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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT **OB Situation Soviet Ground Forces**

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. **25X1**

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1. Overall

a. Disposition, strength and organization of the Soviet ground forces in the various Soviet-occupied European countries are not believed to have decisively changed up to the beginning of 1950 [Redacted] in the OB situation as of December 1949 and January 1950. No new divisions arrived in any of the Soviet-occupied countries from the Soviet Union and no units were withdrawn from the Soviet-occupied countries.

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b. Most Soviet troops are, by now, engaged in routine winter training, usually at their military posts, sometimes at courses and special training fields. In general, they are not expected to leave for troop training grounds before the end of March 1950. This, however, does not imply that winter maneuvers may not be held before that time.

c. The previous OB situation of the Soviet ground forces in the Soviet Zone of Germany and Austria was further clarified or confirmed by reports [Redacted] New information was obtained particularly by the evaluation of Soviet documents.

2. Soviet Zone of Germany

a. General

(1) The information received [Redacted] confirmed the general situation of Soviet Occupation Forces Germany up to the end of January 1950.

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(2) About 50 units were either confirmed or newly identified by precise data contained in reports received [Redacted] (see para 2, b (1)).

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(3) Annex 1 (list) gives detailed data on the Soviet Order of Battle situation in Germany as [Redacted] 1950.

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b. Order of Battle data.

(1) The following units in the Soviet Zone of Germany were either confirmed or newly identified [redacted]

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(a) GHQ units of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (GOFG)

36th Pon Bdg Regt [redacted] in Rosslau-Meinsdorf until December 1949

(b) Eighth Gds Army

372d AT Arty Regt, [redacted] in Altenburg until 21 December 1949

Hq 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, [redacted], CG Genmaier L.D. Vasilevski and
CoFS Gds Col Novikov, in Rudolstadt until 8 December 1949

117th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt [redacted] in Meiningen until December 1949

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120th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt [redacted] and CO Gds Col Dimitrov, in Saalfeld
until late October 1949

936th Gds (How?) Arty Regt [redacted] in Ohrdruf until late October 1949

87th Gun Arty Regt [redacted] in Plauen (?) until late
October 1949

15th (Gds?) Tank Regt [redacted] in Saalfeld until late October 1949

854th Sig Bn, [redacted] and CO Gds Maj Chalenko, in Rudolstadt until late
October 1949

43rd (or 45th ?) Gds Engr Bn, [redacted] in Rudolstadt until 12 November
1949

13th Mtcl Bn, [redacted] in Rudolstadt until late October 1949

? No AAA Bn of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, [redacted] in Rudolstadt
until late October 1949

512d Med Bn [redacted] in Saalfeld until late October 1949

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Hq 20th Gds Mecz Div [redacted] in Jena until late October 1949

66th Gds Mecz Regt [redacted] in Jena until 8 December 1949

Hq 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div [redacted] in Naumburg until late October
1949

174th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt, [redacted] in Weissenfels until 24 November
1949

68th Gds Mecz Regt [redacted] in Halle until 9 December 1949

69th Gds Mecz Regt [redacted] in Halle until 19 November 1949

(c) Third Shock Army

? No (19th?) Engr Regt in Barby until 30 November 1949

60th Mecz Regt [redacted] in PARCHIM until late November 1949.

(d) First Gds Mecz Army

6th Mtcl Bn [redacted] in Dresden, until 21 December 1949.

40th Gds Tank Regt [redacted] in Klotzsche until 30 November 1949

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(e) Second Gds Mecz Army

25X1C Hq 9th Gds Tank Div [] in Neustrelitz until 5 December 1949

25X1C 33rd Gds Mtz Rifle Regt, [] in Pasewalk until 22 November 1949

25X1C 65th Gds Tank Regt, [] in ALTSTRELITZ until December 1949

25X1C 49th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Neuruppin until 25 November 1949

? No Gds Sig Bn/12th Gds Tank Div in Neuruppin until 20 November 1949

25X1C Hq 1st Mecz Div, [] in Doeberitz until 14 December 1949

25X1C ? No (18th?) Engr Bn, [] in Kramnitz until 13 December 1949

(f) Third Gds Mecz Army (Cadre)

25X1C 470th (?) AAA Regt (Cadre), [] (?), in area Luckenwalde until 30 November 1949

25X1C 50th Mtcl Regt (Cadre), [] in Luckenwalde until 9 November 1949

25X1C Hq 14th Gds Mecz Div (Cadre), [] in Jueterbog until 20 December 1949

49th Gds Mecz Regt [] in Jueterbog until 20 December 1949

Hq 6th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) [] in Wittenberg until 29 December 1949 25X1

51st Gds Tank Regt (Cadre) [] in Wittenberg until 8 December 1949

52d Gds Tank Regt (Cadre) [] in area Wittenberg until 25 December 1949

53rd Gds Tank Regt (Cadre) [] in area Wittenberg until 26 December 1949

Hq 7th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) [] in Koethen or Meinsdorf until December 1949

