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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

14 August 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSONS :
Study and Critique of the Plan of the
Amphibious Landing Operation

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on a collection of 29 lessons, classified TOP SECRET, prepared in 1977 for use in the Soviet General Staff Academy. The lessons are broken down into two parts: the first 19 lessons deal with the staff preparation of a front offensive operation with conventional and nuclear weapons; the remaining 10 lessons deal with the conduct of an offensive employing conventional weapons at first with a transition to the use of nuclear weapons. This report is a translation of a lesson dealing briefly with the content of a plan for an amphibious assault to be included in a front operation.

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.

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John N. McMahon

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT

GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON No. 8: Study and Critique
of the Plan of the Amphibious Landing Operation

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of a lesson, classified TOP SECRET, prepared for use at the General Staff Academy of the Armed Forces of the USSR. This brief lesson is for the instruction of students acting as front and fleet chiefs of intelligence and chiefs of staff in planning the amphibious assault included in a front operation. Emphasis is placed on the front and fleet forces involved, how they are to be used, and the perceived enemy defense of Fehmarn Island and Kiel Naval Base.

End of Summary

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Lesson No. 8

I. Lesson subject: "Study and critique of the plan of the amphibious landing operation."

II. Time: Individual preparation by the students -- 11 hours, and as a group exercise -- four hours.

III. Training objectives of the lesson:

- master the procedure of development and the contents of the plan;
- teach students to accurately formulate the concept of the amphibious landing operation, assign tasks to the forces and means participating in it, and to report the plan of the operation.

IV. Method of conducting the lesson -- group exercise on maps in the classroom.

V. Methodological recommendations on the preparation of the students for the lesson.

The director of the training group and an instructor of the Department of the Operational Art of the Navy will recommend that the students study: literature assigned for the lesson, tactical-technical specifications of ships (Project 56 destroyer, Project 205 missile boat, Project 50 escort ship, Project 770D and 106K landing ships, and Project 709 landing craft), the plan of the amphibious landing operation, and preparation of a report on it.

VI. Procedure for conduct of the lesson.

1. To develop one to two theoretical questions concerning the subject of the lesson -- 10 to 15 minutes.
2. Critique of the plan of the amphibious landing operation -- 150 minutes.

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- a) Conclusions from an assessment of the situation --
25 to 30 minutes.

Students in the role of the front chief of intelligence and fleet chief of intelligence will report conclusions from an assessment of the situation with regard to the following matters:

- forces which the enemy can bring up to defend FEHMARN ISLAND and the KIEL Naval Base against the landing (ground forces, aviation, naval forces, and air defense means);
- capabilities of the enemy to establish naval minefields;
- possible concept of the enemy antilanding defense;
- the most important installations of the enemy on the seacoast and in the straits zone;
- the forces and means allocated to carry out the amphibious landing operation;
- the balance of forces and means and the forces' capabilities to make the landing;
- the military geographic situation.

A variant of the conclusions from an assessment of the situation have been set forth in section I of the explanatory memorandum to the plan of the operation (pages 2 to 5) /not received/.

- b) The objective and concept of the operation --
20 to 25 minutes.

Students in the role of front chief of staff and fleet chief of staff will report on the following aspects:

- objective of the operation;
- concept of the operation (which forces to use, which enemy to inflict destruction upon, the time of the amphibious landing, and composition of the landing force; the axes of the main strike and other strikes, forces and means in the axes of the strikes; the sequence and dates for fulfillment of the tasks; the operational disposition of troops and forces and the procedure for landing the force; assault landing axes and supporting actions).

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The formulation of the objective and concept of the operation has been set forth in section II of the explanatory memorandum to the plan of the operation (pages 5 to 7).

- c) Tasks of the troops and forces and means in the operation -- 45 to 50 minutes.

Students in the above-mentioned role/s/ are to report the tasks defined by the plan of the amphibious landing operation for the troops, forces, and means participating in it:

- amphibious landing force;
- landing ship forces;
- covering forces;
- rocket troops;
- front and fleet aviation;
- air defense forces and means.

The contents of the tasks have been set forth in section III of the explanatory memorandum to the plan of the operation (pages 7 to 11).

- d) Organization of cooperation -- 40 to 45 minutes.

Students in the role of front chief of staff and fleet chief of staff are to report the main aspects of cooperation of the troops, forces, and means participating in the operation with respect to the following tasks;

- during the period of loading and embarkation of the landing force;
- during the amphibious assault and battle for the beachhead.

The main aspects of cooperation are covered in section IV of the explanatory memorandum to the plan of the operation (pages 11 to 15).

- e) If there is enough time, the main aspects of the organization of air defense, support, and also control of the troops, forces and means in an amphibious landing operation will be covered using sections V through VII of the explanatory memorandum to the plan of the operation (pages 15 to 21).

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3. Critique of the lesson -- 15 minutes.

The director of the training group will announce the subject and the training objectives of the lesson and he will make conclusions concerning the degree to which they were accomplished. He will emphasize the positive and negative features in the preparation of the students for the lesson and he will give recommendations for eliminating the deficiencies.

The instructor of the Department of the Operational Art of the Navy, when it is necessary, will supplement the group director's critique, drawing the student's attention to the most important aspects of the naval part of the operation plan.

Appendix:

I. The explanatory memorandum to the plan of the amphibious operation is a separate publication.

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