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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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S E C R E T

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Austria (Soviet Zone)/USSR

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED]

A. MORALE FACTORS

1. Dependents

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a. Movement to Austria

[REDACTED] the policy regarding Soviet dependents current in Austria, [REDACTED] was governed by an unidentified Ministry of Defense Order, published in the fall of 1953, that first permitted Soviet officers and civilians and, in theory, extended tour EM (sverkhslochniki) to bring their wives and children to the Soviet Zone of Austria. (See page 15 for other summarized provisions of this order. Its provisions for dependents were as follows:

No explanations were given to the vast majority of Soviet troops who were conscript NCO's and Pvt's as to why their dependents were not authorized to come to Austria.

Authorized personnel who desired to bring their dependents to Austria had to submit to their immediate commander a written request for their movement, showing names, ages, and place of residence of the dependents. Only wives and children were authorized movement. The commander endorsed the request to the division headquarters (or its equivalent) and attached a certificate which stated that the dependents were authorized movement under current regulations and were the lawful wife and children of the requestor who was a member of his unit.

Division headquarters granted or disapproved the movement and notified the officer concerned and CGF headquarters. Upon receipt of division approval, sponsor's initiated within their unit the necessary travel

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documents and transportation requests which were then sent to the dependents. The dependents then exchanged the transportation requests for rail tickets and proceeded to join the sponsor. All travel was at government expense except for subsistence en route and movement of household goods, which were moved at the sponsors expense.

Upon notification by division that approval had been granted to certain individuals to travel to Austria, CGF headquarters then notified the border officials at CHOP (4825N-2211E), USSR, which is a specified border crossing point for CGF personnel, that individuals had permission to enter Austria and leave the Soviet Union. All dependents travelled with only their Soviet civilian identification books, the travel certificate sent by the sponsor, and the travel request. They received no special passports or visas. Upon arrival in Austria, the sponsor's unit took the Soviet citizens' identification card and gave each dependent a certificate which stated that these were in the unit headquarters for safekeeping.

b. Children

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[redacted] most of the officers did not bring school-age children to Austria as there were no approved facilities available, although they could if they desired. His unit was informed, however, that there was a plan to open Soviet dependent schools in Austria in the fall of 1954. All dependent wives who had teacher training and/or experience were asked to register as teachers and, for planning purposes, each individual was asked to register his children who were of school age in the spring of 1954.

c. Orientation

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[redacted] dependents (approximately 30 officers' wives) were oriented by the battalion CO in several sessions as to their responsibilities and rights while in Austria. This orientation was followed by several classes, on unknown subjects, conducted by the battalion Chief of Gunnery Training.

2. Rotation of Officers

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[redacted] it was also announced that Soviet Army officers would no longer be rotated to the USSR and that service in the Soviet Zone of Austria would be on the same footing as service in an Okrug in the USSR. This was based on the same order announcing that dependents would be authorized to come to Austria. [redacted] those officers who were to be rotated after three years of foreign service were retained regardless of their own wishes, but they were given the opportunity to bring their dependents. [redacted]

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From the time of the order, officers were rotated only for compassionate or health reasons. [redacted] only three officers were returned: two for tuberculosis and one because his parents were aged and had no one to assist them. These parents resided in LENINGRAD, but the officer was rotated and sent to NOVO-SIBIRSK (5502N-8253E), Siberia.

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3. Passes

Officers had approximately the same freedom of movement as extended-tour EM had. This freedom did not include, in practice, permission to fraternize. For officers and extended-tour EM, this was frowned upon by Source's battalion CO. All other battalion personnel, who were the obligatory-tour NCO's and privates, were under compulsion to remain in garrison at all times.

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These restrictions were disobeyed whenever the conscripted EM had the opportunity to absent themselves with reasonable impunity. The majority of cases involving breaking restriction consisted of groups of individuals running off to town after liquor. As it was very difficult to do this unnoticed, EM would wait until they had a garrison movie or were on sentry duty and would then go. They generally entered the first drinking establishment they came across and drank as rapidly as they could. The sentries would go with their PPSH guns. None of these sentries were ever caught at this, to Source's knowledge.

