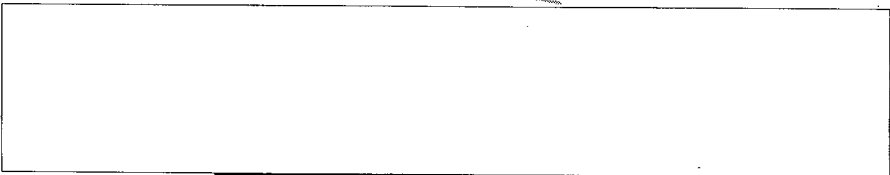



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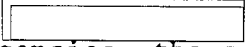
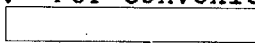

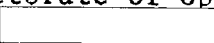
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

15 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT :  Report

1. Enclosed is a  report. For convenience of reference by USIB agencies, the codeword  has been assigned to the product of certain extremely sensitive agent sources of CIA's Directorate of Operations. The word  is classified  and is to be used only among persons authorized to read and handle this material.

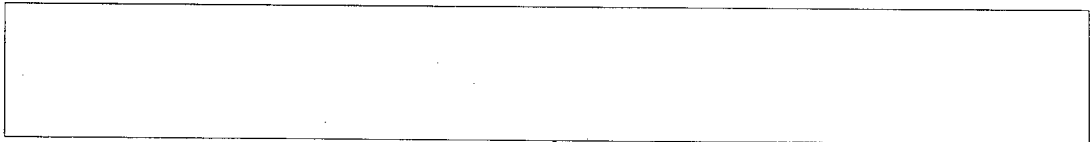
2. Requests for extra copies of this report or for utilization of any part of this report in any other form should be addressed to the originating office.



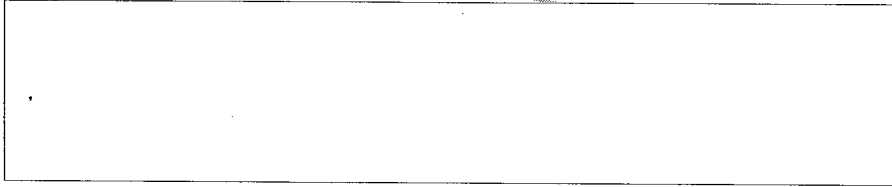
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Distribution:

The Director of Central Intelligence

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Intelligence Information Special Report

COUNTRY Poland

DATE OF INFO. September 1976

DATE 15 February 1977

SUBJECT

Discussion of Exercise "Shield-76"
by the Chief of Staff of the Polish General Staff

SOURCE Documentary

SUMMARY:

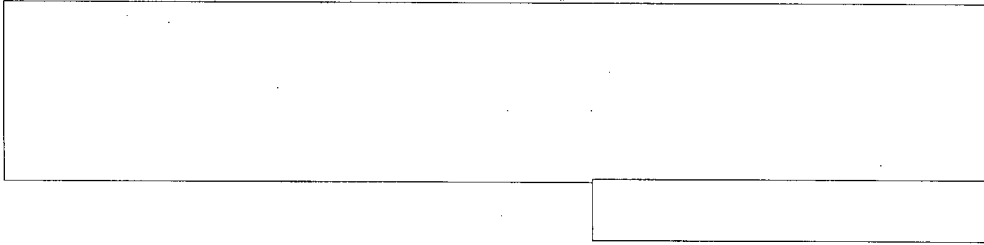
This report is a translation of a Polish document classified SECRET entitled Draft of the Discussion of Exercise "Shield-76" by the Chief of Staff of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces. The document reviews the general scenario for the entire exercise and recounts the specific "episodes" to be played out by representational troops at the various training areas. The use and effects of nuclear weapons by and on both sides are described. Noteworthy is the radioelectronic deception operation mentioned on the last page of the report. It should also be noted that whereas in [redacted] the Warsaw Pact and Nato forces are called respectively "the East" and "the West", in this report they are called "the North" and "the South". (The diagram referred to on page 19 of this report was missing from the document.)

