

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany/USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Political and Economic
Summary

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B. Armed Forces**I. USSR and "United Forces" (Warsaw Pact)****1. Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel**

Soviet press reports of 13 September confirm Gen of Engr Forces A.I. Proshlyakov as Chief of the Engr Forces of the Soviet Army and, for the first time, mention Lt Gen (Engr) P.V. Shvydkoi as Chief of the V.V. Kuibyshev Red Banner Military Engineer Academy.

Comment. So far, Gen of Engr Forces I.P. Galitski has been known as chief of this academy.

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2. Total Strength**Personnel Exchange (DDR-USSR)**

RBD Dresden was ordered to make available an undetermined number of railroad cars for personnel-shuttle trains for shipments to Brest Litovsk between 22 and 30 September

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Comment. This is a first indication of the 1958 personnel exchange. No corresponding information has so far been received from other RBDs. In 1957, shuttle trains had already been assembled in early September.

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C. ArmyI. USSRTraining (GDR)

Fall maneuvers of additional units continued throughout the second half of September at and near several training grounds. After completion of the second maneuver in the Prenzlau - Templin training grounds - Wittstock area, units from Wuensdorf and Jueterbog with large tank elements were entrained for a major fall exercise in the Stuelper Forest - Jueterbog - Niemegek area.

Transfers of additional mts rifle and arty units to other training grounds and, in some cases, u/i training areas continued until the end of the month.

The following was observed:

1. Supplementary Info on Exercise in Prenzlau - Templin Tng Grounds - Wittstock Tng Grounds Area

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 15 Sep | Hq Second Gds Mecz Army (Tank) from Fuerstenberg allegedly at maneuvers; |
| 14-18 Sep | numerous columns of mts rifle units, motorcycle rifle men and more than 100 trucks, including many with ammunition, most of them from Vogelsang to Gransee; |
| 16 Sep | column in the approximate strength of a mts rifle regt from direction Vogelsang via Zehdenick - Rheinsberg - Pensa to woods near Gross Woltersdorf. Some 100 tanks assembled in the same woods. |
| 16-18 Sep | throughout day and night, heavy traffic by columns through Rheinsberg. The columns which went from Pensa and Gransee to Zechlin included arty and mts riflemen, many trucks with trailers, and also NVA personnel on APCs: |
| 18 Sep | an engr unit with 60-70 pontoons, trucks with bridge building materiel and 4 motorboats returned to Rathenow; |
| 19 Sep | column of 60-70 trucks with ammunition, tank cars and jeeps from Gransee through Zehdenick in direction Fuerstenberg |

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Comment. Between 14 and 19 Sep, the Second Gds Mecz Army (Tank) presumably conducted an exercise in the Prenzlau - Templin tng grounds - northern portion Wittstock tng grounds area which involved the following units: hv elms 25th Tank Div, presum elms 88th Engr Regt, possibly elms 9th Gds Tank Div, additional army troops and, possibly, NVA units. Since, apart from movements of numerous columns, no other observations were made, the development of the exercise remained undetermined. It might be concluded from the large number of truck columns with

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ammunition and tank cars that the supply of troops was the main problem of the exercise.

2. Exercise Third Gds Mees Army with Elms First Gds Mees Army (Tank) between 23 and 25 Sep

21/22 Sep 4 shpmts Wuensdorf - Cottbus distr

22 Sep 1 shpmt Sperenberg - Cottbus distr

21 Sep 2 shpmts Beelitz - Halle distr

22/23 Sep 5 shpmts Jueterbog - Halle distr

22/23 Sep 2 shpmts Jueterbog/Altes Lager - Magdeburg distr

24/25 Sep at night, approach of 2 med tank regts, 2 hv AAA batteries and appr 120 trucks from direction Dahme via Merzdorf - area south Stuelpe toward Markendorf.

25 Sep after 0645, firing of tanks and arty, and attack of ground targets by MiG-17s at Werder - Markendorf tng grounds.

0655, assumed atomic explosion in the approximate area of Schmielickendorf with smoke mushroom, 400 meters high and 3.5 km wide.

0820, arty column with 5 x 122-mm field hows from Merzdorf toward Petkus.

