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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

28 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Enhancing the Role of Military Journals in Working Out Questions of Military Theory

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Military-Theoretical Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article describes the basic functions, content, and problems of the principal open and classified journals published for the Soviet Armed Forces. It reveals that annually 1.5 million copies of these journals are printed, containing a total of 4,000 articles by some 3,000 authors. Described as an important means of raising the military professionalism and ideological indoctrination of Soviet servicemen, these journals focus attention upon all aspects of military science, including Soviet military doctrine, tactics, operational art, strategy, troop control problems, World War II experience, and military training theory. Shortcomings within the Soviet military publishing field are cited such as dull, superficial presentations, lack of content and editing deficiencies, and specific recommendations are made to enhance the overall effectiveness of the publications through enlarging and improving the editorial staffs, raising the quality of submitted manuscripts and broadening the authorship of published materials. This article appeared in Issue No. 1 (5) for 1975.

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 also been assigned the

[Redacted] Codeword [Redacted]

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John H. Stein
Deputy Director for Operations

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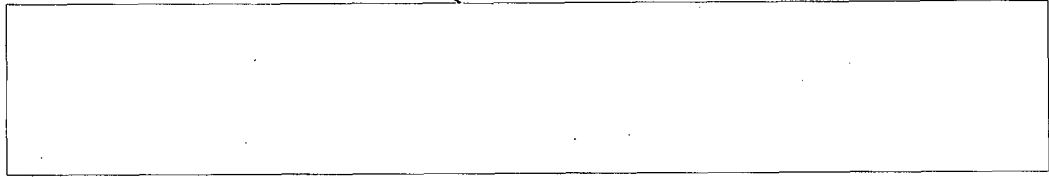
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9 pp

Intelligence Information Special Report

Page 3 of 9 Pages

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF INFO. October 1974

[REDACTED]
DATE 28 October 1983

SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): Enhancing the Role of Military Journals in Working Out Questions of Military Theory

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 1 (5) for 1975 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Military-Theoretical Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". The author of this article is General-Mayor V. Zemskov. This article describes the basic functions, content, and problems of the principal open and classified journals published for the Soviet Armed Forces. It reveals that annually 1.5 million copies of them are printed, containing a total of 4,000 articles by some 3,000 authors. The journals are disseminated widely: in addition to the 700,000 regular subscribers, they are purportedly read by many other Soviet and Warsaw Pact officers and servicemen in troop libraries, reading rooms, etc. The journals, described as an important means of raising the military professionalism and ideological indoctrination of Soviet military personnel, focus upon all aspects of military science, including Soviet military doctrine, tactics, operational art, strategy, troop control problems, World War II experience, and military training theory. Shortcomings within the Soviet military publishing field are cited such as dull, superficial presentations, lack of content and editing deficiencies, and specific recommendations are made to enhance the overall effectiveness of the publications through enlarging and improving the editorial staffs, raising the quality of submitted manuscripts and broadening the authorship of published materials.

End of Summary

[REDACTED] Comment:

The author, V. I. Zemskov, has had extensive military editorial experience: in 1959, then a Colonel, he was on the editorial board of Voyenny Vestnik /Military Herald/ and from 1965 to 1975 he was Editor-in-Chief of Military Thought. In early 1975 he was promoted to General-Leytenant. A prolific writer, he is considered to be a prominent military analyst and policy interpreter.

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ENHANCING THE ROLE OF MILITARY JOURNALS IN WORKING OUT QUESTIONS
OF MILITARY THEORY

General Mayor V. ZEMSKOV,
Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Military Thought

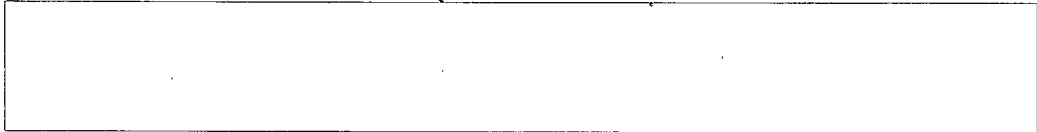
At the present stage in the development of military-theoretical thought, military journals have an important role. Their publications encompass a range of matters relevant to the theory and practice of military affairs and the life and activities of the Armed Forces of our country, the socialist commonwealth countries, and the leading capitalist states.

