

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Return of German Specialists From NII-380 in Leningrad to Germany

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- Rumors to the effect that German specialists would be returned to Germany which circulated in NII-380 three weeks before the actual date of departure constituted the first indication that such a move was being contemplated. The rumors were believed to have originated when Soviet specialists at NII-380 were advised at a Party meeting to make good use of the time remaining before the Germans left, in order to extract as much information as possible from them.
- Many of the German specialists were interrogated by the MVD. The specialists were warned by the Soviets to be very careful of foreign intelligence services upon their return to Germany. They were made to write out and sign a statement to the following effect:  

"I promise always to act in the interests of German-Soviet friendship and always to be on my guard against the enemies of the USSR and the DDR. If I come into contact with enemies of the USSR and the DDR I will denounce them and fight them. If I neglect to do this, I shall be punished according to the laws of the USSR and the DDR."
- A number of German specialists applied to the Soviets for naturalization and were told that this would be impossible.
- The official announcement of the return to Germany came one week before the actual date of departure. The Germans then began to sell their household effects and anything that they could not take with them. Soviets were permitted to enter their houses in order to make purchases. There was great eagerness to buy these things even though the prices were very high. The exchange of money from rubles into DM, however, was only allowed at a rate of 1:0.63, instead of 1:2 as had been promised.
- On the day of departure, the Germans were taken to the Baltic freight station in Leningrad, which had been completely cordoned off for this occasion. A formal farewell ceremony took place. Moiseyev, director of NII-380, made a speech expressing recognition of the cooperation of the German specialists. This was warmly received by the Germans.

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Menge and Gunther made speeches in reply. The train then moved off.

6. The journey to Brest lasted four days. Luggage was examined on the train. The examination was at first extremely thorough. However, as the Germans had not taken any forbidden goods with them, the journey went smoothly and the last members of the party hardly had their luggage examined at all. Goods forbidden included such items as Soviet books or Soviet equipment from NII-380.
7. After the examination of luggage they were transferred to German trains which took them to Frankfurt/Oder. Here they were received by DDR government officials, who apologized for the fact that no preparations had been made for their reception as the exact time of their arrival was not known to the officials.
8. The last stage of the journey was to Wolfen, where great trouble had been taken by the DDR government to welcome the families.

- 2 -

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