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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

18 August 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Some Questions
of Organizing and Conducting
a Meeting Battle

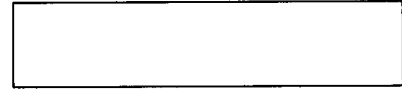
1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article reviews a military science conference held by the 45th Army Corps on the subject of meeting battles in which both sides may use nuclear weapons. The conference focused on the use of missile units as well as the organization of reconnaissance and troop control as they apply to corps organization and actions. This article appeared in Issue No. 2 (63) for 1962.

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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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF
INFO. Early 1962

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DATE
18 August 1978

SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Some Questions of Organizing
and Conducting a Meeting Battle

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 2 (63) for 1962 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". The authors of this article are Reserve General-Major A. Kazarin and Colonel D. Reznik. This article reviews a military science conference held by the 45th Army Corps on the subject of meeting battles in which both sides may use nuclear weapons. The conference focused on the use of missile units as well as the organization of reconnaissance and troop control as they apply to corps organization and actions.

End of Summary

[REDACTED] Comment:

After 1962 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. [REDACTED]

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Some Questions of Organizing and
Conducting a Meeting Battle

(Based on materials from a military science conference)

by
Reserve General-Mayor A. KAZARIN
Colonel D. REZNIK

The 45th Army Corps held a military science conference at which were discussed questions of organizing and conducting a meeting battle under conditions in which new means of combat are employed.

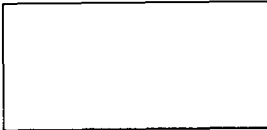
General-Mayor SHAFOROST presented the main report on the theme "Organizing and conducting a meeting battle by an army corps in cooperation with airborne landing forces and rapidly developing an offensive in which wide zones of radioactive contamination have to be crossed when a continuous front is absent."

A number of proposals which have practical importance for improving the quality of combat training were stated in the report, in the speeches of the chiefs of the branch arms and services, and in the discussions which followed.

In analyzing the nature of actions of the troops in a meeting battle, the conference participants supported the conclusion that it is a type of offensive battle, in which both sides strive to achieve an objective by preempting each other in employing missile/nuclear means and by offensive actions.

Meeting battles and engagements will occur under various conditions of the situation both at the beginning and during the course of an operation on one or several axes.

An army corps, which is an operational-tactical large unit of ground forces, can conduct a meeting battle either from a position in the first echelon of the operational disposition of a front or independently during actions on a separate operational axis, and in a defensive operation of a front, it can conduct a



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meeting battle when the front is delivering a counterattack against an enemy grouping which has broken through.

The wide-scale employment of missile/nuclear weapons and other new combat means, the conduct of an offensive on axes, and the presence of open flanks create favorable conditions for various forms of maneuver in a meeting battle. Especially advantageous in a meeting battle is the delivery of flank attacks. An army corps (consisting of three divisions) can deliver one or two of these attacks and subsequently carry out a deep envelopment for the purpose of developing the offensive.

The main means of fire destruction of the enemy in a meeting battle and in the period preceding its outbreak, will be the tactical missile battalions of motorized rifle divisions and operational-tactical missile battalions. The latter, according to the conference participants, should be attached to the corps if it operates independently on a separate operational axis.

At the conference particular attention was devoted to the matter of establishing a grouping of troops in anticipation of a meeting battle, and especially to the place and tasks of missile subunits and units.

The battle formation of the corps should be established in advance, during the course of the preceding actions, and can consist of one or two echelons, a missile and artillery grouping, a grouping of air defense units, airborne landing forces, forward detachments and reserves of various types. General-Major REUKOV, Colonel IVANYAN and other comrades spoke about the special role and place of tactical missile units in the battle formation of the corps. In connection with this it was suggested that when setting up a grouping in anticipation of a meeting encounter with the enemy, there should be tactical missile battalions at the head of the column of the main forces of large units or behind their forward detachments.

They pointed to the need to improve the organizational structure of the tactical missile battalion of a motorized rifle division, since the existing organization does not ensure its successive change of position and the preparation of independent launcher fire. In order to make the battalion more mobile, it was proposed to include in addition one meteorological detachment

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and a hoisting crane in its T/O&E.

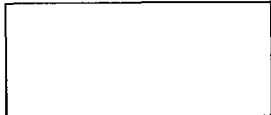
The opinion was expressed that the range of fire of tactical missiles is insufficient, and this may negatively influence the successful conduct of a meeting battle. It is advisable to have missiles with a range of fire of up to 60 to 70 kilometers in tactical missile battalions.

The successful conduct of a meeting battle depends on well-organized reconnaissance and its capabilities. There are no reconnaissance forces and means in a corps and the commander of the corps and his staff frequently make use of the reconnaissance organs of large units and units, which weakens their reconnaissance capabilities. Therefore, Colonels SHALABIN, YERSHOV, IVANYAN, and LITVINENKO and Lieutenant Colonel KRUSHELNITSKIY in their speeches proposed including organic reconnaissance organs (for combined-arms, artillery, chemical and radiation reconnaissance) in the corps headquarters.

The opinion was also expressed that in view of the presence of new long-range means of destruction in large units, it is necessary to include subunits of reconnaissance aircraft (helicopters) in combined-arms large units. These means will considerably enhance the capabilities of large units in conducting continuous and deep reconnaissance of the enemy and will reduce the now existing gap between the great fire power of divisions and their capabilities in supporting missile means with the necessary reconnaissance data.

The organization of the meteorological service now existing in the troops underwent serious criticism at the conference. As a matter of fact, aviation, chemical units, artillery, and missile units perform the meteorological service in the troops, and, in doing so, they all operate independently. A proposal was introduced to combine the efforts of the meteorological service at the level of large units and formations and to have chiefs of the meteorological service there.

In examining questions of troop control, the conference participants emphasized that the diversity in methods of actions of the troops in the course of a meeting battle, the rapidity of switching from some actions to others, and the great mobility, wide front and great depth of these actions require that the



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commanders and staffs have a high level of efficiency in their work, as well as the ability in these conditions to quickly combine all forces and means to successfully rout the enemy.

General-Mayor KUCHERENKO, Colonel BYKOV and other comrades stated that control of the troops of a corps with the outbreak of a meeting battle must be exercised from the command post and alternate control post. However, the now existing methods and means of secure control do not fully meet the increased requirements of troop control in a modern battle. It is necessary to more freely introduce secure communications devices for voice communications (especially via radio), and also other means of minor automation and mechanization of control into the control organs of large units and even units.

Speaking on questions of organizing the materiel-technical support of the troops in a meeting battle, Colonel YAVORSKIY emphasized the need to concentrate in the hands of the chief of the rear of the large unit all materiel and technical support functions including the supplying of missiles and warheads and the use of all motor transport.

The military science conference recommended to the commanders of large units and units that when training the troops, officers and staffs, they should continue studying and investigating such questions as the use of the tactical missile battalion of a motorized rifle division (the surface-to-air missile battalion) under various conditions in which a meeting battle may occur, the structure of the march formation of large units (units) in anticipation of a meeting battle under conditions in which missile/nuclear means are employed by both sides, the organization of cooperation between forward detachments and the tactical airborne landing forces, the organization and placement of control posts (echeloning) of a corps and division in march formation while the meeting battle is being conducted, and others.

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