Our journals have a large and diverse audience. For example, the military journals that systematically cover the working out of military-theoretical problems -- Communist of the Armed Forces, Military Thought, Military Herald, Military History Journal, Equipment and Armament, Foreign Military Review, the Journals of the branches of the armed forces, and the Information Collection of the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact are issued in more than 1.5 million copies. Approximately 4,000 articles are published in the journals each year -- the work of 3,000 authors, one-quarter of whom are doctors or candidates of sciences. Up to 40 percent of the articles published are wholly or in large part devoted to particular aspects of military theory.

It should be noted that the 4,000 articles mentioned are prepared by just over 100 editors and scientific workers on the editorial staffs, i.e., in the course of a year each editor and science assistant puts out an average of 30 to 40 articles. But this is only part of the volume of work accomplished by an editor. The figure cited has to be increased three- to five-fold to take into account the materials which come under his pen and are then refused publication for one reason or another.

If one considers that generals, admirals, officers, and army and navy warrant officers on the average subscribe to or make use of two military journals, then, according to the most modest calculations, the audience reached by just the journals cited exceeds 700,000 persons. To this number should be added those generals, officers, and civilians who read the journals in libraries, reading rooms, and other facilities, as well as the generals and officers of the socialist countries. In addition, up to 30 percent of the articles from our journals are reprinted each year in the journals of the socialist countries. This increases the number of our readers even more. From this one can see how important it is for military journals to make the most effective use of their ability to promote the policy and ideology of our party and the development of military theory.

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One can conclude without a doubt that one of the key tasks of each military journal nowadays is through its publications to contribute to identifying the laws governing the various processes of military affairs, to enhance theoretical generalizations, and to assist in the continuous development of military science and the expansion of the scientific outlook of our military cadres.

It should be directly stated that the military journals are doing much in this regard. The meetings held with readers and the numerous letters being sent to the editorial staffs testify to the growing role of military journals in forming a communist world view and enhancing the professional level of the officer corps of the Soviet Armed Forces and to the journals' wide range of activities relevant to the development of military science.

The military journals have in recent years been devoting their primary attention to thoroughly elucidating the decisions of the 24th Congress of the CPSU on the theoretical and practical activities of the party with respect to putting into practice Lenin's ideas on the armed defense of the gains of socialism and on increasing the economic and defense potential of the Soviet state. In connection with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lenin and the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Union, articles were published analyzing the special features of the building of the military establishment that are inherent in developed socialism, and demonstrating the effect upon the country's military power of friendship among peoples and of the formation of a new historical community -- the Soviet people.

The pages of the journals continue to be used to work out and illuminate the various aspects of Marxist-Leninist teachings on war and the army as the ideological and methodological basis of Soviet military theory and to actively publicize Lenin's military-theoretical legacy and matters pertaining to party-political work and the ideological struggle.

Positive results have been achieved in working out the military aspects of the theory of scientific communism. The articles published on this problem have clarified certain inadequately researched aspects of Lenin's teachings on the defense of the socialist Fatherland, analyzed more deeply the role and place of the measures for strengthening the country's defense within the system of building communism, and have thoroughly revealed the growing role of the CPSU in all spheres of public life, including the military sphere.

A definite contribution has been made to the development of the ideological-theoretical bases of Soviet military doctrine and the nature of modern warfare and to the investigation of the laws governing the economic preparation for and economic support of wars as well as other problems on strengthening the defensive might of the Soviet state and the socialist commonwealth countries in

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the conditions of the scientific-technical revolution and shifts in the social structure of society.