Prior to the arrival of officer's dependents, the officers would also sneak off to drink but after their wives came and there was more opportunity for them to have a normal life at home they did not do this as often. Prior to this, officers made a habit of going into town and the NCO's and privates found it risky to frequent drinking establishments for fear of running into an officer who would report them even though he himself was there. Officers did not find themselves compromised by being in the same drinking establishment. After the arrival of officer-dependents, the EM found it less risky to go into town and this practice greatly increased.

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4. Leave

[redacted] the leave policy was never adequately explained to the EM; however, Source stated that it was generally accepted to be as follows:

a. Officers.

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Officers were authorized one 45-day leave per year, not including travel time. After the arrival of dependents in Austria, Source was told that those officers who had their families with them were authorized only 30 days per year, not including travel time. [redacted]

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b. Sverkhsrochniki

The extended-tour EM (sverkhsrochniki) were entitled to a leave shortly after signing up for a two-year period of service. Their leave during the first year of extended service was authorized as 30 days (not including travel time). Every year after the first, they were authorized 45 days (not including travel time).

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c. Conscripted Cadre Personnel

All cadre conscripted EM [] (about 50) received at least one leave during their tour of service in Austria. Some of the men had had two leaves. Source was able to list at least three men who had had two leaves. Generally, these leaves were of ten days' duration (not including travel time). Source went on leave [] for a 12-day period and received an additional seven days for travel. Source was unable to state whether such leaves were authorized or not. 50X1

d. Trainees

All trainees [] received no leaves except for compassionate reasons and then only if the EM was considered an outstanding soldier. The compassionate reasons were generally verified in an official communication from a Voenkomat to the battalion CO requesting that the subject EM be granted leave. 50X1

e. Leave Policies

Source stated that only two factors were considered in granting any leave in his unit. These were merit and compassion. Length of service was never considered and he knew that most EM in his unit served their full three years without any leave. Obtaining a leave was fairly simple for the extended-tour EM and they generally went on their full leave at least once a year. He knew of two conscripted EM who had gone on leave twice in the same year. 50X1

The main complaint [] regarding the leave system was that the CO controlled the granting of leaves. 50X1

6. Discipline

[]
In any given month, no more than two men would be confined for a day or two each. On one occasion an officer, SR Lt (fnu) OBNOSKIN, was confined for 10 days for insulting a superior. He called the Battalion Dep CO for Political Affairs a "razvratnik" (a rake or libertine). [] 50X1

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Although the obligatory tour EM were very carefully watched and had little opportunity to drink, they still managed to do so. Source stated that an EM drank at every opportunity and would run risks for alcohol every time. There were several EM sent back to the USSR for "systematic drunkenness" but they were not from Source's Bn and he had no further details on this.

a. Cases of Disobedience

Source stated that disobedience was more of a passive nature in Austria than in the USSR. He stated that discipline was stricter in Austria and that the EM were more closely supervised. However, EM often refused to sing at the "evening walk" (march), would not march properly, and, often, flatly refused to perform good work. On an occasion when a platoon sergeant was extremely demanding of his men in physical conditioning, they decided to teach him a lesson. This sergeant had made a habit of making his men run twice around the area, just on general principle, while he himself gave commands without running. The men now pretended not to hear his commands and ran up to a wall. When he came up to them and gave them a right turn, they ran out of the area and he had to chase them again. This sergeant subsequently became less severe in his demands on the platoon.

In the USSR, Source stated that on two occasions in basic training, his own platoon sergeant was roughed up by the trainees. Once he was complimenting his platoon on their cooperation in the training effort after he had been awarded a commendation for good discipline in his unit. The platoon then gathered around the sergeant (who was actually hated by the trainees) and cheered him; throwing him high in the air three times and only catching him twice.

The second time that the sergeant was beaten was during the evening bed check. He came into the platoon barracks and the men staged what Source called a "Vechernyya pereklichka" (evening rollicall). One of the men immediately threw a pillow at the candle putting it out. Then everyone began throwing stones, pillows, boots, and other items at the sergeant. The sergeant suffered several cuts and bruises and the men told him that he had better ease up on them with their training. The men received no punishment as apparently the sergeant was afraid to take action; he also became less severe with the platoon.

