

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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**SECRET**

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Changes in the Ministry for Railway Affairs, now called Ministerium fuer Verkehr	DATE DISTR.	25 January 1955
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DATE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1
This is UNEVALUATED Information			

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)



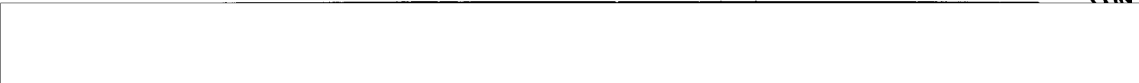
1. The East German Ministry for Railway Affairs has undergone some <sup>25X1</sup> drastic changes, which included changing the name of the Ministry to Ministry for Transport (Ministerium fuer Verkehr). In early November 1954, Minister Roman Ohwalek was removed from his post and replaced by Erwin Kramer, who had previously been Deputy Minister for Operations. Nothing is known of Ohwalek. He disappeared without trace after his removal. The reorganization of the Ministry had not been completed as of 10 December 1954, and further changes were expected. However, no indication had been given as to the form the additional changes would take. At that time, Heinrich Lindemann was still holding his title of Deputy Minister for Railroad Facilities (Bahnanlagen) and Richard Stauner continued to hold the post of Deputy Minister for Organization and Material Procurement. Robert Mensel continued as Deputy Minister for Political Administration. Mensel comes from Upper Silesia.
2. In line with his assumption of the post of Minister for Transport, Erwin Kramer moved his office from the Krausenstrasse Ministry building to the office on Taubenstrasse which houses the Minister's offices and the Political Administration. The latter department employs a total of some 50 persons and occupies one-and-one-half floors of the Taubenstrasse building.
3. Whether as an outgrowth of the above-mentioned changes in the Ministry, or as a result of a general increase in vigilance by East German authorities as a result of the defeat of the SED in the 5 December 1954 West Berlin elections, the Ministry for Transport instituted a double check on all individuals entering or leaving the Ministry offices. In addition to the former usual identity document (Ausweis) check at the entrance, employees and visitors are now required to obtain a special card which is issued to them after clearing the first check, and which must be turned in upon leaving the building. In addition, there is a daily and regular check of all briefcases and handbags

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

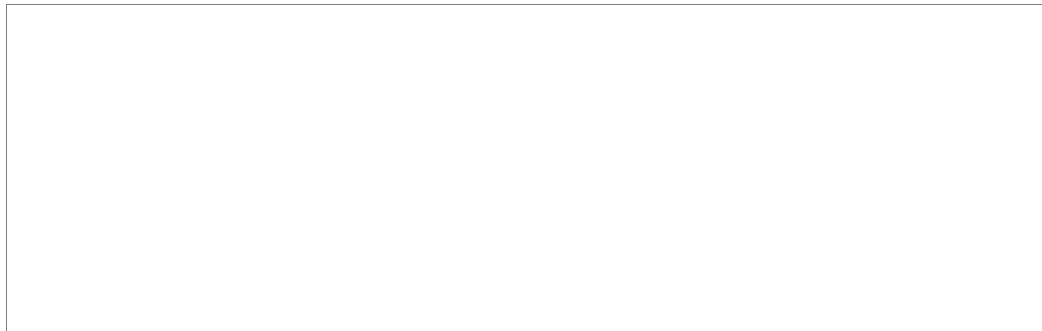


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carried in and out of the building by persons leaving the premises. This latter check is intended to apprehend anyone taking classified material or correspondence out of the building without proper authorization, even if only for the purpose of working on the material at night.

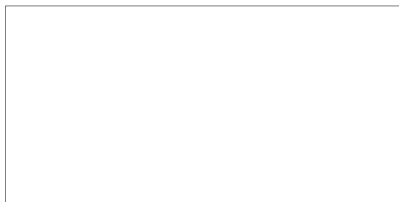


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Comment: To take an unauthorized trip.

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