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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Sverdlovsk Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Religion Among MVD Troops

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Guards around camp 5110/26 at Asbest were MVD troops. They were changed at irregular intervals.

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2. The last unit as guards was composed mainly of young Uzbek draftees, mostly Komsomol members. However many of these Uzbeks observed Moslem religious rituals, including prayers with their heads towards the East.

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3. The guards were friendly to the German PWs and often traded or sold items to the PWs, of course when none of their superiors were present. Among the NCOs and officers also there were Uzbeks and other minority nationalities from the Caucasus, as well as men from the Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Union. The drafted men, however, were predominantly Uzbeks.

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