0900-1330, approach of hv tank regt through Merzdorf in direction of Werder-Markendorf.

2100-2250, several columns totalling some 800 trucks from Lynow - Paplitz - Gross Ziescht area en route toward Werder-Markendorf.

25 Sep maneuver of tank, mtz rifle and arty units in the Jueterbog - Belzig - Altengrabow area

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Comment. An exercise which concentrated on the Stuelper Forest - Jueterbog - Niemegk area was presumably held between 23 and 25 Sep. According to available info, units of the Third Gds Mees Army including elms 14th Gds Mts Rifle Div and, presum, elms u/1 AAA Div from the Glau area and units of the First Gds Mees Army including hv elms 6th Gds Tank Div and elms 2nd Gds AAA Div/GSFG were involved.

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Prior to the evening of 25 Sep, the Twenty-Fourth Air Army participated with elms Ftr Div Merseburg.

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The following development can be assumed:

Upon assembling of hv elms 6th Gds Tank Div with elms 14th Gds Mts Rifle Div and AAA units in the Cottbus area on 23/24 Sep, these forces advanced northwestward to Stuelper Forest on 24/25 Sep and, turning southward in order to avoid an atomic attack by the enemy, continued their attack via the Werder - Markendorf tng grounds westward as far as the Niemegk area. The assumed enemy, which may have assembled in the Altengrabow area, could not yet be identified. It might have included elms Third Gds Mecz Army from Jueterbog.

3. Training at Training Grounds

a. Ohrdruf

12/13 Sep elms 112th Gds Mts Rifle Regt/39th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Mecz) returned to Plauen, presum from exercises at Ohrdruf []

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b. Letslinger Heide

18/19 Sep exercises presum of arty units/207th Mts Rifle Div (Mecz) []

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23 and unloading of u/i tank and arty units at
27 Sep Messdorf and Jaevenitz rr stations. presum for
exercises at this tng grounds []

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c. U/i Tng Grounds

21-26 Sep hv elms Mts Rifle Regt/1st Mecz Div transferred from Berlin-Karlshorst, presum for exercises in u/i tng area []

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25 Sep tank unit/1st Mecz Div from Doeberitz loaded for exercises []

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24/25 Sep tank units/6th Gds Mecz Div from Berlin/Biesdorf and Bad Freienwalde transferred, presum for exercises []

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4. Artillery Training

19 Sep, loading presum of elms u/i AT Regt/Third Shock Army (Mecz) from Gardelegen for exercises []

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23-27 Sep, transfer of elms 34th Arty Div/GSFG from Potsdam for exercises []

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27 Sep, elms 18th How Arty Brig/6th Arty Div/GSFG returned to Rathenow, possibly from Altengrabow []

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5. Engineer Training

10-13 Sep, bridge building practice of elms 134th Gds Engr
Bn/11th Gds Tank Div from Meissen at engr tng
site south of Muehlberg []

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[] Comment. The fall maneuvers in the GDR, which have been conducted at short intervals in several army areas since mid-September, resemble the 1957 exercises with regard to scale and duration. The practicing units were in most cases composed of several reinforced regimental elements of various divisions which, presumably under the command of an army, launched quick and, in some cases, distance-covering attacks with air force support and under the assumed employment of atomic weapons on the side of the enemy. After the completion of the third major exercise of elms Third Gds Mees Army and elms First Gds Mees Army (Tank), there are indications that, after early October, the Eighth Gds Army (Mees) and the Third Shock Army (Mees) will also begin with their fall maneuvers.

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II. GDR1. Training

a. On 9 Sep, units 16th Tank Regt returned by rail to their
Loebau post from the direction of Hoyerswerda []

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[] Comment. Other report indicated that the 14th Tank Regt had been stationed at the Nochten tng grounds for 4 to 6 weeks after early August. It can be assumed that elms 16th Tank Regt along with other units 7th Tank Div conducted advanced formation exercises at this tng grounds.

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b. On 18/19 Sep, inf units apparently of the 6th Mtz Rifle Div transferred to Magdeburg distr in 3 shpmts []

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[] Comment. There may be a connection with announced exercises in the Magdeburg area between 20 and 25 Sep which reportedly were to involve units 8th Mtz Rifle Div.