Considerable attention is being devoted to investigating the overall problems of military science, especially its general theory. The materials published in recent years enable us to conclude that in the process of exchanging opinions we are gradually approaching the formulation of common views on the subject, content, and structure of military science.

Problems of military art are invariably the center of attention in most military journals. Through their publications, the journals assist the search for new and the improvement of existing forms and methods of conducting combat actions both in nuclear war and under conditions where only conventional means of destruction are used. However, because of certain limitations they do not, as a rule, go beyond the framework of matters related to subunit tactics. Frequently, problems of operational art and strategy are presented on the basis of foreign publications and the experience of past wars, which, of course, cannot fully satisfy our readers.

The military journals constantly present articles on the theoretical and practical problems of control, which examine their different aspects -- methodological, social, economic, military, and others. The journals take the lead in introducing progressive methods into the work of the military control organs (systems approach, network planning, mathematical modeling, and extensive use of computer and keyboard-calculator equipment) and in promoting the most efficient methods of organizing command and staff activities.

The contents of the journals of the armed forces branches give prominence to improving and further developing methods for using the forces and means of the branches of the armed forces, the theory of military training and indoctrination, moral-political and psychological grounding, professional selection, and other problems associated with increasing the combat readiness and combat effectiveness of the troops and naval forces. A great deal is being done in the area of scientific research and in synthesizing the experience of the Great Patriotic War and recent local wars in order to use it in actual troop training and in structuring the military.

The publication in the journals of critical reviews of the military-theoretical works that are coming out and thematic surveys of relevant literature has a positive effect on the development of military theory. It would seem that the effectiveness of such publications would be even greater if they were not in the nature of annotations and a reiteration of the work's contents, as is often the case.

In briefly summarizing the efforts of the editorial staffs on improving military science work in the Armed Forces, we can conclude that the publications

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of the military journals by and large satisfy the requirements of the times and the needs of the troops.

Science, in the graphic expression of the Chief of the General Staff, General of the Army V. G. KULIKOV, is a powerful lever for increasing the country's defensive might. Therefore, it would be no exaggeration to cite military journals as an important means of developing military science and increasing its effectiveness. However, it must be frankly acknowledged that the effectiveness /lit. the technical term for "efficiency" -- koeffitsient poleznogo deystviya/ of our journals and their influence on the working out of pressing problems of military theory is still far from the level that it could be.

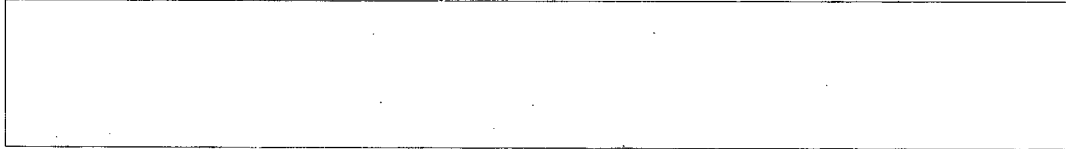
At times, dull articles with little content appear along with interesting, timely materials. Some publications present weak evidence and are deficient in factual material. It is not unusual to find in theoretical articles attempts to mechanically transfer past experience to the present and to base fundamental conclusions on isolated experiments. Shortcomings are encountered even in the literary preparation of the articles. All these flaws stem mainly from failures of one sort or another in the activities of the editorial collectives. And since many of them are known to the editorial staffs and are a topic of discussion, one may expect that results will show up in the very near future.

In light of the further increase of the role of military journals in working out matters of military theory, primary importance as before is given by each editor to the constant and continuous improvement of his professional skills and to increasing the demands on himself and on the authors. It appears that a role of no small importance in accomplishing this currently most pressing task is played by the implementation of those measures which cannot be carried out merely through the efforts of the editorial collectives.

