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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/USSR

DATE DISTR. 15 December 1948

SUBJECT "Aktion Heimkehrer" and the Assignment of Political Commissars to "Bereitschaften"

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

1. The date originally set for the repatriation of PW's in Soviet hands under "Aktion Heimkehrer" was mid-November 1948. Actually, the first Heimkehrer under this program began to arrive in the Soviet Zone on 26 July 1948.

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[redacted] Comment: Returning PW's from the USSR have been known for some time now as Heimkehrer and their repatriation is commonly referred to as "Aktion Heimkehrer". In this report, however, the term "Aktion" is used to describe PW's who are being repatriated to assume posts in the police, administration, and industry.)

2. A Sonderklasse (special class) at the Höhere Polizeischule in Berlin-Pankow was scheduled to end on 5 November 1948 in order to coincide with the arrival of the first PW's. With their advanced arrival at the end of July 1948, it became necessary to accelerate the Sonderklasse course. Students from this course were assigned to Bereitschaften to act as political commissars. They rank second in order of command in each Bereitschaft.

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[redacted] Comment: The plan to establish Bereitschaften was only drawn up in July and this report of the arrival of PW's at the end of July further confirms the great speed with which the plan was pushed through. These political commissars are responsible for the political supervision of the unit to which they are attached. They also act as CE officers, and can countermand orders issued by the commander-in-chief to whom they are not subordinate.)

EE/USSR

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**BY GABLE**

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