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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 13 December 1956

SUBJECT

Order of Battle of GSGO in October 1956 /  
*Military Mail Traffic / Imports of  
Manufactures and Iron and Exports  
of Uranium to USSR*

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- a. Between 5 and 25 October 1956, the 124th Hvy How Arty Div from Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne (2001) was loaded and dispatched to Brest-Litovsk in 12 shipments. Some 30 x 203-mm howitzers were seen during the loading.

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Comment. The transfer of the brigade to the USSR was in connection with the reequipment which had been expected. The brigade will probably be equipped with 203-mm M-55 howitzers. The change in caliber, may be suitable projectiles. This may explain the fact that the brigade only units were not being reequipped in the GSGO. It cannot be determined if the brigade will later receive guns and ammunition.

- b. After 12 October the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne was being reoccupied. On that day, 12 x 85-mm AA guns, soldiers and 4 field kitchens entered the installation. October, 3 shipments from Dessau, which consisted of equipment, were unloaded in Brandenburg. The loading of similar composition with units from Dessau-Kochstedt in Dessau on 25/27 October. On 28 October, the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne in Brandenburg was occupied by approximately 1

Comment.

The 124th Army in Dessau-Kochstedt. In connection with the transfer from Dessau, it can be assumed that elements of the 124th Army post were to be permanently stationed in Brandenburg. The divisions of other armies of GSGO are in most cases also stationed at two posts, the transfer from the area of the Third Army to a post in the greater Berlin area is worth noting.

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- c. On 15/16 October, 2 shipments with engineer equipment went from Prenzlau to Doeberitz. These shipments were followed by an additional 3 shipments with pontoons and engineer equipment between 25 and 29 October. According to observations at the post, the entire engineer unit from the Artillerie Kaserne in Prenzlau was loaded between 26 and 28 October.

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Comment. This was probably a transfer of the 88th Engr Regt (?) of the Second Gds Mees Army from Prenzlau to the previous Air Force quarters in Doeberitz. The transfer can be explained by the fact that, in Prenzlau, the regiment had been stationed in an area not belonging to the army.

- d. On 31 October, the Soviet troops from the Norddeutsche Maschinenfabrik in Luckenwalde reportedly transferred to Altes Lager in Justerbog. The Norddeutsche Maschinenfabrik was allegedly vacated for industrial purposes.

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Comment. The Norddeutsche Maschinenfabrik was believed to be occupied by a training unit of the Third Gds Mees Army and, possibly, the signal regiment of this army.

## 2. Troop Movements

- a. The development of the situation in Poland had immediate effects on the GSPG. After the units, particularly from the eastern part of the GDR, had been alerted - in one post, 4 3/4 hours passed between alert and departure -, predominantly tank units of the following Corps left for the eastern border of the GDR during the evening and night of 18 October:

11th Gds Tank Div from Dresden and Koanigsbrueek;  
 9th Mees Div from Cottbus and Luebben;  
 14th Gds Mees Div from Justerbog;  
 7th Gds Mees Div from Berlin-Karlshorst and, probably, Frankfurt/O  
 (Fuerstenwalde post not involved); and  
 25th Tank Div from Vegelsang and Pranslau.

There were many indications that the units were not prepared for such a transfer. The movement was executed exclusively by road in great haste and without regard to materiel and roads. The units assembled in the following areas west of the border and the following distances were covered:

11th Gds Tank Div in Muskau area,	75 to 120 km;
9th Mees Div in Guben-Forst area,	20 to 70 km;
14th Gds Mees Div in area S Frankfurt/O,	120 to 140 km;
7th Gds Mees Div in Frankfurt/Oder area (and northward ?)	
25th Tank Div in area N (and S?) autobahn to Stettin.	50 to 100 km.

It can be assumed that the border between Kuestrin and Gartz was also occupied, possibly by the 6th Gds Mees Div - at least by elements

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of this division from Bad Freienwalde - although no indications of this division are available. There are also vague indications that elements of the 12th Gds Tank Div were employed in this area on 19/20 October. Road and railroad bridges across the Oder and Neisse Rivers were guarded by Soviet sentries during this period. Beginning on 23 October, when the situation in Poland had calmed down, the units were withdrawn to their posts with the majority of the tanks being transferred by rail. This retransfer was generally completed on 25 October. There were several indications that areas near the border were still occupied after 25 October, at least by small elements. It is possible that the units employed on the border left rear details or else guard service was being executed from posts near the border.