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c. Between 18 and 22 Sep, units 8th Mtz Rifle Div including tanks and arty pieces left Luebtheen tng grounds in 5 shpmts []

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d. In early Sep, several troop units received replacements. Regardless of training activities of the units concerned, basic training of the recruits started immediately []

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[] Comment. The new arrivals were observed some 4 to 6 weeks earlier than in 1957. It is possible that summer training will terminate and/or fall discharges will start earlier than usually.

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III. Poland1. Order of Battle

In May 1958, the 82d AAA Regt [] was stationed at the barracks of the former German naval airport on Kamper Lake near Deep. The regiment was commanded by Major Stefaniuk, wore red capbands and was subordinate to the 16th AAA Div Koeslin. It was organized into 6 batteries, each of 6 x 37-mm AA guns, and had a total strength of 30 officers and 500 men. Each one AAA Regt in Strasburg i.W. (West Prussia) and Koeslin were also subordinate to the above Div []

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Comment. The 16th AAA Div Koeslin, the organization of which had not been definitely known so far, can now be assumed to be organized into the 82d AAA Regt Deep, C/O Major Stefaniuk, the 84th AAA Regt Strasburg i.W, C/O Rys (Rosik ?) and the 86th (88th ?) AA Regt Koeslin, C/O Major Sliwinski.

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2. Training

According to press reports, Polish 1958 fall exercises included the assumed employment of atomic weapons (press, Sep 1958).

Comment. No information has been received on type, scale, duration and area of the 1958 Polish fall exercises. The abovementioned press report is worth noting, however. Previous reports indicated that the USSR had no intention of equipping the satellites with atomic weapons. []

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The Soviet and Satellite press constantly criticize the equipment with atomic weapons and training under atomic wartime conditions of the West German Bundeswehr while, on the other hand, Polish military personnel has been trained on behaviour at the battlefield in case of atomic warfare for a prolonged period. Employment of atomic weapons by both parties had been assumed not only in a staff element and command-post exercise in May 1957 []

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but also during the 1957 fall exercises []

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During summer camps of a Polish engr unit at the Dramburg tng grounds, two training A-bombs had been employed in 1957 and one in 1958. These training A-bombs were made of 1 ton of explosives, 250 kg of lime, 400 kg of tar, 200 kg of glue and 2 x200-liter gasoline and benzole barrels. The training bombs were ignited from a concrete shelter 5 km from the bomb. The explosion made the bunker shake.

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D. Air ForceI. USSR1. Order of Battlea. Doeberitz Airfield

On 5 September 1958, intensive working activity was observed in the workshops. Loud jet-engine noise was heard from the engine test stand. No railroad cars were seen on the spur track, nor were aircraft observed at the airfield. The hangars at the southern edge of the airfield were closed; they still belong to the SVERYKOV Army Unit quartered in the eastern portion of Richthofen Kaserne. The billets at Karl-Liebknecht Platz (square) were still occupied.

b. Schoenwalde Airfield

On 4 September 1958, a single-engine propeller aircraft was observed taking-off. No changes were observed.

c. Valten Fuel Depot

On 4 September 1958, no changes were observed in the army fuel depot and the officers' billets.

d. Erfurt-Bindersleben Airfield

Between 10 and 20 September 1958, no aircraft of the Soviet Air Force were available at the airfield. Two radio trucks each with a Soviet Air Force sentry and an antenna system were observed at the eastern edge of the airfield. Four apartment houses located along the road leading from the airfield to Erfurt were occupied by Soviet Air Force personnel wearing blue service color. Four trucks were parked in a wooden shed [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. In 1957/58, Erfurt-Bindersleben was vacated by the Soviet Air Force and handed over to the East Zone Lufthansa.

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e. Loebnitz Airfield

Loebnitz (51 30 N - 12 40 E) airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] For about 6 months, levelling work has been under construction at Loebnitz airfield. No further details were reported [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. This information is obtained for the first time. So far, the airfield has neither been reported, nor used; it was a home field of the 2nd grade within the framework of the 4th Air Force Administrative Command (Luftgau IV) and had been completed by April 1940.

