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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany/USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Political and Economic
Summary

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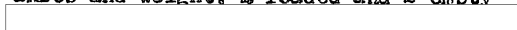
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

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B. Armed ForcesI. USSR and "United" Forces (Warsaw Pact)Total StrengthPersonnel Exchange (GDR-USSR)


Between 26 and 28 Sep, 4 and 2 trains went from the GDR to Brest-Litovsk via Kuestrin and Frankfurt/Oder (?) respectively. According to number of axles and weight, 4 loaded and 2 empty trains were concerned. 

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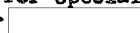

On 1 Oct, appr 100 recruits from the USSR arrived in Dallgow and left for Loewen Kaserne  in Doeberitz 

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 Comment. First indications of beginning of personnel exchange. Date of beginning agrees with that in preceding years, except for 1957, when the exchange started only on 28 Oct. Recruits have also been observed at other GDR posts since late September.

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II. GDR1. Recruiting and Replacements

- a. Since early July, an increasing number of 4-week courses for students have been held by various troop units of NVA ground forces, among other places also in Leipzig and Prora/Ruegen 
- b. During his study period, each student has to participate in at least 2 courses, the first for basic training during the first to second study year and the second for special training during the third to fourth study year 
- c. During a course in Prenzlau from 31 July to 28 August, participants received training on SPG-107s; firing with SPG-107s was observed at a training grounds 

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 Comment. After military training courses for students of technical schools had been held in May through June, training concentrated on students of universities and academies during the main vacation period of July and August. It is, however, believed that it will not be possible to have all students of the latter category trained during so short a period.

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There are already indications that the courses continued also after the end of the vacation period. This will undoubtedly result in interruptions and/or non-attendance of lectures.

Places mentioned are posts of training units of NVA ground forces.

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Military training of students is conducted on the basis of a directive of the State Secretariat for Universities and Academies which largely corresponds to a decision by the SED Central Committee of March 1958. According to this decision, military training of students is considered part of their studies.

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Students who have not yet participated in military training or have been deferred have to join in so-called "production commitments". Employment of females and male students not fit for military service is handled by the Ministry of the Interior together with the universities or academies concerned.

The prorektor or deputy director, along with a commission of representatives of the organization concerned, is in charge of necessary organizational preparations and coordination of studies and military training. In addition, all students are constantly being urged to join the GST, as has already been reported.

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C. ArmyI. USSRTraining (GDR)

Training activities of several units, particularly in the Altengrabow and Letzlinger Heide area, continued from late September to early October. Upon completion of the third exercise in the Altengrabow-Wiesenburg area, numerous return shipments of participating units to their posts were observed. Subsequent transfers and movements of columns for another fall maneuver at the end of the month concentrated on the area on either side of the Elbe River in the Burg - eastern portion Letzlinger Heide section. Transfers of tank, engr and AAA units from various army areas after 4 October were indicative of an assembling for a large-scale maneuver in the west and southwest portion of the GDR.

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The following was observed:

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1. Supplementary Information on Exercises Third Gds Mecz Army with Elms First Gds Mecz Army (Tk) betw 23 and 26 Sep

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27/28 Sep, 12 return shpmts from Magdeburg to Wuensdorf
 [] Beelitz [], Sperenberg [] Wildpark []
 and Satz Korn [], and
 2 return shpmts from the Halle distr to Justerbog/
 Altes Lager []

25X1

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27 Sep, Wiesenburg rr station: loading of 3 shpmts of
 AAA units.
 Another shpmt from Nedlitz/Anhalt through
 Wiesenburg toward the east []

25X1

[] Comment. According to date and unloading stations of
 shpmts observed, the exercise []
 presumably terminated in the Altengrabow-Wiesenburg area
 on 26 Sep. In addition []
 elms 34th Arty Div with at least 2 battalions with 130-mm
 field guns participated (2 shpmts to Wildpark and Satz Korn).
 [] several units incl elms 7th
 Gds Tank Div returned to their posts by road. []

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2. Exercise of Elms Third Shock Army (Mecz) in the Burg -
 Letzlinger Heide - Tangermuende area betw 30 Sep and 1 Oct

27 Sep Perleberg rr station: loading of an arty unit
 presum of 18th Mecz Div;

26-30 Sep columns of units of this div with maneuver
 insignia through Perleberg toward southeast []

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28 Sep, bulk 36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG and elms u/i Amph Unit/Third Shock Army (Mecz) left Magdeburg toward the east [redacted]. 25X1

29 Sep, elms 19th Gds Mecz Div (Tk) left Hillersleben, presum for exercises [redacted]. 25X1

Column of tank unit on autobahn south of Ziesar en route toward Magdeburg;

30 Sep, 2 columns totaling appr 90 trucks and headquarters veh on autobahn north of Magdeburg en route toward the west; 25X1

Tank and mot veh columns, each of 40 to 50 veh, from southeast toward Burg [redacted].

