

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

620017

COUNTRY

East German/Poland/USSR

DATE DISTR.

19 July 1954

SUBJECT

Railroad Traffic between Frankfurt/Oder and Brest-Litovsk

NO. OF PAGES

2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1

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On base of the freight trains going from Frankfurt/Oder to Brest-Litovsk, the locomotive is followed by a car for the German railroad personnel, which, in turn, is followed by the train commander's car.

2. The train commander is always a Soviet officer, a lieutenant or a captain, who is usually accompanied by a guard detail of eight Soviet soldiers, armed with sub-machine guns. The guard detail is concerned solely with the security of the train. It has its own food supply, which is cooked en route. The guards are forbidden to speak with the German train personnel. In Poland, the guard personnel shoot at any suspicious person approaching the train, without warning. Soviet guard details are composed of permanently assigned personnel, which is not interchanged. When not with a train, the guard details are quartered in special railroad cars standing on sidings near the Frankfurt/Oder station. In spite of strict rules to the contrary, the Soviet soldiers who make up the guard details buy vodka while passing through Poland, get drunk, and indulge in black market activities.
3. The locomotive and the last car of the train are generally connected by telephone. Soviet communications personnel ride in the locomotive and in the last car.
4. Trains loaded with uranium ore are guarded with special strictness. Two Soviet soldiers ride with each car on such trains and shoot without warning. On some days as many as 12 or 15 trains loaded with uranium ore pass through Frankfurt/Oder on their way to the USSR.
5. Polish engineers, known as "pilots", board the train at the Polish border and operate it while it is in Poland.
6. On the German side of the border, the trains are very strictly inspected, with particular attention to the possible presence of printed propaganda. Special trenches, dug on either side of the track, enable the inspectors to examine the undersides of the cars with the least trouble. The German personnel's clothing, wallets, etc. are subjected to a search.

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-2-



25X1

7. Attacks on Soviet trains in Poland are still common, particularly when the trains are at a standstill. Because of ~~the~~ at derailing the "Blue Express", this train is preceded by a special ~~train~~. There have been incidents when partisans have cut off the

~~train~~, basic railroad operations between Frankfurt/Oder and Brest-Litovsk continues in spite of partisan activity.

8. In Brest-Litovsk it is easy to sell any sort of food to the population, as well as wrist watches and other manufactured goods. Payment is made in rubles, for which the railroad personnel can get 50 or 55 pfennigs (west) in West Berlin. Formerly, ~~the price~~ was as high as 70 pfennigs per ruble. The ruble trade is dangerous ~~and is~~ treated by the authorities as the equivalent of espionage.



25X1

-2-

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