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CLASSIFICATION

[Redacted Classification Box]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

[Redacted Report Number Box]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 2 April 1953

SUBJECT Civil Air Defense Measures in East Germany

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

[Redacted Acquisition Location Box]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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In the second half of 1952, civil air defense measures were carried out by Department F (fire police) of the Volkspolizei under the cover of an intensified fire protection campaign. Fire protection measures were checked weekly in all nationalized enterprises and administrative agencies. A voluntary factory fire brigade was established at the EKM Metallbau Plant and the fire fighting equipment available at this plant was increased and supplemented. All attics of industrial buildings were cleared of lumber. The voluntary fire brigades in communities and factories were being trained under the supervision of Department F of the Volkspolizei which again was controlled by the VP Kreisamt (district office) concerned. After the administrative reform had been carried out in East Germany, the Kreis and local fire protection commissions intensified their activities. Once a month, the air raid warning installations were tested by officers of Department F. These activities were explained by the necessity of having air raid warning facilities in a working order in case of urgent need. However, trench shelters still available from World War II were levelled. No air raid shelters were built nor were black-out materials manufactured.

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Comment: This is the first report on civilian air defense measures in East Germany. The information is believed to be credible.

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