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f. Rostock-Marienehe Airfield

The following information was obtained between 7 August and 2 September 1958:

Irrigation of Marienehe airfield has been resumed since 28 August 1958. An old steamer continuously pumping mud to the airfield was observed at the western bank of the lower Warnow River. According to unconfirmed statements, the planned extension of Rostock-Marienehe airfield was cancelled. According to recent statements, a civilian airfield was to be constructed. The scheduled construction area was allegedly located between Brinkmannsdorf and Roggenthin [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Rostock-Marienehe airfield is not suited for extension; the airfield had been constructed badly so that portions have been under water.

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2. Logisticsa. Peenemuende Airfield

The following details were observed with regard to construction work between 7 and 25 July 1958:

Repair work on the WSW-ENE runway (S1) ¹
Preparation for concreting the NW-SE runway (S2) ².

Peenemuende airfield had been vacated by flying units; no aircraft were available any longer. The Sonderbaubureau Dessau (special construction office) was ordered with the following construction work:

- (1) Widening of the runway (S1) by 2.5 meters on either side, i.e. a total of 5 meters.
- (2) Improvement and extension of the runway (S2) as concrete lane enlarged by 720 meters in southeastern direction to a total length of about 2,300 meters and a width of 60 meters; the concrete cover in the center was 20 cm thick.
- (3) The Soviets ordered that all concrete work was to be completed by 31 October 1958 [redacted]

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1. [redacted] Comment. The runway (S-1) which sloped sideways required repair.

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2. [redacted] Comment. So far, the runway (S-2) had an asphalt cover; the intended extension has been confirmed.

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b. Air Force Construction Project at Kummersdorf Firing Range

Between 9 and 21 September 1958, improvement work was under way on the road leading from Schumke Depot to Sperenberg Forestry. Construction work extended between the former entrance of the depot and point 43.0, along the Sperenberg Forestry, across the ditch to Schumke-See (lake) in the direction of the Teufel-See firing range. Iron tubes and pierced steel planks were unloaded; the pierced steel planks were trucked by special vehicles in the direction of Kummersdorf Firing Range [redacted]

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[] Comment. Incoming shipments of construction material and speed of work were obviously pushed to an unusual extent.

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c. Neuhardenberg Airfield

The following information on Neuhardenberg airfield was obtained between 4 August and 3 September 1958:

The southern taxiway was completed except for the connecting pieces. Work on these connecting pieces (turnaround plates) was nearing completion. The area between runway and the southern taxiway was already covered by grass. The runway and presumably the northern runway were also completed []

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[] Comment. Upon termination of these works, the runway system at Neuhardenberg airfield will be completed.

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d. Air Force Material Depot at Strausberg

- (1) Between 9 and 23 September 1958, there was no change in the activity and occupation of the material depot for air force devices at Hegermuehlenstrasse (former rolling mill). Jet engine crates were again observed on moving motor vehicles.
- (2) There was no change in the activity and strength of the personnel employed in the arms workshop at Hegermuehlenstrasse (former aircraft repairshop); the personnel wore red-bordered black epaulets with and without artillery insignia.
- (3) No shipments were observed at the Strausberg railroad stations.
- (4) No changes were observed at the NVA supply depot at Elisabethstrasse (former VEAB-building) []

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[] Comment. Apart from vehicular traffic, no changes have been observed in 1958.

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e. Cochstedt Airfield

Between 28 July and 9 August 1958, Bau-Union Sued (Construction Union South) did construction work on the runway; due to difficulties arising from the foundation soil, construction work was extremely difficult. A few side-buildings were constructed by Sonderbaubureau (special construction office) Dessau []

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[] Comment. Cochstedt airfield and the runway under construction have been confirmed.

f. New Flying Field at Kedingshausen

The new flying field at Kedingshausen, about 5 km northwest of Stralsund (54 19 N/13 02 E) was 1.000 x 600 meters large; []

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On 8 August 1958, red/white boundary markers were observed along the edges of the flying field; there were also off-limit signs reading: "Airfield Off Limits". A firm grass cover was used as sheep pasture. No air activity was observed []

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[] Comment. The area is suitable for being extended.

