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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Deactivation of Locomotive Columns

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. At a conference held at RBD Berlin it was stated that all locomotive brigades would be deactivated definitely on 30 June 1954. Effective 1 April, all east-bound trains will be handed over to Polish railroad personnel at East German border stations.
2. On 30 April 1954, locomotive columns Nos 9 and 10 stationed in the area of RBD Cottbus were equipped with 58 locomotives, of which 18 were operational, 16 parked at Klettwitz, and 24 were under repair or in a stand-by status.
3. Source learned that locomotive columns were to be deactivated by 30 June 1954. Transit shipments through Poland henceforth will be handled by Polish railroad personnel. According to source, an undetermined number of locomotives will be made available by the East German railroads to the Polish railroads administration. Locomotives and train personnel of deactivated locomotive columns will be returned to their home stations.
4. Source learned that the deactivation of locomotive brigades had been started on 10 May 1954. East-bound trains henceforth will be turned over to Polish personnel at border stations. It was also mentioned that the East German railroads would make available to Poland about 70 locomotives. Of the locomotive brigades stationed in Strassburg and Locknitz, a total of 18 locomotives were dispatched to Berlin-Pankow on 20 and 21 May. These locomotives were, allegedly, to be forwarded to Poland. On 15 May 1954, the railroad repair shop at Greifswald laid off 30 mechanics who had done repair work on brigade locomotives. The material stored at RAW Greifswald for repair work on brigade locomotives has been distributed among the other railroad repair installations.
5. Source learned that effective 1 July 1954, Soviet railroad traffic between Frankfurt/Oder and Brest Litovsk was to be handled by the Polish State Railroads. In this connection, East Germany is scheduled to make available to Poland about 60 type-50 locomotives. The locomotive columns in Frankfurt/Oder will be deactivated effective 30 June 1954.

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Comment: The present report confirms previous information on the deactivation of German locomotive columns. It appears that the measure will become effective indefinitely on 30 June 1954. The transfer of German locomotives to Poland may have been ordered by the Soviets.

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