

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)
SUBJECT Best Listening Time for Radio Programs
to Soviet Personnel in Germany

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1. Enlisted personnel serving with Soviet Army units in Germany have no access to radio receivers. Soldiers and NCO's live in barracks in military compounds where private radio receivers are no longer authorized. Prior to 1951 it was not at all unusual to see private radios in barracks belonging to individual NCOs and soldiers. In March 1951, however, a GOFG directive was issued ordering commanders to impound all private receivers in barracks and to keep them in store-rooms until the respective owners were to be returned to the USSR for demobilization. Thus, soldiers and NCOs being denied passes and being left in the barracks without private receivers, have no chance whatsoever to listen to foreign broadcasts.
2. Officers are the only military personnel who are able to listen to foreign broadcasts. During the day, however, officers have no time to listen to broadcasts because they are in their barracks or offices. During the dinner recess which is normally from 1430 to 1630 hours, and after they had taken their meal in the mess, very few officers went home. There is always something to do immediately after dinner; a conference, meeting, lecture, or urgent work to be done in the unit or office. Officers usually stay on the job until 2000 or 2100 in the evenings. Shortly after

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that they have their supper. As a rule Soviet officers have no dependents in Germany and they usually live in officer hotels; senior officers have single rooms and two or three junior officers share one room. Being restricted to the compound in the same way as enlisted personnel, officers usually stay in the officers club after supper drinking, playing cards, or just talking. As a consequence, this policy of isolation has brought officers in Germany much closer to each other. Under such conditions it is almost impossible for an officer to separate himself from the party without any reasonable pretext and retire to his room. Fellow officers may knock on your door enter the room for a bull session, or even do so without knocking. This means that until midnight, when parties are breaking up and officers go to their rooms, there is little chance to tune in on VOA or BBC. Consequently, the only time when officers can listen to foreign broadcasts is immediately after midnight when the Moscow station closes its program (0200 hours Moscow time). At that hour individual officers may be reasonably sure that nobody would unexpectedly enter the room and catch them red-handed.

3. Insofar as enlisted personnel is concerned only a few individuals serving with signal units, or having access to military radio receivers may take the chance of tuning them to foreign broadcasts. The number of such individuals, however, is very small and the danger they run is great. 50X1

4. [REDACTED] 50X1

The Soviet Army in Germany uses local German time which is one hour ahead of GMT and two hours behind Moscow time. Consequently, when it is 1200 hours GMT, it is 1300 hours in Germany and in Moscow 1500 hours. [REDACTED] 50X1

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The dinner and rest period for Soviet Army troops and office personnel is from 1430 to 1630 hours. Dinner is usually completed at 1515-1530 hours. This indicates that the best listening period, if justified at all, would be from 1545 to 1615 hours.

[REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED] (1) The time between 1700 and 1730 is too early for broadcasting. This is training/work time and under normal conditions nobody can take off to listen to broadcasts. 50X1
- (2) Theoretically, the period from 2030 to 2200 is off duty, but soldiers and NCOs are practically locked in barracks. However, for those EM having access to army receivers, this would appear to be the best broadcasting time. 50X1

[REDACTED] The period between 1830-2030 is reserved for political discussions. There is almost no chance for anybody to get away and to listen to a broadcast during this period. 50X1

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