END OF SUMMARY

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DRAFT OF THE DISCUSSION
OF EXERCISE "SHIELD-76"
BY THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF
OF THE POLISH ARMED FORCES

In accordance with the plan for joint training activities of the Combined Armed Forces of the member states of the Warsaw Pact, an interallied, one-sided, multilevel, operational-tactical exercise was conducted under the cryptonym "SHIELD-76" under the direction of the Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic with designated staffs and forces of the Soviet Army (SA), the Czechoslovak People's Army (CPA), the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic (NPA), and the Polish Armed Forces (PAF).

The theme of the exercise read: the repelling of an attack and going over to an offensive operation, the development of a Front operation under conditions of forced crossing of water obstacles utilizing airborne landings, and the repelling of strong counterattacks and encirclement of large groupings of enemy troops.

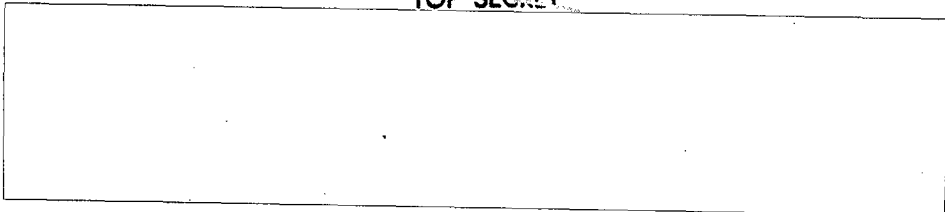
The main goal of the exercise was to improve the operational-tactical preparation of commands, staffs, and forces in the field of organizing and conducting combat operations, and to increase the capability for cooperation among the allied armies under conditions of conventional and nuclear warfare in its initial period.

At the same time, the exercise created a great opportunity to further develop friendship and to strengthen the brotherhood of arms among the allied armies.

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During the exercise particular emphasis was placed on:

- Maintaining the ability to organize an offensive operation of a Front while simultaneously deploying strike groups and repelling attacks of enemy air and armored-mechanized forces;
- Improving the organization of Front forces which are changing over to an offensive operation and their deployment in a complex radioelectronic situation.
- Increasing the capability for converting to operations utilizing nuclear weapons, repelling strong counterattacks, and launching an offensive operation while simultaneously encircling large enemy groupings.

Within the framework of the exercise, many practical episodes were played out particularly in connection with: organizing and conducting defensive operations with the troops of the ground forces, the air forces, and the national air defense forces; breaching a concealed zone and breaking through pre-prepared and hastily organized defense lines of the enemy; repelling counterattacks; committing second echelons and reserves to battle; forcing of water obstacles in cooperation with helicopter assaults; conducting meeting engagements, including at night; launching airborne landings; utilizing road sector airfields by aircraft; neutralizing enemy airfields; conducting radioelectronic warfare; and eliminating the effects of weapons of mass destruction and restoring the combat readiness of affected forces.

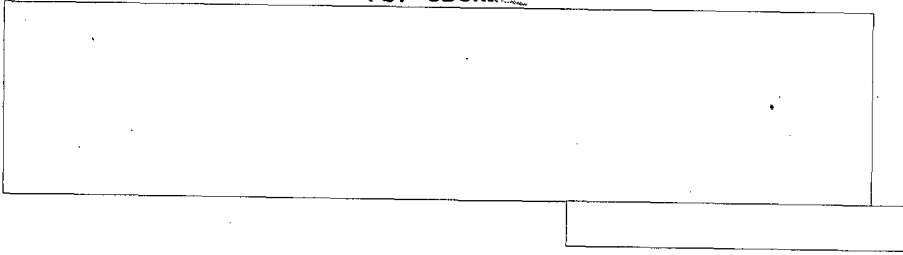
The following participated in the exercise:

- 1) Command and staffs of:

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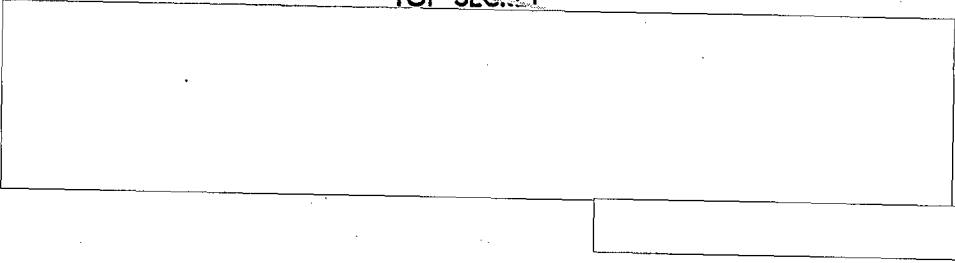
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- Northern Front of the PAF:
- 21st Army of the CPA;
- 22nd Army of the PAF;
- 24th Air Army of the PAF:
- 2) Assigned forces:
 - 50th Armd Div of the SA composed of two regiments--one tank and one motorized--at wartime strength;
 - 18th Armd Div of the CPA composed of two regiments--one tank and one motorized--at wartime strength;
 - 40th Armd Div of the NPA composed of two tank regiments and one motorized regiment at wartime strength;
 - 30th Armd Div of the PAF composed of two tank regiments and one motorized infantry battalion brought up to wartime strength;
 - 14th Mech Div of the PAF composed of one mechanized regiment brought up to wartime strength;
 - a paratroop-assault regiment of the SA;
 - 37th Fighter-Bomber Aviation Div of the CPA composed of two fighter-bomber aviation regiments of the CPA and one fighter-assault aviation regiment of the NPA;
 - 12th Assault-Recon Aviation Div of the PAF composed of one fighter-bomber aviation regiment and one tactical reconnaissance aviation regiment;

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- 14th Fighter Aviation Div of the PAF composed of a fighter aviation regiment of the PAF and a fighter aviation regiment of the SA;
- forces and means of the ground force aviation and transport aviation of the SA;
- 59th Aviation Regt of the ground forces of the PAF;
- 47th Trans Helicopter Regt of the NPA;
- 12th National Air Defense Corps composed of an operations-group, the combat shifts of the combined command post, a rocket artillery regiment, and a fighter aviation regiment of the PAF.

In addition, needed forces and means of arms of troops and services and materiel-technical and medical support units participated in the exercise.

A total of approximately 36,000 soldiers participated in the exercise. The control element, including the umpires and role playing groups, amounted to 500 persons. The scale of the exercise is evident by the amount of equipment used: 758 tanks, 750 infantry combat vehicles and armored transporters, 290 combat aircraft and 49 transport aircraft, 177 helicopters, over 500 radio-relay and radio sets of medium power, and over 10,000 vehicles.

During the exercise, 22 operations level communications centers, 37 tactical level communications centers, and 27 high frequency communication stations were deployed. Also constructed were 1,560 km of radio relay routes and 520 km of cable lines. In addition, 1,860 km of carrier (high frequency) telephone channels and 14,200 km of telephone lines were leased from the Ministry of Communications.

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The operations actually took place on the Warsaw-Berlin and northern-coastal operational axes. The training commands, staffs, and troops were deployed and operated in the central and western parts of Poland, covering an area of about 90,000 square kilometers.

We based the political-military background on the assumption that increasing conflicts in the capitalist system had intensified the aggressive policies of the NATO countries, a fact which manifested itself mainly in military pressure and blackmail. This resulted in a growing atmosphere of conflict in strategically important areas of the world which had, by the second half of 1976, given rise to a dangerous increase in international tension, particularly in Europe. In this situation, the NATO countries, striving to attain their desired imperialist political objectives, had decided to undertake armed action against the socialist countries.

We also assumed that in the face of the military actions of the NATO countries, the countries of the socialist community had undertaken numerous initiatives in order to resolve the growing political problems by means of negotiations. Simultaneously in accordance with the growing threat, they had undertaken appropriate steps to introduce higher states of defense readiness.

On this political-military background, we assumed that the NATO countries, which by mutual agreement we call the "South" in the exercise, in preparing for aggression, had from the middle of August intensified the training of their armed forces within the framework of which numerous complex exercises including mobilization were conducted. As of 26 August under the pretext of a strategic exercise "SUMMERTEX-76", the secret transformation of ground, air, and naval forces to a wartime status was undertaken and tactical large units were moved to the pre-border zone.

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The Warsaw Pact countries, appearing in the exercise as the "North", introduced a state of increased combat readiness in the armed forces on 30 August. By 5 September, a higher operational large unit (The Northern Front), composed of 4 combined-arms armies and one air army, was operationally subordinated to a coalitionary organ of command--The Combined Armed Forces Command. On 8 September, under the pretext of exercise "LATO [Summer]-76", the mobilization and operational deployment of troops was initiated.