287th Gds AAA Regt (Cadre) [] in Zerbst until 6 October 1949

? No (4th Gds or 5th ?) Rcn Bn (Cadre) in Koethen until 27 November 1949

? No Gds Mort Regt (Cadre)/7th Gds Tank Div (Cadre) in KOETHEN until 2 November 1949

(g) Fourth Gds Mecz Army (Cadre)

Army Hq in Eberswalde (Ardelt Werke) until 27 November 1949

25X1C 22d Gds Engr Bn (Cadre), [] and Dpty CO Gds Capt Kolontayev, in Bernau until 10 December 1949

25X1C 111th Tank Regt (Cadre), [] in Prenzlau until 30 October 1949

25X1C 162d Tank Regt (Cadre), [] in Oranienburg until October 1949

25X1C 248th Gds Mort Bn (Cadre), [] in Kramnitz until 22 December 1949.

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(2) The following data on the OB situation are noteworthy:

(a)

[redacted] the OB situation in the Prenzlau-Pasewalk area was analyzed and assumptions derived from general reports of the Summer of 1949 were corroborated. The 33rd Gds Mtz Rifle Regt [redacted] of the 9th Gds Tank Div was identified in Pasewalk [redacted] and the 111th Tank Regt (Cadre) [redacted] of the 25th Tank Div (Cadre) in Prenzlau [redacted]. Hence it appears that Pasewalk is in the billeting area of the Second Gds Mecz Army and Prenzlau in that of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army (Cadre).

(b) The OB picture of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div was essentially confirmed up to October 1949 [redacted]

c. Strength; organization and armament:

(1) A calculation of the strength of the Soviet forces in the Soviet Zone of Germany will be submitted in a separate report [redacted]. The number of Soviet units has not changed during recent months.

(2) (a) Information from Altenburg indicates that some AT artillery units have been issued 100-mm guns.

(b) A study of available data on engineer regiments indicates that one engineer regiment is presumably assigned as a headquarters unit to each army and one engineer regiment (or engineer brigade?) as a GHQ unit to the GDFG (see Annex 1).

d. Personnel.

Trains with Soviet troops arriving from the Soviet Union as late as early December 1949, according to several reports, are believed to have carried recruits who were inducted in the Soviet Union in April and May 1949 but who arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany behind schedule. Most of the recruits of this contingent (induction phase of April and May 1949) were shipped to the Soviet Zone of Germany as early as in the Fall of 1949. It is expected that, in February and March 1950, the occupation forces will receive recruits inducted in the Fall of 1949 (last contingent of the 1949 class and contingents of the 1930 class) but no pertinent information has been received.

(2) There have been relatively few reports on the evacuation of trained personnel from the Soviet Zone of Germany to the Soviet Union [redacted] on the OB situation of Soviet ground forces: [redacted]. It is assumed that most of the remaining EM of the 1926 class were evacuated to the Soviet Union upon completion of the 1949 fall maneuvers.

e. Training:

(1) The December 1949 and January 1950 training of Soviet units was generally conducted at military posts, apart from some special training (artillery firing practices) and courses at schools (Doeberitz). As during the preceding winter, no large-scale winter maneuvers have been reported. Wismar units of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and Ludwigslust units of the 18th Mecz Div were still absent from their military posts at the end of November 1949, presumably holding either field exercises following the large-scale October maneuvers of the Third Shock Army in the area east of Magdeburg or participating in final exercises conducted by the IX Mtz Rifle Corps.

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(2) There are indications that the training activities at troop training grounds will start in March 1950.

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g. Supply situation:

Information received on Soviet supply installations up to the beginning of February 1950 was compiled in a separate report [redacted]

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h. MVD-MGB units:

The following MGB/MVD units were recently confirmed:

(1) Chemnitz: Kaserne on Leninstrasse was twice reported to be occupied by 300 to 400 MVD troops in late November and on 9 December 1949 [redacted]

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(2) Dresden: Waixdorf Luftkriegsschule was reported in late October and on 20 December 1949 to be occupied by about 500 troops, about 50 percent Mongolians, equipped with rifles, submachine guns and light machine guns but no heavy weapons. [redacted]

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(3) Dresden: Bucher Kaserne, bordering on Grenadier Kaserne, was occupied by MVD troops of unidentified strength, according to unsubstantiated information of 16 December 1949 [redacted]

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(4) Halle: Kaserne on Railstrasse was occupied by about 500 troops on 20 December 1949 [redacted] who believed a high unit headquarters to be located or to be activated in the kaserne).

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(5) Leipzig: Kaserne on Olbrichtstrasse, Gohlis, was reported on 29 November 1949 to be occupied by 500 to 700 troops [redacted]

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i. Transportation situation:

(1) The renewed tensions between the Soviets and the Western Allies in January especially affected the Berlin elevated railway system. The irregular train schedules put into effect by the Soviet Zone railway headquarters in Berlin gave way to normal operations in late January 1950. However the whole incident again showed the great possibilities for the Soviets to interfere with Western Sector traffic. These possibilities have increased recently since the completed rerouting lines or those still under construction make the Soviets less vulnerable to possible countermeasures of the Western Powers.

