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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Military Pay, Leave, and Promotion Policy	DATE DISTR.	11 February 1954
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CORRECTION

An information report with the above heading [redacted] was issued [redacted] Line 1, Paragraph 3 of this report should be changed to read as follows: "A Soviet officer on duty in East Germany has to pay all of his expenses while on leave, except leave travel from his unit to his place of residence and return, which is at government expense".

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REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Military Pay, Leave, and Promotion Policy

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1. Reserve officers of the Soviet armed forces in the USSR belong to specific military districts and have voyenbilet. They are periodically called to active duty and the frequency of their call-up depends on their branch of service. For example, in the Soviet Air Force flying officers are called up annually, and engineering officers bi-annually. Soviet officers remain in the reserves as long as their health allows.
2. The period of service for regular officers is about twenty years; however, they may serve as long as they are physically capable. one SAF commander served for 31 years. The majority of the officers attempt to remain on active duty as long as possible for the salary. 25X1
3. A Soviet officer on duty in East Germany has to pay all of his expenses while on leave. However, each month a certain amount of the officer's salary is placed in the regimental finance office. An officer can withdraw this fund in full in Brest upon presentation of his pay book.¹ Prior to going on leave, only married officers can draw from the fund in DM for gift purchases.
4. An officer on duty in East Germany can transfer part of the salary paid to him in the USSR to anyone. The officer can also withdraw the entire amount himself in Brest when returning to the USSR.¹ Money can also be transferred out of the USSR to Germany. However, for this to take place the officer must send the money to the army finance section, from where it is transferred to the regimental finance office.
5. An SAF officer usually sends about 20 percent of his salary to the USSR and this money is usually forwarded to his dependents. However, both the amount of money and the recipient varies according to the personal wishes of the individual officer. The government does not add anything to this amount.

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6. SAF flight officers receive faster promotions than officers of other branches of service. In theory, a Party member has no advantage in terms of time and experience in getting a promotion; however, in practice he does have a great advantage. Of importance in obtaining a promotion are a character reference from the political section and patronage. The percentage of Party members increases with the rank, and a non-Party general officer is a rarity. Often high-ranking officers are forced to join the Party. When anyone is asked, it is almost impossible to refuse to join the Party; this is especially true for officers.
7. Enlisted men and officers can receive an increase in salary without a promotion through longevity pay.
8. Recently the government issued an order granting demobilized officers pay according to their rank for one year while they arrange civilian employment.
1. Comment: It is not clear from the text of this report whether is referring to the same fund or separate accounts. may mean that the funds deposited with the regimental finance office can be withdrawn in full in Brest upon presentation of pay book as well as the USSR-paid portion of salary.

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