1 Oct, advance of tank units across Ihle Canal near Parchau in direction Kehnert; 25X1

Parey - Parchau - Rogaetz - Angern - Mahlwinkel - Tangermunde area: exercises of tank, arty and engr units. In wooded area Kehnert-Mahlwinkel large mot veh assembly, 2 x 122-mm field how batteries in firing position, pointing westward [redacted]. 25X1

[redacted] Comment. Betw 30 Sep and 1 Oct, an exercise, presum of units Third Shock Army (Mecz), was held in the Burg - eastern portion Letzlinger Heide - Tangermunde area. Judging from movements observed, the following units participated: elms 18th Mecz Div, presum elms 19th Gds Mecz Div (Tk), elms u/i amph unit/Third Shock Army (Mecz), bulk 36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG, presum additional u/i units and, presumably, small elms Twenty-Fourth Air Army. 25X1

[redacted] the exercise developed as follows: 25X1

On 30 Sep, tank and mtz rifle units of a div advanced from the Altengrabow tng grounds assembly area via Burg and the Ihle Canal near Parchau toward northwest, forced crossing of Elbe River near Kehnert and continued their attack on 1 Oct beyond Mahlwinkel in a western direction. [redacted] 25X1

3. Exercise of Elms Twentieth Army presum in Liebarose Tng Grounds Area betw 26 and 30 Sep

23-26 Sep, 9 shpmts from Berlin-Schoeneweide, Kaulsdorf and Dallgow to Cottbus distr; 25X1

1/2 Oct, return to Dallgow and Eberswalde of tank and engr units [redacted]. 25X1

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[] Comment. Elms 1st Mecz Div and 6th Gds Mecz Div
presum conducted exercises in the Lieberose area at the
same time. []

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4. Maneuver of Elms Eighth Gds Army with Elms Second Gds
Mecz Army (Tk) after 6 Oct.

4/5 Oct, transfer of med and hv tank units and elms
enr bn/20th Gds Mecz Div (Tk) from Jena to
an undetermined assembly area in several
shpmts []

25X1

6 Oct, departure of bulk 31st AAA Div from their
Schoenwalde post []

25X1

7 Oct, since 1800, mtz rifle and arty units with at
least 500 mot veh resting betw Nauen and
Kyritz on either side of Highway No 5.
Tank assembly in Kyritz []

25X1

[] Comment. The transfer of these units in connection
with simultaneous employment of numerous units of the
Twenty-Fourth Air Army in Thuringia and the Magdeburg
area tend to indicate that a large-scale maneuver started
on 6 Oct which involved at least elms Eighth Gds Army
(Mecz) and Second Gds Mecz Army (Tk). Assembly areas and
location of beginning are still undetermined. There are
several indications that the exercise developed from the
Wittstock training grounds via the Elbe section on either
side of Magdeburg as far as Thuringia.

25X1

Comment for Par Training

As expected, the fall maneuvers continued as in preceding
years with the known crossing of the Elbe River between
Burg and Letzlinger Heide by elms Third Shock Army (Mecz).
While there are no indications of additional exercises in
the area of the First Gds Mecz and the Twentieth Armies,
the 1958 exercises seem to have culminated in a joint
maneuver of the Eighth Gds Army (Mecz) and the Second Gds
Mecz Army (Tk), possibly with elms Third Shock Army (Mecz)
after 6 October. In 1957, the last fall maneuver, which
involved elements of two armies, lasted from 7 to 10 Oct.
With a view to the early beginning of the 1958 personnel
exchange, it is assumed that the fall exercises in the GDR
have been completed by all armies by mid-October.

