

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT 25X1

SUBJECT Meteorological and other Activities of the Soviet and East German Air Forces DATE DISTR. 17 May 1955

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DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. East German and Soviet Air Force Meteorological Organizations:

- a. The Central Weather Bureau is located at Potsdam where it receives and collates information from all over Europe. Meteorologists from the Soviet and East German air forces work side by side.
- b. The Central Weather Bureau at Potsdam passes meteorological information by teletype to the Aeroclub at Cottbus, which is the base (Baza) of Soviet and East German air force meteorologists.
- c. The Aeroclub at Cottbus passes the information to its subordinate stations at Drewitz, Kamenz and Bautzen. The Soviet Air Force transmits meteorological information to Welsow and Finsterwalde.
- d. The teletype contact is made at 0830 hours each day and is called a "Ringfernsprechnetz".
- e. Individual teletype messages are also transmitted and received for individual flights or during uncertain weather conditions.
- f. The Soviet air force meteorologists find considerable difficulty in plotting and forecasting weather conditions in Germany which, they state, are considerably more influenced by the sea and consequently more changeable than the conditions they knew in the USSR.

2. Plotting of Aircraft Movements:

- a. Aircraft movements of the Soviet air force are plotted on illuminated maps similar to those used in night fighter plotting rooms by the Luftwaffe.
- b. The scale of the maps is not known, but the size of the map is known not to exceed three by two meters.
- c. Each map covers a relatively small sector.
- d. One radar installation covers the area shown on a map, and the information received from the radar is automatically transferred to the plotting map.

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e. For training purposes, a limited number of Aeroclub officers are permitted to visit Soviet air force plotting rooms when activity is taking place, as it is intended that the Aeroclubs will at a later date have similar equipment.

f. [redacted] Finsterwalde airfield accommodates an important Soviet Air Force control station for both bombers and fighters.

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g. Aircraft movements of the East German air force are plotted on a map after the information has been received by radio.

3. General:

a. Anti-Aircraft Radar Control:

At Cottbus airfield during February, an aircraft was observed towing a sleeve target. [redacted] the aircraft had come from Finsterwalde, [redacted] it towed a target for anti-aircraft practice, and [redacted] all the guns taking part were radar-controlled.

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b. Effect of Political Situation:

[redacted]

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(2) The work of the GST is being intensified. Two instructors who were previously part-time and honorary members are transferring to full-time paid duty. They are Gerhard Fielder, a fighter pilot of the old German air force, [redacted] and Walter Stillitz, a glider expert.

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