

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

## REPORT

CD NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

DATE DISY. 30 Aug 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 26, 1949.

### MORE MIDDLE MEDICAL PERSONNEL NEEDED

N. Vinogradov

Deputy Minister of Health USSR

Today half a million middle medical personnel are helping doctors in various medical institutions. They are the nucleus about which a closely cooperating, well-knit, efficient medical army can be established to serve the peoples of the USSR.

With that in mind it is most important that the political and ideological as well as professional standards of the middle medical personnel be raised to the maximum. Every active doctor, obstetrician, surgeon's assistant, and nurse must bear in mind that one of their prime duties is the raising of the qualifications of middle medical personnel. Every hospital, epidemiological and sanitation station, and general medical institute must serve as an instruction medium for middle medical personnel. This educational and training program must be expanded to a point where every doctor will have available a group of competent middle medical personnel.

Many middle medical personnel are needed to fill the complements of various medical institutions throughout the nation. This is particularly true in view of the present plans calling for an increase in the number of dispensaries and uterological stations.

Many of these plans were slow in getting into operation. This is attributed to the fact that many of the chiefs of local health stations are not aware of the significance of middle medical personnel and, as a result, do not utilize their capabilities.

There are several important fields in medicine which can utilize middle medical personnel to good advantage. This is particularly evident in the field of child care. It appears that schools for nurses specializing in child care are not fulfilling their established graduation quotas. It is therefore necessary to supplement child care institutions with competent middle medical personnel.

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However, it is first necessary to reorganize schools for middle medical personnel. The assignment of graduates is poor. In recent years only about 10 percent of the graduates of the Knybyshev school for middle medical personnel were assigned to useful billets in rural communities as midwives and surgeon's assistants. The other 90 percent remained in the city and did little useful work.

The Ministry of Health RSFSR has no definite plan for assigning middle medical personnel. As yet, no effort has been made to determine billets for the 100 middle medical personnel who are to graduate from the Saratov school this year. Saratov Oblast has its full complement of midwives and surgeon's assistants, but other oblasts of the republic are critically short of these valuable personnel.

The first indications of any reform in the school system was in 1948 - 1949. One hundred and twenty five midwife and surgeon's assistant schools reorganized their programs. A new 4-year course has been established for middle medical personnel at these schools.

It is hoped that a recent Ministry of Health USSR decree, "Training of Middle Medical Personnel and Their Duties," will aid in overcoming many of the current deficiencies.

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