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II. Poland

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Order of Battle

In July 1958, the 5th Engr Regt, [redacted] C/O Lt Col Belza, was stationed in the northeast section of the barracks in Stettin-Podejuch. The Regt was subordinate to the 2d (Pomeranian) MD Bromberg and was organized into 4 battalions, each of 3 companies of appr 90 men each. Prior to July 1957, personnel wore red, subsequently black cap bands. The southwest section of the installation was occupied by the 17th Engr Bn, [redacted] which was subordinated to the 12th Mtz Rifle Div Stettin [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] Comment. The information indicates that the 2d and 4th MD include each 2 army engr regts. [redacted]

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D. Air ForceI. "GDR"Order of BattleDessau Airfield

Between 1 August and 20 September 1958, circuits were flown by IL-14s [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] No air activity was observed on 1, 3, 6, 10, and 11 August 1958 and on 1, 5, 6, 8, and 20 September 1958. Between 17 August and 27 August 1958, no observations were made. Mi-1s which had been constructed in Poland under license were delivered to Dessau in crates. Mi-4s which also arrived in crates from an u/i place were assembled and given black numbers in Dessau; some of them were transferred. On 15 September 1958, Dessau airfield was occupied by 9 IL-14s, 15 Mi-1s and 8 Mi-4s [redacted]

25X1

On 26 September 1958, the airfield was occupied by 24 or 25 Mi-1 or Mi-4 helicopters and about 7 IL-14s. On 18 September 1958, another 12 aircraft, presumably Yak-18s, were parked at the airfield. Since late August 1958, 10 white freight cars have been seen, but no loading or unloading procedures have been observed [redacted].

25X1

[redacted] Comment. Dessau airfield is still occupied as previously. The Yak-18s were presumably still at the airfield in connection with the Army Sports Festival which took place between 10 and 19 September 1958.

25X1

II. Poland1. Training of Troops

Prior to April 1957, the officers' pilot school No 5 was stationed at Radom-Sadkow (51 23 N/21 13 E) airfield. Commander of the school and airfield commander was Colonel Schwarz, a Russian wearing Polish uniform. A total of about 1,000 officers including officer candidates and 700 EM were stationed at the airfield. The school had the task of training officer candidates as fighter pilots in the course of 3 years without tactical training. For this purpose, the following airfields were available in addition to Radom-Sadkow:

Spala-Glinnik (51 35 N/20 06 E) with a unit of jet aircraft;

Nowe Miasto (51 38 N/20 33E) with a unit of jet aircraft;

Grojek (51 53 N/20 56 E) with a squadron of propeller aircraft;

Przasnysz (53 00 N/20 55 E) with a squadron of propeller aircraft.

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The units of the school stationed at Radom-Sadkow airfield were equipped with the following aircraft:

- Headquarters Flight: 1 MiG-15, 1 Yak-13, 1 IL-12
- 2nd Squadron: 2 MiG-15s, 3 UMIG-15s, 10 Yak-23s
- 5th Squadron: 2 MiG-15s, 7 UMIG-15s, 4 Yak-23s
- 7th Squadron: 10 Yak propeller aircraft

[Redacted]

25X1

2. Logistics

In September 1958, a new airfield was under construction about 2.5 km south of the Piotrkow (51 24 N/19 41 E) railroad station, between this station and the Piotrkow - Czestochowa (50 48 N/19 07 E) road. [Redacted] pre-military training is to be conducted at the airfield after its completion

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[Redacted]

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F. Preliminary and Paramilitary Organizations

"GDR"

Militia and Police Troops

German Border Police (DGP)

- 1. Between 25 Aug and 25 Sep, a training course for chemical defense was held by the 4th Bn of Border Bereitschaft (GB) Oachersleben. GB Salzwedel had to detach to this course each one private of each battalion and company

25X1

Comment. This was presumably a course compulsory for all GBs subordinate to Brig Magdeburg.

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- 2. On 14 September, FDJ members from the ranks of the DGP at the High Command of the DGP issued a proclamation asking young Socialists to stay with the DGP beyond the regular term of service (3 years) until at least 1961. All FDJ members following this challenge will be entered in the "Book of Honour" of the FDJ organization within the DGP

25X1

Comment. This means of "Socialist competition" which represents one of the "final conclusions" of the resolutions of the Fifth Party Congress is certainly aiming at a maintaining of the present personnel strength of the DGP, at least for some time.

25X1

- 3. On 24 September, the Commander of the DGP, Maj Gen Ludwig, awarded two prizes each of 2,000 DME for the invention of a border signal installation by means of which a border sector of up to 8 km length could be controlled. The indicator, which was located in the company billets, showed the point of a border crossing with a 250-meter accuracy

25X1

- 4. Since Nov 1957, a troop unit which included 1 to 2 companies with T-34/85s has been stationed in Bad Blankenburg

25X1

Comment. Training Bereitschaft Dittrichshuette and Heavy Battalion Rudolstadt are carried in the area of the 4th Brig Rudolstadt. Type and subordination of the abovementioned unit cannot be determined. It is, however, worth noting that the unit is equipped with T-34/85s. This is the first observation of such an equipment with GP units:

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