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II. "GDR"1. Order of Battlea. Dessau Airfield

On 10 September 1958, Dessau airfield was occupied by 9 IL-14s, 10 Mi-4s and 15 Mi-1s; IL-14s performed cross-country flights, Mi-4s conducted local training flights with 6 infantrists and 2 life rafts aboard, and Mi-1s performed circuits and short cross-country flights. Between 10 and 19 September 1958, 18 Yak-18s with tail wheels were observed at the airfield on the occasion of the Army sport festival; they daily made flights in formations of three or four aircraft and had small pennants with different nationality markings fixed on the antennas between cockpit and tail unit. The crew presumably were NVA/L personnel [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. So far, 7 IL-14s, 6 Mi-4s and 16 Mi-1s have been carried at Dessau airfield.

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b. Frankfurt/Oder - Buelow Kaserne

Between 10 and 20 September 1958, about 40 percent of the Buelow Kaserne at Frankfurt/Oder was occupied. Drill training with carbines and driving columns with trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. The Buelow Kaserne at Frankfurt/Oder has been occupied by the instruction and training battalion from Neubrandenburg since about 20 August 1958.

c. Rothenburg Airfield

On 17 September 1958, 26 MiG-17s were counted at Rothenburg airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Rothenburg airfield is still occupied by the 2nd Fighter Wing of the NVA/L.

III. Poland1. Order of Battle

[redacted] 50 MiGs with Soviet national markings attacked Gross Stein (50 32 N/18 06 E) airfield in mid-June 1958. Subsequently, intensive air activity was conducted, even in moderate weather [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Meanwhile it has been determined that Gross Stein airfield was not occupied in early July 1958. Therefore, the Soviets had been stationed there only temporarily. No indications have been observed so far that Gross Stein will be permanently occupied in the near future, presumably due to the poor condition of the runway.

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2. Logistics

a. In late June 1958, work continued on the western extension of the runway at Gross Stein airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. The runway extension is reported for the first time, but has not yet been confirmed.

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- b. In July 1958, Katowice (50 14 N/19 02 E) airfield was given up because the ground had subsided up to 1.5 meters due to underground coal mines [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. This had already been reported [redacted] in the meantime, this information has been confirmed by the Polish press.

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IV. Czechoslovakia

1. Training

- a. In August 1958, a pilot school of the Czech Air Force equipped with propeller aircraft was stationed at Prostějov (49 27/N 17 08 E) airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Previous reports indicated the existence of a pilot school at Prostějov.

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- b. In August 1958, a small unit of the Czech Air Force was billeted in temporary buildings at Reichenberg (Liberec) (50 46 N/15 01 E) airfield. Air force personnel were mainly trained as cargo-glider pilots. Power planes and large gliders were available for training [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. A pilot school of the Czech Air Force and a training center of the SVAZARM Organization are assumed at Reichenberg (Liberec) airfield.

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- c. In August 1958, Bonuslavice (49 56 N/18 06 E) airfield had a plain, dry grass cover. Three or four wooden hangars were located in the southern portion of the airfield. The airfield was exclusively used by the SVAZARM Organization for pre-military glider training. Almost daily, the gliders were seen aloft [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Bonuslavice airfield has a 1,200 meter-long grass cover.

2. Logistics

In August 1958 it was determined that Moravská Ostrava (49 47 N/18 16 E) airfield is to be excavated because the area is needed for industrial purposes [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. So far, Moravská Ostrava airfield was mainly used as training area for the SVAZARM Organization.

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V. Hungary

Troop Techniques

Radar

According to the Hungarian press (Esti Hírlap of 10 August 1958), the first miniature radar set of Hungarian make was tested at the Plattensee with full success in August 1958. The set was produced by a Budapest factory, Finommechanikai Vállalat. The documentation material was furnished by the Soviets.

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VI. RumaniaOrder of Battle

1. It was learned in June 1958 that the flying unit stationed at Brasov (45 41 N/25 37 E) airfield was to be dissolved on account of Soviet pressure. Some of the young, regular officers were to be transferred to Focsani South (45 40 N/27 12 E) airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. So far, a Rumanian ground attack regiment equipped with IL-10s has been assumed to be stationed at Brasov airfield, while a Rumanian pilot school has been carried at Focsani South airfield. The dissolution of the ground attack regiment has not come as a surprise, since the East Bloc countries more and more tend to either dissolve their ground attack regiments, re-equip them or change them into fighter regiments.

