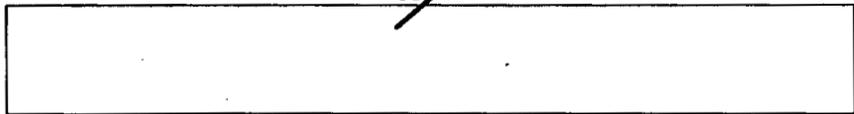


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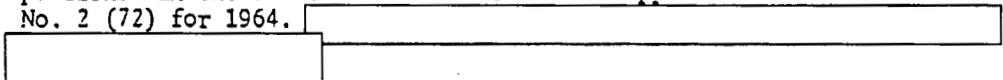


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

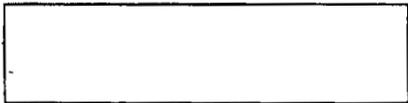
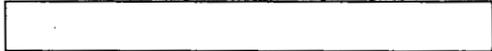
20 July 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Naval
Geographic Handbook

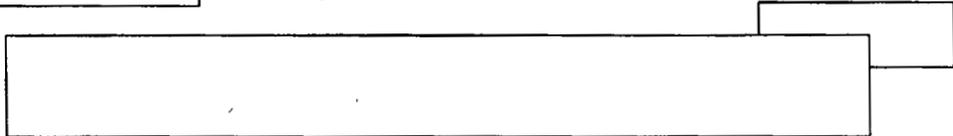
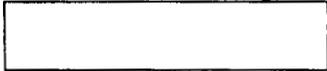
1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article is a review of a two volume Naval Geographic handbook. Economic, political, and physical-geographic factors in ocean and sea theaters, and their influence on the conduct of armed combat are covered in the handbook. It is noteworthy that this is the first time that a book of this type was published in the Soviet Union. This article appeared in Issue No. 2 (72) for 1964.



2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned



John N. McMahon



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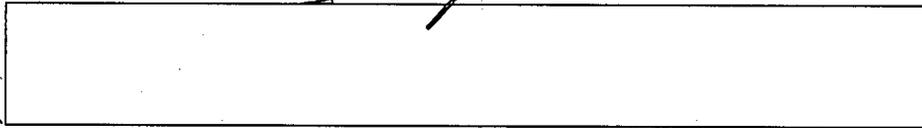
Director of the National Foreign Assessment Center

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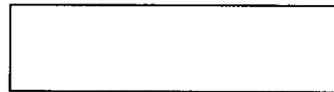
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Intelligence Information Special Report

Page 3 of 8 Pages

COUNTRY USSR



DATE OF INFO. Mid-1964

DATE 20 July 1978

SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Naval Geographic Handbook

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 2 (72) for 1964 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal 'Military Thought'. The author of this article is Rear Admiral Ye. Shvede. This article is a review of a two volume Naval Geographic Handbook. Economic, political, and physical-geographic factors in ocean and sea theaters, and their influence on the conduct of armed combat are covered in the handbook. It is noteworthy that this is the first time that a book of this type was published in the Soviet Union.

End of Summary

Comment:

The SECRET version of Military Thought was published three times annually and was distributed down to the level of division commander. It reportedly ceased publication at the end of 1970.

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Naval Geographic Handbook

by

Rear Admiral Ye. SHVEDE

The Naval Geographic Handbook in two volumes was published by the main editorial board of the Navy's "Naval Atlas"*. The publication of the handbook on naval geography, a branch of military science which researches economic, political, and physical-geographical factors in ocean and sea theaters, and their influence on the conduct of armed combat, is timely and urgent. Its special purpose is to give information in generalized and systematized form, describing sea and ocean theaters and their equipping.

The first volume of the handbook contains military-geographic information concerning the Atlantic and Arctic oceans and the Mediterranean region of the Atlantic Ocean. The second volume contains information concerning the naval geography of the Pacific and Indian oceans and Antarctica. In the handbook extensive data describing all the sea theaters has been generalized and systematized.