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b. According to an unconfirmed report, large elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div from Dessau-Rosslau left the post by road and proceeded toward Leipzig (autobahn) on 25/28 October.

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Comment. It is possible that, as a precautionary measure, the division was transferred closer to the Czech border or temporarily into the Uranium ore mining area.

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3. Personnel Exchange

Date in October	From	To	Number of C/B	Load in Tons
5	Jueterbog/A	Frankfurt/O Brest-Litovsk	55 cars	600
	Jueterbog/A	Cottbus district		800
7	Eberswalde	Frankfurt/O	46	empty
8	Cottbus district	Frankfurt/O Brest-Litovsk	54	empty
10	Neuruppin	Frankfurt/O	46	1,000
12	Frankfurt/O	Jueterbog/A	46	loaded
	Subsequently empty to Wustermark for cleaning			
	Jueterbog	Guben	46	800
	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/O Neuruppin	42	loaded
	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/O Hangedarf	14	loaded
13	Neustrelitz	Knastrin Brest-Litovsk	56	900
	Eberswalde	Hornau		800

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Date in October	From	To	Number of C/B	Load in Tons
14	Biesenthal	Kowel	46	800
	Magdeburg	Kuestrin	56	700?)
		Brest-Litovsk		
15	Frankfurt/O	Justerbog/A	46	loaded
	subsequently empty to Wustermark for cleaning			
	Frankfurt/O	Eberowalde	18	400
16	Justerbog/A	Guben	46	loaded 1,000
		Brest-Litovsk	Guben	loaded
		Frankfurt/O	56	
17	Wustermark	Justerbog/A	46	empty
	Bernau	Kuestrin	50 cars	1,000
17	Magdeburg/ Brueckfeld	Kuestrin		700
	Magdeburg/ Brueckfeld	Kuestrin Brest-Litovsk		700
19	Justerbog/A	Guben	50 cars	1,000
	Brest-Litovsk	Guben Vogelsang	56	loaded
	Fuerstenberg	Kowel		1,000
	Koenigsbrueck	Kuestrin	55	800
20	Justerbog/A	Guben	46	1,000?
	Frankfurt/O	Justerbog/A	46	
	Bernau	Guben	50 cars	1,000
	Magdeburg/ Brueckfeld	Kuestrin	55 cars	1,000
	Brest-Litovsk	Cottbus district	54	loaded
22	Guben	Justerbog/A		loaded
	Justerbog/A	Guben	50 cars	1,000

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Date in October	From	To	Number of C/B	Load in Tons
22	Brest-Litovsk	Cottbus district (Magdeburg?)	54	loaded
	Brest-Litovsk	Neuruppin	54	"
	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/O	54	"
	Weimar	Kuestrin		650
	Fuerstenberg	Kuestrin	50 cars	1,000
22/23	Magdeburg/Brueckfeld	Kuestrin		800
23	Brest-Litovsk	Jueterbog	54	loaded
	Brest-Litovsk	Vogelsang	54	"
24	Brest-Litovsk	Neuruppin	54	"
	Brest-Litovsk	Cottbus	54	"
	Magdeburg	Brest-Litovsk	54	"
	Weimar	Brest-Litovsk	54	"
24/25	Fuerstenberg	Kuestrin		1,000
25	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/O	54	loaded
	Brest-Litovsk	Halle	54	1,000
	Dresden/Neustadt	Fuerstenberg near Frankfurt/O?	54	1,000
	Bernau	Guben		1,000
	Jueterbog/A	Guben	50 cars	1,000
26	Magdeburg/Brueckfeld	Kuestrin	55 cars	1,000
	Fuerstenberg	Guben	54	loaded
	Weimar	Kuestrin	54	loaded
	Jueterbog/A	Guben	50 cars	1,000
27	direction Berlin through Eberswalde	toward Frankfurt/O	50	loaded

