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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Leningrad Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 11 Oct. 1950

25X1

SUBJECT Krasnogvardeisk Airfield

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
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1. There was much flying at the reconditioned airfield of Krasnogvardeisk (Gatchina) (30°08'E/59°34'N), Leningrad Oblast. (1) The flying activity indicated that the field was occupied by jet planes. (2) A large cargo-carrying glider which was towed by a bomber made one landing at the field. (3)
2. The field was probably west of the town. (1) There was much flying over the field with jet planes with straight wings, single-engine fighters with in-line engine and retractable landing gear, and biplanes. The jet planes flew individually and some of them were used for acrobatics, climbs, and dives from high altitudes. It was observed that they lowered their landing gears while approaching the field at low altitudes. (2) The single-engine fighters flew individually and were used for acrobatics and formation flights in elements of two. (4) The biplanes made local flights at low altitudes.
3. A large park with a castle was near the field. There were three large houses which were occupied by Soviet Air Force officers. All ranks up to colonel were seen. Air Force personnel wearing flying suits, furlined boots, and helmets with headphones and throat-type microphones were occasionally observed there. (5) The billets were apparently occupied by the flying personnel from the field.

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Comments.

- (1) From the information on the status and location of the field it is believed that it is the airfield southwest of the Krasnogvardeisk railroad station which was known during World War II.
- (2) The flying activity indicates that one unit equipped with jet fighters was stationed at the field, whereas a regiment equipped with Pe-2s was seen at the field in the fall of 1948.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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- (3) This is the only indication that the bomber regiment previously reported is still stationed at the field, although it is possible that it is stationed at the airfield northwest of Krasnogvardeisk. [REDACTED]
- (4) The presence of conventional Yak fighters indicates that the fighter regiment at the field was still being re-equipped and that its old planes were still there.
- (5) The observations made in summer indicate that high-altitude flights were made and that the cockpits were not heated.

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