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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

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REMARKS

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The following aircraft and air activity were observed at Koethen airfield between 14 and 30 September 1953:

14 September. At about 3 p.m., a swept-back jet fighter performed aerobatics over the field at altitudes from 3,000 to 6,000 meters.

15 September. Source observed from a large distance night flying by aircraft flying individually and in formations.

18 September. No air activity was observed between noon and 2 p.m.

23 September. From a large distance, aerobatics were observed over the field.

25 September. At about 10 a.m., 21 swept-back jet fighters and 1 conventional aircraft were parked at the field. At 10:30 a.m., flying and ground personnel lined up at the take-off point. Air activity was started at 11 a.m. Each aircraft took off only once.

Individual take-offs and landings were made which were definitely identified although the visibility was poor. Aircraft No 557 was observed.

27 September. Formation flying was repeatedly observed.

28 September. From a large distance, formations of swept-back jet fighters were observed aloft. Source believed that the aircraft were stationed at Koethen airfield.

30 September. The MiG-15 and U-MiG-15s, tank trucks and trucks were parked in revetments. A total of 43 swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks were observed at the field. Source believed that the aircraft were involved in an exercise throughout the day. The aircraft took off in elements of twos, circled once over the field and then headed northwest. Subsequently, formation flights made involving MiG-15 and U-MiG-15s.

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2. The following observations were made between 15 and 22 September:
- 15 September. Throughout the day, no air activity was conducted. There were no clouds. Individual aircraft were observed aloft from 9 p.m. until after midnight.
- 16 September. Between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., flying was practiced by swept-back jet fighters.
- 17, 18, 19, and 20 September. Throughout the day and night, no aircraft were observed aloft. There was a closed ceiling and light rain.
- 21 September. During the morning, individual flights were made by single-engine aircraft. The sky had a closed ceiling at an altitude of about 600 meters.
- 22 September. Between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., flying was practiced by MiG-15 and U-MiG-15s. There was a 5/10 overcast.
3. Between 5 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. on 24 September, little activity was observed at the field. Ten MiG-15 and U-MiG-15s were parked in front of the hangars. Between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 25 September, about 15 swept-back jet fighters, including No 348, were observed in front of the hangars. Construction work was under way in the fenced-in area of the heating plant and the fuel dump. Deep ditches or pits were excavated in the fuel dump.
4. At 4:30 p.m. on 28 September, 4 MiG-15 and U-MiG-15s were parked in front of the aircraft revetments and additional swept-back jet fighters were scattered over the landing field. The latter aircraft were parked in

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5. On 30 September, formation flights by 7 to 9 swept-back jet fighters were repeatedly made over the field. The formations landed after a flight time of about 60 minutes. A total of 27 swept-back jet fighters were counted.

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2. Comment. The difference in the number of aircraft observed on 30 September by sources 1 and 5 is probably due to the fact that the observations were made at different hours. It was determined that elements of another regiment of the divisions were stationed at Koethen airfield. The regiments of the fighter division in Nerseburg participated in exercises by the Third Shock Army held on both sides of the Elbe River, south of Stendal, between 27 and 30 September 1953; during the exercise, the fighter regiment

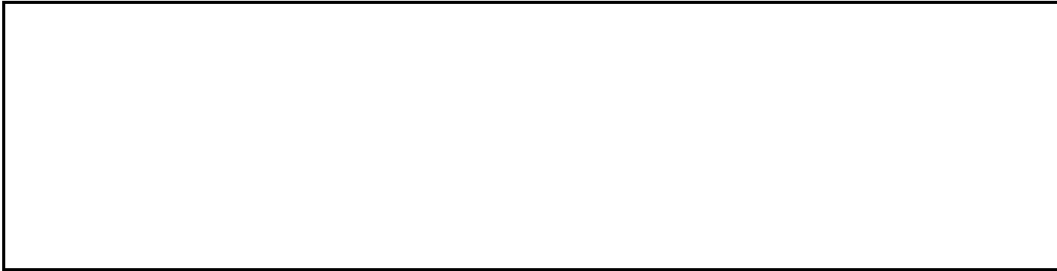
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