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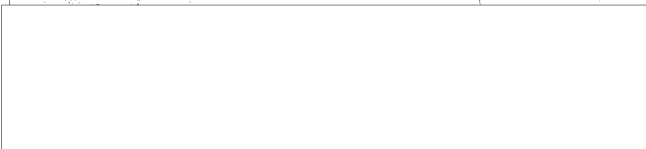
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Date in October	From	To	Number of C/B	Load in Tons
28	Vogelsang	Kuestrin	54	loaded
	Brest-Litovsk	Brest-Litovsk		
	Brest-Litovsk	Guben	54	"
		Justerbog/N		
	Brest-Litovsk	Kuestrin	54	"
		Justerbog/A		
	Justerbog/A	Kuestrin	54	"
		Brest-Litovsk		
	Bernau	Kuestrin	54	"
		Brest-Litovsk		
29	Bernau	Kuestrin	54	"
	Lagdeburg/ Brueckfeld	Kuestrin	55 cars	1,000
	Guben	Justerbog/A		
	Guben	Justerbog/A	54	"
	Frankfurt/O	Vogelsang	54	"
	Kuestrin	Cottbus district	54	"
30	Justerbog/A	Kuestrin	54	"
	Koenigsbrueck	Kuestrin	55	700
	Fuerstenberg	Kuestrin	54	1,000
	Guben	Frankfurt/O	54	loaded
31	Bernau	Kuestrin	50 cars	1,000
	Justerbog/A	Kuestrin	54	loaded
	Bernau	Kuestrin	54	loaded
November				
1	Fuerstenberg	Kuestrin	54	loaded
	Bernau	Frankfurt/O	54	loaded

C/B - converted boxcar  
 Justerbog/A - Justerbog Altas Lager  
 Frankfurt/O - Frankfurt/Oder

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Comment.

it can be assumed that shuttle trains were actually dispatched on the dates mentioned. A total of 73 shuttle trains including 48 eastbound trains was observed up to 1 November. Sixty-four of the 73 shuttle trains were reported loaded; 40 of these loaded trains were reportedly eastbound and 24 westbound. The fact that, so far, discharges are outnumbering recruits is worth mentioning, particularly since in preceding years incoming shipments of recruits outnumbered shipments of discharges at the beginning of the personnel exchange.

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4. Supplementary information on the fall exercises in the last report is given in the attached sketches.

5. Transportation

a. Throughout the month of October, particularly during the second half, the traffic situation of the GDR Railroads was very strained. In connection with developments in Poland and Hungary, measures of a far-reaching effect were continuously taken at short notice, doubtless by order of the Soviets. A loading ban clamped on all boxcars, SS1-type and RBy-type cars on 23 October, was lifted again on 27 October. RBD Berlin and probably also all other RBDs continuously reported the employment and whereabouts of the reserve pool of operational locomotives. In spite of the fact that the fall peak traffic had begun, there were no noteworthy operational disturbances. Throughout the reported period, the Soviets had claimed for themselves a daily average of approximately 500 cars, which was normal. The slightly increased number of troop cars and boxcars loaded by the Soviets was caused by the personnel rotation program which started on 4 October. On 26 October, the dispatch to Hungary of rolling stock, either empty or loaded, was stopped. Freight was returned to consigners. According to an unconfirmed report, this measure was allegedly also taken for Czechoslovakia.

b. At the beginning of the month, coal stocks began slightly to rise and on 22 October amounted to 5-days requirements, a high which had not been reached for weeks. By 30 October, coal stocks again decreased to 4.4 days requirements.

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c. The following features in railroad traffic across the border are noteworthy:

(1) The fall personnel replacement program was started on 4 October. As in previous years, trains used for this operation

\_\_\_\_\_ were directed via Frankfurt/Oder, Kuestrin and Guben.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Until 1 November (inclusive), a total of 73 shipments were observed operating in both directions.

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- (2) From 5 to 26 October, the 124th Ev How Arty Brig left Brandenburg in 12 shipments.
- (3) The transfer of units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army, previously reported, continued. Between 24 September and 1 November (inclusive), a total of 32 troop trains were observed. The shipments were dispatched from Wustermark, Werder, Wittstock, Recklin, Vogelsang, Oranienburg and Strausberg.
- (4) The meaning of an operation involving the dispatch of empty tank cars has not yet been determined. The first tank cars were observed on 2 October, and by 26 October a total of 1,000 tank cars was counted. So far these cars have not yet been observed returning loaded.
- (5) The following final figures on incoming and outgoing commercial shipments are available:

Imports of iron and manganese ore from the USSR:

In June 1956 171,550 tons.

Export of uranium ore into the USSR:

In August 1956 12,185 tons.

6. Supply

Within the framework of intra-zonal supply traffic, a shipment of 28 tank cars (gasoline) was dispatched from Oranienburg to Rochau on the Falkenberg - Luckau railroad line on 27 October. This is the first confirmation that the supply depot construction work which had been going on on the premises of the former ammunition depot since mid-1955 is in operation. According to information available, the storage capacity of the installation may be approximately 5,000 cbm of gasoline.