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* *

Under the aims of the sides, we assumed that the "South", having decided to initiate an armed conflict against the "North", plans to go over to offensive operations without the use of nuclear weapons by conducting a main strike in the Western European Theater of Military Operations with the inner flanks of the Northern Group of Armies (NGA) and the Central Group of Armies (CGA), using the forces of four army corps on the axes:

- NGA--LECYCA, LOWICZ, WARSAW, BIALYSTOK (two corps);
- CGA--KLUCZBORK, RADOM, BRZESC (two corps).

Secondary strikes are to be carried out on the axes:

- NGA--ZLOTOW, SWIECIE, MLAWA (one corps);
- Jutland Army Corps--MIASTKO, STAROGARD, DOBRE MIASTO.

Within the framework of these operations, the "South" plans to defeat the forces of the "Northern" strategic first echelon within 7 or 8 days and to proceed with the main forces to the line: SANDOMIERZ, DEBLIN, OLSZTYN, and then to gain control of the Polish territory.

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In the event of a threat of the operation being broken up and the impossibility of achieving its objectives with conventional weapons, the "South" plans to use weapons of mass destruction.

The "North" intends to repel the "Southern" attack and to go over to offensive operations by executing main attacks on the axes:

- Separate 23rd Army: MIASTKO, NOWOGARD, GOLENIOW;
- Northern Front: LWOWEK, RZEPIN, South of BERLIN, GENTHIN, KLABE, VERDEN, MAPPEN;
- Central Front: WROCLAW, GÖRLITZ, South of LEIPZIG, JENA.

With these forces, the "North" plans--in coordination with long range aviation and the allied fleets--to break up the "Southern" main forces and, on the 7th or 8th day of operation, to control the line: ROSTOCK, LUBZ, GENTHIN, DESSAU. Next, by committing the second echelons of the Fronts to battle, to crush the approaching "Southern" reserve forces and on the 12th-14th day of operation to reach the Western border of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In the course of the operation, it plans to maintain readiness for immediate conduct of a first nuclear strike and to conduct combat operations under conditions of use of weapons of mass destruction.

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The exercise was preceded by a preparatory period and was divided into three stages.

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During the preparatory period, which lasted from 23 August to 8 September, troops were deployed to training areas and training was started, a field system of command was deployed, and communications and coordination was established between the staffs participating in the exercise. On 6 September the commander of the Northern Front received a directive from the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces, thus, initiating the process of working out decisions at all levels.

On 9 September, we started the first stage of the exercise, which lasted three full days, the objectives of which were: the organization of an offensive operation of the Front; the operational deployment of strike groups; and the repelling of enemy attacks.

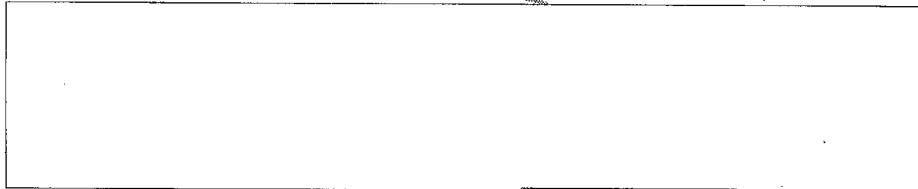
In the initial phase of this stage, that is, from the very moment the aggression started, the "South" had deployed its forces along the Eastern border, creating a strike group of the first echelon corps of the NGA with a strength of 11 divisions, against 9 divisions of the Northern Front. It assured itself the greatest superiority on the axis of the main strike (in the area South of POZNAN), where, against the four divisions of the 22nd and 27th Armies, it concentrated 6 divisions in the first echelon, with the possibility of rapidly committing an additional three, thereby attaining a twofold superiority in tanks, artillery and antitank weapons. ✓

At 2000 on 9 September, a state of full combat readiness was declared by the forces of the Northern Front. At the same time, the Front began to organize the defense in the pre-border zone with 9 divisions of the armies of the first operational echelon. The remainder of the forces of these armies and the reserves of the Front, consisting of 8 divisions, continued to deploy to jump-off areas. The second echelon army of the Front (the 25th Soviet Army) was deployed at a jump-off area located approximately 400 km from the state border.