Also while in basic training, Source had heard of a trainee company with an unidentified unit at MULINO (5617N-4256E) that consisted of mostly athletes from MOSCOW. He heard the trainees were running this company to suit themselves and that the sergeants were very cautious in their dealings with their men. Source had no further information.

In his own battalion, Source had knowledge of only one occasion where a higher headquarters had called attention to a breach of discipline. He believed that this was because the battalion CO kept the EM of the battalion carefully supervised and permitted very little opportunity for hooliganing. Also, any breach of discipline or violation of order was quickly hushed up and action taken within the battalion without any awareness of it by a higher headquarters.

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7. Morale

[redacted] morale in the Soviet Army as he saw it, was very poor. He stated that the best example of this was the three commandments of the Soviet soldier as taught to him by his platoon sergeant, who was a friend of his in basic training. These were as follows: 50X1

"Never do today what you can leave undone until tomorrow"

"Never leave until tomorrow that can be eaten today"

"No one has yet died from sleep" 50X1

These attitudes, [redacted] characterized the Soviet outlook on military life. He felt that all personnel, including civilians, tried to do only the bare, acceptable minimum in their task, whatever it was. The great majority of the obligatory tour EM looked upon their tenure of military service as a repulsive necessity and looked forward to their day of demobilization. Few EM, except extended-tour EM (sverkharochniki), had any desire to be officers as this would require an indefinite period of service from them. Those EM who extended their tour were generally from Kolkhozes and of ignorant peasant stock to whom military life was an improvement over their civilian status. Source stated that he knew of only one extended-tour EM who did not come from a Kolkhoz into military service and he was a transplanted peasant whose family had moved into a city to work in a factory in a very menial position. 3

One of the specific things that created low morale was the close restriction of the Soviet obligatory-service EM. These EM were never permitted any off-duty freedom to visit the Austrian civilian community. They were not permitted alcoholic beverages and were always under the supervision of an NCO or an officer.

Dissatisfaction was not only prevalent among the EM. Source, on occasion, had heard officers complain over the lack of freedom in intercourse with the civilian population. He had heard officers compare the standing rule in the Soviet Army of not speaking to Austrians with the practice of other occupation armies. These officers expressed their embarrassment in being forced to be abrupt and discourteous when addressed cordially by the ever-friendly Austrians, including the local Communists.

a. Officer-Candidate Morale

Another specific incident illustrating poor morale and discipline [redacted] was a platoon of future reserve officer trainees. 4 This platoon went to GOETZENDORF to bathe and then proceeded to get drunk in a body. A group of sergeants had finished bathing first and then sneaked out of the bathhouse to a nearby tavern and the platoon joined the sergeants. When all of the men of the platoon had spent all their money on drinks, they returned to unit carrying certain members of the platoon who were too intoxicated to walk. They arrived in the company with no semblance of a military formation and loudly sang bawdy and vulgar songs. The platoon leader then came into the barracks to bring order to his platoon but he was thrown out bodily. Then, the company commander entered the barracks but even he was beaten up by the platoon sergeant and a squad sergeant. There was no punishment meted out to any member of the platoon although the company held a general assembly and its political officer declaimed for two solid hours on the evils of drinking. There was also a battalion Komsomol meeting which called in the Komsomol members of the platoon and reprimanded them. (The squad sergeant involved in beating the company commander happened to be the battalion Komsomol organization secretary.) None of the men in the platoon appeared frightened or shamed by their conduct; and they were only sorry that the platoon leader, who was quite popular with his men, had gotten into trouble over this breach of discipline.

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On several occasions, this same platoon refused to eat the food in the mess hall because it was of such poor quality. Although this would not have been a serious offense individually, it reached the proportions of a mutiny when it was done collectively. If any ring leader could have been ascertained, his punishment would have been severe. As it was, the personnel of this platoon all stuck together and each soldier fully accepted the blame for his personal actions. For this reason, none of the members of the platoon were punished. The results of the hunger strike was that a doctor came to the enlisted mess and inspected the food. The mess sergeant was then reprimanded for having improperly washed the pots in the kitchen. There was no marked improvement in the quality of the food.