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**Description of Attachments (referred to in Para. 4 of the report):**

**Attachment No. 1:** [Redacted] a sketch which shows the locations of units of the GSFG during fall exercises

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**Attachment No. 2:** [Redacted] a sketch which shows the locations of units of the GSFG during fall exercises.

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[Redacted]

**S-E-C-R-E-T**

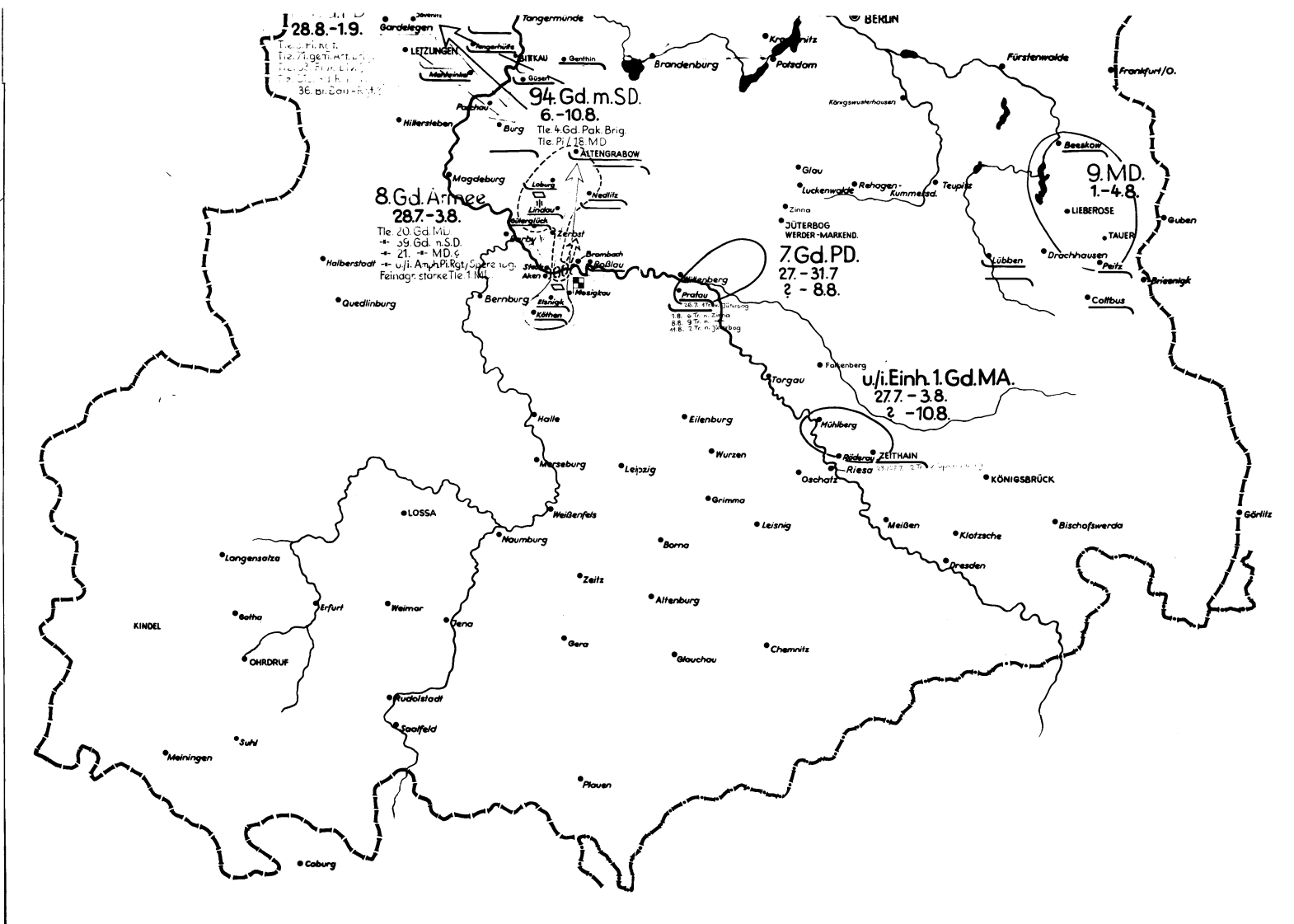
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