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The tactical large units and individual units of the 24th Air Army were deployed at alternate airfields, field landing areas, and road sector airfields and maintained a high level of readiness, which ensured them of quick and effective participation in the theater of military operations in coordination with the 12th National Air Defense Corps which was operationally subordinated to the Front.

The information acquired by the exercise participants on the attainment of readiness to initiate wartime operations by the "South" enabled the Front commander to make a fundamental decision which essentially consisted of defensive resistance to the anticipated attack of the enemy with the simultaneous grouping of essential forces and going over to an offensive operation. In the event of the "South" gaining superiority on the left flank of the Front it was envisaged to go over to the defensive with all of the forces of the 27th Army and a part of the forces of the 22nd Army, and, at the same time, to launch a strike with the 21st and part of the 22nd Army on the axis: DEBSENO, DRAWSKO, GNIEZNO, WEDRZYN.

During the second phase of this stage of the exercise, at 1020 on 11 September, the "South" initiated wartime operations. They planned to use the freedom of operation of the air force to conduct a 30 minute massive radioelectronic attack in the zone of the 27th, 28th, and 23rd Armies with the simultaneous conduct of a similar strike in the zone of the 21st and 22nd Armies.

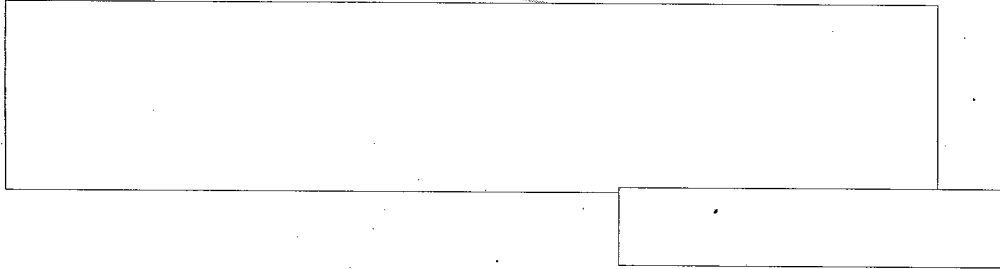
Following the massive air attack conducted against the troops, staffs, antiaircraft defense systems, airfields, depots, and other "Northern" targets, the forces of the Northern Group of Armies and the Jutland Army Corps were to go over to offensive operations on selected axes. By the end of the first day of warfare, the strike group of the Northern Group of Armies (1st Army Corps of FRG and 1st Army

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Corps of Great Britain), having overcome heavy resistance by the forces of the left flank of the Northern Front, broke through into the "Northern" territory to a depth of 15 to 20 kilometers. On the remaining axes they were conducting holding operations.

The forces of the Northern Front were repelling the attack by superior enemy forces on their left flank, whereas in the middle of the deployed area and on the right flank they were undertaking offensive operations to the extent of forming army strike groups.

Within the framework of air operations in the theater of military operations, the 24th Air Army was destroying the means of the anti-aircraft defense system along the bomber aviation paths, the aircraft on six airfields located to the East of the SZCZECIN, FRANKFURT, ZAGAN line, and detected enemy nuclear weapons delivery means.

On 11 September, a practical episode, in which a mechanized regiment of the 14th Mechanized Division repelled an attack by enemy forces supported by air strikes, was played out at the BIEDRUSKO Training area. This made evident the complicated problem of coordination between Front aviation, national air defense forces, anti-aircraft defense forces, and defending troops, while simultaneously performing varied tasks requiring precise coordination.

On the same day, a squadron of the 14th Fighter Aviation Division executed combat tasks from a road sector airfield in the NOWE LASKI area.

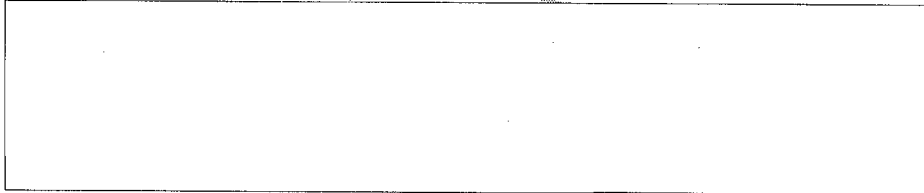
On 12 September, the second stage of the exercise, which lasted 2 1/2 days, was started; the objective of this stage was the commitment of the Northern Front forces to an offensive operation and its development in a complex radioelectronic situation.