Although poor quality of food had a great deal to do with making the meals unappetizing, careless food preparation by the cooks and the lack of supervision by the responsible authorities made this food even worse. Lack of such items as cream, milk, butter, eggs, and spices made the menu very dreary and monotonous. On the other hand, unit officers received these items to some extent in their own mess.

b. Reaction to Political Officers

The activities of the political officers in the unit also contributed to lowered unit morale. They irritated the personnel by their constant nagging, informing on the EM and officers alike, and presenting dry and uninteresting political subjects that the men were required to learn during instruction. As an example, there were long sessions of propaganda on the progress in the USSR and statements regarding Soviet production. Most of the EM expressed themselves that they could not care less as to how many tons of coal a certain coal mine produced in 1954 compared to its 1952 output. The political officers also made a nuisance of themselves by concerning themselves with items such as training, supply, and assignments within the battalion, which were none of their business.

c. Inadequate Food and Clothing

Poor food and clothing contributed to a large degree to the feeling of unhappiness among most of the soldiers. The clothing was of poorer quality than Source had been used to at home and was issued in insufficient quantities to permit the maintenance of a decent standard of cleanliness. Likewise, Source stated, the food was of poor quality and had little or no variety from meal to meal.

8. Officer-EM Relationships

The main privileges enjoyed by officers that were resented by the EM were as follows:

- a. Officers were permitted to have their families with them, whereas EM, with the exception of the extended-tour EM (sverkhsrochniki), were not.
- b. The officers had a more varied menu with better quality food in their mess hall and received more and better clothing.
- c. The officers were permitted to drink intoxicants and were authorized to visit civilian communities. Neither one of these two privileges was permitted to the obligatory-tour EM.
- d. The EM were also resentful of the wide difference in the pay scale of officers and the EM.

Source stated that most of the ill feeling among privates in the Soviet Army was against the sergeants and not against the officers. He felt that this state of affairs was due to the close contact that the

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privates had with NCO's, consequently, most of the privates' hardships were blamed on them. Also, many of the sergeants were not well educated and were cruel and despotic to their subordinates in many cases. The officers, on the other hand, were aloof and did not come into close contact with the privates. Source further stated that the NCO's in the Sov Army were in excellent physical condition and had grown hardened and more used to the life than the new inductees who served as privates. It was, therefore, possible for the NCO's to beat individual privates in a fight.

c. There was a sign in the garrison Military Sales Store which specified that the store was open approximately six hours for officers and their dependents and for only two hours to enlisted personnel.

9. Organized Troop Entertainment

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Although movies were presented in the club on Saturdays and Sundays as a form of entertainment, they ceased to become enjoyable when they became compulsory for all trainees by the order of the Battalion Dep CO for Political Affairs in Dec 51. The major portion of the movies shown in or satellite entertainment films which had propaganda flavoring such as, the Czechoslovakian film "Operation B" which depicted the military operation against the insurgent followers of Bandera. There were occasional US movies shown such as a black and white version of "The Three Musketeers", "Meet John Doe", and "Senator". The US films were in English and, prior to the start of each film, a caption shot was run off which stated that the film was a captured war trophy taken in the battle for BERLIN.

Source stated that in spite of the English sound track, most of the men thoroughly enjoyed seeing the US movies. He stated that he personally was very much impressed that in the film "Senator", scenes showing the US Senate in action also showed that spectators were permitted in the gallery.

When films became compulsory in Source's unit, the political officers explained to the EM that this action was being taken to prevent personnel from getting into trouble. Source stated that prior to this order many trainees would sneak off to the nearby town to GOETZENDORF to drink alcoholic intoxicants during the times when they were authorized to be absent from the companies to attend films.

10. Policies on Promotion and Return to the USSR

Source was not too aware of Soviet Army promotion policy as being a cause for dissatisfaction in his unit and he had only the following comments to make on this topic.

He believed that in his unit, the EM, outside of the extended tour personnel (sverkhsrochniki) were not too anxious for promotion as it was rumored for a time during 1954 that all NCO's might have their compulsory tour-of-service extended to four years. This was the reason that many men gave for their inattentive, neglectful application to duty. Source stated it was not unusual for EM to commit minor infractions of orders in order not to be considered for promotion.

However, the personnel who were demobilized in 1953 had a completely different attitude toward promotion. Most of them were industrious and hard-working up to within three or four months before demobilization in hope of being promoted. However, when the rumor of extensions of terms of service or NCO's began to circulate in 1954, dissatisfaction with promotion policies disappeared.