The description of the oceans in the handbook is given according to a specific outline: to begin with, general information is set forth concerning the ocean as a whole, followed by data concerning its individual regions. In addition, in the first part of the first volume physical-geographic information concerning the world's oceans is cited: their composite parts, the relief of the bottom, climatic zones, depths and currents. Published for the first time are interesting data about the length of the coastline (108,340 kilometers including islands) and the extent of the state maritime border of the Soviet Union (29,984 kilometers), obtained as a result of special research (page 18). The extent of the maritime border was calculated taking into account the 12-mile zone of the territorial waters and the recognition of the historical Kara, Laptev, and East Siberian seas, the western part of the Chukotsk Sea and the Peter the Great Bay as interior waters of the Soviet Union.

* Naval Geographic Handbook. Publication of the main editorial board of the Navy's "Naval Atlas" Vol. I, 1962, Part 1 -- 868 pages, and Part 2 -- 304 pages, Vol. II, 1963, 724 pages.

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In describing the ocean theater. (Section 1, Volume 1) an appraisal of it is given. Military-geographic and physical-geographic data about it, information about the theater's principal economic regions, about the overall politico-economic situation, its preparation for military operations (air defense and antisubmarine defense, the basing of naval forces and the airfield network of the capitalist nations), as well as a description of ocean and air transportation routes are cited.

The reader will find interesting material about the antisubmarine defense system of the European NATO member countries, as well as measures being carried out by the US concerning the air defense and antisubmarine defense of the North American Continent (pages 33 to 42).

Physical-geographical information about the theater is set forth in an interesting manner (pages 55 to 68), where, in addition to the usual data concerning the climate and hydrology of the ocean (temperature, cloud cover, depths, ocean currents and others), an array of information is cited which is essential for the assessment of the influence of natural conditions on the operations of the navy's forces and means, such as: radio-climatic characteristics, data about the underwater sound channel, water currents, the location of the water density discontinuity layer, the vertical stratification of masses of water, and others. A description of the radio navigation equipment of the ocean theater, the location and work conditions of the network of radio navigation stations, their support of the theater, and a description of the operating means have been allotted a special subsection in the first volume (pages 89 to 95).

The table of basic information about the states located within the limits of the Atlantic Ocean Theater (pages 94 to 121), which includes data about the state organization or affiliation, area, population, and capitals or administrative centers of the states, is of unquestionable interest.

In the handbook the Atlantic Ocean is divided into six principal regions, five of which (the northeastern, northwestern, western, southeastern, and southwestern) are described in the first part of Volume I. The sixth, the Mediterranean region, is described in the second part. The Pacific Ocean is divided into seven regions (the northwestern, western, northeastern, southeastern, central, southwestern, and eastern), and the Indian Ocean into four regions (the northwestern, western, central, and eastern). Information concerning them is given in Volume II. The reference material contains data concerning the economy of the region as a whole, and of the individual states comprising it. The reader will find material about the level of industrial development, agricultural

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production, the supply of raw materials and fuel resources, the degree of economic dependency on the importation of important types of raw materials and fuel, and the level of development of rail and sea transportation. Also cited is the economic description of large-scale industrial installations (their specialization). Principal ports are shown as well as the physical-geographic conditions of each region (the climate, hydrological information, the nature of the shore), and its navigational peculiarities.

In the handbook information is given about naval bases and ports country by country. In doing so, all naval bases and ports which have a depth of not less than three meters at the moorings or in the locks of the dock basins are described. In economically underdeveloped countries (for example, Africa) some ports are described which have a depth of less than three meters at the moorings.

Included in the handbook are a considerable number of new naval bases and ports, especially special (oil) ports, as well as ports in countries which have recently received their independence and are developing their own economy. Concerning the North Arctic Ocean, descriptions are given not only of naval bases and ports, but of individual bays, inhabited locations and stopping points equipped with anchoring places and mooring structures.

