

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY East Germany/Poland
SUBJECT Strikes and Troop Movements

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]
DATE DISTR. 13 July 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

25X1A

BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. Although there were rumors of a strike planned for 10 July 1953 in the major plants in East Berlin to demand the release of the persons imprisoned since 16 June, there is no indication that such plans have been carried out. This may be due in part to the widespread lack of money for food purchases. Passive resistance is believed to be continuing to a limited extent.

2. The situation as regards Soviet troops and equipment remains unchanged. It is estimated that some 675 flat-cars are parked in East Berlin. The KVP and the regular police are patrolling in force, while the Russian troops remain in temporary quarters. A communication line was observed leading from a Soviet unit to the sector border. There continue to be rumors of the movements of Soviet troops to Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Hungary.

3. At 1000 A.M. on 5 July a number of T-34 tanks moved from downtown Berlin to the vicinity of Karlshorst; additional troops arrived on 6 July. A total of 45 tanks were seen on 8 July, together with several vehicle columns. Eight AA guns, probably 57 mm., were emplaced just southeast of the Karlshorst area. Early in the morning of 7 July about a dozen trucks occupied by approximately 250 soldiers proceeded toward Berlin, coming from the direction of Adlershof; [REDACTED] the 1st Mechanized Division.

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4. In the afternoon of 7 July a sit-down strike began at Stalinallee; the strikers demanded the release of those arrested in connection with the events of 17 June. The factory police have been called out and concentrated at industrial plants, and all vital buildings and police precincts are guarded by double sentries.

5. On 6 July a train from Wolmirstedt, carrying AA and mortar units of the 10th Guards Tank Division, was unloaded at the Satzkorn station. [REDACTED]

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6. Unrest has been reported along the Polish border since 20 June, with strikes and other demonstrations. No work has been done on the high-priority Gurlitz viaduct since 4 July. The state distribution system for perishable foods in

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Görlitz has broken down; butter is being distributed to workers only, and no supplies are coming in from the Baltic area. The SED organized a meeting in Görlitz on 4 July to express confidence in the government, which was attended by fewer than 300 persons.

7. It is rumored that strikes are going on in the Katowice area, and that "partisans" have interrupted rail communications between Poland and East Germany. Railroad men at Frankfurt an der Oder assert that the line from Frankfurt to Brest-Litovsk is broken in three places. The Blue Train is not running, and military transport is being routed through Stettin. Reichsbahn workers are said to be restless, and the food supply situation in Frankfurt is bad, especially as to fats and potatoes. A source in Frankfurt predicts new uprisings after the departure of the Soviet troops.
8. Normal Reichsbahn operations are not affected, since the military rolling stock was already controlled by the Russians. No abnormally large concentrations of rolling stock are reported from the Frankfurt area.
9. A stockyard at Frankfurt is reported to be in use as a concentration camp with approximately one thousand inmates; shooting and screams have been heard. No prisoners are known to have been released in Frankfurt.

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SECRET
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COUNTRY Poland/East Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1A
SUBJECT 1. Rerouting of Trains through Szczecin DATE DISTR. 13 July 1953
2. Rail Shipment of Tanks to Poland NO. OF PAGES 1
25X1A REQUIREMENT NO. RD
[REDACTED]

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- 25X1X 1. On 9 July [REDACTED] a telephone message from the Berlin Regional Railroad Headquarters to a railroad subdistrict office which stated that the Oder Bridge at Frankfurt/Oder was blasted. The line to Brest was blocked. Freight trains have been rerouted via Szczecin (Stettin); the Blue Express train was routed via Kostrzyn (Kuestrin) since 6 July. The date the bridge was blasted was not reported.
2. It was also learned from railroad personnel that numerous trains carrying tanks were dispatched at Berlin-Magerviehhof and Stalin-Allee railroad stations for Poland via Cottbus.

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