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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

5 JUN 1962

IRONBARK

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (SECRET): "A Guide to the Use of Airborne Landings", by Lieutenant-Colonel M. Belov

1. Enclosed is a verbatim translation of an article from the SECRET Collection of the Journal "Military Thought" published by the Ministry of Defense, USSR, and distributed down to the level of division commander.

2. For convenience of reference by USIB agencies, the codeword IRONBARK has been assigned to this series of TOP SECRET CSDB reports containing documentary Soviet material. The word IRONBARK is classified CONFIDENTIAL and is to be used only among persons authorized to read and handle this material.

3. In the interests of protecting our source, IRONBARK should be handled on a need-to-know basis within your office. Request for extra copies of this report or for utilization of any part of this document in any other form should be addressed to the originating office.

[Redacted]

Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

Enclosure

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: DEC 2004

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Original: The Director of Central Intelligence

cc: The Director of Intelligence and Research,
Department of State

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director for Intelligence,
The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence,
Department of the Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
U. S. Air Force

The Director, National Security Agency

Director, Division of Intelligence
Atomic Energy Commission

National Indications Center

Chairman, Guided Missiles and Astronautics
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Deputy Director for Intelligence

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4 June 1962

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BARY

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COUNTRY : USSR

SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (SECRET): "A Guide to the Use of Airborne Landings", by Lieutenant-Colonel M. Belov

DATE OF INFO: December 1961

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT : Documentary

SOURCE : A reliable source (B).

Following is a verbatim translation of an article entitled "A Guide to the Use of Airborne Landings", by Lieutenant-Colonel M. Belov. This article appeared in Issue 6(61) of 1961 of a special version of the Soviet journal Military Thought which is classified SECRET by the Soviets and is published irregularly.

Issue 6(61) was sent to press on 7 December 1961. The Table of Contents of this issue was disseminated in CSDB-3/650,151.

Headquarters Comment: The Field Service Regulations cited on page 3 are not the same as those published as CSDB-3/648,642 (Division-Corps, 1959), as the original pages cited do not discuss airborne landings. According to documentary information, new Soviet regiment-battalion Field Service Regulations also were published in 1959.

[REDACTED] Comment: "Military Thought" is published by the USSR Ministry of Defense in three versions, classified RESTRICTED, SECRET, and TOP SECRET. The RESTRICTED version is issued monthly and has existed since 1937. The SECRET version is issued irregularly. By the end of 1961, 61 issues had been published, 6 of them during 1961. The TOP SECRET version was initiated in early 1960 and is also issued irregularly.

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A Guide to the Use of Airborne Landings

by Lieutenant-Colonel M. Belov

The growing role of airborne landings in modern battle and in an operation and the increase in the relative proportion of motorized rifle troops in their composition are mentioned in a number of published works by eminent specialists in this field*.

It is therefore quite obviously necessary that all units and large units of ground troops should be trained in advance for use in airborne landings.

However, existing theoretical studies and official documents, as in the past, entrust the problems on the use of landings mainly to airborne troops. They do not bring out sufficiently the specific features of landings of motorized rifle troops and, consequently, do not promote their advance training.

As an example, let us take the basic document governing the use of airborne landings, The Manual on the Use of Airborne Troops. The title alone testifies to the fact that it is entirely directed to airborne troops. Although the Manual does state that motorized rifle units (sub-units) are usually used in the composition of tactical airborne landings, this is clearly not enough.

Similarly, the draft of the Manual on the Field Service of Staffs and the Manual on the Troop Rear Services of the Soviet Army present the special features of the headquarters, the organization, and the work of the rear services of airborne troops and not, as one should expect, of airborne landings.

We consider that under modern conditions the content of such documents does not answer existing requirements. The need has become urgent to work

* N. N. Lisov and S. Ye. Rozhdestvenskiy: Airborne Landings, Military Publishing House, 1959, P. 296; Major-General A. Rudinov: The Use of Airborne Troops under Modern Conditions, Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought", No. 6 (50), 1958, P. 47.

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out an official guide which will combine the problems of the use of airborne and motorized rifle troops into an overall theory of airborne landings.

In connection with this, it should also be noted that in the outline of the new Field Service Regulations and in the draft of the Manual on the Field Service of Staffs there is likewise no consideration given to the changes which have taken place in the practice of airborne landings. In both these documents consideration is once again given to questions of the use of airborne troops rather than to airborne landings.

It is true that in some sections of the Field Service Regulations (pp. 15, 19, and 40) there is a discussion of the goal of the use of airborne landings, the bases of their offensive operations, and their materiel and medical support. In the remaining cases, however, consideration is given only to the landings and operations of an airborne division (parachute regiment).

The special features in operations where troops are used in airborne landings most frequently become apparent in the period of training and after the drop, up to the moment of contact with the enemy. And, in our Union, this should be quite fully reflected in a document which defines the possibility of the use of airborne landings.

Since the problems to be taken up will deal with the use of any ground troops under highly unusual conditions, requiring both special training and special support, it would be better to call this document a guide and not a manual.

In order to work up this document, it is necessary to call on specialists from the airborne troops and on officers with experience in the landing of motorized rifle troops. The main role in investigating the problems of the use of airborne landings in battle and in an operation must be taken by the Directorate of Airborne Troops, which has well-trained cadres for this purpose and which is capable of grasping the whole system of measures linked with the use of any units or large units of ground troops in airborne landings.

Obviously, a single working out of the theory of airborne landings and a periodic assignment of specialists to render aid in the use of a landing are clearly inadequate.

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In order to achieve widespread experience and to ensure the most expedient and skilful use of airborne landings, it is necessary, in our opinion, to have groups of officers, who are well-trained in landings, on the staffs of armies and fronts, and, also, to provide for a corresponding training assignment of officers of motorized rifle troops to airborne large units and units. After a single Guide to the Use of Airborne Landings has been worked out and after the combined-arms large units and formations of ground troops have been supplied with specialists, we may count on the successful training of motorized rifle troops for airborne landings.

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