The description of the naval bases and ports is given taking into consideration their reconstruction which has been conducted in recent years, and includes, as a rule, a short military-economic description of the base or port and information about the approaches, the depth on the approaches and at the moorings, the various port facilities, unloading and loading means, warehouse space, freight turnover, reconstruction plans, and others. Especially noted is the presence of shipbuilding and repairing means.

The clearly compiled and well printed map-diagrams are a great visual aid and significantly facilitate the use of the textual material. Much space is devoted to the description of naval bases and ports of countries which comprise the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

Materials about naval bases and ports form a major part of the handbook and to a considerable degree they determine its value and topicality. Until now in our native literature there has been no special handbook concerning this matter. The existing foreign handbooks (Lloyd's Register, The Blue Book, Ports of the World, and others) are narrowly specialized. They do not contain a comprehensive description of

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naval bases and ports. Nevertheless, such information is essential to the staffs of all levels. This information has an especially important significance in instructional and scientific work.

In Volume II the reader will find much interesting material on Antarctica -- its significance, the history of its research, its legal status, climate, hydrology, the nature of its shores, peculiarities of navigational conditions, and the most important anchoring places. A map compiled based on data gathered over the past years is attached to the description of Antarctica.

At the end of the handbook is an alphabetical index (general and with a country by country lay-out) of naval bases, ports and anchoring places, indicating the geographical coordinates and the authentic spelling of their names (that is, as they are written on foreign maps). The latter is extremely important, as it facilitates the finding of naval bases and ports on foreign maps and in foreign handbooks.

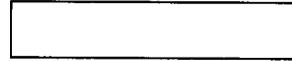
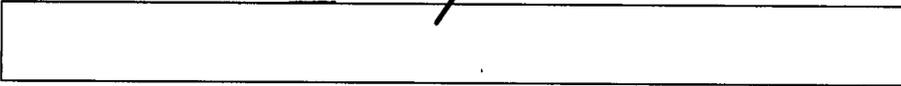
As a whole, owing to the combination of the descriptions of naval bases and ports with the military-economic characterization and physical-geographical information, the handbook gives sufficiently complete and many-sided material for the integrated study of sea and ocean theaters and their most important regions. The publication of such a handbook is timely, and is without a doubt of great value to the military reader. The officer personnel of the Soviet Army and Navy received a good practical and instructional aid for the study of the ocean theaters and Antarctica and for the solving of various operational problems concerning the conduct of war at sea.

It should be noted, however, that some vital questions were not covered in the handbook. Thus, of unquestionable interest are regions of open beach which in case of war could be used for unloading and loading work, information about the greatest possible distance of regions of combat actions from basing points of the forces (effective operational radius of the forces), and more detailed descriptions of the peculiarities of the navigational conditions, specifically those concerning the Arctic Ocean and its seas, which would make it possible to use the handbook during submarine voyages. In climatic and hydrological descriptions it would be desirable to cite a greater number of average monthly and extreme values as more specific in comparison with average yearly and even seasonal indices of air and water temperature, precipitation, cloud cover, and others.

*Interest
in
Arctic*

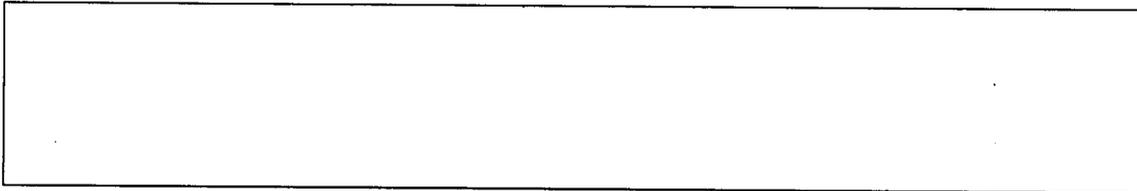
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All these wishes, which naturally can only be considered in a subsequent edition, by no means lower the theoretical and practical value of the handbook, which is indisputably a worthy contribution to our native military-geographic reference literature.



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