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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 3 July 1950

SUBJECT Instructions to the DDR Press Concerning the Coverage of the Korean War
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- On 26 June 1950, Soviet Zone newspapers received strict instructions not to make mention of the Korean Attack. In a confidential conference Gerhard Eisler told a number of selected journalists the Korean action should end in a few days or, at the latest, by the end of the week. Eisler described the action as stemming from the permanent provocation by South Korea and would end in the complete liberation of all Korea. No larger conflict would be expected since the time and execution of the plan were so chosen as to preclude a U.S. intervention. Thus the political worth of the action would be greater for Communist policy in other countries.
- The opinion that the attack by North Korea would not cause any general military action was based by Eisler on the theory that the USSR would never allow herself to be placed in the role of an attacker. It was also to be expected that the U.N. Security Council, if called, would take so much time to act that the liberation of South Korea could be effected.
- On 27 June 1950, the strict ban on reports on Korea was repeated. On 28 June, when the Truman declaration was made, the DDR was still waiting for Moscow's directions. When the Pravda article appeared the editors of the Tagliche Rundschau were instructed to use only the Pravda version and headline and to withhold their own comment.
- On 28 June, another press briefing session took place at the SED headquarters in the Lothringerstrasse with Eisler and Ulbricht participating. The latter said there was absolutely no parallel between Korea and Germany. The DDR had expected a quick victory in Korea and then intended to point out the parallel to Germany. Ulbricht instructed the journalists to emphasize the fact that the organized attack of the USA on North Korea was being repulsed by the People's Democracy, and to awaken West-Berlin to the fact that the USA threatens the peace everywhere in the world.
- The Lustgarten rally on 29 June was not held on the initiative of the SED but on direct order from Moscow.

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