Extended-tour EM may have been dissatisfied with promotion policies applicable to them in other units. Of these, Source had no knowledge. In his unit, there was no dissatisfaction to Source's knowledge among the career CO's relative to promotions; there were only 12 of them and they were all either Sr Sgts or M/Sgts.

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Source had heard officers voice their dissatisfaction with officers' promotion policy because of the criteria used to determine whether or not an officer was qualified. Source had been told by officers in conversations that an officer was considered for promotion not upon his own knowledge and ability but on the abilities, morale, and performance of his subordinates. Most officers believed that with the extremely low enlisted morale stemming from the living conditions and lack of freedom in the Soviet Army for EM, a command position was a poor place for an ambitious officer. In a command assignment, the officer in charge was constantly held accountable for his EM who were abused under the Soviet Army system without the officer having any power to improve conditions and morale. Thus, it was considered by the officers that a nice, soft staff assignment was by far preferable for promotion potential than a line assignment.

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Prior to his induction into the Soviet Army, Source had listened to the Voice Of America in MOSCOW and was under the impression that all of the defectors mentioned were civilians who for one reason or another had fled to the West. Source further claimed that he had often listened to the VOA with his own private radio in the barracks in GOETZENDORF and had heard no mention of military deserters. He believed that this omission was unfortunate.

FRATERNIZATION WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION

The official Soviet Army attitude toward fraternization in Austria as reflected in his own unit was described by Source as being best represented by the ancient pagan god, "dvulik i Yanus", who possessed two faces, looking in the opposite direction from each other. The troops were constantly urged towards closer cooperation and peaceful relations with the Austrian population and, at the same time, they were even forbidden to exchange a friendly greeting with Austrians. The degrees of opportunity to visit civilian communities was roughly divided into three categories: the officers, the extended-tour enlisted personnel (sverkhsrochniki), and the obligatory-tour NCO's and privates. Each made up a class with separate rules and opportunities governing them.

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1. Officers

Of the three groups, Source believed the officers had the greatest latitude in associations with the Austrians. He did not believe that officers in his unit actually had Austrian friends in the fullest sense of the word. Some officers in his unit visited civilian communities to drink and meet "willing" young women, but this did not mean that every officer had the same opportunity. An officer's privilege of going to town depended upon his battalion CO's permission; and what would be forgiven to one officer would cause another to be subject to a court-martial. Thus, the opportunity for officers to visit Austrian communities largely depended on how the officer stood with the battalion CO.

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3. Conscripts

The third group, the obligatory tour NCO's and privates in Source's battalion, were absolutely prohibited from visiting civilian establishments or residences. Only those EM who had official business in a civilian community were able to leave the garrison. Source was able to travel to VIENNA regularly to pick up and deliver the battalion mail. Other obligatory tour EM spent their entire tour with their assigned unit and never had the opportunity to visit any of the Austrian towns except in an AWOL status.

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While traveling to and from VIENNA, Source was able to meet quite a number of obligatory tour EM from other units who apparently had passes to go to the city from their respective CO's for recreational purposes. These men were from the 15th Gds Med Tk Regt stationed in BRUCK, Austria, and an unidentified rifle battalion serving as Komendatura troops in VIENNA. These EM possessed a four to five-hour pass to visit the Soviet sector of VIENNA "for pleasure". Source believed that this practice was started only after the implementation of an order from the Ministry of Defense in the fall of 1953, which was intended to ease the conditions of Soviet Army personnel in Austria. This order was the one that first permitted the dependents of officers and extended-tour EM to come to Austria. (See section 1.1 of this report.) There was, however, no apparent relaxing of restrictions in his own unit.

4. Enforcement of Policy

Source stated that the main controls for preventing fraternization rested in the hands of unit commanders. They were responsible for the behavior of their subordinates and devised whatever restrictions they deemed necessary to enforce the general non-fraternization policy.

