of secret documents. For example, in the Ministry of Transportation (Ministerstvo Putey Soobshcheniya), an unclassified document was published to which was attached a list of all the factories in the USSR which produce materials for the ministry. At conferences in many ministries reports are read to all present which include data which should be restricted to a limited circle of individuals. The Directorate of State Control has through its publications permitted errors which have caused damage to the country.¹
4. Loose talk on the part of many workers in public places, and particularly during contacts with foreigners, results in the disclosure of military and government secrets. Some workers display an excessive curiosity. These persons attempt to know everything in order to be able to brag to friends and even strangers and impress them with their knowledgeability of important government matters.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

5. Articles and reviews of an economic nature are published entirely without control in local (rayon) newspapers or in the publications of large factories. These articles and reviews reveal the nature of the production of some of the largest, restricted factories, as well as their accomplishments in the industrial field. The loss of secret documents occurs everywhere and the possibility is not excluded that these documents are falling into the hands of enemy intelligence services.
6. The improper use of communications facilities also leads to the disclosure of government secrets. For example, a testing engineer in one of the numbered aviation plants transmitted by intercity telephone to the Ministry of Aviation Construction all data relating to test results, including the discovery of shortcomings in the tests.² The careless use of ciphers (shifry) and code pads (kodovyye tablitsy) results in disclosures of actual designations of installations and military units as well as establishing the nature of their functions.
7. The decree listed other means, similar to the above, whereby loose talk could lead to disclosure of State and military secrets. The following was stated in the directive portion of the decree:
 - A. Taking into consideration the activation of subversive activities by the leading capitalist countries against the Soviet Union, the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU demands from all party organizations and from each individual Communist an increase of Party alertness, with the aim of preventing the disclosure of military and State secrets.
 - B. A decisive struggle must be conducted against braggarts and loafers who allow the disclosure of State and military secrets, and these must be punished severely, even to the extent of legal prosecution and expulsion from the Party.
 - C. The chiefs of ministries and installations are to review the lists of facilities and areas to which visits by foreign delegations are prohibited. It is contemplated that the number of restricted areas, facilities, and plant departments will be expanded, thereby reducing the possibility of disclosure of State and military secrets.
 - D. Appropriate controls will be established over the publication of literature, reference material, and periodicals, particularly those of local districts (rayony), individual factories, and economic regions, etc.
 - E. Controls will be established over the handling of classified documents to prevent the loss of "secret" and "top secret" documents.
 - F. A decisive struggle will be conducted, using the resources of all Party organizations and of all Communists, against the disclosure of State and military secrets. Explanatory work will be conducted among all Communists concerning the importance of this matter.

Comments:

1. This organization was last reported as the Commission of State Control.
2. The Ministry of Aviation Industry was renamed State Committee for Aviation Technology in December 1957; presumably this is the organization referred to here.