

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	25X1	REPORT NO.	[]
SUBJECT	Changes in East German Government and Policy	25X1	DATE DISTR.	14 July 1953
DATE OF INFO.	[]		NO. OF PAGES	2 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	[]		REFERENCE NO.	[]

BY CABLE

- 25X1 1. []
[] Semenov received directives which will allegedly have a revolutionary effect on the East German situation and which will become effective in the immediate future. Great personnel changes are to be expected. The release of the prisoners arrested in the uprising of 17 June was discussed by the Council of Ministers on 9 July. Hermann Kastner was mentioned as the new Foreign Minister.
- 25X1 2. [] the local NDP Party headquarters received a secret circular from the national party headquarters on 24 June in which the following directives were laid down:
 - a. The population is to be calmed in regard to the occurrences on 17 June. The significance of the events is to be minimized, and they are to be attributed to the mistakes of the SED government.
 - b. The slogan of "butter instead of guns" is to be taken up. The people are to be told that militarization will be considerably reduced.
 - c. Party activities are to be intensified. The recruiting of SED members must be pursued cautiously but systematically.
- 25X1 3. [] the VP ration supply depots in the Chemnitz-Annaberg-Aue-Plauen-Glauchau Area were cleared and the supplies on hand were issued to the civilian population. In the area mentioned 40 to 50 percent of the textiles held for delivery to the VP in HO shops were released for civilian needs.

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 Comment: It is believed that Semenov's new directives will bring internal political reforms in line with a renewed soviet initiative regarding the solution of the German question. The speedy execution of the reform measures, designed to improve the Soviet position for proposals to renew international negotiations, may be expected.

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SUBJECT	Soviet GB Summary		DATE DISTR.	14 July 1953
	25X1		NO. OF PAGES	2 25X1
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1. A train with 15 tanks of the 84th Heavy Tank and SP Regiment of the 7th Guards Mechanized Division was observed at Frankfurt/Oder on 9 July. The train had come from Guben and was proceeding toward Eberswalde.

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2. Five empty trains consisting of a total of 52 RRym type flatcars, 77 converted boxcars and five flatcars with 22 portable tank ramps were assembled at the Ostbahnhof freight station in Berlin on 11 July. The trains, destined for Poland, could not be dispatched since the Frankfurt/Oder bridge had been blown up.¹

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3. On 25 and 26 June and between 29 June and 2 July, one eastbound train coming from the direction of Cottbus via Kuestrin (Kostrzyn) was observed daily. Two trains were observed on 27 June consisting of about 25 boxcars and 30 flatcars each loaded with motor vehicles, prime movers, rollers, gasoline containers and large crates. About 150 troops were observed with each train. Several of the soldiers wore air force service colors.²

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4. Twenty-three IL-28's, six MIG-15's, nine IL-10's and two twin engine planes were observed at Justerbog Altes-Lager airfield on 5 July. At about 6:00 P.M. on the same day, 10 tank trucks, two sedans, one jeep and one ambulance were observed at the Justerbog Altes-Lager railroad station. The escort personnel wore air force service colors. only one IL-28 plane, one IL-10 and seven MIG-15's on the field on 10 July.³

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5. Brand airfield was vacated between 23 and 26 June. Personnel and material were shipped toward Brest-Litovsk and the aircraft departed toward Cottbus at 3:00 A.M. on 27 June. The German personnel was allegedly to be dismissed on 17 July. Only 300 AA soldiers are presently stationed at the field.⁴

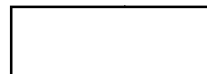
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


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- 25X1 1.  **Comment:** Paragraphs 1 and 2: A troop train arrived from the east on 9 July. The empty trains observed in Berlin are believed to be slated for additional tank shipments from the East to East Germany. Therefore, it appears possible that, in addition to the 9th Mechanized Division, components of the 7th Guards Mechanized Division were also employed in Western Poland.
- 25X1 2.  **Comment:** The trains probably carried ground units of the bomber regiments which were shipped out from the southern area of East Germany via Kuestrin.
- 25X1 3.  **Comment:** Jueterbog Altes-Lager airfield was previously occupied by one reconnaissance regiment equipped with IL 28's and one fighter regiment equipped with MIG-15's. The IL-28's were still observed on the field on 9 July. It appears that the reconnaissance regiment has also left East Germany.
- 25X1 4.  **Comment:** Information received to date definitely indicates that five of the six bomber regiments assigned to the 24th Air Army were transferred. No information has been received to date referring to the possible transfer of the sixth regiment stationed at Finsterwalde.

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