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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)
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1.

Few Soviet officers or soldiers know what is afoot. Most think that the Alert Police is in fact a police force. Those who are aware of its true nature fall into two groups: those who play a part in the training of the East German army, and those to whom knowledge has leaked out. Those who play a part in training are very carefully selected, hard-core Communists, who follow orders unquestioningly. The others, many of whom fought against the Germans in World War II, do not find the idea of East German rearmament altogether appealing. Nevertheless, the general attitude is, "let them catch it; fewer of us will die." We do feel, however, that East German troops could not be counted on for reliability.

2.

3.

the Alert Police force

consists of 25 divisions, of which 10 should be battle-ready by the end of 1951. The strength of each division is likely close to 4,000 or 4,500. It is the skeleton of an East German army, and is said to be excellent, from the military point of view. note: There are 24 Alert Units, not 25; the T/O strength of each is 1,800.7

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4.

A repetition of what happened in China and Korea may have been planned. Twenty five East German divisions would be quite adequate to take over West Germany without Soviet participation. Though they are unreliable, they are very well paid, and all key positions are held by trusted Communists. For a nationalistic purpose, such as the reunification of Germany, they would be reliable enough.

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5.

It is understood that if East Germany attacked now, the war would involve the USSR. A purely East German attack would, therefore, not occur, unless Western occupation troops were withdrawn. If they were withdrawn, West Germany would be done for; if they are not, war may begin in Germany, with the Soviets "defending" East Germany. In such a situation, East German troops would be used in an essentially satellite role. East German divisions would be integrated in Soviet higher commands, with Soviet formations on either flank, and to their rear, to keep them from retreating.

6.

Stocks in East Germany are not now adequate, and German production of weapons goes mostly to the Soviets. Some stocks of weapons are available in East Germany; the balance of what will be needed is now farther to the East. In Brest-Litovsk, for example, there is a depot with thousands of pieces of artillery, which will be brought to the west at the appropriate time. At the moment, the Soviets would consider it dangerous to equip the Alert Police fully because of their unreliability. Each unit now has only enough heavy weapons for training purposes--not more than five tanks, for example.

7.

Officially, all prisoners of war were repatriated by 1949 except for a large number of war criminals. It is possible that these are given favorable treatment in return for promised cooperation. But they are basically anti-Soviet and unreliable. In case of dire necessity, they might be used as penal battalions.

8.

The Soviets would consider it dangerous to give too much to the East Germans.

9.

many German officers do not need interpreters. Most of those of high rank were prisoners of war and learned to speak Russian. Also, there have been military courses for Germans in the USSR since World War II, lasting for six months or a year, and students study Russian.

10.

The only purpose of a German army is to supply cannon-fodder. This is a part of Soviet policy -- to decimate the population and wealth of the satellite countries so as to wear them away as future centers of resistance. In battle, the MGB would be behind German troops with machine guns. The Germans will fight only if they're forced to. If the Soviet army had to retreat, every German with a gun would shoot them in the back.

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there may be joint command post exercises of higher staffs, but no maneuvers with troops. That would be a tremendous political error, since it would show East Germany, or any other Satellite, to be nothing but a colony of the Soviet Union. Of course they are colonies, but the Soviets, with their legalistic minds, want to preserve the appearance that the Satellites are independent.

12.

Rokossovski and members of his staff participated in the maneuvers in East Germany in the summer of 1950, but no Germans. Note: One joint exercise, involving about seventy Germans, has been confirmed.

13.

Since the East Germans are highly expendable, and their divisions would be quickly chewed up, more divisions will have to be formed as replacements.

14.

indications of imminent hostility, as far as the Alert Police are concerned

The issuance of heavy weapons and equipment up to T/O and E, and the holding of joint maneuvers.

15.

Withdrawal would be disastrous for the Soviets. The Germans would immediately turn to the west, and the business of the Japanese Peace Treaty would be repeated in short order. Any Satellite would go over to the west if the Soviets withdrew. The only possible basis for withdrawal would be a unified German Government in which the Soviets could maintain control, and treaty limitations on German armaments. Under those circumstances, the Germans would be secretly trained in the USSR, as after World War I.

16.

the purpose of the "Unity Campaign"

To get United States military installations as far as possible from the borders of the USSR.

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