Source believed that the Austrian police had no authority whatsoever over the actions of Soviet military personnel. He did not believe that they had any mission of reporting on the whereabouts or activities of personnel who were visiting Austrian communities whether with or without permission. He believed that dependable party members of the local population may have been working in cooperation with Komendatura patrols in reporting violators of the non-fraternization policy, but was not sure.

a. Military Police Enforcement

The non-fraternization policy was principally enforced by Komendatura patrols, who were authorized to arrest any Soviet military personnel without passes. Source was only stopped twice by these patrols during his many trips to VIENNA and other places as the battalion mail clerk. Both times it was for violations of CGP standing orders and not for being in town alone.

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The first time, Source was stopped because he was out of uniform. He had had his tunic destroyed in a fire and was wearing a "bushlat" (a quilted short jacket) which was not permitted for off-duty or out-of-garrison wear. Upon explaining to the two Komandatura men his circumstances he was permitted to go on.

The second time, he was stopped for entering the VIENNA military sales stores during hours when it was open only to officers and their dependents. This violation was reported to his CO through channels after checking in at the 4th Komandatura headquarters. A delinquency report was sent to the battalion CO, who called Source in and reprimanded him for not observing the sign at the sales store prohibiting entrance to EM during week days. Source received no punishment although the delinquency report directed the battalion CO to take punitive measures in keeping with the violation.

b. Enforcement by Other Soviet Units

Source had never heard of MVD, UKR, OKR, "SMERSH", or district MGB units being concerned with controlling fraternization of Soviet military personnel with foreign personnel while serving abroad.

c. PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL MATTERS 8

1. Officer - Political Officer Relations

Source believed that political officers had amicable official relationships with other officers in the Soviet Army. He thought that, generally, political officers were disliked socially by the others and that normally the two groups stayed apart. However, he felt that there was no wide gulf or serious friction between the two groups.

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2. Relations Among Armed Services' Components

Force and Armored units had such bad feeling about each other that considerable bloodshed and violence, even to the employment of tanks to shoot up the airstrip, resulted. He had never heard of any other bad relationships of this kind.

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3. Literary Propaganda

The media employed to indoctrinate Soviet troops politically known to Source, were magazines, newspapers, radio broadcasts, motion pictures, and political lectures and meetings. Magazines cited as examples by Source were: Ogonek (Little Flame), Krokodil, Fizkul'tura i Sport (Physical Culture and Sports), Voyennyy Vestnik (The Military Herald), Tankist (The Tanker), Voyennaya Mysl (Military Thought), and Propagandist i Agitator. Newspapers known to Source were: Litiratsionnaya Gazeta (Literary Gazette), Sovetskyy Sport, Pravda, Izvestiya, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star), and Na Chest' Rodiny (The CGF newspaper, For the Honor of the Motherland). 10

4. Organization

The Zampolit in a Soviet military unit was the deputy of the CO on all matters dealing with political affairs. Source believed that he was actually the direct superior of all personnel of a unit except the CO.

The informer system among members of unit Party and Komsomol organizations was the keystone of the Zampolit's power within the unit. It was each member's sacred duty to inform on any Soviet personnel who committed major or minor violations of established orders. The Zampolit, although not in position, by the nature of his assignment, to mete out punishment to violators, always took it upon himself to recommend the degree of punishment which he felt was warranted to the CO. The CO normally found it impossible to ignore this recommendation because he himself was always a member of the Communist Party. Thus, any degree of non-cooperation on

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the part of the CO with the desires of the Zampolit would reflect adversely on him in Communist Party circles. The Zampolit reported directly to the Zampolit of the next higher headquarters and could, thus, influence the party career of any Communist.

In party meetings of members of a military organization, there was no rank and all members were addressed as comrades. Thus, partywise, the Zampolit was in a position of higher authority than his commanding officer, being an active party worker. Furthermore, it was theoretically possible for a Zampolit to undermine a CO's authority within his own unit by influencing all the members of the staff, who were generally party members and were jointly responsible to their CO and to their counterparts in a higher headquarters in addition to their responsibility through party channels. Thus, Source stated, party rule is first, last, and foremost in the Soviet Army.

5. Personalities

Background information on political officers, commanders, and staff officers has been published [] (Soviet Standard Brief No 9). 50X1

6. Psychological Warfare

Source had no information on security measures relating to psychological warfare.

7. Propaganda Against Defection

Measures employed to prevent Soviet soldiers from deserting or surrendering are atrocity tales of the fates of personnel who have fallen into US or Allied hands and the threat of executing defectors upon their return to the USSR.

