

SECRET

U.S. Delegation  
to the  
Subcommittee of the UN Disarmament Commission

*File*

State Dept. review completed.

London  
August 12, 1957

MEMORANDUM

To : Governor Stassen  
From : W. A. Tidwell *WAT*  
Subject: Significant Installations on Soviet Territory in the  
Arctic Zone and the Zero to Twenty-five Degree Zone

1. Zero to Twenty-five Degree Zone proposed by the USSR

The territory of the Soviet Union contained in the zero to twenty-five degree zone proposed by USSR consists entirely of territory which belonged to Poland until 1939. Over half of it is relatively impassable terrain composed of the Pripet marshes in the center and the Carpathian mountains in the south.

There are no major land fortifications in the area although there are some ground force units stationed there.

There are a few radars in the area although the main Soviet radar screen lies outside of the area.

There are five airfields in the area actually or potentially capable of carrying medium and/or long range bombers. One of these is a base of the Soviet long-range air force.

Population in the zone is fairly dense, particularly in the south. There are no precise figures available but the total is probably about 1½ to 2 million.

There are three major rail routes leading from Eastern Europe into the USSR through the area.

The former Polish towns of L'vov and Brest have some industry. L'vov in particular has a fair amount, but neither town contains any industry of major strategic importance.

SECRET

MORI/CDF

SECRET

-2-

I have no information concerning anything else of note in this area.

Of course, there are considerable numbers of Soviet troops, airfields, radar, etc., stationed outside the USSR in Eastern Germany, Poland, etc. in this zone.

2. The Arctic Zone Proposed by the U.S.

Soviet territory contained in the Arctic zone proposed by the U.S. is primarily arctic and sub-arctic terrain, but for the past twenty years the Soviet Union has expended considerable effort through the Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea route to develop the economy of the Arctic Coastline.

The zone includes one major port, five secondary ports and forty minor ports. Included in the foregoing are eight naval bases. Four lying in the vicinity of Murmansk are of considerable importance.

There are thirty airfields in the zone that are actually or potentially capable of carrying medium and/or long range bombers. No elements of the Soviet long-range air force are stationed in the zone, however.

The population of the area is estimated at about 1.1 million.

Workers in this area are given a substantial bonus and the Soviet government is constantly trying to encourage people to move into the area.

There are no land fortifications of consequence in the zone, but the major portion of the Soviet radar screen in the northern and northeastern parts of the USSR lies in this zone.

Major industries in the zone are timber, fishing and mining which includes mining of tin, uranium, nickel, gold and coal. There is some processing connected with some of this mining activity. There is no important manufacturing in the zone.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

There is a great deal of scientific activity in the zone including work on various aspects of climate, geography and geodesy, astronomy, geology, etc.

I have no information concerning anything else of note in this area.

SECRET