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SUBJECT Recruitment of EM for Border Troops

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The policy governing recruitment of EM for Soviet Security Forces was determined by a special directive of MVD, promulgated with the approval of the General Staff, USSR Ground Forces. I do not know when this directive was published:

[REDACTED] reasonably
certain that a similar policy was applied to other branches of MVD
Armed Forces [with the exception of those mentioned in par. 5, below].

2. Recruitment for border troops was made mainly in Central USSR Oblastey (Russian SSR) and the Leningrad, Ural, Middle Volga, and Altay Regions. These regions supplied approximately 80% of border troop EM. The Ukrainian SSR supplied approximately 10%; and all other republics and autonomous oblasts accounted for the remaining 10%.

[REDACTED] provided the recruits for border troops, I am sure there was practically no area in the USSR where border troops were made up largely of personnel indigenous to that area; this applied to all border zones in the USSR, and especially to the Asiatic part of the country inhabited by national minorities such as the Tadzhiks, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Turkmen, etc.

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I do not believe that there was any place in the USSR where a border troop unit was made up of indigenous personnel. This would have been quite contrary to the firmly established general policy of recruitment of EM for border troops.

3. Border troop officers participated in the recruitment of enlisted personnel in the following way:
 - a. GUPV each year made a request for a certain number of recruits, specifying exactly the number of recruits wanted from each of the administrative oblasti. This request was sent through MVD to the General Staff, USSR Ground Forces, which made excerpts from it and forwarded them to the respective commanders of military districts. Military districts in turn made breakdowns of these requests according to subordinate oblast voyenkomaty. The oblast voyenkomaty then made breakdowns for subordinate city and rayon voyenkomaty.
 - b. Every year when the voyenkomaty called a certain class of recruits for military service, border troop representatives were sent to attend the call at the various voyenkomaty; the voyenkomaty were supposed to give recruits for border troops on the basis of the requests I have just mentioned. Normally one senior officer from the Officer Personnel Section (Otdel kadrov) or from the 4th Detachment (Lichnogo sostava) of the border district headquarters went as a representative to the oblast voyenkomat. Sometimes several officers from the border district headquarters were sent to the various oblast voyenkomaty, if there was a need for it. A certain number of officers from detachment headquarters, border komendatura headquarters, and line units, went as border troop representatives to the city and rayon voyenkomaty. In this way border troop representatives were present at all voyenkomaty which were to supply recruits for border troop units.
 - c. Border troop representatives attending calls at the voyenkomaty collaborated very closely with the local representative of MGB attached to the voyenkomaty. Border troop officers were not considered members of the voyenkomat recruiting commissions, but they were granted rights to see the personal files on all prospective recruits, to make a tentative selection for border troop units, to see and to talk personally to selectees, and to make suggestions (by name) to the voyenkomat CO through the voyenkomat's MGB representative. As far as I know, these suggestions were almost always followed, and border troops were assigned recruits selected by border troop representatives. In addition to physical fitness in the selection of future border troop soldiers, special attention was paid to their political reliability (Komsomol members were preferred), family background (worker and peasant backgrounds preferred), police record in the family, and possible convictions. Any connection of some family member at any time with residents in foreign countries was sufficient ground to disqualify a prospective recruit for border troops.
4. As far as I know no special additional qualifications were required of border troop recruits.
5. The branch of MVD interior troops called MVD Guard Units (Voyska po okhrane osobykh ob'yektov) and probably convoy troops (Konvoynnye voyska) as far as I know, were an exception to the general policy of recruitment for MVD. These two MVD troop branches had a considerable contingent of various national minorities and especially of Tadzhiks, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, and Turkmenians. However, even here the rule of extra-territorial service was strictly adhered to, and I do not know of any cases where MVD guard units and convoy troops were made up of indigenous personnel.

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