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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Volkspolizei Troop Stations

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1. The Volkspolizei unit belonging to the border guard forces which has its station at Burg, near Magdeburg, has a strength of about 1,100 officers and men. They are not all stationed in Burg, but are distributed partly in the neighboring localities of Haldensleben and Gardeleben. There are about 400 men in Burg itself. The unit was organized in 1949. Since that time about 120 men have been discharged on grounds of unreliability. The unit is armed with infantry weapons and has also 12 heavy machine guns (German model MG 34) and four 122 mm howitzers with short barrels and no muzzle screens. There are also at least six 57 mm antitank guns. The vehicle park has Phänomen platform trucks which are also used to tow the heavy guns. The radio echelon has four command cars at its disposal. There are also a number of army trucks which are used by the officers for traveling and are fitted with radio-telephone sets. Until about a month ago the unit was engaged in maneuvers on the Letzlinger Heide, where it had two former French armored personnel carriers which were used to transport ammunition.
2. An armored unit of the military Volkspolizei has been stationed for training at Altwarp since May 1953. The training is now finished and the unit transferred to Apollensdorf, in Saxony. The unit has twenty-four T-34 tanks armed with 76 mm guns, about 30 cargo trucks and 10 armored personnel carriers. The unit numbers over 25 officers and men. The trucks were transported to Apollensdorf by rail and the men by buses and their own trucks on 22 Nov 53. The train with the tanks were guarded by Soviet troops and not by Volkspolizei.
3. The heavy rectangles on the attached map indicate the location of four barracks near Karpin in the Eggesin forest occupied by Volkspolizei. The unit consists of about 45 men and appears to be a surveying detachment from the instrument with which it is equipped. Trucks come from Eggesin and take away equipment of various kinds.

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