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During this stage, the "South", after committing to battle the second echelons of the corps on the main axes of the attack, broke through into "Northern" territory to a depth of 50 to 70 kilometers during the first-half of the fourth day of combat. In the remaining Front sectors, as a result of decisive strikes by the "North", defensive operations were continued in order to prevent the encirclement of the strike group operating in the area south of POZNAN.

The Allied Tactical Air Force, having engaged in heavy battles with the aviation of the "North", suffered great losses in the air and on the airfields.

Because of the impending threat of losing the operational initiative, the "South" decided to use nuclear weapons on the morning of 14 September in order to achieve the desired war objectives at any price. At the same time, the "South" planned to commit to battle the operational reserves of the armies (1st Army Corps of "Belgium" and 3rd Army Corps of the "USA").

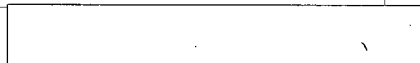
By conducting heavy defensive combat on its left flank, the Northern Front, had weakened the force of the enemy attack and with the main forces of the 21st and 22nd Armies developed offensive operations at the line of contact with the 1st Army Corps of "Holland" and 1st Army Corps of the "FRG", breaking through into the "Southern" territory to a depth of 80 to 100 kilometers. Thus, a capability had been created to increase the tempo of operations and to penetrate the rear area--in cooperation with the Central Front--of the main grouping of the "Southern" forces operating in the area South of POZNAN, West of LODZ, and North of WROCLAW.

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In this situation, the commander of the Front decided to shift the attack of the 22nd Army to the WEDRZYN, ZAGAN axis and to commit to battle, sooner than planned, the second operational echelon of the Front--the 25th Army--in order to intensify the effort on the axis of the main attack.

The Front staff, observing the discernible enemy actions, accurately estimated the enemy's probable use of weapons of mass destruction and undertook appropriate preparations. In the morning hours of 14 September, the Front received the order to conduct a first mass nuclear strike.

In the stage of the exercise under discussion, the following were put into practical play:

- On 12 September, at the OKONEK training range, the 18th Armored Division neutralized the enemy security zone and broke through the forward defense line in the area of BORNE-SULINOWO.

- On 13 September, the second echelon of the 21st Army (30th Armored Division) was committed to battle in order to break through the enemy intermediate defense line in the area of BUCIERZ, and then repelled an enemy counterattack under night conditions in the area of GORA HETMANSKA.

Worthy of emphasis was the competence of the particularly large concentration of forces in the break through sectors, which amounted to 50 tanks and about 100 artillery pieces per kilometer of the front. Such a concentration of fire, the effectiveness of the fire, and the armored strike force made it possible to quickly break up the defending enemy forces and then to deploy and change to mobile operations in order, from the march, to crush the reserves approaching

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from the rear. The rapid movement of the combat groups was covered by all antiaircraft rocket and artillery means. A vital factor in these operations was the provision of effective and continuous fire support for the 30th Armored Division and the 18th Armored Division by the artillery, armed helicopters, and aviation. The fire of the GVOZDIKA self-propelled artillery battery and the GRAD rocket artillery battalions was particularly effective.

In addition, on 13 September, the assigned forces of the 12th Assault-Reconnaissance Aviation Division and the 14th Fighter Aviation Division demonstrated the delivery of an attack against an airfield in the NADARZYCE area.

The third (and final) stage of the exercise began on 14 September and lasted one and a half days; the objectives were: going over to operations with the use of nuclear weapons and development of offensive operations under conditions requiring the forcing of water obstacles; repelling counterattacks; and utilizing airborne assaults.

In this stage of the exercise, it was assumed that at 0900 hours on 14 September, because of the initiative of the "South", both sides had simultaneously begun the use of mass destruction weapons.

