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2 February 1960

CIA/RR CB 60-3

-NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

CURRENT SUPPORT BRIEF

INCREASED OBSERVATION OF SOVIET AIR RAID SHELTERS BY US OFFICIALS

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the originating intelligence components of the Office of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

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SECRET**NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL****INCREASED OBSERVATION OF SOVIET AIR RAID SHELTERS BY US OFFICIALS**

Increasing numbers of reports of air raid shelters or suspected shelters have been received from officials traveling in the USSR during 1958 and 1959. This accelerated reporting may result from recent instructions given observers to look for air raid shelters. The possibility cannot be excluded, however, that increased reporting is the result of increased Soviet construction of detached shelters.

Leningrad is the area of most recent reports. An air raid shelter was seen here in the fall of 1959 [REDACTED] 25X1C
The top of the shelter was about eight feet above ground and covered with fresh earth. A concrete entryway was observed in which the door was not yet mounted. 2/ Another, similar structure was seen in Leningrad by the Army Attache and reported as a possible new air raid shelter under construction. 3/

Early in 1959, an Embassy traveler saw a "possible air raid shelter under construction or renovation" in Minsk. Essentially the structure was described as a reinforced concrete oblong structure, 30 by 40 feet in size, set below ground level. Partially uncovered walls could be seen to a depth of at least six feet, and the structure was recently tarred. Two concrete chimney-like structures, three feet in diameter, rose six feet above the roof. Two enclosed sloping passageways led from the projected ground-level down into the body of the structure. 4/ In the case of both this structure and the one seen in Leningrad, the wall thickness of the passageways was estimated as twelve inches. The Embassy traveler in Minsk also found sloping concrete passageways closed by steel plate doors at another location. The passageways appeared similar to those seen in the uncovered structure.

These structures, in Leningrad and Minsk, are generally consistent with those sketched in Soviet civil defense literature or reported by sources other than US officials.

Possible or probable detached underground air raid shelters have also been reported in Tallinn (new), 5/ Yaroslavl--described as possibly a World War II shelter--6/ and Odessa 7/ by Army and Navy personnel. Additional World War II shelters are reported at Baranovichi; these were described as refurbished or well maintained. 8/

Bomb shelter signs were reported seen in Brest 9/ and in Dnepropetrovsk. 10/

Underground or tunnel-type construction has been noted by official travelers in hillsides at Nakhodka 11/ and Tuapse. 12/

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2 February 1960

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4.	Monitor	19 Jan	26 Jan
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Para 2 line 2 correct spelling [Redacted]

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