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2. In July 1958, there were indications at Sibiu-Turnisor (45 47 N/24 05 E) airfield for a transfer of the flying unit. According to rumors, the airfield will only serve for civil air traffic in future. Some of the personnel of the flying unit were to transfer to Turda-South (46 32 N/23 47 E), while the rest was to transfer to Arad-Ceala (46 11 N/21 16 E). Sibiu-Turnisor airfield was daily approached by two passenger aircraft flying the Bucharest (44 31 N/26 05 E) - Brasov (45 41 N/25 37 E) - Arad Ceala route [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. A ground attack regiment is assumed to be stationed at Sibiu-Turnisor and Turda-South airfields. Arad-Ceala airfield with a 2,000-meter-long concrete runway has so far been unoccupied. The presumed transfer of the flying unit from Sibiu-Turnisor has probably taken place within the framework of re-equipment or tactical change of the ground attack regiments, as had also been observed in other East Bloc countries.

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F. Premilitary and Paramilitary OrganizationsI. GDR1. Militia and Police Troopsa. Deutsche Volkspolizei (DVP)

BDVP Wismut is co-ordinate to the 14 territorial DVP Bezirksbehoerden (district authorities) (BDVP) and is subordinate to HA Betriebsschutz (enterprise protection) (BS) with regard to employment and to HA Ausbildung und Schulung (training and instruction) (AS) of HVDVP with regard to training. The following BS offices (BSA) are subordinate to the BDVP (BS) Wismut in Siegmarschoenau near Chemnitz (Karl-Marx-Stadt):
 Aue (Schneeberg), Auerbach, Chemnitz, Crossen/Zwickau, Dresden/Flauen, Johanngeorgenstadt, Rodewisch and Ronneburg and training section Wildbach near Schneeberg

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b. Aktiver Brandschutz (Air Defense)

- (1) During the last week of the course on home defense held at the Academy for Economy in Berlin-Karlshorst between 11 August and 5 September 1958, participants were detached to a DVP fire station for practical training. The course terminated with a fire extinguishing practice with salvaging of casualties and practical first aid. Six fire fighting units were involved

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- (2) A BS unit "Aktiver Brandschutz" (fire brigade) of BDVP Wismut (Siegmarschoenau) newly activated in June 1958 in Wolfgangsmassen near Neustaedtel was equipped with 6 so-called "deactivation vehicles"

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Comment. The DVP was to be generally equipped with such vehicles.

2. Premilitary and Paramilitary Organizationsa. Combat Groups (KG)

All combat groups of the Wismut enterprises are subordinate to the corresponding BSAs with regard to training and commitment. The A/S officer (instructor) of the BSA is simultaneously KG commander and/or commander of the KG staff. The KGs of the BSAs mentioned add up to the

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following number of Hundertschaften (HS): Aue 10 to 12, Auerbach 6 to 8, Chemnitz (Karl-Marx-Stadt) 4, Crossen near Zwickau 4, Dresden/Plauen 5, Johanngeorgenstadt 5 and Ronneburg appr 10. Weapons were stored at the individual BSAs.

In addition, there are also KGs which are made up of personnel from nationalized and municipal enterprises and are subordinate to the territorial VPKAs [redacted]

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- b. In early July 1958, the Central Administration of the AZKW (Amt fuer Zoll und Kontrolle des Warenverkehrs) (Office for Customs and Control of Traffic with Goods) moved from BERLIN NW 7, 45-46 Luisenstrasse, to 11 Dewetallee in Berlin-Karlshorst. The actual personnel strength of the office amounts to 350 to 400 persons, while the present total strength of the AZKW amounts to 5,300 persons [redacted]

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II. Yugoslavia

Premilitary Training

In May 1958, the People's Committee Belgrade established a camp for premilitary training in which, until mid-August, 4,500 young people received theoretical and practical basic training as well as political indoctrination in 10-day courses (Yugoslav press Aug 1958)

[redacted] Comment. The information confirms the establishment of so-called "Premilitary Training Centers" in Yugoslavia.

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