Within the framework of the first mass nuclear strike, the "South" launched a total of 172 strikes, of which 18 were surface strikes, with a yield of 4.8 megatons, while the "North" launched 142 strikes, including 11 surface strikes, with a yield of 4.6 megatons. As a result, both sides suffered great losses in forces and equipment which resulted in a stagnation of combat operations for more than 24 hours--except for tactical large units and individual units which had suffered minor losses. The "South" lost, among other things, 30 percent of its nuclear weapon delivery means.

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while the "North" lost 23 percent. Four tactical large units of the "South" and three tactical large units of the "North" lost their entire combat capability. The losses in antiaircraft defense means were equal. Extensive contaminated zones were created, particularly on the lines WAGROWIEC, GNIEZNO, and COTTBUS, ZGORZELEC, which greatly limited the freedom of operation of the troops.

The "South" strived to exploit the effects of mass nuclear strike through the use of the second operational echelons of the army groups which had been previously committed to battle. In the operations zone of the Northern Front, strong counter-attacks were conducted with the 2nd Army Corps of Great Britain on the flanks of the assault grouping of the 22nd Army in order to prevent the encirclement of the POZNAN-WROCLAW grouping.

The "North", after executing the first mass nuclear strike over the whole depth of the "South's" deployment area and partially restoring the combat capability of its troops, committed the second echelons of the Fronts to the battle. The Northern Front, after using a part of the forces of the 21st and 22nd Armies to break up the counterattack of the 2nd Army Corps of Great Britain, in cooperation with the troops of the Central Front and of the airborne landing, encircled the POZNAN-WROCLAW grouping of the "South", and, having committed to battle the second operational echelon (the 25th Army) from the OSNO, CYBINKA line, continued its offensive operation.

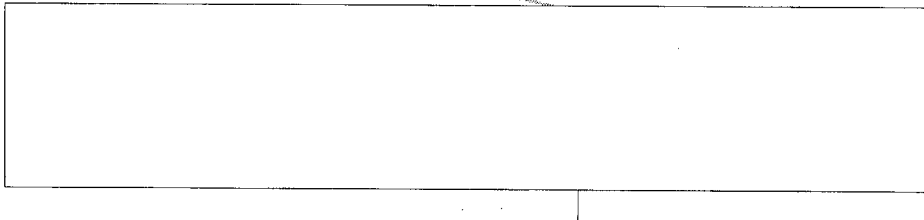
The encirclement of large enemy forces created a real opportunity for their complete destruction and for the quick development of offensive operations by the main forces of the "North" in order to attain the desired objectives of the operation.

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During this stage of the exercise, a series of fragmentary combat operations were actually carried out by large units and units of the 21st and 22nd Armies, mainly:

- On 14 September, at the WEDRYN training area, the 40th Armored Division (NPA) conducted a carefully and highly organized operation designed to eliminate the effects of nuclear attacks. It included a number of undertakings, particularly, the reconnaissance of the affected area, the evacuation of personnel and equipment, the isolation of the contaminated area, and the restoration of the combat capability of a battalion of tanks.

Thanks to the efficient restoration of the combat readiness of the troops and the decisive operations, the division made a quick forced crossing of the Oder River from the march.

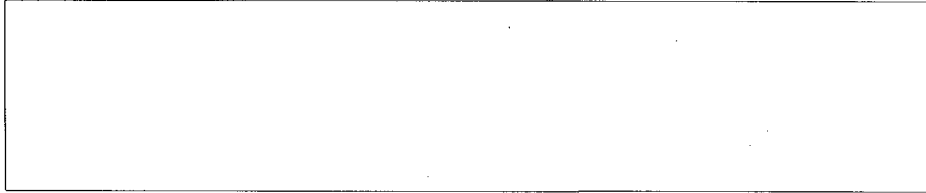
The 50th Armored Division (SA) demonstrated high organizational efficiency and many original solutions during the forced crossing of the Oder River. The provision of heavy fire support to the troops executing the forced crossing by aviation, assault helicopters, and artillery, and the construction of a ponton bridge within 13 minutes enabled its troops to overcome the water obstacles and then to decisively launch an attack on the opposite bank. Also worthy of emphasis in this situation was the preciseness with which problems involving the cooperation of the 50th Armored Division (SA) and the 40th Armored Division (NPA) with support aviation were resolved.

- On 15 September, at the ZAGAN training area, we had the opportunity to observe the high level of training of the soldiers and the efficient operation of the 40th Armored Division (NPA) during the launching of an attack

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against the flank of approaching enemy reserves.

