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Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002200  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

25X1A2g

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 19 Jan. 1949

SUBJECT SED Morale in Berlin East Sector  
Police

NO. OF PAGES 2

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PLACE  
ACQUIRED

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIEDNO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)Class. CHG TO: TS S ☒

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DDA 100-4 Apr 77

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

Auth: DDA REG. 77-1763

Date: 8 May 78 BY: 022

displays the same symptoms observed in the German Administration of the Interior through the summer of 1948. Before each "action" or "demonstration" scheduled by top SED leadership, the fanatical Communists and the true SED supporters work themselves up to a fever pitch. They believe literally the party summons to positive action, and believe each time that the revolution -- in this case the seizure of power in the western sectors -- is at hand. This excitement mounts with the successive party communiqués on organization of the demonstrations, and manifests itself in statements uttered in perfect sincerity such as: "We shall force the 'Amis' out of Berlin!", "In three weeks they'll be gone!", and "Now the eastern Police will take over in the western sectors!". The latter statement was heard frequently, and was thoroughly believed by devoted party members, in the week before the recent elections in Berlin. When, then, the announced plans -- sometimes even including the scheduled demonstration itself -- fail to materialize, a profound depression results.

2. Since the party has been through this cycle of extreme excitement and extreme disappointment three times since the beginning of the blockade of Berlin (i.e., at the time of the imposition of the blockade in June, the split of the police department and the disturbances in front of the City Hall in July and August, and the occasion of the western-sector elections), its effects on the eastern-sector Criminal Police are quite marked. In the days immediately following the 5 December elections, the disappointment and ill humor resulted in a smoldering rage. On 6 December there was scarcely a word spoken in the Markgraf Police Praesidium about the election results. On 7 December President Fischer of the German Administration of the Interior addressed the SED Shop Group (Betriebsgruppe) of the Markgraf Criminal Police, and his speech was openly criticized as evasive and essentially meaningless. At the same meeting a Criminal Policewoman who described the mis-handling and insults ("SED Police", "Communist Gestapo", etc.)

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The police present seemed to be excited not by the beating received by the women, or out of professional pride, but specifically by the insults referring to the SED control of the police. In what is described as a "lynching mood", the police present spontaneously demanded that the group at once undertake a revenge raid on the Schönhauser Allee locality. This hysteria, completely unique in source's experience with German police, was only with extreme difficulty subdued by the Shop Group leader.

Comment: The temper of party members as described above is a factor probably not considered either by the party leadership or by western sector authorities. It represents, however, an unpredictable force factor which may at any time seek an outlet, and which will not necessarily follow any line or direction desired by the party when it does break loose.))

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