(2) The traffic situation in the Soviet Zone of Germany deteriorated in January 1950. In spite of favorable weather conditions the backlog of loaded but undepatched trains rose to 193 (status of 13 January 1950), 110 of which were east-bound while 80 were bound for Baltic Sea ports. This is an all-time high since 1948. Particularly critical was the

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situation in the railroad districts of Halle, Erfurt, Dresden, and Cottbus. At the bottom of these difficulties are the insufficient number of available locomotives and their poor condition (30 to 38 percent of the locomotive stock is deadlined for repair).

(1) Also noteworthy is the decline of the coal stocks to 231,740 tons (almost 50 percent), while in November 1949 as many as 403,233 tons were on hand. The SIA had ordered a permanent winter reserve of 400,000 tons. This development may be explained by the assumption that, due to the mild winter, the maintenance of the full reserves was intentionally renounced. By eliminating the coal trains required to keep the coal stocks at the original level it was perhaps hoped to ease the critical traffic situation. Another reason may be the limited storage capacity for brown coal briquettes which are liable to crumble.

3. Soviet Zone of Austria

a. General

The winter activities of the Soviet forces in the Soviet Zone of Austria in December 1949 and January 1950 may be compared with those of the Soviet troops in the Soviet Zone of Germany. No training activities of major importance were reported. All units are stationed at their previous military posts.

b. OB data

[Redacted]

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(2) The following information is noteworthy:

(a) General Syvirdov was confirmed as CinC of Soviet Occupation Forces Austria.

[Redacted] The designation "Central Group of Forces" was confirmed by the abbreviation "ZCF" in a Soviet document, dated 2 November 1949.

(b) A large number of officers, including the following key officers, of the 13th Gds Mecz Div were reported:

(aa) Gds Col Besterov, Chief of Polit Section of Hq 13th Gds Mecz Div;

(bb) Gds Lt Col Morozov, CofS of 45th Gds Mecz Regt;

(cc) Gds Lt Col Tkachenko, CO 128th Tank Bn.

(c) All previously known regiments of the 13th Gds Mecz Div were confirmed by documents of late October and December 1949.

(d) Annex 3 (list) gives detailed data on the Soviet Order of Battle situation Austria as of the end of 1949.

4. Hungary.

Reports received from Hungary between 10 January and 10 February 1950 do not permit any essential inferences on the OB situation of Soviet troops in Hungary as of early 1950.

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5. Rumania

a. There is no definite information on the chain of command of Soviet forces in Rumania. Genleit (Tank Troops) Tschelin, previously assumed to be the potential CINC of Soviet forces in Rumania, was again mentioned as Soviet military attaché in Bucharest in a newspaper dispatch of 16 December 1949. The same report mentions a Genleit Kalanov who, together with Genleit Tschelin, was in Bucharest on 14 December 1949, on the occasion of a speech by the Rumanian Minister of Defense. It appears probable that Kalanov may be CINC of Soviet forces in Rumania, while Tschelin is still Soviet military attaché. The wartime files list Kalanov as CG of the XXXIII Army Corps/Forty-Eighth Army.

Other press dispatches reported on rumors that, as occurred in Poland in the Fall of 1949, the appointment of a Soviet marshal as CINC of the Rumanian Army would be made in the near future. Marshal Malinowski, who is believed to be stationed in the Far East, was mentioned in this connection.

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b. Reports of late December 1949 [redacted] indicate that Soviet units previously stationed in Rumania (component units of the 2d Gds, Mecz Div?) may still have been concentrated in the Rumanian-Hungarian-Yugoslav border triangle in late 1949 and early 1950.

6. Poland and Polish-occupied Germany

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Some reports [redacted] confirm previous information on Soviet troop stationing there [redacted] and [redacted] that cannot be checked reported the concentration in Grossborn of four Soviet divisions in the Summer and Fall of 1949. None of the divisions had allegedly come from East Prussia for the training period.

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7. Soviet Units

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a. Two reports summarizing military intelligence on troops and supply installations in the Baltic MD [redacted] and in the Kiev MD [redacted] were submitted [redacted] 1950. The [redacted]

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b. Military data of interest, obtained by the evaluation of Soviet newspapers (which are not available to the extent desired), was compiled in a separate report.

c. [redacted] reported that the 112 Sixth Gds Army was allegedly dissolved in Szaulpai in April 1947 [redacted]. Some high ranking officers of the army headquarters were transferred to the HQ headquarters of an army corps (II Gds 12 Rifle Corps?). Upon the dissolution of the 112 Sixth Gds Army the OB situation in the Baltic MD may have been the following since the Spring of 1947:

Fifth Gds Mecz Army: East Prussian and western Lithuanian area.

Fifty-first Army (?): Eastern Lithuanian area, as before.

? Army: Latvian area.

d. The population figures of the Soviet Military Districts were calculated on the basis of election districts established for the elections for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to be held on 12 March 1950 and will be submitted in a subsequent report.

2. Annexes:

1. Soviet Order of battle Germany as of [redacted] 1950

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2. Soviet Order of battle Austria-East Hungary as of [redacted]

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