In this instance, we are talking about: the need to develop a list of issues that are more carefully thought out, meet present-day requirements, and can be published in the open press; a more active involvement on the part of the editorial assistants in undertakings conducted in the line units that pertain to combat, operational, and commander's training; the responsibility of the higher organizations to pass on to the editorial staffs in a timely manner all necessary information on the most pressing problems facing the army and navy; the advisability and necessity of a more thoughtful attitude toward the personnel of the editorial staffs, the authorized /personnel/ categories, and the salaries of employees; a better formulated system for financing the work of the editorial staffs; and other matters.

The selection and placement of personnel in the editorial offices of the military-theoretical journals is especially important in view of the problem being studied. In order to successfully work out the new pressing problems

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confronting the Armed Forces at the present stage of the military-technical revolution, it is necessary to assign highly qualified officers to the editorial staffs, with primary emphasis on operations officers who have practical work experience in the line units, superior theoretical training and aptitude, and, one might even say, an innate affinity with theoretical research. In our opinion this is an effective way to increase the role of military journals in working out military-theoretical problems.

The attitude of the authors toward the preparation of the manuscripts that are sent to the editorial office plays an important role in further enhancing the quality of the publications. The quality of the manuscripts ultimately determines the complexion of a particular journal. In this regard, it must be noted that an absolute majority of the authors who contribute to the journals treat their work with a feeling of high party responsibility and knowledge of their trade. It is to the authors that the editors and readers are indebted above all for the journalistic treasures and the high-quality treatment of scientific problems.

However, one unfortunately also encounters from time to time authors who are too careless toward their work. The contents of their articles, as a rule, have a superficial, patchwork character and lack serious scientific weight. Practice shows that such authors are willing to write articles on any subject. A lack of creativity does not trouble them. Something else interests them. Such an approach toward preparing articles causes editorial staffs to waste much rewrite time with these authors, who moreover display a great deal of stubbornness in their desire to be assured of publication. And although, as a rule, they are denied publication, there are times when such articles land on an editor's desk and it becomes his responsibility to prepare them for inclusion in regular issues of the journal. And this leads to an enormous waste of time and effort not only, or more accurately, not so much in editing as in revising the scientific content of the low-quality manuscripts.

In order to exclude these isolated cases, it is necessary in our opinion to markedly increase the responsibility of each author, each communist, and the party organizations as a whole for the quality of the prepared manuscripts sent to the editorial staffs. It seems that no one doubts that one should take up the pen only when there is a clear understanding not just of the current status of a problem, but also its future development, i.e., when there exists a solid store of knowledge and inner strengths, which surely and without fail demand self-expression and the transference of their concepts, summaries, and conclusions onto the pages of a theoretical journal, in order to make them the property of wide circles of the military community.

In conclusion, it should once again be stressed that the ideological-theoretical level of military journals depends to a decisive degree on the competence and creative abilities of the active members of the author groups.

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In the end, the extent of their influence on the development of our military theory and on the increase in the effectiveness of military science work depends on the degree to which the editorial staffs are able to attract talented scientists, experienced commanders, and political workers to this work. We will continue to diligently seek out and support capable authors. It would also be very helpful to our common cause if publication in a military journal became a matter of honor for every general and officer and if it were noted as an achievement in performance reports.

In planning our future publications we will attach special importance to the works of authors from among the troops and fleets. As is known, military science does not develop only in the offices of scientists or in academic auditoriums and scientific research institutes. It is the life and military training of the troops and fleets and their practical experience that is the best laboratory for research and the acquisition of knowledge, and the invigorating source for the development of military affairs. We address the authors among the troops and fleets: in a bolder and more energetic manner sum up your experience and do everything so that nuggets of your invaluable experience will find their way onto the pages of the military journals. This is one of the true and proven ways to make this experience the property of the entire Armed Forces.

Responsible tasks of increasing combat readiness and combat effectiveness confront our Armed Forces in the new year of 1975. Among these tasks, the further comprehensive improvement of military science work in the line units plays a significant role. An important contribution to the accomplishment of these tasks is and will continue to be the publications of our military journals. We will do everything in our power to justify being called our party's ideological warriors and the bearers of advanced Soviet military science.

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