The culminating point in the encirclement of the large enemy grouping was the launching of an airborne landing assault (by the SA) in the area of PRZEMKOW. During the demonstrated landing assault, we observed not only a skillful and paralyzing operation against the enemy, but also the highly organized aviation, fire, and technical support of the landing and operational-tactical operations of the assault. The precise and comprehensive cooperation and the skillful combined operations of the 50th Armored Division (SA), the 40th Armored Division (NPA), and the airborne regiment, closely synchronized with the operation of the aviation, assault helicopters, and artillery, created conditions for cutting off retreat routes and for encircling and crushing the large grouping of enemy forces. The decisive raid conducted by a regiment of the 50th Armored Division in order to crush the approaching enemy reserves in a meeting engagement and its nonstereotyped conduct ensured the effective fulfilment of assigned tactical-operational tasks.

Exercise "Shield-76" was characterized by a large amount of combat firing. Of the 13 practical episodes, 8 included the firing of combat ammunition and bombing. This was enhanced by the use of modern equipment at the training areas which enabled the simulation of battlefields by creating dynamic target conditions. The realism of the simulation was increased by the use of remote controlled T-34 tanks which had been retired from the armament inventory as mobile targets. In a special exhibition, we showed the comrades certain types of training range equipment used in the fire training of the Polish Armed Forces.

Evidence of the good fire training of the troops of our brotherly armies are the firing results presented in Diagram No.

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The exercise offered many opportunities to present new solutions with regard to: the organization of command and the work of staffs in the field, methods of reconnaissance training, and application of new means and methods of simulating battlefield conditions. It was also a broad platform for the exchange of views and experiences on matters most vital to a modern battlefield.

Noteworthy, for example, were the special training devices introduced which served to simulate a battlefield complete with operating enemy forces and means. These devices contributed considerably to improving reconnaissance skills. Another useful development, so it appears, was the system of training presented which enabled the training of radioelectronic reconnaissance subunits in a very thrifty manner without the introduction of actual equipment for simulations at great distances.

Also worthy of emphasis was the wide use of informatic processes. For example, the participating exercise staffs had access to 6 stationary computation centers equipped with the ODRA electronic digital computers having 47 data processing programs at their disposal. These centers were linked by a secure data transmission network with the field command posts of the Front and army.

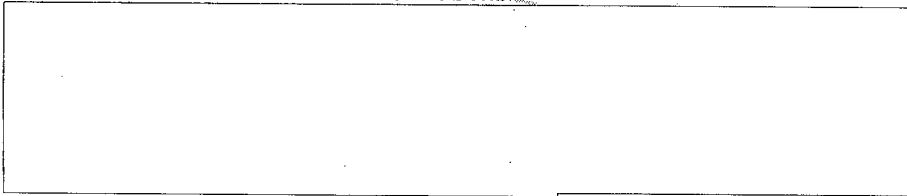
In the 21st Army of the CPA, great success was achieved in the utilization of computations stations equipped with automated calculators for the mechanization of calculation-evaluation work.

In the 22nd Army of the PAF, under field conditions, a portable computation center was developed and installed in a special container equipped with a third generation electronic digital computer which processed information on the basis of appropriate and effectively used programs.

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All of the programs provided very valuable data which made it possible to make optimal decisions, to hasten the staffs analytical work, processes of planning, and the organization of operational support of operations, and even to issue specific combat documents based on standardized exemplars in different languages.

Within the framework of the deception activities carried out during the exercise, special undertakings were organized under the cryptonym "DELTA-76" for simulating the radio-electronic systems of the radio communications of the Ministry of National Defense and of the staffs participating in the exercise, as well as, of the work of the anti-aircraft missile guidance stations. Fifty medium power radio sets and radio relays as well as special equipment to simulate missile systems were utilized in this undertaking.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that the staffs have shown high planning-organizational efficiency within the coalition system of operation. The conscientious highly initiative, well disciplined, and superior work of the officers of the staffs participating in the exercise ensured the fulfillment of the commanders decisions by the troops of the brotherly armies during the performance of extremely complex tasks on the training field of battle.

I report that after completing all planned training tasks; exercise "SHIELD-76" has been concluded.

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