8. Effects of US and Western Propaganda

Source stated that it was not necessary for the Soviet Army to employ countermeasures to US and Allied propaganda since such propaganda very rarely reached the Soviet serviceman. On the occasions when propaganda did reach Soviet military personnel, it was not understood by most of them mainly because of the ideologies expressed; terms employed had either no meaning for the recipients or not the same meaning they had to the broadcaster.

An example of this was the Voice of America broadcast of President Eisenhower's statement that the democratic and free world was solidly united behind some (unknown) project. The Soviet serviceman had previously been informed again and again that the Soviet sphere of influence was the "democratic and free world". In this manner, he was confused as to what was meant by these terms in the broadcast.

9. Effects of Soviet Propaganda

Soviet troops could not help but be receptive to their own propaganda since they were forced to attend classes and study, read, discuss, and answer questions on all political themes in such a manner as to parrot the Communist party line.

A concrete example of the efficiency of the Soviet Army propaganda is given by Source. He asked a reserve officer-candidate trainee in the 1st Platoon of his old company why Soviet labor was not permitted to strike when this position was undesirable economically. The trainee replied that LENIN had said that this was not feasible as the worker has his own government in the USSR. Striking against this government would, therefore, be senseless. NIN argued, as this would, in fact, be a strike against themselves.

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Troops [] believed almost to a man that the USSR was basically the only nation in the world today that was struggling for peace in spite of some of the failings of the Soviet system. In spite of this belief, however, almost all of the men realized that a certain amount of the political propaganda handed to them was obviously composed of lies. For example, they all knew that the patter about the good life, improvements in the Soviet standard of living, the success of five-year plans, and other such phantasies were presented through political propaganda. However, the troops "insisted on deceiving themselves and justified these lies to themselves because, basically, they were proud of being members of the first communist government in the history of the world."

10. Dissent Among Soviet Troops

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a. Arguing Against Party Line

Often in political study periods, certain individuals would indicate their basic resentment over the lot of the Soviet citizen through arguments with the political instructor. These arguments usually followed such a theme as that they were not interested in the number of bushels of wheat harvested in some distant Oblast in Eastern Siberia but would be much happier if their own food rations would be improved for the next meal. Some EM got away with arguing with the political instructor because they were so limited in intelligence and education that the finer points of political propaganda passed completely over their heads. Other soldiers who were better educated and obviously fairly intelligent stood a good chance of getting into serious trouble for such deviationist arguments. Source was once sent to the Battalion CO for arguing with the instructor in political study class. As this was a fairly minor disagreement, he got off with only a harsh reprimand.

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b. Listening to Western Broadcasts

[] On various occasions, he and other personnel who shared the barracks room with him had listened to the Voice of America after midnight (Moscow Time). Although there were 22 EM quartered in the same room, no one reported this breach of discipline. He distinctly remembered one broadcast that described in detail the miserable, slovenly existence of the average Soviet worker. On this occasion, there was no discussion or comments on the broadcast among the troops except that one unknown soldier said, "Give it to them." (Meaning that it was good to hear the truth). Source stated that on most occasions the programs were effectively jammed by the Soviets.

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[] it was possible to make out what was said once in a rare while.

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Summary of Unidentified Soviet Ministry of Defense Order

Published During the Fall of 1953

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Source stated that although he had never seen this particular order, it was a constant topic of conversation among the EM and officers since the changes or previous regulations in it were very extensive.

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The agreed-on conditions of the order were as follows:

1. Officers and extended-tour EM (sverkharochniki) were permitted to bring their families to Austria. Source had never heard of any families of EM in occupied areas.
2. The same personnel were allegedly permitted to wear civilian clothing off duty. Source had again never seen or heard of extended-tour EM wearing civilian clothes.
3. Officers were permitted to visit VIENNA on the strength of their identification card and the verbal permission of their unit CO's. Source had seen officers traveling on the train to VIENNA accompanied by their wives.
4. Extended-tour EM were permitted to visit VIENNA with a special pass signed by the unit CO. Source had seen these personnel and some obligatory-tour EM of other units traveling to VIENNA by train on recreational passes.
6. Officers and extended-tour EM were permitted to visit Austrian restaurants, of the first class type only, and Austrian movies.

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